

March-April 2024

Garden Dispatch

London Fanshawe Horticultural Society
where people grow with their gardens

Plant Sale – Spring 2024

Mark your calendars!

LFHS's Plant Sale is coming up quickly. This is our major fundraiser. It keeps our finances in good order. Without it, we could not support many of our activities.

When: Saturday, May 18th (setup begins at 6:30 a.m.)
Event Start: 8:00 a.m.
Where: Eastern Star Temple, 800 Fanshawe Rd E.
(East of Adelaide)

Preparation Day: Friday, May 17th, Start time 8:30 a.m.

As a major volunteer effort, the sale requires "all hands on deck", rain or shine. I encourage new members, and those who have not participated before, to help. You do not have to be an expert in any particular task, just willing to pitch in. I can guarantee you will learn something from your co-volunteers. Many members working together to accomplish a major goal brings a sense of personal accomplishment. It builds community and a stake in the success of LFHS.

It really is a fun activity no matter how you help!

We have many buyers who come out each year looking for our attractively priced plants & compost. Potting up plants at Crosby's Greenhouse Academy at the end of March has given us a head start. By sale time, the plants will be looking good.

We need:

- product – your donated plants
- help to run the sale – set-up, sales, clean-up
- help to bag compost
- advertising – please tell your friends, neighbours, colleagues and post to social media accounts about the sale.



Especially needed is help setting up on Saturday morning at 6:30am. Its early but vital as customers are always ready to buy by 8 am, or even earlier! Compost bagging helpers are also key to our success. We have 15 yards of compost to bag and many hands mean the task is completed quickly with less work for just a few.



Upcoming Events

May 4

Go Wild Grow Wild
Green Expo
Western Fair Agriplex

May 10

OHA 2024 Convention
Guelph ON

May 18

Spring Plant & Compost
Sale
Eastern Star Temple

1593 Adelaide Street North
P.O. Box 51017
London, ON N5X 4P9

<https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/77/>

Email us at:
londonfanshawehtortsociety@gmail.com

Online store:
<https://london-fanshawe-horticultural-society.square.site/>

Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/London-Fanshawe-Horticultural-Society/100064382961512/>

More about the spring plant sale ...

If you plan to donate plants, now is the time to divide your perennials and pot them up. They need some time in the pot to perk up from the trauma of division. Leaving it to a few days before the sale can result in wilted looking plants. Fear not, once divided, plants really want to grow despite what we do to them. If you would like some information and guidance on dividing perennials, here is a short You Tube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Un5JvyzpBYE>

Here are a few plants that sell well, so, if you have any, why not share?

- Natives are much in demand! e.g. bloodroot, mayapples, toad lily, bee balm, black eyed susan, coneflowers, prairie smoke, cup plant, gas plant, ginger
- Astilbes, phlox, hellebores, hardy geraniums, lavender, bluebells, creeping phlox.
- Small or unique hostas
- Japanese forest grass
- Ferns
- Vegetable plants you have started from seed



Please label each plant's name and keep in mind that named varieties sell best.

Remember, we do not sell invasive plants. A few common ones that some of us might have at home, but do not want to spread to others: English ivy, periwinkle (vinca minor), lily of the valley, gout weed and miscanthus. Here are a couple of more links to invasive plants if you are in doubt.

- <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Southern-Grow-Me-Instead-1.pdf>
- <https://thamesriver.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/Invasive-plants.pdf>

**On behalf of the Plant Sale Committee,
thank you in advance for your contribution towards what will be
a very successful LFHS Plant sale.**

By Bob Crowhurst



Lilacs are coming soon to a garden near you!



Photo of Ola Nowosad's lilacs

If you don't have a lilac shrub in your garden, consider the short drive to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton to see the Katie Osborne Lilac Garden which consists of more than 500 lilac varieties.

The RBG website posts "Bloom Watch" info to let you know which different varieties are blooming at which times. The lilacs look beautiful for multiple weeks in May. Dates vary according to weather and season. For example, in 2023, the date of peak bloom was the week of May 17, whereas in 2020 the peak was during the week of May 31.

For more info about RBG's lilac garden bloom time, see:

<https://www.rbg.ca/gardens-trails/by-experience/whats-in-bloom/lilacs/>

For a good read about lilacs, visit:

<https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/accent-lilacs-sudburys-favourite-shrub>

By Ola Nowosad

SAVE THE DATES

OHA 2024 Convention



The **OHA 2024 Convention** will be held at the Delta Hotels Conference Centre in Guelph. Hosted by Districts 7 & 8.

Speakers, Seminars, Competitions, Bus Trips.

Registration is now open! Register online Early: Bird Rate of \$300.00 ends May 10th.

For more information, visit the Ontario OHA Convention link » <https://gardenontario.org/convention/>

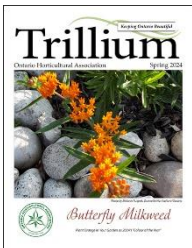
Earth Day - LFHS will be cleaning up **Constitution Park** Saturday, April 20 at 10 am. Come along to help.

OHA Earth Day Celebration: Fri, April 19, 7:00 by Webex, Claudette Sims joins us to discuss "A Gardening Conundrum: Why are invasive plants sold in nurseries?"

WebEx will open at 6:40 pm to the first 1000 individuals. Meeting link:

<https://gardenontario.webex.com/gardenontario/j.php?MTID=m6b12b0a7c3fb639d96eb9241a0ff747d>

Meeting number (access code): 2632 483 4396. Meeting password: 44UydeFn6pH



OHA Spring Trillium

Need a break from digging, planting and working in the garden? Put your feet up and enjoy every page of the Spring 2024 issue of the OHA Trillium.

Link: <https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Spring-Trillium.pdf>

A Local Event....

Go Wild, Grow Wild, Green Expo

Date: May 4, 2024

Time: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Place: Western Fair District Agriplex,
London, ON

Link: <https://caroliniancanada.ca/expo>



LFHS SPEAKERS

Oak Wilt



In March we had Brandon Williamson from Upper Thames Valley Conservation Authority tell us about Oak Wilt.

Here is a link to information about the disease, “ All About Oak Wilt” - [Upper Thames River Conservation Authority](#) .

ALSO OF INTEREST, PODCAST LINKS AND MORE

An Interesting link.....

Stay fit while gardening: ‘gardenfit’ on pbs, with Madeline Hooper. Tour gardens across America and learn gardening tips and techniques and tips to avoid stress and injury.

GARDENFIT: Season 2 Episodes | PBS

Link: <https://www.pbs.org/show/gardenfit/>



You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt



Enjoy the spring gardening from LFHS