



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6 Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

Website: www.gardenontario.org

December 2020 – 8th issue

Facebook: [Lynden Horticultural Society](https://www.facebook.com/LyndenHorticulturalSociety)

Message from the President:

IT'S DECEMBER!!!! 2020 is almost over, thank goodness!!!

Every time I write this newsletter, finish it, and hand off to Cindy to proof and send out, everything changes again!!! So, I am writing this with the hope that there will not be any drastic changes. Since things are still so uncertain and small businesses are struggling, I thought I would add a section offering up some ideas for Christmas gifts and help promote some businesses you might not have thought about going to or even knew about and keep it local.

Christmas Card:

You will have received an email from me about whether you would like us to send you a Christmas card (if you live close by it would be hand delivered otherwise through the mail). If you did not respond to this email, we will assume you do not wish to have one mailed and you will be sent an electronic (email) Christmas greeting. We also would like your address so we can mail to you a membership renewal package in the new year when we get it together, at this time we may have a rough draft of what our calendar will look like for next year. Once again it will be hard to make concrete plans so please bear with us, expect a lot of garden tours, lol!!! I hope to not inundate you with lots of emails, but this may happen as we will be looking to our membership to fill out our calendar. So, over the Christmas holidays please think about possibly offering up your garden for a tour next year it doesn't have to be perfect, our gardens are a work in progress anyways and will never be done, there will always be something new to add!! Or if you have topic you would like to present, we would welcome that also. Please contact [myself](#) or [Cindy](#).



We will be taking a break and not sending a newsletter for January but look forward to one in February. With high hopes we will see you at our first meeting in March 2021!!!

Wishing everyone a very Merry and safe Christmas!!!



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OHA Official Business:

Our governing body stipulates that a member must pay a fee to be considered a member and a society must have members to be a society. According to the governing rules of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Farms and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) we have to ask for membership fees and cannot waive membership fees for the coming year. In light of what has been happening in the world some societies were considering not collecting dues, this creates a host of problems with insurance and laws that govern our societies. Also, we still need membership fees to continue as a club to receive our grant money and be considered as a club.

I do hope in the new year when we do our membership drive you will consider staying with us and joining us again for another year.

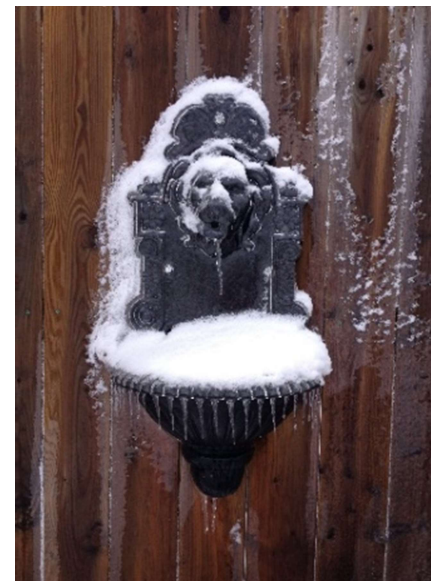
Christmas Trivia:

1. In what country did the custom of putting up a Christmas tree originate?
 2. What traditional Christmas decoration is actually a parasitic plant?
 3. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
 4. What was the first year that the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree was put up?
 5. This one is just for fun!!! What is the most popular meal for Christmas in Japan?
-

Winter 2021

Over this winter our only form of exercise may be going for walks, so take your camera or phone with you and take some winter scene photos. Can be anything, woods, trees, snowmen. Take as many as you can, don't think you take good photos?!?! That is the case for most of us and professionals, that is why you take lots, because for every 20 or 30 there is that one gem!!! In this digital age if you don't like it, crop it, or just delete it but there is no harm in trying. When winter is over, I would like you to send in your favorites and we will use one for our Christmas card next year.

This years Christmas card photo is courtesy of Rosalind Clayton of her rowan tree's berries after an ice storm last year.





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Christmas hack!

Each year we buy some these terrific battery-operated lights for decorating our arrangements with. They come packed in their little box all neat and tidy. Christmas is over and now what do you do?!? They will not fit back in that box!



My favorite is the fine wire string lights, but you must be careful with the wire because you can break it. Shoving it back in that box just will not do and you cannot just stuff them in a box, they get tangled. Solution... empty toilet paper roll!



Cut a slit in the top and bottom of the roll, slide the end of the light string in one slit, then carefully start wrapping around the tube until you get almost to the end, insert the battery pack inside the tube wrap the rest of the cord and then insert into the slit at the top so it's secure and hangs. Voila! All neat and tidy, safe, and secure for next year!!

Support Local!

Tourism and information centers are trying to help local businesses and promote them. In Brant County we received a pamphlet from Brant Tourism in the mail listing all the Culinary delights in the area. It lists all the restaurants from fine dining to fast food, with descriptions and contact info. The next section lists Breweries and Cideries, with our very own member Cindy and Harold's [Steel Wheel Brewery](#) mentioned. Moving on to Sweet Treats, Cafés and Bakeries check out the [Restaurant & Take-out Guide](#) . What's best about this pamphlet is you might not have been aware of what some of these places have to offer. I'm sure some one would love to have some craft beer or cider under the tree or handmade delectable chocolate or gourmet popcorn!!

Another great place to look is Hamilton-Halton-Brant Regional Tourism Association's webpage at [The Heart of Ontario](#). This website offers links to lots of local business with great gift ideas.

Here is a list of some of the businesses you might not have thought about gifts from in our area.

Josmar Acres	Beautifully made planter arrangements, gifts, planter accessories and food for the foodie.
Shearlea Acres	Everything for the bird lover, maple syrup and food for the foodie. Open all year round.
Elberta Farms	Offers all kinds of preserves for the foodie
Hunter's Maple Bush Syrup	Maple Syrup products. 519-647-2651



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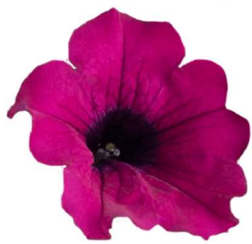
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Weir's Lane Lavender & Apiary Farm	All kinds of lavender and honey products. (We toured here a few years ago). They now have a shop in Dundas and online.
Terry Osborne Pottery	Terry has a wood fire kiln which creates a unique glaze finish to her pottery.
Donn Zver	Pottery by Donn as well as some other artisans. Buy a clay poppy for the garden in support of the legion in memory of a loved one.
Black and Smith Country General	Finely crafted handmade goods for the home. Located in Jerseyville you can shop in-person or online.
Barlow Creek Studio & Mercantile	A wonderful little gift shop full of treasures. You can check out on Facebook or call 519-647-2701. They are also offering private shopping dates if you wish to have the store to yourself.
Merry Farms	Not only do they sell Christmas tree's, but they have a store full of ornaments!
Dragonfly Landscape	Beautiful little gift shop full of all kinds of Christmas gifts, including ornaments, decorations, signs, figures, and garden gifts for everyone. Open till December 24.
Brantview Farms	Offers apple related foods and hard cider and some local artisan's creations. Oh, and can't forget the apple cider donuts, yum!!!
The Naked Hop Soaperie	Offers a variety of beautifully handmade soap with a little whimsy and hops, and its in St. George. Very easy to order, and products can be picked up or delivered.
Robert Hall Originals	A pewter, rock and bead shop tucked away in the St. George industrial park. He has lots of unique handmade pewter items, gemstones, and ornaments for the tree!

Christmas Urns



This video by [Garden Answer](#) has 4 different decorating ideas for urns with topiaries and gathered greens, one of which I shared with you last time. This time however she shows you an ingenious way of making a “mock metal sphere” out of embroidery hoops and a fancy drawer knob for a center piece in your urn and decorating around it.



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Poinsettia

The Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) is indigenous to Central America and in Canada, it is the most popular of all Christmas houseplants, in the Christmas season. Some things you may not know about this plant are that:



- It derives its common name from Joel Roberts Poinsettia, the first United States Minister to Mexico and botanist, who is credited with introducing the plant to the US in the 1820's, when he sent it home to his greenhouses in South Carolina.
- Before it was known as a Poinsettia it was called "Mexican flame flower" or "painted leaf" and grew wild in the canyons of Mexico.
- Though considered highly toxic its not dangerous, consumption can cause nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Each year in the US approximately 70 million poinsettias are sold in a six-week period valuing at \$250 million US.
- There are over 100 cultivated varieties that have been patented in the US.
- Until the 1990's the Ecke family virtually had the monopoly on the market owing to a grafting technique they developed by grafting two varieties of poinsettia together that made their plants much more attractive.

Here are some tips from [Landscape Ontario](https://www.gardenontario.org/landscaping/choosing-a-poinsettia/) on how to choose the perfect one! You want a strong and healthy plant obviously but check for insects by looking at the underside of the leaves, avoid plants with yellow or spotted leaves. Also, don't buy a plant that has the paper or plastic sleeve pulled right up around the plant, this will turn the leaves yellow and may fall off if the poinsettia was sleeved too long, however your plant will need to be protected from the cold when taking it home but then remove the protective wrapping immediately. Never expose it to the cold for more than a few minutes, a chilled or frozen plant will drop its leaves very quickly.





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Taking care of your Poinsettia:

- Place where there is bright natural light but not directly in the sun
- Keep it away from hot or cold draughts
- Water thoroughly when soil surface is dry to touch, discard excess water in saucer after 10 minutes
- The bright colour of the bracts will remain longer if temperatures do not exceed 22°C

Reflowering your Poinsettia

Don't throw it out you can reflower it for next year with these easy steps!

December	Full bloom. Water as needed
April	Colour fades Keep near sunny window & fertilize when new growth appears. Cut back stems to about 20 cm.
June 1	Repot if necessary. Fertilize with a balanced formula 20-20-20 Continue to water when dry to touch. Place in light shade. Move outside if temperatures do not fall below 10°C.
Late August	Take inside. Cut stems back, leaving three or four leaves per shoot. Place in a sunny window. Water and fertilize as needed.
Sept. 20 till December 1	Keep in light only from 8 am to 5 pm Put in dark (NO LIGHTS) 5 pm to 8 am

Following these steps especially the last one and your poinsettia will last forever.

It is possible, my plant successfully survived from last year, however it is looking a little thin as I did not do the last 2 recommendations. I made it halfway though!!!

Inferno Wine Jelly

This jelly recipe looks festive and is great for get togethers and to cook with. It does not make a lot and if you make in the 125 ml jar's they make great gifts. It's called [Inferno Wine Jelly](#) by Bernardin, but don't let the name fool you! Yes, it is hot, but you can control the degree of heat by the amount of hot peppers you put in and quite frankly you want a little heat. This pairs well with cheese. Spread it on a cracker with cream cheese or by itself on French bread. It's also great in Thai dishes or chicken wings for that sweet heat. (Think sweet Thai chili sauce but better!)





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Inferno Wine Jelly

- 1 medium sweet red pepper
- 1-2 jalapeno peppers
- 1 ½ cups sweet white wine (I tend to use what I have at hand, but sweet is better)
- 2-3 dried hot chili peppers (I use 1 tsp chili flakes; you can use more to increase heat)
- 3 cups granulated sugar
- 1 box Certo crystals (original recipe has Bernardin liquid but I find it does not set as well)

Wash, seed and very finely chop sweet red pepper and jalapeno peppers.

Combine chopped peppers, wine, and hot peppers in a large, deep stainless-steel saucepan. Bring to a boil, then remove from heat, cover, and let sit for 20 minutes.

Wash jars and place in a hot oven to sterilize. Wash rings & lids, boil for 5 minutes to soften seal.

Add Certo and bring to a boil, then add sugar. Over high heat bring mixture to a full rolling boil.

Stirring constantly, boil hard 1 minute, remove from heat. Stir for 5 minutes to prevent floating peppers and skim foam (I usually do it for about 3 minutes, so it doesn't cool down too quickly and my jars seal).

Pour into hot sterilized jars, leaving a headspace, wipe rim and seal with dried lids and rings.

Just in case you didn't know

For those of us who are not technologically savvy, when you see in the newsletter words in [blue](#) with a line under them, this is a link to the actual website or email address. To go there all you need is to do is place your cursor over the word, press the Ctrl (Control) button and left click on the mouse and your computer will open this website.

Trivia Answers:

1. Germany
2. Mistletoe
3. Canada
4. 1933. Which was the year that 30 Rockefeller Plaza opened. There is a story of workers putting up a tree on Christmas Eve in 1931 during the construction of the Rockefeller Center that began the tradition. But there was no tree in 1932 so the tree in 1933 was the first official Christmas tree.
5. Kentucky Fried Chicken. It's so popular in fact, that you must order in advance or face standing in long lines to get your Christmas fried chicken. Some people even start lining up Christmas Eve to make sure they get their Christmas KFC!