



# Flamborough Horticultural Society

## October 2021 Newsletter

### President's Message

Greetings Members!

On behalf of other Society members, I send a warm welcome to two new members in September, Annamarie Facklemann and Sabina McPhee. We hope to see you at the October and November meetings.

We extend a fond farewell to Past President Tina Coverly who moved to a town outside of Sault Ste. Marie. Tina is already involved with the local Society of about 195 members! We thank Tina for all her years of being an active member (since 2006) and the expertise she provided to various committees and in her role as a Director on the Board. We will miss you.

We are thankful that Tina has agreed to continue to help out virtually with the Trillium Committee since this committee is an important part of promoting homeowner pride and beautification.

Annamary Kilham has been in communication with members who lost loved ones, family members who have been ill or recovering from surgery or illness since 2013 in her capacity as Chairperson of the Caring Committee. Annamary has many other volunteering commitments in her community and is now handing this Committee role over to anyone who would like to volunteer for the position. Please email [flamhort@hotmail.com](mailto:flamhort@hotmail.com), your interest in this position. The Caring Committee relies on members to apprise them if a Society member is in need of a little caring. The chairperson always respects the person's privacy needs. For privacy reasons, we do not publish "Get Well notices" unless permission is granted.

Since the church hall is still not open for meetings, your Board is happy to report that Terry Vanderkruk is providing an onsite meeting venue for us in October and November at Connon Nursery, 656 Robson Rd. Note the earlier start time of **6:30 PM** that will allow Connon staff who have been at the store all day to get home a little earlier after they close up. It is a very long day for them since many start at 7am. We hope to have the event broadcast simultaneously via Zoom for people unable to attend. Connon Nursery closes at 6pm so there will be time for members to arrive early to shop. Please support Connon Nursery any way you can. They have wonderful bulbs for Fall planting and many beautiful exotic indoor plants right now. The small citrus trees I bought from them three years ago that I bring indoors, continue to provide me with wonderful juicy limes during winter. I hope to see you all at Connon's. Now, please enjoy this great, informative Newsletter published by Liz.

Best wishes,

Susan MacMillan

## Meeting and Speaker Information

### October Meeting

Date: Wed., Oct. 20

Time: **6:30 pm**

Location: Connon Nurseries

Speaker: Tina Van Andel (Master Gardener)

Topic: Houseplants: Our Constant Companions

Flower Show: A photo of an indoor house plant (with a fall horticultural accent)

Email photos of entries to

[flamhort@hotmail.com](mailto:flamhort@hotmail.com) by Oct. 19

## Think Orange Flowers for Fall!



Mexican Sunflower (Tithonia)

With Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en being in October, consider having an orange theme in your garden for late fall! Next year, try planting annual flowers like zinnias, marigolds, tithonia (mexican sunflower), nasturtiums and cosmos (which do come in orange!). You also might try butterfly weed which is a perennial. Of course many fall chrysanthemums are found in shades of orange and readily available for sale. Many of these will still be in bloom at Thanksgiving and if we are lucky enough to have a warm Fall and no killer frosts in October, some may still be around for Halloween!

## September Flower Show

First Place :Leslie MacMillan



Second Place: Ann Cochren



Third Place: Liz Visentin



## October Garden Tasks

This is the month when we should be preparing to put our gardens to bed.

- Pull out summer annuals killed by frost.
- Mound rose crowns with about 6 inches of fresh soil before the ground freezes.
- Continue to water trees and perennials.
- Top dress existing lawns and garden beds with compost.
- Plant garlic bulbs and mulch
- Protect any remaining vegetables from frost.
- Pot up herbs for indoor growth.
- Repot root-bound houseplants
- Plant amaryllis for winter bloom.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs (tulip, crocus, daffodils, etc.
- Place a layer of leaves on garden beds for winter protection
- Treat plants being brought inside with a soap solution
- Save seeds for next year.
- Store clay containers empty, to prevent freezing and cracking.
- Continue to remove weeds to prevent seeds, insects and diseases from overwintering.
- Keep mowing grass as long as it is growing.
- Remove grass clippings from the last few cuts to prevent insects and disease from overwintering.
- Keep the lawn free of leaves and debris.
- Ensure gutters and downspouts are not plugged that may result in ice damage.
- Prune long growth on roses to prevent canes from snapping in winter.
- Clean and store summer-flowering bulbs (dahlias, gladiolus, cannas).
- Clean and store garden tools and machinery.

- Dig and divide clumps of rhubarb.
- Stop feeding your pond fish when the water temperature falls below 10 degrees Celsius.

## Civic Improvement News (Jan Bignell, Committee Chair)



Freelton Library

Many thanks to the members who looked after our Civic gardens during this dry summer. At least we get a break now with all the rain!

Anne Williams and Erika Friesen - Carlisle Library  
Heather Wilson - Hwy 5 bench  
John St. Rosanne Waugh ( helped by Anne Cochren and Susan MacMillan)

A note of thanks also for Lynden Landscaping who helped with watering here as well.

Liz Henderson - Freelton beds and for helping me (Jan) at the Freelton Library.

The gardens looked great in spite of the weather. The sign at our Memorial Maple tree at Freelton church disappeared and is being replaced. There was a photo in the Flamborough Review (and in our newsletter) of the new bench at Flamborough Baptist Community garden. It had previously been in the RBG gardens for about three decades and had fallen into disrepair. The beautiful restoration was spearheaded by Ann and Tom Cochren. It is being much appreciated by the gardeners who need a place to sit and rest.

## Maintaining Tools

Maintaining garden tools during the garden season and prior to putting them away for winter is a task that is often neglected. Taking care of tools helps them last longer. If you store tools wet and dirty, metal rusts and wood can rot or splinter. You may end up with secateurs that don't open and close easily, and shovels that break when you're trying to dig something out of the garden.

Rust can form quickly – it's best to clean and dry tools after use, especially if you've been working in rain and mud. Fine sandpaper or steel wool will take care of small, rusty spots.

Keeping edges sharp and handles smooth are aspects that should be checked and repaired as needed. Sometimes yearly is enough. But if you do a lot of pruning, for example, you might want to do some sharpening during the season, especially if you notice pruning seems to be getting more difficult. Pruning or sawing with dull tools causes more damage to plants than a clean cut with sharp tool, and makes it easier for disease to enter. If you don't clean tools after pruning diseased plant material, you can transfer the problem to other plants. In this case, you want to disinfect the blades before using them again.

Alcohol, bleach, and household disinfectants are most often recommended. However, bleach can be corrosive to tools, though and requires longer soaking to work well. A quicker and easier method is to use disinfecting wipes after use of the tools.

If handles are splintered or rough, A medium-grit emery cloth or a piece of sandpaper will smooth rough, weathered wood. Coat the metal parts of your tools with light oil or spray them with a lubricant like WD-40 before putting them away. To protect the wooden handles, apply linseed oil. Hang your tools in a shed or garage and never leave them outdoors for

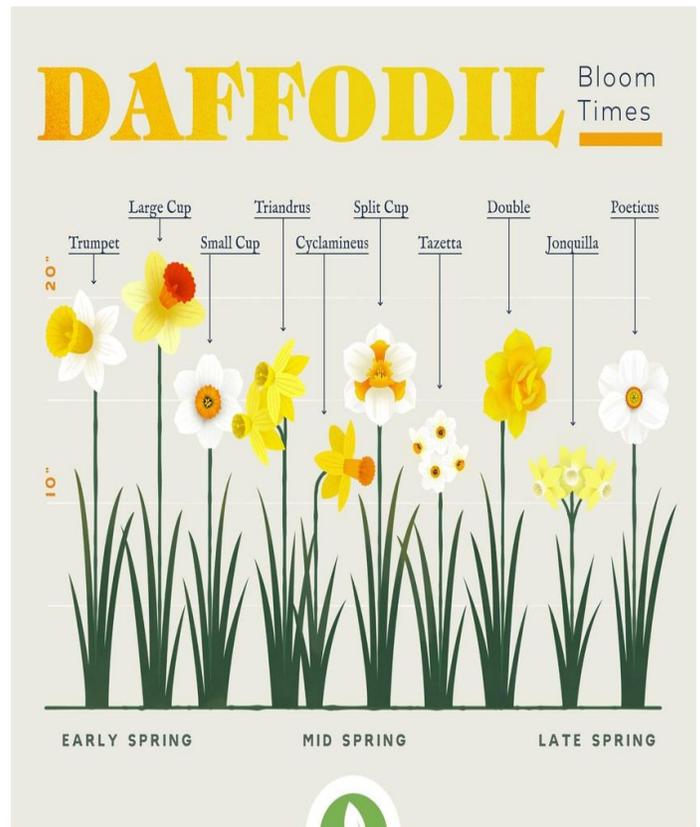
winter! Keeping small hand tools stashed in a bucket of sand mixed with oil will help guard against rust.

## Do Not Cut Back These Perennials!

There are certain perennials which are considered evergreen and also should not be cut back in the fall. These include bugleweed, rock cress, sea thrift, wormwood, heart-leaf saxifrage, pinks, barrenwort, spurge, hellebore, coralbells, dead nettle, creeping phlox, some primrose, lungwort, saxifrage, creeping sedum, hens and chicks, and thyme.

## Planting Daffodils for Succession Blooms

There is still time to plant fall bulbs. Planting early mid and late blooming varieties will prolong spring colour in the garden!



@longfieldgardens



longfield-gardens.com

## Interested in Planting Native Bulbs?



Plant Blazing Star (*Liatris Spicata*). An added bonus is that it will bloom in July and August long after the spring bulbs have finished their blooms. Read more here: [Growing Blazing Star](#)

## Showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)



While goldenrod appears to be a very prolific plant in our local fall landscape, the Showy Goldenrod, a variety native to Southern Ontario, was put on the endangered list in 2011. In southwestern Ontario in 2008 there was a population on Walpole Island First Nation in Lambton County, which contained approximately 800 plants and in northwestern Ontario, there was a single population of about 1000 plants. The main threat to Showy Goldenrod is habitat destruction due to development together with agricultural expansion resulting in the decline in tallgrass prairie savannah in Southern Ontario. Competition from invasive plants such as European Phragmites and White Sweet Clover is also a contributing factor. Read more about Ontario Goldenrod Species here: [Native Goldenrods](#)

## What's the Difference Between Gourds, Pumpkins, and Squashes?

While each of these fruits (yes, they are fruits) falls into the same plant family, the cucurbitaceae family, things get a little fuzzy when it comes to overlaps across the categories. For example, when it comes to squashes and pumpkins, all pumpkins are technically squashes, but not all squashes are pumpkins!

### Gourds:

Gourds, much like squashes, come in a wide range of shapes, sizes, and colors, though most share the quality of being hard-shelled and super durable. There are several varieties of gourds, including speckled swan gourds, dipper powderhorn gourds, and bottle gourds. (Miniature pumpkins often fall under the category of gourd, as well.) The biggest difference between gourds and squashes is that gourds are purely decorative, for the most part, with the exception of some gourds in their immature stages, which may be eaten as vegetables much like a squash.

**Squashes:** As opposed to decorative gourds, squashes are pretty much any members of the cucurbitaceae family that are edible, and they're divided up into two categories: summer squash, which are usually a little more tender, and winter squash, which are the hard-skinned varieties. A few common summer squashes include zucchini, crookneck squash, and straightneck squash. Winter squashes, on the other hand, include varieties like acorn squash, butternut squash, and spaghetti squash. Unlike gourds, squashes are primarily used for culinary purposes. And while the two categories of squash are named according to seasons, the categories are actually less about seasonal availability and more about usage and shelf life (summer squash has a shorter shelf life than winter squash, thanks to the hard outer shell of the latter).

**Pumpkins:** As far as pumpkins go, the truth is this: “pumpkin” doesn’t mean much botanically speaking. In fact, anything that we might classify as a pumpkin is really just a winter squash. The one notable difference between pumpkins and other winter squashes, though, is that pumpkins tend to be multifunctional in that they are edible as well as used decoratively like gourds.

Planting sunflowers is a natural and cost effective way to rid the soil of many of these toxins. After the devastating flood of 2013, the residents of High River, Alberta all received packets of sunflower seeds in the mail to help remediate the soil. Sunflowers were also used in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

Once the sunflower has drawn the toxins out of the soil, it stores them at a cellular level that safely prevents the chemicals from returning to the ground. Composted sunflowers will not recontaminate the earth, but the sunflower seeds from plants grown in compromised soil should not be eaten by humans or fed to birds or other animals.

### **Bringing Houseplants Indoors**

This is the ideal time to repot tropical plants prior to bringing them indoors, leaving the mess outdoors!

Once the temperatures outside reach 50 degrees F. (10 C.) or less at night, your houseplant must begin the process to come back into the house. Most houseplants cannot stand temps below 45 degrees F. (7 C.). It is very important to acclimate your houseplants to the environmental changes from outside to inside, something that is often forgotten! Bring them in at first for nights only for a few days and then gradually over two weeks keep them indoors for longer periods during the day, otherwise plants may experience shock, wilting, and leaf loss.

### **Hamilton Fall Garden and Mum Show**

#### **Oct 22-Oct 31 Gage Park Greenhouse**

The Chrysanthemum Show is an amazing floral display created by some of Hamilton’s finest horticulture staff. The display is a breathtaking feature of over 200 varieties of Chrysanthemums, and more than 100,000 blooms and has a different theme each year. Read more information here:

[Mum Show](#)

### **Little Known Sunflower Facts**



I have had a bumper crop of sunflowers in my sunny front beds this season, most of which came up from seeds dropped last fall. Thus, until they grew larger and started to bloom, they were mystery plants. Several friends and neighbours also received some mystery plants as I had to cull quite a few! We see sunflowers as decorative and food for humans and wildlife, but they also have many other uses.

Their hollow stems can act like giant straws to suck toxins from the soil. With their rapid growth and large amount of biomass, they are able to withstand absorption of toxins that would kill many other plants. After the Chernobyl disaster “sunflower rafts” were released on lakes, allowing the sunflower roots to dangle into the water to remove radioactive waste.

Sunflowers are also frequently brought in after a flood. Floodwaters can pick up sewage, household, and medical and industrial waste. Carcinogenic compounds such as arsenic, chromium, mercury and dangerous bacteria like E. coli are often present in the soil once the waters recede.

**Connon Nurseries** and Terry Vanderkruk are great supporters of our society. Please show your appreciation by shopping at Connon Nurseries 905-689-7433

[Connon Nurseries](#)

**Wild Birds Unlimited** offers a 10% discount on products you buy when you mention that you are a Horticultural Society member.

[Wild Birds Unlimited](#)

### **How to Reach Us :**

Please email your comments, suggestions or corrections. If you wish to submit an article, questions or tips, contact:

[flamhort@hotmail.com](mailto:flamhort@hotmail.com).

PO Box 902 Waterdown ON L0R 2H0

### **Join Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com> In the search bar, enter Flamborough Horticultural Society and you will be directed to the 'group'.

We respect your right to not receive this newsletter. In the subject line, please type "Unsubscribe me from the newsletter" if you wish to be removed from the mailing list.

[Remove me](#)

### **MISSION**

The mission of the Flamborough Horticultural Society is to encourage interest and involvement in horticulture through civic improvement, preservation, exhibitions, the distribution of plant materials and regular instruction pertaining to the theory and practice of horticulture.

### **Directors for 2020/21**

President – Susan MacMillan

Past Co- President - Tina Coverly

Past Co-President - Trudy Bliedung

Vice President – **Open**

Treasurer -Trudy Bliedung

Recording Secretary - Tessa Morris

Publicity - Shared by VP and President

Facebook Admin. – Liz Visentin

Newsletter Editor – Liz Visentin

Flower Show and Trillium Judging Liaison

— Ann Cochren

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Bus Tour – Open

Caring - Open

Nominating Committee - Trudy Bliedung & Tina Coverly

Civic Improvement – Jan Bignell

Communications Copywriter –

Jennifer Godyn

Garden Walk – Open

Meeting Hospitality – Ann Williams

Membership – Janet Waterfall

OHA Website Monitor – Phil Longstaff

Spring Plant Sale –

Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

Sign Standardization – Ann Cochren

Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

