Winter Edition of The District Dirt

It is that time of the year when we get to rest from a long season of gardening and read up on the latest trends, plants, and growing techniques. Take in a speaker or two from your favorite Society or Club and take notes on the latest and greatest trees, perennials, and bulbs that are new to the market or old ones you have been looking for.

Sometimes I order my plants so early in the winter, and when the box arrives in the late spring or especially fall, I am surprised at what has arrived. Some growers sell out fast so ordering them early is the only way to have success!

What a great first year as District Director it has been. With the pleasure of visiting so many wonderful Societies and many more to go, I have seen firsthand the hard work that is put into running your Societies and applaud the members that work so hard to do so.
This edition is a celebration of all your hard work and hopefully will serve as an inspiration to each Society to try something new and get more people involved in helping to run your Societies.

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY VISION & MISSION

The OHA Board of Directors, representing the interest of our societies/clubs and members have recently refreshed our Vision and Mission Statements to better capture what we are trying to accomplish as an organization.
VISION: To be recognized as the primary gardening and Horticultural Association by inspiring, educating and supporting gardeners and affiliated Societies/Clubs.
MISSION:
1. To provide broad support and guidance, training and administrative leadership and to advocate on behalf of affiliated Horticultural Societies/Clubs.
2. To develop and support programs for all ages and skill levels encouraging gardening, community beautification, environmental stewardship and conservation.

OHA Happenings:

1. Our 3rd OHA 50/50 Draw winner comes from Milton Horticultural Society again. Congratulations to Heike Spohr with ticket number C-8401 as she takes home $4937.50. Such great news for her especially at this time of the year.
Heike participated in my video series on how to tie a bow in 2020. Here Heike is showing us how she makes

a Christmas bow. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0cf_z1mDWk.

Tickets are now available for the 4th OHA 50/50 draw and you could be the next winner.

2. There are only 40 'Year of the Garden' calendars left for sale for $25.The beautiful 18-month calendar makes a great gift. contact your President for more details. District 6 purchased 98 calendars. Thank you to everyone who supported this OHA fundraiser.

3. Annual report time is fast approaching. Feb 1st is the deadline and now that some of you have already held your AGM, please log on to the TYPON website and get this completed. When you are sharing your Societies year in review, please list everything you can think of. HERE IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF A DETAILED ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE FLAMBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

4. OHA Historical Archive Committee Report is due later that year but once you get the extended version of your Society's activities completed for the year-end report, we need you to condense it into the format below. it is so much easier to get this done at the same time.

Please send this report to me at ohaD6D@gmail.com and also please send a copy to SusanD6Secretary@gmail.com. The District Director or Secretary will collate all Society reports into one Report. This deadline is in August but please do it at the same time and enjoy knowing that it is completed.

To make it easier for the OHA Historical Archive Committee please use the following format:

[Title] Annual Report/Historical Report for "X" Society/Garden Club

The font is Calibri 12 and Bold for the title and Calibri 11 for the body of the report.

Use a maximum of 100 words, in sentence form, and one paragraph to give a good summary of the Club/Society. You can use the topics below as a guide but no subtitles, please.

Activities, Accomplishments, Civic Improvement, Anniversaries, Special Events, Speakers and Topics.

This should be fairly easy by copying from your District's annual report submission except for adding events that might take place or are planned after your Annual Report submission.

Flamborough Horticultural Society
participates in
Hamilton Trillium Awards

Ancaster Horticultural Society
Presents
Ancaster Trillium Award

The Ancaster Trillium Awards program promotes community pride by recognizing residents who, by landscaping and maintaining their property, contribute to a more attractive community.
Each year volunteer judges from the Society choose 125 of the most beautiful nominated front properties for an award. Here is more information.

Two Great examples of another spin on a garden tour with increase community involvement and amazing Society recognition. Congratulations To FHS and AHS.

These Societies are happy to share information about these two initiatives and bring them to your community.

Paris Horticultural Society Bursary Winner:

Each year, that there is a suitable candidate, PHS donates a $500.00 bursary to a Paris District student. This year the award went to Ismail Yaseen Janjua. Ismail is attending Carlton University for Architecture Conservation and Sustainability Engineering.

Gifts for Gardeners

Lee Valley- Watering Leaves

When inserted into any potted plant, this plastic leaf blends into the foliage and acts as a grooved slide to channel water directly to the soil. They are useful when watering succulents and hairy-leafed plants to avoid getting their foliage wet, which can cause leaves to rot.
Package of 6 $8.95

Indigo- "Tea Gardening for Beginners"
-Julia Dimakos

A gardening book that's sure to be your cup of tea.
Create your own tea garden with help from this beginner's guide. It walks you through every step of the process, from planning your garden plot to preparing delicious tea blends.
$19.95 (2022)

Puzzles Canada (Georgetown)-
Wheelbarows and Wellies Puzzle

From sturdy allotment sheds to pretty Japanes gardens and catching some much-needed Z's after all the hard work is done; this colourful 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle from Val Goldfinch will get anyone excited about a spot of gardening or puzzling.
$23.99

Reitmans- Floral Pattern Socks

Add a touch of style to your look with this pair of soft cotton-blend socks featuring a cute floral pattern
$5.90

These last-minute gift ideas, Poinsettia Quiz and delicious cookie recipe are brought to you from The Georgetown Horticultural Society

Soft Ginger-Molasses Cookies
Karri Robichaud

1 Cup Unsalted butter
1 Cup Sugar
1/2 Cup Mollasses or 1/4 cup Mollasses + 1/4 cup Ginger syrup
2 1/4 Tsp Baking Soda
1 Tsp Salt
1 1/4 Tsp Ground Cinnamon
1 1/4 Tsp Ground Cloves or ground allspice
1/14 Tsp Ground Ginger
2 Lg. Eggs
3 1/2 Cups Flour
1 Cup Crystalized Ginger (if you add, bake 11 min.)
(I partly dry the ginger from making syrup)
Sugar for coating; pearl or course or granulated sugar
In a large mixing bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until they're light and fluffy.
Beat in the molasses (or molasses and ginger syrup), baking soda, salt, and spices.
Add the eggs, beating well and scraping down the sides of the bowl to incorporate.
Stir in the flour. (I refridgerate the dough till firm before scooping)
Scoop the soft dough into 1 1/2" balls; a tablespoon cookie scoop works well here.
Roll them in granulated sugar, coarse sugar, or pearl sugar.
(I use 1 part ground ginger & 2 parts granulated sugar)
Space the cookies on the prepared baking sheets, leaving about 2 1/2" between them.
Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly grease (or line with parchment) two baking sheets.
Bake them for 10 minutes. The centers will look soft and puffy
Remove the cookies from the oven, & cool 10 minutes, then transferr to rack cool completely.

Ginger Syrup
4 Cup Fresh Ginger root, unpelled, sliced 1/8 to 1/4"
3 1/2 Cup Sugar
3 1/2 Cup Water

To make ginger syrup, in large, heavy saucepan, bring the ginger, sugar, & water to a boil.

Boil the mixture for 45 to 60 minutes, until it registers 216°F to 220°F on an instant-read or candy thermometer. The lower temperature will give you a thinner syrup, one that's easy to stir into drinks; the higher temperature will yield a thicker syrup, better for baking. You can't tell how thick the syrup will be while it's still hot; you have to go by its temperature, as it'll thicken as it cools.
Remove the pan from the burner and carefully strain the syrup into a non-reactive container. Store in the refrigerator indefinitely. Yield: about 2 1/4 cups syrup.

Tips

Which sugar is best for coating these cookies? Well, take your pick: granulated sugar (1/2 cup) will disappear as the cookies bake, leaving merely the faintest crunch on the crust. Coarse white sugar (1 cup) will add sparkle and mild crunch. Bright white pearl sugar (a heaping 1 cup) will add contrast and a more crunch.
For a lighter-colored, even more gingery cookie, use 1/2 cup ginger syrup in place of the 1/2 cup molasses. decrease the ground cloves to 1/2 teaspoon (I don't decrease). Add 1 cup diced crystallized ginger to the dough at the same time you add the flour. Bake the cookies for 11 minutes.

Poinsettia Quiz

Poinsettias are one of those plants we just, well, sort of take for granted. Let's face it, they're everywhere this season —as they are every year. Don't get me wrong; I love them and buy several every holiday.

Yet, how much do we really know about this traditional holiday plant? Or more importantly, how much do we think we know? The poinsettia has long been dogged by many myths. Maybe just for fun it's time to test your knowledge by taking a little quiz:

TRUE or FALSE?

1. During the 14th through 16th centuries, the Aztecs used the poinsettia's sap in construction materials and its brachts (leaves) to make wine.

2. The German botanist Wilenow gave the poinsettia its botanical name, Euphorbia pulcherrima, which means "very beautiful."

3. The poinsettia got its name from Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first American to swim from Cuba to Mexico.

4. While exploring the Mexico countryside, Poinsett, a botany enthusiast, discovered a beautiful shrub with large red flowers, took cuttings from it, and brought them back to his greenhouse in South Carolina.

5. Poinsett founded the Washington institution now known as the Smithsonian.

6. The poinsettia eventually became known as a Christmas plant because it can be found blooming in Mexico only for a short period of time around Christmas.

7. December 12 is celebrated as National Poinsettia Day, marking the date of Poinsett's death.

8. Poinsettia breeding and hybridization have led to a wide spectrum of bloom colors beyond the traditional red and includes even blue.

9. Poinsettias are one of the most poisonous plants around.

10. As tropical plants, poinsettias prefer lots of sunlight and warm temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees and cool breezes.

BONUS: Poinsettias should be treated as annuals because they will not re-bloom the next season.

Answers are on the last page

Haldimand Horticultural Society

Haldimand Horticultural Society has a youth group called the Green Gardians (below)

They helped attach the poppies to the mesh which we plan to hang below a special flag LEST WE FORGET from the upper landing at the front of the Edinburg Square and Heritage & Cultural Centre (formerly the Town Hall) building in Caledonia

Purple poppies donated by Haldimand Horticultural Society member Shaunna Beaty below

Anne Jay crocheted 450 poppies

The members and friends of Haldimand Horticultural Society gathered in September to assemble the display at the workshop of our President, Elsie Eubank

In January we had 120 poppies donated and by April over 1000. We have now surpassed our targeted goal and have collected 2300 poppies from various Haldimand communities. We are still accepting poppies dropped off at the libraries in Caledonia, Hagersville, Cayuga and Jarvis. These will be available for anyone to attach a poppy to the wire frame before or after the Remembrance Day service Caledonia at the Cenotaph on November 11th

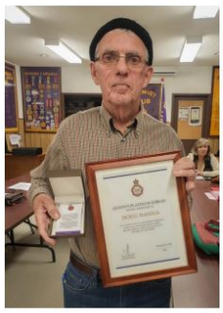
We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Poppy Project

Perhaps this can be started in your community..

QUEEN'S JUBLILEE AWARD

Doug Hanna shares his passion for gardening with our Society by improving our community gardens. This is part of the reason he was nominated and earned the Queen's Jubilee Award. It was presented to him on Oct 28th by Larry Brock, MP Brantford.

The certificate reads.



QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Proudly presented to

DOUG HANNA

In recognition off your outstanding contributions made to our community and our country. May the legacy of your service live on through your good deeds.

A pin was given along with the certificate. The emblem on the Platinum Jubilee pin features the Royal Crown and royal Cypher (ER11R) as personal symbols representing the Queen. With its 7-sided shape, 7 maple leaves and 7 pearls, it marks 7 decades of service to Canada and embodies the ideas of celebration and the services of those receiving it. The pearl was a favourite gemstone of the Queen.

Congratulations Doug.

Proud member of the Paris Horticultural Society

Society Happenings

The 2023 executive (from left): Sandra Extance, Nicole McFarlane, Rose Marie Robinson, Alicia Melady, Barb Melara, June Stewart, Amy Bradley, Dorothy Donkers and Avril Hunter.

Great article in the The St. George Lance newspaper describing in detail the AGM held by St. George Garden Club on Nov 26th. Photo & article by Rose Marie Woodley-Robinson, St. George

Oakville Horticultural Society's newly sworn in President Veronica Heiderich taking in the Haldimand Society's Urn Workshop. Photo by Elsie Eubank

Horticultural Society enjoyed holiday dinner

Story by Margaret Collins

The Paris Horticultural Society hosted its annual Christmas Dinner on Dec. 7 at the Paris Fairgrounds with 64 members attending. A social time took place, followed by a traditional Christmas turkey dinner catered by the Paris Agricultural Society ladies. The dinner featured musical entertainment from Bailey Robb and Meghan Edgar, trivia questions, and an awards presentation.

Lots of laughter was heard during the evening and everyone was pleased to enjoy these kinds of social gatherings once again.

The Paris Chronicle paper had a small write up about Paris horticultural Society's Christmas dinner and award 's night. Photo taken by Margaret Collins

President's Award presented by Haldimand Horticultural Society President Elsie Eubank to Susan Reeder. Sincere Congratulation Susan!

This Beautiful picture was done by Jenny Blunt, President of Port Dover & Woodhouse Horticultural Society.
A full slate of speakers is planned for 2023 as well as the Annual Auction in May, the June Bus Trip, and the summer garden Tour.

Judging School Opportunity

Hello Garden enthusiasts, want to learn more on how to judge Floral Design and Horticultural Specimens? D6 is gathering names for a new OHA judging school. It is a 3-year program of 2 sessions a year, so 6 sessions, probably Friday & Saturday, spring and fall usually, probably held between Haldimand and Port Dover at the Research center on Blue line road. Before we get it all planned out, we need to know if we will have enough people that want to be judges, to run the school. We are looking for 25 names.

Please Contact Catherine - catm@rogers.com to get your name on the list and we will keep you informed of details as they become known.

2023 District Meetings

I want to thank the following Societies for stepping forward to host the following District meetings:
Brantford Horticultural Society - Spring breakfast meeting - Feb 25th - see flyer below
Oakville Horticultural Society - Spring AGM - May 6th - Sir John Colborne Recreation Centre for Seniors
Simcoe & District Horticultural Society - Fall Breakfast Meeting
Waterford & District Horticultural Society - Fall Dinner

Zoomers Show 2022

Enercare Centre Oct 29 and 30th

Set up day with OHA 2nd Vice President Vicky Culbert and Lianne Krane

Ist day of the show with District 6 Secretary Susan MacMillan and Winona Horticultural Society President Helene Brule-Besner

Many people came to pick up information on a Society near them and ask gardening advice.

2nd day of the show Burlington Horticultural Society President Sandi Remedios, Oakville Horticultural Society President Veronica Heiderich

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Sign Standardization and Publicity

Ann Cochren assisted the Committee with our Sign Standardization for the Business Improvement Association's Welcome board. Our professional looking signs are beacons for the Society's activities.

Merry Christmas from my family to yours!

Have a safe and happy holiday from your District 6 Board of Directors .

District 6 Board of Directors

Bob Heil (ADD and D6 Treasurer), Liz Chappel (ADD) , Sandi Remedios (Burlington Hort Society President and ADD), Cat McGill (Past D6 Director and ADD), Lianne Krane (District 6 Director) Marian Heil (OHA Treasurer and ADD), Marie Decker (ADD) and Susan MacMillian (D6 Secretary and ADD) Missing: Rabiya Azeez (Alt. ADD)

ANSWERS

False. They used the sap to control fevers and the brachts to make a red dye.
True.
False. Poinsett was the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico.
True.
True.
True.
True.
True.
False. This is the most widely held myth about the plant. Extensive research has proved the plant is to be non-toxic – though like many plants, it can cause upset stomach if ingested.
False. They do prefer lots of sunlight but daytime temperatures of only 65 to 70 degrees and at night, 55 to 60 degrees. They also do not like cold drafts so often need to be placed away from windows and doors.
Bonus: False. Although it can be tricky and time-consuming, poinsettias can be encouraged to re-bloom again.

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