

Flamborough Horticultural Society



July 2023 Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings Members

What a beautiful cut flower workshop Connie Godyn organized on June 21. Thank you Connie. You were so humble as you shared all your talent at the demonstration. It was a lovely venue at Glenda Bargeman's Lotsa Hostas. Many of the attendees were able to take home not one but two cut flower arrangements. A lesson learned for next year is to remind participants to bring a bucket so that they can keep their bouquets fresh for the drive home. A reference Connie provided was, "A Year in Flowers" by Erin Benzakein. Glenda is now growing beautiful cut flowers and she has bees to pollinate the flowers. Check out her website or Instagram for other workshops.

We had 27 gardens open, free for visitors to see as part of the area Garden Walk. Thanks to Rob Howard for his annual contribution — the write-up he provided to coordinate this with the Hamilton Spectator Open Gardens. I hope some of you were able to visit other gardens in the Greater Hamilton Area. We had a lot of visitors carrying their Hamilton Spectator with them. The short rain shower on Saturday did not keep too many visitors away nor did the hot sunny Sunday.

Congratulations to all the volunteers who helped make the Garden Walk a success. Phil Longstaff, Caroline Bieze and Trudy Bliedung helped me deliver and pick up the signs (note to self to bring extra signs next year for garden hosts who live on a corner!). Tessa Morris and her family set up the tent and a special thanks also goes to Tessa, Liz Visentin, Mary Blake, Connie Godyn, Sabina McPhee, Annamary Kilham, Cindy Saunders, Jan Bignel and Linda Heaver for providing helpful information to visitors at our tent, and by engaging the visitors in friendly and knowledgeable conversations. All of you helped provide a positive impression of our Society and fulfill our Mission.

We are grateful to all the area garden hosts who will each receive a gift certificate for next year's plant sale but a special shout out goes to member garden hosts; Angela Saunders, Nina Trevisan, Tessa Morris, Pearl Hoogerdyk, Arie & Lee Vanspronsen, Susan Chater, Jeanette Szabo, Alison & Darryl Fletcher, Bert & Maria Van der Greer, Trudy Bliedung & Roy Horlick. I also had fun opening our garden. One child particularly liked the water features and visitors got to see baby spicebush swallowtail caterpillars (instars) munching in action. It was too early for the yellow or black swallowtail caterpillars (using Golden alexander/Zizia aurea, dill and fennel) or the monarch caterpillars yet on the five types of milkweed. Our garden raises the monarch caterpillars that will e-close into Monarch butterflies and migrate to Mexico. Now it's time to tend to our gardens, and help judge the Hamilton Trillium Awards with Ann Cochren tirelessly helping coordinate this with the City staffer Theresa Phair. Thanks again and have a great summer.

Best wishes Susan MacMillan

Meeting and Speaker Information

Note that there will NOT be any meetings during July and August. We will resume in September (Wed., Sept. 20 with speaker Paul Zammit)

Upcoming Events

[OHA RAFFLE](#)

July OHA Convention

More details here: [Ontario OHA Convention](#)

OHA news and Trillium Newsletter

[Garden Ontario](#)

CCIPR

The Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR) formed in 2022. A proposal to regulate plants in the horticultural trade was drafted by MGOI, a charitable organization dedicated to educating the public about sustainable gardening practices and the development of a national risk assessment database. Main goals include:

- Bans on the sale and movement of high-risk invasive plant species
- Labeling to identify and educate the public about lower-risk invasive plants
- Public education including alternatives to invasive plants
- Development of a national risk assessment database that can be shared Read more here [CCIPR](#)

July Garden Tasks

- Cut back perennials (e.g. hardy Geraniums, Delphiniums & catmint) after the first flush of flowers to encourage new growth and further blooms. Deadhead perennials as well.
- Continue to deadhead and to pinch back annuals to encourage blooming and to prevent them from getting 'leggy'.
- Shorten stems of fall flowering plants like asters, mums, Joe-Pyeweed and goldenrod to keep them sturdy and compact.
- Lilacs: Remove the old flower clusters as soon after flowering as possible. Prune just above the two new shoots that angle out from the stem that ended with the old flowers.
- Avoid watering in the hottest part of the day. Morning is best. Water deeply newly planted trees and plants regularly, and existing trees less frequently.
- Fertilize annuals and planters to encourage more blooms.
- Maintain a thick layer (3 to 4 inches) of mulch on flower and vegetable gardens. It conserves moisture, reduces weeds, and adds organic matter to the soil.

Leggy Petunias?

As summer wears on, what were once lush and full plants will begin to look overgrown and straggly with most blooms appearing near the end of almost leafless stems. This is preventable if you follow these steps:

- If petunias are leggy, prune stems back to about half their length. This will encourage more branching and more flowers.

- Begin to prune **before** they become leggy! **Pinch while plants are young.** Pinching petunias early helps them to branch out sooner in the season, resulting in more flowers.
- Best practice is to cut back a few stems weekly on different areas of the plant so as to preserve some blooms and to keep the plant tidy.
- After pruning, fertilize and water the plants well to force out new growth and flowers. The plants may look raggedy at first, but they'll rebound with more color and blooms.
- Older garden petunia plants can be pruned hard (within a few inches of the base) to re-encourage vigor, especially in cooler climates, but keep the remaining leaves.
- Continuous deadheading will improve blooms and attractiveness, especially for the larger-flowered petunias. This also prevents seed pods from competing with blooms for the plant's food supplies.

Dealing with Powdery Mildew



As we move into the hot and often humid days of midsummer the nemesis of powdery mildew will begin to make an appearance often on roses, fruits and vegetables. Powdery mildew appears as the name suggests, as a gray white chalky

powder coating leaves of plants causing the leaves to yellow and to curl. It is almost impossible to fully get rid of the mildew. Any effective commercial or unconventional treatments, including spraying with a milk solution are **preventative only** and will not work once you have an outbreak. Thus prevention is the best strategy!

Prevention Tips

- Clean your hands, gloves, and tools frequently, and remember that spores can travel on clothing too.
- Don't crowd plants—allow room for good airflow.
- If the infection is substantial, consider removing infected plants and any related species in your garden.
- Only handle infected plants if you are removing them and then take precautions to avoid dispersing the spores further.
- Seal the infected plants in disposal bags.
- Avoid growing known host plant species for at least a year.
- For future plantings, look for powdery-mildew resistant varieties.

Milk Treatment

There is research indicating that cow's milk can be diluted with water (20% milk / 80% water) and applied as a spray to slow the spread of powdery mildew. It is known to be effective (preventively) with the fungi that infect squashes including zucchini, pumpkins, grapes, and roses. The milk-water solution is sprayed on all parts of the host plant (both sides of leaves, stems, fruits) before powdery mildew is apparent. If powdery mildew has been present previously in vegetable gardens or on certain plants such as ninebark or roses, spray these plants **before** any infection appears or when small splotches appear.

Caring For Herbs

Most herbs, when planted in garden beds, are drought tolerant and enjoy full sun. The amount of water and sun can vary slightly, so it's good to note watering and light needs for the herbs you're growing. If planted in pots which I like to do so that they are nearby when cooking, watering requirements increase dramatically! To prolong the life of herbs and to increase productivity, pinch the young plants when they are about 4 inches tall. Like petunias, regular pruning will prevent bolting and in the case of herbs, flowering. This is particularly important for basil which tends to bolt quickly. Also for basil, when harvesting instead of just picking the largest leaves from the base, harvest from the top, cutting 3 to 4 inches off the stems. This will result in a bushy plant and greatly increased production. I did this methodically last season and had vigorous, bushy plants until October! One of the more difficult plants to keep from bolting and flowering is Cilantro. Keeping it from drying out is a must! Regular harvesting of the older, outer leaves encourages new leaf growth from the center of the plant. Always snip off flower shoots as soon as they appear. Cutting the thick center stalk will result in the plant sending out new side shoots for an extra harvest before the plant finally bolts altogether! I am going to try these techniques with the seeds I just planted as my history with growing cilantro has been one of quick bolting and small harvests!

Photograph Your Gardens Now!

The theme for the Flower Show this November will be a photograph of your summer garden. This can be a photo of an entire bed or a close up of a particular area of interest. Entries will be emailed and shown in a powerpoint for voting.

Consider Planting June Grass

(Koeleria machantra)



This attractive, native grass is a cool season, clumping grass that is highly valued in natural garden design as it greens up in early spring with attractive blue-green foliage. It requires full sun and usually grows about a meter tall. While its natural habitat is in dry, sandy areas it is adaptable to most soils that are well-drained. It even grows well in compacted soils, making it useful in ecological restoration. Junegrass' golden brown seed heads appear in early summer and are a food source for birds. Its preference for dry conditions makes it an ideal candidate for xeriscaping.

Try Vertical Gardening

To maximize space in a vegetable garden, consider growing pole beans and climbing peas. Zucchini, cucumber, melon and squash can be trained to grow vertically on supports or walls to save space in the garden. Indeterminate tomatoes can also be trained to grow on supports. An added bonus is that the extra exposure to air may reduce risk of powdery mildew in susceptible plants.

Tree Trivia: Official Trees of Canada

Canada contains about 30 million hectares of forest, protected by Federal, Provincial and Regional Authorities. The official tree of Canada is the Maple. There are ten native types: Sugar, Black, Silver, Bigleaf, Red, Mountain, Striped, Douglas, Vine and Manitoba Maple. Each Province/Territory also has their own official tree.

BRITISH COLUMBIA - Western Red Cedar
ALBERTA - Lodgepole Pine
SASKATCHEWAN - White Birch
MANITOBA - White Spruce-
ONTARIO - Eastern White Pine
QUEBEC - Yellow Birch
NEW BRUNSWICK - Balsam Fir
NOVA SCOTIA - Red Spruce
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND - Red Oak
NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR - Black Spruce
YUKON - Subalpine Fir
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - Tamarack
NUNAVUT - None as there are very few trees!

Photos and tree information:

[Canada's Provincial Trees](#)

Reading Corner:

Our May speaker, Kirsten McCarthy gave an informative presentation on Mycorrhizal Fungi and their role in the ecosystem. I was inspired to further research this fascinating, symbiotic connection between roots of plants and fungi.

Ultimate Guide to Mycorrhizal Mushrooms
[Ultimate Guide to Mycorrhizal Mushrooms](#)

Physoplexis Comosa



This was one of many interesting plants that I photographed in a rock garden during the recent Garden Walk event. Native to alpine Europe, it is also known as the Tufted Horned Rampion (part of the Campanulaceae family). This striking low growing plant (grows to about 10cm) thrives in dry or sandy soil and is a great addition to rock gardens as it is native to rocky areas in the French and Italian Alps. Choose a gritty, well drained soil for this plant, avoiding wet areas of the garden. Propagation is not difficult. Rhizome cuttings can be taken and planted in spring. This plant can be grown in full sun to partial shade, but it is preferable to have some shade during the hottest part of the day.

Horticultural terms: Cultivar

A cultivar is a plant that has been grown from a stem cutting, grafting, or tissue cultures to ensure it retains the characteristics of the plant parent. Growing a plant from one of these plant's seeds may not produce the same plant as the parent.

Connon Nurseries

Please show your appreciation by shopping at Connon Nurseries 905-689-7433

[Connon Nurseries](#)

Northland Nursery : A family run nursery in Millgrove Ontario (722 Concession 5 W) Open (9am to 5pm 7 days a week)

[Northland](#) Let them know you are an FHS member for our Society year-end rebate.

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

[Wild Birds Unlimited](#)

To learn more about District 6 see [OHA Garden Clubs and Societies in Ontario » GardenOntario](#).

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

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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 2022/23

President – Susan MacMillan

Past Co-President - Trudy Bliedung

Vice President - Open

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Recording Secretary - Tessa Morris

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Garden Walk – Open

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Jennifer Godyn

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OHA Website Monitor – Phil Longstaff

Spring Plant Sale –

Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn

& Roxanne Riley

"I've always felt that having a garden is like having a good and loyal friend."

C. Z. Guest

OHA Website: Includes link to the Trillium Newsletter [Garden Ontario](#)