

WINONA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Newsletter November 2023



Did you get to visit the
Medieval Mums at Gage Park?



What a beautiful and restful journey...
From the well guarded entrance
to the busy Market with its own
resident squirrel (he found the bulbs :)



to the castle garden and drawbridge.



Within
the castle
there was
a proper
throne
room
and



even
a cozy
well
stocked
library
with its own
mum books!



A stunning feast was also laid out.

Speaking of feasts, WinHort will be
95 years old next year!
We decided to celebrate by hosting the
2024 D6 Fall Dinner.
And our Christmas get
together is coming up...
Happy fall!

Hélène

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Notices and Events

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

680 Plains Road, Burlington

Shop at the Gardens: Member Appreciation Days – November 27 to December 3

RBG Members can double their discount in Shop at the Gardens! Receive 20% off your entire purchase during member appreciation days, no exceptions. Simply show the RBG membership card (passes available from Krys) and your WHS membership card at checkout.

Winter Wonders – November 23 to January 7 (Thursdays to Sundays – some date exceptions apply)

This unique outdoor evening experience guides visitors along Hendrie Park's picturesque pathways to view sparkling festive lights, interactive installations and magical displays that tell the stories of unique winter wonders. Hark to the rhythm of festive music while indulging in the warm tastes and fragrances of the holiday season. Timed-tickets; registration required: Adults \$20 Child \$16 (+ HST and \$1 Service Fee)

RBG Express

Take a ride on the RBG Express during your day visit to the Gardens. Purchase tickets at the door to take a round-trip train ride through beautiful Hendrie Park to round out your RBG experience. First train is at 10:15am, last train is at 2:45pm. Trains depart every 15 minutes. Date exceptions: December 24, 25, 26, January 1. December 31: final train 2:15pm. (RBG closing 3pm.) \$10

Botanical Train Display

Huge planters made from almost 700 kg of cedar filled with 2,500 plants create a seasonal backdrop for seven different lines of model train tracks. Follow the trains on their journey past scale models of iconic Canadian landmarks constructed entirely from plant materials! No extra charge to full garden admission.

Winter Exhibit: Nature's Superheroes – January 27, 2024 to April 21, 2024

Life is full of unexpected wonders. Over billions of years, living things have evolved from simple cells into an awe-inspiring array of life forms—a spectacle of colours, textures, behaviours, specialized parts and exacting skills. Some species are familiar, but others are so amazing that they test the limits of our imagination. Don't miss RBG's winter exhibit, to experience "Life at the Limits"! (Organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York amnh.org)

RBG offers a great lineup of fun, and educational programs for all ages. Call 905 527-1158 or visit their website www.rbg.ca To borrow the WHS member's passes contact H el ene or Krys.

WHS BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, November 22 7pm

At Anne's.

CALEDONIA CHRISTMAS MARKET – Saturday, November 25 11am to 4pm

Experience Christmas magic at the Caledonia Fairgrounds, with 90+ vendors, tasty treats, Christmas greenery and d ecor, games, contests and more! Admission is by a cash donation in support of the Agricultural Society. Parking is free. <https://www.caledoniafair.ca/christmas>

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS!

Hamilton Grey Cup and Santa Claus Parade – Saturday, November 18 11am to 1pm

The annual Hamilton Santa Claus Parade will take place in downtown Hamilton in the heart of the 2023 Grey Cup Festival. This year, there will be a football twist with the addition of CFL cheer teams and the Grey Cup trophy in attendance. Be on the lookout for Festival-themed giveaways throughout the parade and make sure you have a front-row seat to see all the new and exciting things in the parade!

64th Annual Stoney Creek Santa Claus Parade – Saturday, December 2 2pm

Parade route through downtown Stoney Creek, (King St.) The Stoney Creek Lion Club will be doing their annual food drive for the Stoney creek Food Bank during the parade.

66th Annual Grimsby Santa Claus Parade – Saturday, December 2 5:15pm

One of the longest-running events in the town, the parade features over 90 entries ranging from community floats, walking groups and marching bands to various other forms of entertainment. The 2023 theme is "Classic Christmas Movies."

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH COOKIE WALK – Saturday, December 2 9am to Noon

Choose from a variety of tasty, holiday treats, while supporting the church that hosts our meetings!

WHS ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER – Wednesday, December 20 6:30 pm

St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

Details on page 4.

Please note: this is our regular, third Wednesday, meeting day, not a week earlier as in other years!

"The real and lasting victories are those of peace and not of war." (Unknown)

Member Report: Our garden journey, and what our garden is to me

by Mike Guerin

In October of 2019 we moved to Winona (Lake Pointe really) from Northwest Mississauga. We went "all in" on our front yard garden in the fall of 2020 - we took about 1/3 of the lawn and had it replaced with a pollinator garden.



We incorporated over 20 different plants, including New England Asters, Anise Hyssops, Big Bluestems, coneflowers and Black eyed Susans. Over the years we have added more native plants including Northern Bush Honeysuckle, Columbines and Swamp Milkweed, and swapped some plants out.



So what does the garden mean to us?

In the **spring**, it is all about hope and growth, beauty and intrigue. We walk around during the spring months oohing and aahing at nature springing to life. Later we trim back the old growth - leaving it long enough that if there are any native bees in the stems they have had a chance to leave - ten days of at least 10 degrees during the day.

It is also time to put out our solitary bee hotels - the cocoons have been hibernating in the fridge over the winter. I feel pride and happiness at being able to play some small part in helping these little insects out. It is cool to see parts cut out of some of the leaves by the leafcutter bees.

In the **late spring and summer**, we get to see the bees buzzing around; butterflies too - lots of them. They love the Hyssops, Sage, Cardinal Flowers, Black Eyed Susan and sunflowers in particular. I will sometimes just sit while weeding or deadheading and watch them.

We have water bowls in a number of spots in the garden, and a bird bath. It is amazing to see how much activity they generate - spotting a creature getting a "slurp" always makes me smile.

In **late summer and early fall** the New England Asters come out in all their glory - they are far and away the flowers that get the most questions from passers by. They look almost electric in their colour! Many of the other flowers start to die back, but some still have blooms. And - the birds are in full force at the seed heads.



In the Winter, the interest level in the full garden is still there too - the textures of the plants (not cut back) gives a wonderful look, and seed heads help feed the birds for quite a while. We also put our bird feeders out - got to do our part to help them get through the winter.

We engage with folks out for walks, meet their dogs and kids, answer their questions. We are a National Wildlife and Canadian Wildlife "Certified Wildlife Habitat", a "Pollinator Pathway" yard, and we hope a home for lots of earth's creatures. Watching birds, butterflies, bees and bunnies, active in the yard; seeing the neighbourhood kids dance on the stepping stones, watching the growth as it happens - it is all balm for the soul.



So - what is the garden to me? A place to smile, to embrace and help nature, to give back a bit, to sooth my soul and to calm my mind. And it never fails to do so.





WINONA HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS POTLUCK
DINNER

Wednesday, December 20 6:30pm

May the stars shine bright on our annual, holiday, potluck dinner and carol sing. We'll enjoy good food, music, stories, games, and the company of good friends. A collection will be taken for Mission Services.

Everyone welcome!

What to bring:

- * food to share: main dish, salad or side, or dessert (size of contribution should reflect the number of guests you are bringing)
 - * plate, cutlery and hot beverage cup for each person in your party
 - * Christmas spirit!
- Punch, tea and coffee will be provided by the WHS.

Gift (re-) giving

Here's your opportunity to bless another, from the bounty of your abundance. Over the years you've probably been given at least one gift that is *just not you!*, but you didn't want to throw it away. So get it out of hiding and bring it for someone else to enjoy. Nothing old and worn out, please, but something worthy of re-gifting. Don't wrap it - we'll put the gifts out for all to see, and everyone will have a chance to choose a gift that is just right for them. Whatever is left will be donated to charity.

GardenOntario 50/50 Raffle

OHA is pleased to announce that Loretta (Lori) Thwaites was the winner of the Early Bird Draw held on October 21st. Winning Ticket No. B-2086. Thanks goes to Doug Culbert Ltd. for his generous donation of the early bird prize money. The next full draw takes place on December 16th. Don't miss out on your chance to get some tickets! Get tickets at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha> The current jackpot is at \$2225 with the winner taking half!!! 50% of all proceeds go towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful® by way of grants, bursaries and education.

Planting perennial seeds in fall

There are some perennial seeds that can be planted in the fall to sprout the following spring. Purple coneflower is a great example of a perennial seed that does well when sown in fall. In cold-winter areas, plant seeds at the depth given on the package

instructions **after a killing frost but before the ground freezes.**

The goal for planting in fall is not to have your seeds germinate but to give them a period of stratification, or exposing them to cold and moist conditions. The alternating freeze and thaw of winter helps break down the seed coat and starts the growing process. Not all perennials do well with this technique, though. Check the list below for seeds you can sow in fall.

Perennial seeds to plant in fall

- **Black-eyed Susan** *Rudbeckia fulgida*
- **Delphinium** *Delphinium elatum*
- **Lupine** *Lupinus* spp. and hybrids
- **Oriental poppy** *Papaver orientale*
- **Penstemon** *Penstemon* spp. and hybrids
- **Perennial geranium** *Geranium* spp. and hybrids
- **Perennial sunflower** *Helianthus* spp. and hybrids
- **Pincushion flower** *Scabiosa* spp. and hybrids
- **Prairie coneflower** *Ratibida* spp.
- **Purple coneflower** *Echinacea purpurea*
- **Wild columbine** *Aquilegia canadensis*

<https://www.gardengatemagazine.com/newsletter/2023/10/19/perennial-seeds-to-plant-in-fall/>

Members' Corner

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Who would you like to have as future speakers? What kind of topics or activities interest you? Share gardening tips, or pictures of your yard or garden. Please, drop us a line, send an e-mail or talk to one of the Board members. This is the 2023/2024 Board:

President – Hélène Brûlé-Besner
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Vice-president-designate – Mark Shufflebottom

Secretary – position open

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