

WINTER EDITION (February 2024)

Newsletter

London Fanshawe Horticultural Society (LFHS)



2024 Board of Directors (l to r)

Linda Hawker, Camillia LaRouche, Marilyn Lyons, Amy Elston, Henrietta Parkes, John McLeod (*Secretary*), Brian Sherry, Bob Crowhurst (*President*), Ann Larkin (*Past President*), Vince Chicoine (*Treasurer*), Stephanie Hilton. Absent in photo: Gigi Wong

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the winter edition of our **LFHS** Newsletter. To this point in mid February, I have had to wonder if it is fall or winter with unseasonably mild temperatures on many days. News reports show that temperatures have been a couple of degrees warmer than the long-term averages. For the sake of our plants and wildlife, let us hope that the rest of winter is more "normal". As bad luck would have it, the two small blasts of snowy weather we have had happened on our January and February meeting days. I appreciate our dedicated members who braved the weather and came out to join us.

As I mentioned at our January meeting, the board has set three main goals for 2024:

Succession planning: We need new people on the board leading projects to keep the society relevant and vibrant. How can we attract and retain them? We will explore this question throughout the year.



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<https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/77/>

Email us at:
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Online store:
<https://london-fanshawe-horticultural-society.square.site/>

Like us on Facebook:
[London Fanshawe Horticultural Society](https://www.facebook.com/LondonFanshaweHorticulturalSociety)



Communications: We want to keep our members updated and engaged through newsletters, garden dispatches and email reminders. Not everyone can attend every meeting, so these are important ways to stay in touch. We are grateful to the members who have volunteered to help with this task. We also welcome any short gardening articles, pictures, or tips from you. Please share what works in your garden with us.

Welcome Package for new members: We used to have a welcome package a few years ago, but it needs an update. We want to provide new members with some information about LFHS and some useful resources. I am delighted to say that several volunteers are getting a new package underway.

These goals are meant to improve our society. We continue to have great speakers, garden walks, plant sale, etc. to support our gardening journey of planting, enjoying and learning. In this newsletter, read about upcoming meetings, speakers and our bus trip.

It might still be winter but it's never too early to plan ahead. I am eagerly waiting for a package in the mail of seeds from a family-owned supplier. I hope that Ola Nowosad's article on growing zinnias will inspire you to try growing zinnias.

One last thing — thank you to all who have renewed their 2024 memberships. If you haven't done so yet, you can easily renew it at a meeting or through our e-store.

I often hear from speakers and guests that there is a great "buzz" at our meetings. Thank you to all members for your enthusiasm. You make our society great!

Yours in gardening,

Bob Crowhurst

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." — Anne Bradstreet

SPECIAL EVENTS

LFHS NOVEMBER 2023 WINTER SOCIAL AND AGM



ANNIVERSARY PIN PRESENTATION AT THE AGM



LFHS SPEAKERS



Heather Gerrard
My Landscape Artist

Heather Gerrard speaking at January 2024 meeting on Gardens of Italy and Spain

Amy Turnbull talking about Native Plants at our February 2024 meeting.

Here is a link to the sources she used for Native plants:

<https://padlet.com/alturnbu/native-plants-2pwj4b3b5z48pjrj>



SAVE THE DATES

Mark your calendars!

SPEAKERS, EVENTS, TRIPS ... and more

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Saturday, March 2 | Seedy Saturday |
| Thursday, March 21 | Plant Propagation by Tanya Blankenburg |
| Thursday, April 18 | Finding the Magic in Your Garden by Paul Knowles |
| Saturday, April 27 | District 10 AGM |
| Thursday, May 16 | Small Scale Gardening by Cheryl Loch |
| Saturday, May 18 | Plant and Compost Sale |
| Wednesday, June 5 | Spring Bus Trip organized by Beverly Demelo |

Download a complete 2024 Program of Speakers and Events at <https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/77/> under Document Library.



Seedy Saturday

Date: March 2, 2024

Hosted by London Middlesex Master Gardeners. Refer link:

[Seedy Saturday 2024 - London Middlesex Master Gardeners](#)



District 10 AGM

All **LFHS** members are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please see Vince Chicoine at March meeting, with payment.

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2024

Your Society members are invited to attend

**OHA District 10 Thames Valley's
2024 Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, April 27, 2024

"New Growth From Old Roots"

Hosted by the Woodstock Horticultural Society

Keynote Speaker: **Darren Heimbecker** - *Whistling Gardens, on Peonies*
Guest Speaker: **Rose Odell**, OHA Garden Shop Coordinator - *Flower Arranging*

Location: Unifor Hall, 126 Beale St., Woodstock [Map](#)

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration desk opens at 8:15 a.m., please check in upon arrival.

Registration: \$35.00 per person (includes lunch) **Registration deadline by: March 30, 2024**
Registration is required by filling out the included form, open to any member of your Society.

Lunch Menu: Chicken Breast with lemongrass sauce; rice; roasted mini potatoes, brown beans, mango salad, rolls, butter, cheesecake for dessert. Coffee, tea, water.



LFHS June Bus Trip

We are headed to Norfolk County, a rural municipality on the north shore of Lake Erie. Located on a sand plain, Norfolk has the most fertile land in Ontario, thus referred to as “Ontario’s Gardens”.



DATE: Saturday, June 5, 2024

Trip Highlights:

Debono Greenhouses & Garden Centre: An old fashion 60-year-old family business that holds a high standard to the quality of their plants. A 10 % discount is offered, but you must show your 2024 membership card.

Sawaya Garden Trials is an Ontario based research facility operational for 23 years. We will learn about the research and leading-edge plants to watch for and to avoid. There are over 3000+ varieties from 30 international breeders. After the research all 3000+ one-of-a-kind plants are sold to the public with 100 % of the sales donated to local causes and charities. Yes, you can buy, a 15 discount is offered.

Lunch at **The Greens on Renton**, a buffet style lunch, prepared by Chef David Aul. Special food restrictions available.

Eisling Greenhouses and Garden Centre, one of the largest garden centers in Norfolk County. This family business started in 1966 as a little greenhouse. This is now a full-service garden centre. Tired of plant shopping, check out the men’s and lady’s boutique, Sassyfras. The garden centre offers a 10% discount with card.

On our way home we will stop at **Sam’s Place**, a family run farm market owned by the Komienski Family. This farm market opened in 1990 selling fresh local grown fruit and vegetables from a wagon. The produce now is grown on their 1600-acre farm and includes a 50,000 sq. food processing facility. You may have seen their big transports on the 401.

Date. June 5, 2024

Cost for a 2024 **LFHS** Member \$95.

Cost for a non-member \$110. (Includes 2024 membership)

Seats sold April 18, 2024. Announcement of details to follow.

Full program will be provided on purchase of seat.

Beverly DeMelo



ARTICLES

A Zest for Zinnias By Ola Nowosad

What were you doing in 2011? Did you know that 2011 was the Year of the Zinnia?

For a long time, zinnias have been a favourite for many gardeners. My mother always made space for zinnias in her mostly vegetable garden. I remember the vibrant colours and sturdy stems. Especially for gardeners who hate floppy flowers (a surprise to those of us who like floppy flowers), zinnias are the perfect plant.

Zinnias belong to the Asteraceae family of flowers which includes sunflowers, marigolds, dahlias and dandelions! Hard to beat as cutting flowers, zinnias earn their place in the garden. In a vase, they are versatile (can be used in formal or informal bouquets). In a garden, they are cheerful. Ecologically, they attract butterflies and bees, making them wonderful pollinators and hence suitable even in vegetable gardens.

LFHS gardener extraordinaire, Dee Biggar, has a huge zinnia flower bed. Here is what Dee told me:



Dee's zinnia flowers

"I start my zinnia seeds the middle of April in the greenhouse and plant them when the risk of frost is over. However, zinnias are easily started from seed outdoors. They are very easy to grow given a sunny spot. To keep them looking their best, I dead head them regularly and water them occasionally if there is continued dry weather. Other than that, they don't need much care and will happily bloom from the end of June until frost."



Dee's zinnia flower beds

Dee gets zinnia seed from William Dam Seed in Dundas, Ont. They have a great selection of colours and types. You may wish to get your seeds soon. (Seedy Saturday is coming up on March 2).

By the way, if you missed *the Year of the Zinnia*, this 2024 is the Year of the Peony. Enjoy.



More on Zinnias ... Recommended reading:

<https://www.almanac.com/plant/zinnias>

<https://www.floretflowers.com/grow-great-zinnias/>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/plants/10273407/Zinnias-late-summer-superstars.html>

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/gardening/a20706005/zinnia-flower/>

https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/life/home-and-garden/growing-your-garden-my-hundred-dollar-zinnias/article_c1d6ce96-fae0-5a9b-a410-3152e683e33c.html

<https://awaytogarden.com/expanding-the-zinnia-palette-with-siskiyou-seeds-don-tipping/>

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/year-of-the-zinnia-should-boost-this-plants-popularity>

ALSO OF INTEREST, PODCAST LINKS AND MORE

- As our members dream about starting seeds this spring, get inspired with this podcast from October 2023. [seeds Archives - joe gardener® | Organic Gardening Like a Pro](#)
- At our spring plant sale, shoppers and members of our Society, are enthusiastic about purchasing native plants. Our native milkweed species attract Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators. As we discover in this podcast, there are many species of milkweed, suitable for all types of terrain and climate across North America. [diverse, powerful milkweeds, with eric lee-mäder - A Way To Garden](#)

Podcasts ideas from Maureen Beamish

- **Ontario Horticulture Association (OHA)**
<https://gardenontario.org/news/>

Trillium Newsletter

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-24-Winter-Trillium-1.pdf>



LFHS Committees & Volunteers 2024

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Archives | Bob Crowhurst |
| 2. Budget and Finance | Vince Chicoine, Brian Sherry, executive |
| 3. Fund Raising (Share the Wealth) | Bob Crowhurst and Vince Chicoine |
| 4. Community Gardens and Projects: | |
| a) McCormick nursing home | Vince Chicoine |
| b) Constitution Park | Ann Larkin and team |
| c) Salvation Army | Bob Crowhurst and team |
| e) Louise Arbour School | Ann Larkin |
| 5. Governance | ~ vacant ~ |
| 6. Inventory, Property and Assets | all Board Members |
| 7. Liaison to London Environmental Network and Reforest London | Stephanie Hilton |
| 8. Media: | |
| a) publicity, marketing | Stephanie Hilton |
| b) webmaster | Barry Nixon |
| 9. Membership | Marilyn Lyons, Delphene Mendham, Brian Sherry |
| 10. Newsletter | Linda Pistor, Ola Nowosad |
| 11. Board Nominating Committee and Orientation | Ann Larkin, Bob Crowhurst |
| 12. Plant Sale | Bob Crowhurst, Vince Chicoine, Jack Chivers |
| 13. Program Committee | TBD |
| 14. Secretary | John McLeod, Amy Elston |
| 15. Social: | |
| a) Catering (Dave's coffee window) | Dave Denis |
| b) Cards, flowers, etc. | Henri Parkes |
| c) Society photographer | Sharlene Grant |
| d) Scrapbook | Joanne Sanborn |
| e) Library | Maureen Beamish |
| f) Dee's delights pick-up, return, sale | Henri Parkes |
| g) Door prizes | Joanne Sanborn |
| h) Garden gate | ~ vacant ~ |
| i) Phone tree | Ann Larkin, Camillia LaRouche, Linda Hawker, Henri Parkes |
| 16. Volunteer hours | Amy Elston, John McLeod |
| 17. Special Projects and Ad Hoc Committees | |
| a) Bus trip | Bev Demelo |
| b) District 10 AGM and contact | Bob Crowhurst |
| c) Member garden tour | TBD |
| d) Awards and Recognition | Ann Larkin |
| e) Displays i.e. Seedy Sat & D10 | ~ as needed ~ |
| 18. Western Fair representatives | Bev Demelo, Connie Kirkconnell |



COMMUNITY GARDENS AND PROJECTS

Constitution Park, our adopted park

A recent visit to Constitution Park showed that it was time to start cleanup. This time, two volunteers, Liz and Camillia, did the work at our pollinator garden. There is a display of a children's books along the longest walkway about winter. A good place to visit with youngsters. Looking forward to spring and flowers.

Ann Larkin



FUNDRAISERS AND INCENTIVES

Big Yellow Bag



Need garden soil?

LFHS has partnered with Big Yellow Bag in their Give & Grow fundraiser this year. Every time you or one of your contacts uses our code, they save \$5 and LFHS receives \$10.



USE OUR CODE: FANHORT24

<https://www.bigyellowbag.com/orders/new>

OHA's 50/50 Draw

Total Pot over \$3000

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

An advertisement for the Garden Ontario 50/50 Draw. It features the text "Garden Ontario 50/50 DRAW" in large, bold letters. Below this, it says "Early Bird Draw of \$500 on January 27th" and "Next Draw March 16th". The website "https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha" is listed. It also mentions "50% of all proceeds go towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful® by way of grants, bursaries and education." and "Check us out at gardenontario.org". A QR code is provided, and the draw is sponsored by Dubois Agri-innovation. The ad includes several small images of people gardening.

Newsletter

Photos: Sharlene Grant, Ola Nowosad, Vince Chicoine, Camillia La Rouche, Bob Crowhurst
Editors: Ola Nowosad, Linda Pistor

