

Flamborough Horticultural Society

November 2024 Newsletter



President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

We wish a warm welcome to new members; Jelyer Godyn and Soul Metal owner Carol Nasvytis.

Thankyou to the following people who helped represent our society at the District dinner and Winona Hort Society's 95th Birthday bash, Erika Friesen, Liz Visentin, Tessa Morris, Trudy Bliedung and Leslie MacMillan. The food was great, music was an added touch and all of us got to take home a prize bag.

I will be at the Royal Winter Fair next week helping promote horticultural societies. Our Director Lianne Krane set the booth up and organized bingo cards for youth that highlights the top 25 best reasons for volunteering. Society volunteers got off to a very busy start this week at the booth.



Only three weeks until our Nov 20th Christmas potluck so if you haven't signed up yet, please do so if you can make it. Our Awards will take place at the potluck. Sign up to bring food (to serve 8-10 people) Or, the cost is \$15 for members if you choose to not bring food and \$25 for non-members. Spouses/partners are welcome. The dinner can also be the final celebration of our 85th year as a society. See you at the Potluck.

Best Wishes,

Susan MacMillan

Upcoming Events (note these are in lieu of our regular monthly meetings for Nov. and Dec.)

Annual Members' Christmas Dinner

Date: Wed., Nov. 20

Time: 5 pm

Annual Greens Table Centerpiece Workshop

Date: Wed., Dec. 4

Time: 7 pm

Reading Corner

Garden Ontario (includes links to the Trillium Newsletter) [OHA Garden Ontario](#)

Halton Master Gardeners (general horticultural advice by local master gardeners and link to newsletters) [Halton Master Gardeners](#)

Book Suggestion

Planting in a Post Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes

(by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West)

Read more here about Landscape Architect, Thomas Rainer (book details included).

[Planting in a Post Wild World](#)

District 6 Fall Dinner



Six of our members attended this event on Nov. 27. Left to Right Erika Friesen, Liz Visentin, Susan MacMillan, Trudy Bliedung, Tessa Morris, and Les MacMillan.

October Flower Show

Last month's theme was our annual "decorate a pumpkin using flowers from your garden" theme. All entries demonstrated creativity and vivid colours. The warm fall certainly helped to ensure that there were still many blooms in our gardens! Congratulations to our winners!



Second Place: Martha Novoselac



Third Place: Marilyn Higgins



Perennial Seeds to Plant in Autumn

These can be still planted before the soil freezes.

- **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
- **Purple Coneflower** *Echinacea purpurea*
- **Wild columbine** *Aquilegia canadensis*

Are You Saving Your Tender Bulbs?

Plants with tender bulbs will require a period of winter dormancy. Expensive bulbs are worth the effort of overwintering. Some of these include:

- **Caladiums**
- **Calla lilies**
- **Cannas**
- **Dahlias**
- **Elephant ears**
- **Gladiolus**

For tender bulbs in pots, stop watering and allow foliage to die back. Store pots in a cool, dry location. For bulbs in the ground, dig them up and cut the foliage back. Brush off as much soil as possible and allow them to dry for a week or two. Pack them loosely in a cardboard box or open container, separated by shredded newspaper or dry peat moss. Keep in a cold, dark place. Pot them up in the spring about a month before they are to be planted outdoors.

November Garden Tasks

With October having mostly above seasonal temperatures, making it feel more summer than autumn, it's hard to believe that November has arrived! Some outlying areas have had frosts, but many have not yet had a killer frost this year! I find some of my usual October

tasks have been delayed and saved for November!

- If you haven't already, get your new spring flowering bulbs planted now.
- Empty, clean and store planters where they will be dry for the winter.
- If you are using a rain barrel, they should be emptied and turned over to keep them dry during the winter months. Reconnect your downspout to direct the snowmelt and winter rain away from your foundation.
- Cold crops like Brussels sprouts, cabbage, broccoli, collards and kale are made sweeter by frost so don't pull them out yet. Harvest them as long as possible.
- Make sure that evergreens are well watered.
- Spread manure, rotted sawdust, rotted straw, and shredded leaves over the garden. You'll be surprised at the difference this organic matter will make in the fertility, physical structure and water-holding capacity of the soil.
- Continue to check houseplants for insects that may have come indoors as you brought the plants inside and treat them immediately
- Apply a layer of protective mulch. This is where fallen leaves come in handy!
- Clean, sharpen and oil tools like shovels and hoes before putting them away for winter.

Gardening Myths: Watering Indoor Plants on a Schedule

You can't successfully water plants on a regular schedule. The frequency of watering depends on too many variables, including type of planting media, type of pot, size of pot, amount of light, room temperature and humidity, and both the size and type of plant. All of these factors change throughout the year which means that the watering frequency also changes.

Indoor plants can be grouped into three categories, according to watering needs.

1. **Some plants require constant moisture** such as pitcher plants, sundews, baby's tears, spikemoss, caladiums, and umbrella palms. This is a specialized group and includes very few of the common indoor plants.

2. The second group are plants that require **regular moisture**, but they also like the soil to dry out a bit. They are often called "semi-dry." **This group includes the vast majority of indoor plants and it includes most tropical houseplants.** The semi-dry plants should be watered well and then left alone until the top one inch of soil is dry. Don't water sooner, and waiting an extra day or two won't hurt. The soil in the center of the pot should **never** be completely dry.

3. The third group of plants like to dry out between watering. This includes orchids, cactus and almost all succulents. They should be left alone until the soil is dry down to the middle of the pot. In most cases, letting the pot completely dry out will not harm the plant, especially in cooler or low light conditions. However, leaving it completely dried out for long periods of time harms the plant and can eventually kill it.

Civic Improvement by Jan Bignell, Committee Chairperson



One important mission of The Flamborough Horticultural Society is Civic Improvement. The earliest record of these projects date to 1967 when Centennial trees were planted in various parks in the area. In the 1980's bulbs and plants were donated to many churches, fire halls, and some retirement homes. In later years this

group has taken on several flower beds in the area to plant, weed and water.

The largest of these is on the corner of John St and Hamilton St. Rosanne Waugh has spearheaded this for several years and is now assisted by Darryl Fletcher and Verna Scovell. This location is in hot sun and needs plenty of water during the summer which is often problematic as a water supply is not available close by. This colourful garden contains mostly perennials and grasses, attracting pollinators.

Heather Wilson maintains a garden around a bench on Hwy 5 consisting of grasses and sedums. This is also a very hot location but these plants do not require much water. This is an example of a xeriscape garden!

Liz Henderson, assisted Jan Bignell to maintain the three gardens in Freelon. The largest one at the Library contains mainly perennials and a great display of huge Alliums in the spring. A nearby water supply is very handy. Library users often compliment on the garden which is encouraging! This garden was dedicated to Fred Shonbeck, a former member.



Further along on Brock Rd are two smaller gardens. One was planted around the Centennial memorial and also celebrates 150 years of the Village of Freelon from 1856-2006. This is a hosta bed planted under two huge maple trees. The other small bed under the Freelon township info sign was dedicated to Dorothy Wyse, a former member of the Society.



During the Pandemic flower arrangements were made and delivered to local retirement and nursing homes to give cheer to both staff and residents. Also at Christmas time Poinsettias are delivered to these facilities and are warmly received.

We could become more involved in the community if we had more volunteers. If anyone has spare time to offer you are most welcome to join our team. Any suggestions for projects are also welcome and will be considered



Consider Planting Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)



This native fern stays green right through the winter holiday season. It's no surprise this plant was awarded Christmas fern as its common name. Another possible reason is that the individual leaflets on the fronds resemble Christmas stockings. New silvery-green fronds unfurl in early spring, growing in rhizome-spreading clumps that work well in borders or as accent plants. They are useful as erosion control on slopes. This fern pairs well with perennial wildflowers and other shade-loving ferns and is suited for most soil types making it ideal for woodland or cottage gardens. They do not grow well in very heavy clay soil and are prone to rot if left in standing water for long periods of time. they do need deep watering during hot, dry periods at least once a week.

Although they stay green in winter, the fronds lose their upright shape and lie flat on the ground. Provided they aren't covered in snow, they provide good shelter for the birds visiting your gardens. In the spring, birds will use the fronds for nest construction. While they are deer resistant, deer have been observed grazing on them when their preferred food sources are scarce. If well cared for these ferns can live up to fifteen years!

IDENTIFYING HOLIDAY CACTI



[Holiday Cacti](#)

Northland Nursery : Family run nursery in Millgrove Ontario (722 Concession 5 W [Northland](#) Let them know you are an FHS member for our Society year-end rebate for any online orders.

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

[Wild Birds Unlimited](#)

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 2023/24

President – Susan MacMillan

Past Co-President - Trudy Bliedung

Vice President - Open

Treasurer - Trudy Bliedung

Recording Secretary - Tessa Morris

Publicity - Shared by VP and President

Facebook Admin. - Liz Visettin

Newsletter Editor - Visentin

Flower Show and Trillium Judging

Liaison -Ann Cochren

Director at large - Christine Rowe
Director at large - Verna Scovell

Committee Chairpersons

Caring - Susan MacMillan

Nominating Committee - Trudy Bliedung

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 Co-chairs –

Connie Godyn and Sharon Hall

Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

*We want it to stay, but
Autumn always leaves.
Beautifully.*

Terri Guillemets