

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association Newsletter

Spring 2008



Trout Lily
(*Erythronium americanum*)
Photographed by Ties Van Dam

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A Message from the President



Did I see the groundhog's shadow just a few weeks ago? I can't be certain whether it was an actual groundhog I saw or some other wild animal skulking around, but I am sure that spring is just around the corner. It has to be since the days are getting a little longer and the houseplants in the front foyer are starting to put on new growth, so spring must be near.

With thoughts of spring dancing around in my head and the pages of my favourite seed catalogues all dog-eared and marked up, I'm ready for the spring to arrive. I'm anxious to start planting the seeds that will surely give me the most beautiful garden in the neighbourhood. If I don't end up forgetting to water the little beggars, or the damp-off doesn't get them, or something else unforeseen doesn't happen, perhaps I'll have my dream gardens this year.

Speaking of dreams, I think I'm sometimes in a dream when I read about all of the neat stuff that we can anticipate for this year's convention in Brampton. How long has it been since you've been on a ghost walk? Imagine, an eerie adventure for our delegates ... and best of all, if you come early, it's free! Now talk about diversity being the theme of this year's convention, how could you get more diverse than to include an apparition or two in your convention memories?

Brampton is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in Canada and as the theme says, they are *Sharing Our Diversity* with every one of the delegates who will be attending the convention. District 15 volunteers, under the capable leadership of Director Brenda Heenan, have put together a package for this year's event that is sure to make this one of the most popular conventions in many years. The whole district has worked tirelessly to pull together an amazing lineup of plenary speakers including Clement Kent, Liz Primeau, and Paul Zammit. And if that wasn't enough, they have hit the jackpot with Denis Flanagan and Charlie Dobbin who will speak at the Awards Banquet. I'm going to be there just to hear these speakers!

And if that wasn't enough to get me there, they've lined up a host of information and skills seminars that are sure to delight even the most discriminating delegate. Just spend some time reading this mailing's inserts to see the details ... you'll be amazed!

The bus trip enthusiasts haven't been forgotten. You're going to be delighted when you see where they are planning to take you. If trips are your interest, then get your registration forms filled out pronto and get them sent in because all of these trips are first come, first served and I'm betting my dollars that these excursions are going to be sold out early.

For those of you who aren't really bus trip type people, you haven't been forgotten either. The lineup of seminar speakers on gardening is fantastic and you're going to have one heck of a time trying to figure out just which of these speakers you want to hear first. I received the list early (only because they had to send it to me because I have pull) and I already have tick marks beside way too many speakers whose presentations I just don't want to miss. I'm going to have a tough time making a decision on these, I'll tell you.

The competitions area is going to be a spectacular sight to behold. I can't wait until I can make my way into that area to see all of the inspired, gorgeous designs and the outstanding houseplants and cut flowers. Of course I'll have to squeeze in some time to view the photography, art, youth entries, poetry, and publications, plus all the vendors and displays too. Man, this is going to be one busy convention for me as I don't want to miss a thing!

Did I mention the dates of this highlight of the summer? Well, just in case you need reminding, it's going to be held on August 22-24, 2008 at the Sheridan Institute in Brampton. I sure hope to see all of you there!

Whoops, I'm on a rant about this exciting upcoming convention and I haven't told you anything about my year so far. Since I'm running out of space, you get the short version: I've done many visitations and enjoyed every one of them, taken greetings to the Agricultural Society Convention in Toronto, and spent way too many hours on emails and the phone. Coming up are the District AGMs and I'm very much looking forward to seeing all of my friends at as many as I can possibly attend.

I sure hope that old groundhog didn't see his shadow because I'm looking forward to this spring and all of the excitement that is heading my way.

Jim Mabee, OHA President
president@gardenontario.org
(519) 842-9829

From the Secretary's Desk

In our winter mailing of Trillium many forms have been enclosed that societies need to complete. A very important one is the **Society Annual Report**. This form is used for many purposes including updating the mailing address for Trillium as well as providing your society with votes at the annual convention. The information you provide also allows for insurance coverage for your society. It appears that many Societies do not fully understand the benefits they are receiving from this coverage.

You have also received an application for the Special Project Programme, a Resolution Form, and Volunteer Hours Form. Your society may nominate members to be honoured with special awards at the convention. Information on the various awards offered to societies by Ontario Horticultural Association is found in your Awards Booklet and was also printed in the last Trillium issue. You may also contact your District Director for details. All of these forms have a deadline date.

Included with this mailing is detailed information on the convention along with a registration form. The convention is being held at Sheridan College, Davis Campus, in Brampton on August 22, 23, 24 and the theme is *Sharing our Diversity*. It is always recommended to register early, particularly if you are interested in taking part in the tours offered. Please note that registrations received well before the deadline are greatly appreciated by the Registrar and Treasurer!

This year we have been experiencing a winter that has been providing us with challenges. It appears that challenge is becoming more a part of life. Likewise, the use of the computer and internet has increased greatly. Many of the District Directors have had problems recently and I am not immune to this either. Unfortunately, it was my email account that was affected and I have lost emails from December 2007 and January 2008. If you sent an email to me and have not received a reply, please resend and I will respond.

I extend a thank you to all societies for completing the forms required and nominating someone to be recognized and honoured for the work that they have done within their societies. May you enjoy the coming of spring and the pleasures that it brings.

Marlene Bruckhardt
secretary@ gardenontario.org

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OHA AGM at Convention 2008

The annual meeting of the OHA's 286 member societies is held during the annual convention. Each Society is entitled to send 2 voting delegates to the AGM. A society with more than 100 members is entitled to one additional voting delegate for every 50 members or part thereof to a maximum of 20. A society may assign all its votes to one delegate. For societies not sending any voting delegates to the Convention, proxy votes can be assigned to another society member who is attending or the OHA secretary.

At the AGM, delegates receive and review OHA's Financial Report, Auditor's Report and Committee Reports. Voting delegates receive a ballot in their registration package to cast votes in elections and to decide resolutions or motions brought forward by the Societies. The voting delegates elect the Association President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President for the next one year term. Nominations may be made from the floor.

The 19 District Directors were elected at their respective District AGMs held earlier in the year, usually in April or May. They and other OHA Board members may vote at the AGM and cast proxy votes entrusted to them by society delegates. At the Board meeting following the Convention, the Board appoints the Treasurer, Secretary, and Convention Registrar, each of whom will serve a one year term.

Brenda Heenan, Convention Committee Chair

Memorial Period at the Convention

At the Memorial Period of the 2008 Convention, we will take the time to remember our friends who are no longer with us. If a Society has lost a member in the last year and wishes to have that person's name recognized at the Convention, please send the name (or names) to the Association Secretary, Marlene Bruckhardt, at secretary@gardenontario.org before **July 1st**.

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CNE Flower and Vegetable Show

This show is billed as the **largest of its kind in Canada**. The show runs for 18 days and consists of 11 horticultural competitions and five design competitions. The design categories are staged to last four or five days and consist of seven classes, one of which is for novice designers (defined as those who have not won three first place ribbons in the design category), and one class for men only!

The **design shows** are extraordinary in their interpretation of the theme and the creativity and skill of the designers. Needless to say, members of the public are fascinated by what they see.

The **flower shows** change every three or four days and usually include two or three horticultural categories. The first show includes cactus, begonia, and orchid sections. The two largest shows are houseplants and the summer garden show, each including close to 100 classes.

The **vegetable shows** in the past two years have been the largest in over 25 years. Interest from the public is phenomenal! The vegetables, chrysanthemums, and dahlias, as well as the final design show, traditionally come in over the Labour Day weekend.

Ribbons and prize money are awarded in all categories. In addition, there are *Best in Show* and *Judges' Choice* ribbons, which have their own dollar value. In each of the past two years, the total prize money awarded exceeded \$13 000!

In addition to the Flower Show there is also the OHA Youth Competition. Prize money is also awarded for winning entries. Last year four youth groups participated. A competition for OHA Societies features a tableau of two patio containers flanking a front door. Last year, eight societies participated.

Visitors to the show also enjoy the large landscaped gardens, vendors, speakers, and demonstrations. All in all, we fill the 48 000 square feet in the Heritage Court, a part of the Direct Energy Centre. This year, at the conclusion of the OHA Convention, plans are in the works for an excursion to the CNE Garden Show. For those delegates who are able to stay over an extra night, this will provide a wonderful opportunity to experience a day at the largest flower and vegetable show in Canada, as well as some beautifully landscaped gardens. I look forward to seeing you there on Sunday, August 24th, 2008.

Dave Money
Chair, CNE Flower and Vegetable Show

B IS FOR BRAMPTON! BE THERE!

The OHA 2008 Convention is just 6 months away and it is going to be a Hort happening that breaks the mold! It even includes an opportunity to attend the Canadian National Exhibition! Whether you are planning to join us for a speaker, a day or the whole shebang you will find something of interest in the great diversity of this gathering in Brampton, August 22-24. This location in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area will enable more members to attend and have an opportunity to meet and mix with their colleagues from across the Province. It is what our Horts are all about – meeting and sharing our interests, our knowledge and our friendship.

Accommodation this year has a new look as well. District 15 has worked some magic with the *Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning - Davis Campus* and the residence apartment room rates will be a welcome surprise. A 2 bedroom, air conditioned suite is under \$100/night with internet, cable TV, daily housekeeping and a free continental breakfast included. Four people can share a suite if they are willing to share the 2 double beds! Book early to take advantage of this limited offer. Call toll-free 1-877-225-8664.

For people preferring a luxury hotel, the nearby *Courtyard Marriott at 90 Biscayne Crescent* is offering a special rate for OHA delegates. Call 1-800-321-2211 and mention that you are an Ontario Horticultural Association member.

Your host, District 15, runs from the shores of Lake Ontario at the foot of the CN Tower to the rolling Caledon Hills and the Niagara Escarpment so you can choose to spend your down time in an urban or rural setting. Bring your kids or grandkids (ages 7 - 17 years) and register them Friday to Sunday at the overnight Youth Camp based at the Lake St. George Field Centre. When they return on Sunday at the conclusion of the Convention, you can all go the Ex (Canadian National Exhibition).

Naturally, there will be a great line-up of speakers – some familiar celebrities, others not so well known – but all with something new to peak your interest. Nine fantastic tours will take in everything from the gardens at Casa Loma, to the Green Roof Gardens, to the world famous Toronto Music Garden designed by cellist, Yo Yo Ma. The City of Brampton is behind us 110 % so there will be a NEW Thursday night pre-convention program in downtown Brampton with lots of FREE activities planned.

Things will start to move along very quickly in the spring so it is best to register early to ensure a room at the college and a place on one of the tours. Then, keep an eye on the OHA website www.gardenontario.org for updates about the convention and pass them along to your friends who don't have access to the internet. Full details about the speakers, seminars, workshops, and bus trips are in the Convention registration inserts included with this newsletter. To download these pages, visit www.ohaconvention.info.

See you in Brampton!

**The Horticultural Societies of Parkdale and Toronto
(District 15 Convention Publicity Committee)**





Partnership with Royal Botanical Gardens

We're very enthusiastic about our new relationship with Royal Botanical Gardens. The possibilities are endless! Browse through their website and see for yourself. <http://www.rbg.ca/>

Whether you are a long-time member of the Gardens like me or just an occasional visitor, for those of us passionate about gardens and gardening, 2008 is going to be a very special year for everyone visiting RBG.

A number of important projects will be completed. The spectacular **Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium**, linking RBG Centre and Hendrie Park Gardens and providing additional year round display and exhibit space is scheduled to open late fall. An improved entry from Plains Road and new additional *free* parking places at RBG Centre are welcome enhancements.

A **new** garden commemorating the life and legacy of Helen M. Kippax, one of the nine founding members of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (1934) will be installed in May 2008! This new garden is fully funded by a generous donation from Helen Kippax's nieces, the Stedman sisters of Brantford.

The garden will feature native plants and native plant cultivars (shrubs, perennials and grasses) with very limited use of ornamentals, in a design that showcases sustainable gardening. The design will be used to inspire and educate gardeners about the beauty of native plants for use in their gardens.

But for RBG members, whether they are Horticultural Society or individual members, the installation of the Helen M. Kippax Garden located near Hendrie Park Gardens' Woodland Garden and bounded on three sides by the natural lands of Grindstone Creek and Hendrie Valley is providing a number of terrific opportunities.

Spring Members' Night – Wednesday, March 26, 2008 – 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

An RBG Members Only free presentation from RBG Head of Horticulture, Harry Jongerden is being presented on March 26. Harry will describe the fascinating process of designing and installing a major new garden at Royal Botanical Gardens. The planting design of the Kippax garden moves the idea of the botanical garden into the 21st century by design with *plant communities* (plants that coexist in natural settings) rather than *plant collections*.

Calling All Gardeners

Have you ever worked in a garden, guided by experts, planting and learning at the same time? Here is your opportunity by having your Society participate in RBG's *Calling All Gardeners* event.

The new Kippax garden will feature an incredible **14,000 perennials**. Under the direction of RBG Senior Gardening staff members, assisted by RBG Auxiliary and Master Gardeners, the Gardens is offering RBG members the opportunity to literally roll up their sleeves and dig in and **plant the Kippax perennials** in early June of 2008. History will be made as passionate gardeners from across the region come together to bring a new garden to life at Royal Botanical Gardens.

- If your Society would like to participate in *Calling All Gardeners*, call 905-527-1158 (Ext. 227). Leave your contact information and an RBG volunteer will contact you to make arrangements.
- Your Society can hear all the exciting details and sign up to take part in *Calling All Gardeners* at RBG's Spring Members' event.
- If your Society is not an RBG member, this may be the year to join. For more detailed information contact the membership services coordinator at 905-527-1158 (Ext. 290). You'll be supporting the gardens and receiving membership benefits!

Planning a Road Trip? Consider arranging a Group Tour to RBG

RBG is rolling out several wonderful new group tour offerings this season. Some of these have special promotions that will particularly appeal to our societies. For example, as a member, your group of 15 or more participants will be provided with a Guided Tour, free of charge (a \$2.00 fee per person usually applies). To learn more about group tour possibilities contact the Group Tours Coordinator at 905-527-1158 (Ext. 273).

As you can tell, I'm excited about the activities taking place at RBG and the role that Societies can play in the 2008 season. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces at these events. RBG will be attending our annual convention in August, providing information and answering questions, but I suggest you take action now and enjoy all that Royal Botanical Gardens has to offer from the moment the first tulip pokes its brave head out of the ground this spring.

Spring Cheers!

Liisa Wolfgram

Long Range Planning Committee and Past President.

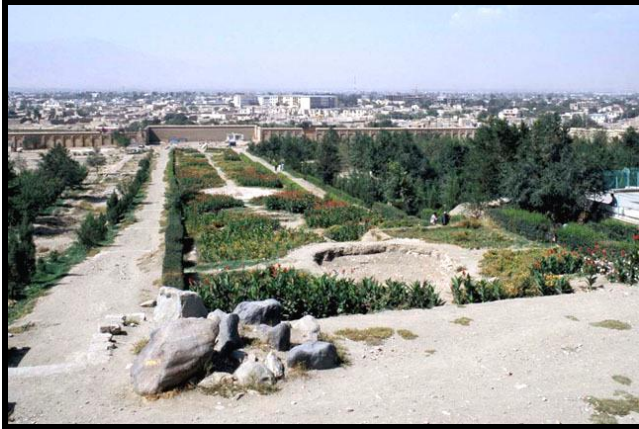
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The **Callander Horticultural Society** is a small but mighty group! They managed to 'win' gardening guru Ed Lawrence by purchasing the most copies per capita of **Gardening Grief and Glory**. They will host their *Evening with Ed Lawrence* on June 12th. For tickets and details, contact Isla Reed at tedreed@ontera.net or 705-752-2565.

The Babur Garden, Kabul, Afghanistan



Amid all the bad press coming from Afghanistan has come the good news story of a five million dollar restoration of the Babur Garden by the Aga Khan Foundation. The garden, the size of 20 football fields, was first created in 1504 by the Emperor Zahituddin Muhammad Babur.

Over the centuries, it has suffered greatly with wars and earthquakes, but now valiant efforts are being made to restore the buildings and the garden's plantings to their former glory.

Flowering cherry, almond, apple, apricot, peach, and plum trees spread their beauty in the spring, followed by fig, cypress, elm, Judas (redbud), mulberry, walnut, pomegranate, willow, olive, and pine. Splashing water over stone steps and bushes of jasmine, eglantine (sweetbriar), lilac, and roses have helped to create a tranquil area for the people of Kabul.

They bring their children to attend theatre festivals, to listen to recitals by traditional Afghan musicians, and to picnic and play, well away from the devastation and dangers of their city – an oasis of hope!

Joyce Dossal

*Reprinted, with permission, from **Campanula**, the newsletter of Garden Clubs of Ontario*

Growing for Design

Where space is limited follow this rule; if you cannot use it, do not grow it.

Unless you like miniature arrangements you will want to grow plants with long stems.

You may also wish to choose colours to match an indoor colour scheme and if bouquets of the season's earliest flowers are just the tonic you need, allocate garden space accordingly.

The best arrangements combine line, intermediate and round material and you may want to grow some of each. The rounds are the flowers themselves and the center of attention. Line or spiky and pointed material forms the bones of the design.

Intermediate or transitional material acts as filler. This is usually something light and airy such as sprays of tiny blooms or foliage.

The following are a few examples of plant material to use:

LINE	INTERMEDIATE	ROUNDS
Iris	Sea Lavender	Snapdragon
Hosta	Baby's Breath	Zinnia
Euonymus	Astilbe	Marigold
Corkscrew	Sedum	Rose
Hazel	Rose Leaves	Aster
Artemisia	Heather	Peony
Pussy Willow	Bergenia	Chrysanthemum
Mahonia	Ferns	Dahlia
Ornamental Grasses		

Through trial, error, and much patience, you will find the combination which is most pleasing.

Kees Stryland

2nd Vice President, OHA

Rules for Meetings “101”

This information is taken from the larger Fact Sheet *Procedures for Meetings* from OMAFRA and is intended to act as a guide to the parts of Robert’s Rules that you may want to use. It is in NO WAY inclusive of all the rules that exist and that you may need for meetings. It is recommended that all societies have a copy of the above Fact Sheet in their files for further information and reference.

Below are some parts that may apply to small, more informal, board meetings.

A. Rules for Meetings

1. Every member has rights equal to every other member.
2. The will of the majority must be carried out.
3. The minority must be heard, and its rights protected.
4. Only one topic will be considered at a time.

Parliamentary procedure is a set of rules for meetings which ensures that the traditional principles of equality, harmony and efficiency are kept. **Robert’s Rules of Order**, the best-known description of standard parliamentary procedure, is used by many different organizations as their rule book for conducting effective meetings.

B. The Problem with Rules

The parliamentary rules used in government provide guidance for a body of hundreds of people meeting daily for months with a great volume of business to conduct. These same rules are not appropriate for all organizations. How rigid are your meetings? Parliamentary rules for meetings are intended to help the group conduct its business (fairly and efficiently), not hinder it!

There are many effective ways for a group to conduct its meetings. Technical procedure, however, is often not necessary in the average group meeting.

Every organization should examine standard parliamentary rules, then interpret and adapt them to its own use. If group members agree that the rules they've developed permit a majority to accomplish the organization's ultimate purpose within a reasonable period of time, while allowing the minority a reasonable opportunity to express its views, then those rules are appropriate.

C. Rules for Small Group Meetings?

Meeting procedures for committees, executives and most boards can be much different than those for larger gatherings. Certain formalities are unnecessary when the group size is less than about dozen members. For example:

1. There is no limit to the number of times a member may speak to an issue.
2. It is not necessary to address the chair before speaking.

3. The chair needn't leave that post in order to speak, make motions or vote. (In fact, he or she may well be the most active participant in discussions and work of the committee.)

4. Motions need not be seconded.

5. Action can be taken, at times, without the introduction of a motion.

If, however, a small group using these ‘relaxed’ rules discovers that any one of the four basic meeting principles is being abused, then more formal procedures may be reintroduced to the meeting.

D. Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance

Even if your group follows a more relaxed set of rules you should be aware of the “by the book” rules as you may find they will guide you even in your less formal meetings. Below is a brief outline of some of the more common rules.

1. What is the proper sequence on which to have a motion voted upon?

A motion has nine possible steps:

- a) Moved – a proposal from the floor
- b) Seconded – another member feels the motion is worth discussing (this does not mean that person agrees with the motion, but simply feels it needs to be talked about).
- c) Stated – the secretary or chair records the motion and makes sure everyone understands what it says.
- d) Discussed – everyone may speak to the motion only once and must do so through the chair. The mover may speak first AND last. (On small boards this rule may be relaxed so that the motion can be discussed freely).
- e) Amended – changing the wording of the motion by adding, deleting or changing words. To do this you have to go through the same nine steps.
- f) Called – after sufficient discussion the chair can call the vote, meaning a vote has to be taken.
- g) Restated – read the motion again and ensure everyone understands what is being voted upon.
- h) Voted – chair calls “All in favour?”, “Opposed?” or “Abstaining?”
- i) Declared – results of vote are announced by the chair.

2. May the intent of a motion be changed by the amender?
Yes it may. Only two criteria govern the use of an amendment:

- a) An amendment may not convert a motion to its direct opposite.
- b) An amendment must be pertinent to the topic of the main motion.

3. How may a meeting start without a quorum?

A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present at a meeting to conduct business. This number should be designated in the By-laws. For many boards it is often half the voting members plus one. If no quorum is present at the time the meeting is to start then one of the following should be done:

- a) the presiding officer may dismiss the group after setting another time for a future meeting.
- b) the group may agree to proceed informally and await ratification of any decisions at a future meeting.
- c) the group may discuss items of interest, but make no decisions.

4. *How may our constitution be amended?*

A good constitution should contain provisions for amendment so that the structure and procedures can continually meet the changing needs and purposes of the group. Usually a special group is appointed to review the group's objectives, structure, functions, etc. A report and recommendations are circulated to all members with the required notice and agenda for the meeting (usually the AGM). Any amendment proposed during discussion at the meeting needs a majority vote for approval, but the actual motion to amend the constitution needs two thirds majority approval.

5. *Who is the presiding officer at meetings?*

Often the president is designated in the constitution or by-laws to chair the meetings. In large groups this duty is sometimes passed to another person so that the president may take a more active role in discussions. In small groups, however, the chair is an active participant anyway (see C. 3 above) so does not need to pass the chair on for that reason.

6. *After considerable debate we are still not ready to vote on the motion. What may we do?*

- a) A motion to postpone the matter until the next meeting may be in order to allow more information to be gathered.
- b) A motion to temporarily postpone (to table) allows the motion to be set aside until later in the meeting, allowing for more urgent business to be dealt with, to permit amendments to be drafted, or to allow time for implications of the motion to be checked. This motion must come back to the table before the end of the meeting.
- c) The motion may be withdrawn at the request of its mover, but only if no member present objects.

7). *What happens when someone yells "Question" from the floor?*

This means that the person wants the motion to be put to a vote. Only if the chair feels the motion has had reasonable debate and most members are ready to vote can he/she call the question. (i.e, "All those I favouretc.)

8). *How should a committee report be accepted?*

- a). A motion to "Receive" the report means that the organization is not committed to any of the conclusions or recommendations contained in it.
- b) A motion to "Adopt" the report in whole or on part commits the organization to some or all of the recommendations of the report. This often implies some action be taken.

9). *Sometimes when one motion is being considered an alternative motion might be the better one. How can it be presented?*

- a) The movers request permission from the presiding officer to read out the alternative motion.
- b) The movers of the original motion are asked if they will withdraw their motion, with the unanimous consent of the meeting.
- c) If the original motion is withdrawn, then the alternative motion is moved.
- d) If the original motion is not withdrawn, then the movers of the alternative motion inform the meeting that their motion will be moved if the original is defeated. They thus urge the members to vote against the original motion.

E. Consensus: Another Method Of Decision-Making In Groups

One rule in parliamentary procedure that can hamper a free and easy exchange of ideas is: "Discussion can take place only after a motion is proposed". In fact, a motion is a proposed course of action, a solution to a problem, or a decision. By focusing the group's attention on a solution before realizing the scope of the problem, the group may be voting on something that is entirely inappropriate. Is the "cart before the horse"?

A simple method of ensuring an effective group decision is to build a motion through consensus. This method eliminates a complicated amendment procedure after an initial motion has been proposed. It also ensures that a large majority will agree with the motion rather than the mere 51% required by a typical voting procedure.

The following process can be used throughout the meeting for every problem the group needs to discuss.

- Step 1. Describe (verbally or in writing) the issue or problem confronting the group.
- Step 2. Gather all the information relevant to the problem.
- Step 3. List all the possible solutions or actions. You may want to brainstorm.
- Step 4. Choose the best possible solution. Use the process of elimination.
- Step 5. Make the decision. Formulate a statement of general agreement or consensus then develop a motion and vote on it. Record the results in the minutes.

Conclusion

Whichever method your group chooses to make its decisions or conduct its meetings, the four principles of a democratic meeting mentioned in Part A must be followed.



OHA Education Committee

Gardening at 95!



On February 8th, 2008, **Parry Sound & District Horticultural Society** Board hosted an afternoon tea for **Madeleine Stanley**. At 95 years young, she is not just a member of the Society, but a very active one.

Madeleine's love of gardening is evident all around her home on a quiet street in Parry Sound. She is only too happy when someone drops by for a tour of her garden which is open to visitors anytime.

When asked to be on the Garden Tour in 1993, Madeleine received a complimentary membership. The following year she joined the Society and is now a life member and is in her 8th year on the Board of Directors.

Coming to Canada from England as a War Bride in 1947, she spent many years on a farm. Her son says she has always loved gardening. After retiring at the age of 80, she then had more time to spend creating and redesigning her gardens, which she does on a yearly basis. Many ideas come to her in dreams. This summer, Madeleine will yet again host a busload of Sudbury area gardeners when they travel to Parry Sound on their annual garden excursion. We are fortunate to have such an inspirational and knowledgeable member in our Society!

Parry Sound & District HS

Ten Commandments for an Enthusiastic Team

1. Help each other to be right, not wrong.
2. Look for ways to make new ideas work – not for reasons they won't.
3. If in doubt – check it out. Don't make negative assumptions about each other.
4. Help each other win and take pride in each other's victories.
5. Speak positively about each other and about your organization at every opportunity.
6. Maintain a positive mental attitude no matter what the circumstances.
7. Act with initiative and courage, as if it all depends on you.
8. Do everything with enthusiasm – it's contagious.
9. Don't lose faith. Never give up.
10. Have fun!

**John Bois, President,
Spanish Horticultural Society**

THE 12TH ANNUAL



Royal Botanical Gardens APRIL 17-20, 2008

Ideas, inspiration, experts and advice await you at the Ontario Garden Show held annually at the Royal Botanical Gardens Centre. At every turn you will be greeted with eye-catching displays, feature gardens and a breathtaking array of floral arrangements. The Gardeners' Marketplace will satisfy all of your gardening needs and desires from plants, seeds and tools to gazebos, garden statuary and decks. Learn tips from leading horticulturists and gardening personalities in free seminars that run throughout the show on the Garden Stage. Each year more than 20 000 visitors - avid gardeners and novices alike - welcome spring and the blooming of the gardens. Come join them!

Show Hours

Thursday April 17, 10am - 7pm
Friday April 18, 10am - 7pm
Saturday April 19, 9am - 7pm
Sunday April 20, 9am - 6pm

Location

Royal Botanical
Gardens Centre
680 Plains Road West
Burlington, Ontario
www.rbg.ca

Admission Rates

General Admission: \$8
RBG members: \$4
Children under 12: Free
Seniors' Days (Thurs. & Fri. only): \$4
Free parking and shuttle service available



For more information call (905) 634-8003 ext. 341 or visit www.ontariogardenshow.com.

The Art of Tree Seed Collection

The light of dawn is barely visible in the east as a vehicle skirts down back roads, doubling back and changing directions to evade watching eyes. Why the subterfuge? It is harvest time and the seed collector must reach her prized trees before bird, beast, or rival collector find the treasure.

I admit that I had never given much thought to how tree growers and nurseries acquired their seed. But last fall, I was offered the opportunity to attend a workshop on seed collection and my eyes were opened to this curious but serious business. This workshop was organized by the Ministry of Ontario Natural Resources (OMNR) and the Forest Gene Conservation Association (FGCA) to train collectors to gather high quality source-identified seeds. This highly regulated seed collection system will help ensure the sustainability of our native species while improving planting success.

While most gardeners are somewhat familiar with plant hardiness zones, which reflect minimum winter temperatures, seed collection zones are more sophisticated. Temperature, rainfall, soil, light, pests, and disease are all factors that can affect whether a plant will survive and reproduce in any given area. Over time, this produces adaptive variations within the genes of a given species. This genetic diversity increases the ability of this species to survive over time. Ontario is divided into 38 seed collection zones defined by a combination of climatic and geopolitical data. Certified seed collectors carefully identify the location from which seeds are gathered so they can be distributed to appropriate growing zones. Detailed records about harvested trees are also maintained to allow growers to trace the most productive seed sources for subsequent plantings.

Collectors carefully watch and protect favourite sources. For instance, canker-free butternut (*Juglans cinerea* L.) is a rare find and the nuts are highly coveted. The price per kilogram of seed is dependent on ease of acquisition, rarity, and demand. Many trees do not produce significant annual seed crops, like the red pines which produce at 3 to 7 year intervals. Collectors must monitor a stand of trees over time to forecast the crop potential. By observing flowering, weather, insect activity, and fruit set, seed collectors gauge whether a tree will be worth the picking effort.

Slicing open fruits (a cutting test) is advised to ensure viable seeds are developing. Seed cases do not guarantee healthy seed, or any seed for that matter, is inside. Acorns

that retain their caps or float in water are generally not viable. Certified collectors will always test a portion of fruits from a particular tree before committing to the harvest. Once collectors have identified a good potential seed source, they will watch and wait for the perfect time to pick their prize - or steal it from squirrels. Squirrels are expert harvesters of many varieties of fruit including the uncommon cone-like samaras of our native Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). As squirrels usually locate their caches in the same places year after year and may amass bushels in a given season, they are considered a good potential source of free labour. Of course hand-picking using ladders or lifts or whipping crowns with bamboo canes and raking fallen fruit from tarps can work just as well. Timing is everything. Too soon and the seed will not mature properly. Too late and the crop may be lost to disease, insects, birds and or animals.



Euonymus atropurpureus open capsule with exposed arils

Though seasonal work, seed collectors can extend their income by collecting from a range of species. While most fruit are harvested in fall, sycamore can be collected through winter, silver maple in late spring, red osier dogwood in summer. The 100 or more woody plants native to Ontario provide a range of picking opportunities.

Fruits come in great variety. The arils of yews, legumes (pods) of locusts, samaras of ash, drupes of dogwood, pomes of pear, and catkins of birch, each require different collection techniques and storage, before shipping to growers. The catkins of white birch must be hand-picked into burlap bags to avoid shattering the fragile female fruit or inadvertently gathering male catkins. Fleshy fruit must be shipped quickly in plastic lined bags to storage facilities so that seed can be promptly extracted from the pulp. Storage facilities can then process and keep seeds for many years. Such stores of high-quality source-identified seeds are important repositories for growers.

As consumers, we should always ask our nurseries if their stock is from zone appropriate seed. Planting native source-identified stock preserves local adapted gene pools and ensures good tree growth. In this way, we can do our part to preserve and restore Ontario's natural environment.

May toads nestle in your flower beds and help you tend your beauties in the spring.

**Catherine Kavassalis ,
Oakville Horticultural Society**

The Millennium Forest

In the fall of 1999, the **Lincoln Garden Club & Horticultural Society** was looking for a project that would be appropriate for the millennium. The group agreed that trees would be a great way to commemorate the turn of the century.

The University of Guelph offered the Society three acres at the northeast corner of the Vineland Horticultural Experiment Station. The north half was the Station dump, the east side is Victoria Ave., the north side is Lake Ontario. Many shrubs and unwanted trees had to be removed. In addition, the sizable dugout in the dump area filled with an assortment of old pots, wires, discarded fruit and other containers had to be cleaned up.

In the spring of 2000, the Rotary Club of Lincoln joined the Lincoln Garden Club along with helpers from the Town, the University, and many non-club members. We worked for many days to clean the area of unwanted brush and shrubs and to drain the swamp. Jack Hill donated a full day of work with a large bulldozer. He removed a great number of trees from the north section and burned all of the brush and trees. Many loads of soil were hauled from a stock pile located on the Victoria farm to fill and level the dugout area.

The Town of Lincoln, through Mayor Konkle's office, arranged to have Niagara Parks Commission provide several days of free work in removing tree stumps. The Town's wood chipper was used to convert much of the branch material into excellent mulch, which was later used around each of the newly-planted trees.

Very much appreciated was a map donated by Mountainview Landscaping Co., showing the location and spacing of the trees in the Millennium Forest. In 2004, Mark Neufeld and Mountainview Landscaping Co. came to the rescue again by installing (free-of-charge) a water drainage system in the north half of the forest. This Company also installed the walkway in the forest. A 6.5-foot granite stone located in the southeast corner of the Forest is engraved as *Millennium Forest – A project of Lincoln Horticultural Society, Rotary Club of Lincoln, University of Guelph, Town of Lincoln – A.D. 2001.*



A committee chaired by Emil Andersen developed the basic plan to plant trees that were hardy to the area, attractive or historical, long-lived, suitable for park, home, or street planting. The committee recommended that the project be called the Millennium Forest. The trees were to be selected, acquired, and listed by the Lincoln Garden Club and Horticultural Society. Stainless steel labels were to be provided

and would include the common name, botanical name, and up to 60 letters providing words of a memorial nature. We now have a forest with 133 different species and cultivars. Most were planted in the spring of 2001.

The sale of trees provided most of the funds. Many more trees could have been sold, had the forest been larger. Some support was received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which covered major items like the fencing, a beautiful wheelchair-accessible pathway which winds through the Forest, four benches, and the bulldozer work.

Considering the great diversity of tree species, and the many different soil types, the Forest is doing very well. Without extensive help from many sources, current results would not have been achieved. This Forest will continue to increase in value as a source of pleasure, interest, and knowledge to those who have purchased trees and to countless others who may be students or people who have interest in trees.

Steve Smerek



Emil Andersen,
Millennium Forest
Project Chair

Plant Sale Fever Hits the Sault!

Gardeners everywhere are eagerly crossing the days off their calendars in anticipation of this year's Plant Sale Extravaganza sponsored by the Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society on May 24, 2008 at the United Baptist Church on Malabar Drive from 8 am-noon. Rain or shine, they will be on the lookout for plants of all kinds, whether it be "passalong plants" that lend themselves so well to dividing or the occasional rare or unusual varieties.

Since 2002, this annual fundraiser has grown from a four table affair with bedraggled plants jammed into margarine tubs and plastic bags reaping about \$200 to an event featuring a plethora of shade canopies and over twenty-five tables of groomed potted beauties spread across a vast parking lot. Last year's four hour sale took in \$12,500 in sales and netted our Society \$6800 in profits. These funds are directed towards program expenses and the numerous outdoor beautification projects we support throughout our city.



What makes our Plant Sale so successful? Passion and a sense of community are two key ingredients. The intense desire of our membership to promote gardening in all its forms has led to the creation of numerous partnerships with local greenhouses, gardening-related businesses and community organizations. By promoting their products and activities, our customers benefit from the wide array of plants-annuals, perennials, herbs, water plants, trees and shrubs-as well as gardening accessories, compost, mulch and gently used tools and books. Our Society benefits from the pooling of resources, the additional volunteers as well as the 5-20% we receive from their sales. Our Green Team volunteers countless hours to dig up, pot, label and price surplus plants donated by our members and the community prior to the sale.

Plant sale fever usually appears in May and lasts until fall. If your cheeks are flushed and your head is full of gardening thoughts, be sure to check out our Annual Sale on May 24th. Our customers line up around the block so be sure to come early! We offer live music and refreshments to start your day off right.

Suzanne Hanna
District 13 Assistant Director

Royal Acorns

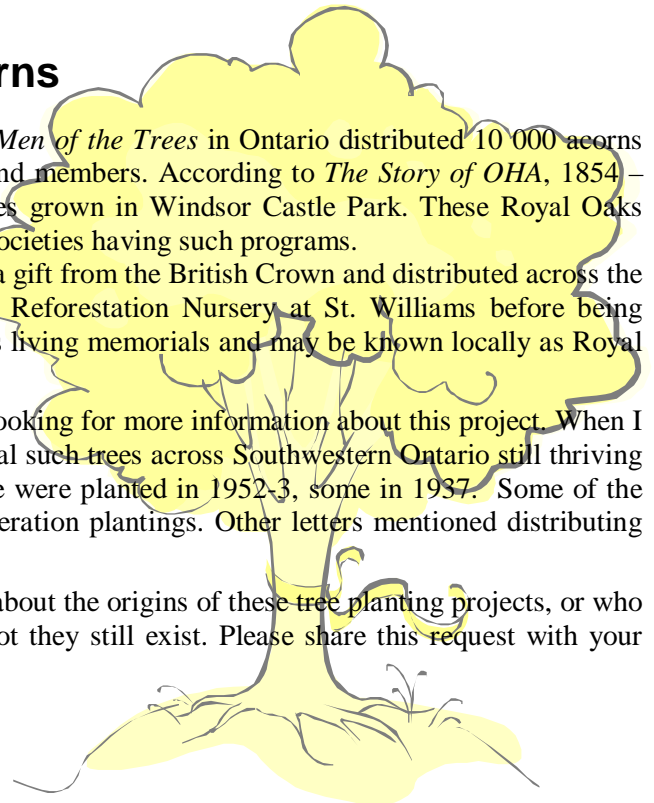
To commemorate the coronation of King George VI in 1937, the *Men of the Trees* in Ontario distributed 10 000 acorns brought from England, through horticultural societies to schools and members. According to *The Story of OHA, 1854 – 1973*, also known as 'the green book', the acorns came from trees grown in Windsor Castle Park. These Royal Oaks helped spark a program of tree planting during that year, with 156 societies having such programs.

Again in 1951, another 10 000 acorns were shipped to the OHA as a gift from the British Crown and distributed across the province. This time, some were nurtured into seedlings at the Reforestation Nursery at St. Williams before being distributed. Many of the trees grown from these acorns still exist as living memorials and may be known locally as Royal Oaks, or Coronation Oaks.

Our town of Parkhill has a royal oak in its park, and our society is looking for more information about this project. When I sent a letter to the London Free Press, I learned that there are several such trees across Southwestern Ontario still thriving in parks, school yards, cemeteries, and on private properties. Some were planted in 1952-3, some in 1937. Some of the responses I received said that their trees were second or third generation plantings. Other letters mentioned distributing acorns from these oaks to others or planting them in public areas.

I am interested in hearing from anyone who can share information about the origins of these tree planting projects, or who knows where more of these trees were planted, and whether or not they still exist. Please share this request with your groups so that it reaches as many people as possible.

Marguerite Whiting
Parkhill Area Horticultural Society
Box 486, Parkhill Ontario NOM 2K0
Parkhillhort@yahoo.ca



OHA Rolls Out The Barrel...

For over 100 years, the members of the Ontario Horticultural Association have been keeping Ontario beautiful. Imagine the impact when those 35,000 members put their minds to conserving rainwater!

The **Conservation and Environment Committee** of the Association has adopted, as its 2008 project, the revival of rain barrels. To promote the project, the Committee is compiling a booklet of rain barrel hints and information entitled **Roll Out The Barrel**. The booklet will be published this summer and available free to delegates at the Association's Annual Convention in August. Depending on funding sources, the booklet may also be free to as many members of the Association and the citizens of Ontario as the publishing budget allows.

Roll Out The Barrel romances the idea of bringing back the rain barrel. The booklet outlines the benefits of using a rain barrel. Two of the benefits included are reducing rainwater run-off and reducing the load on municipal water systems. Anecdotal articles by several rain barrel users from across the province will convince the most reticent of gardeners that using a rain barrel is both easy and a good thing to do.

The rain barrel has come into its own. There's a rain barrel for every taste from the reuse of food grade barrels to barrels designed to look like Grecian columns. The old oaken rain barrel of the past is still available, but a little pricier than Grandfather's was! Imagine - designer rain barrels!

Roll Out The Barrel includes a discussion of rain barrel capacity. A good rain can fill an average-size rain barrel in a matter of minutes. Rain barrels are like peanuts: once you have one, you will want more. Some rain barrel users connect several barrels to capture more rain. And for others, the concept of capturing rain water has grown into the use of cisterns or very large barrels that save every drop of rain that runs from the roof.

A section of the booklet is the result of researching municipalities in Ontario that offer free or reduced-cost rain barrels to their citizens. Many municipalities and regional governments in Ontario see the value of having their citizens adopt the use of a rain barrel. Some municipalities are offering incentives to home owners who have their downspouts connected directly to the storm system. The goal is to have owners disconnect their downspouts from the municipal storm system and use a rain barrel instead.

The inside covers of the booklet contain a wonderful surprise - a series of thought-provoking quotes about rain barrels from notable garden gurus from Ontario and

beyond. For instance Marjorie Harris wrote: "A Rain Barrel is liquid gold: perfect temperature, soft and beautiful. Plants thrive on water; butt* water is the best." (www.marjorieharris.com)

And from Mark Cullen: "A rain barrel provides one of the best favours that you do for your plants. The water that it collects is soft, oxygen rich, and generally much warmer than tap water. If I were a plant, I would only want to be watered with rain barrel water!" (www.markcullen.com)

And this gem of inspiration from Lorraine Johnson: "A Rain Barrel is a declaration that water is precious!"



With the production of **Roll Out The Barrel**, the Conservation and Environment Committee encourages all gardeners to conserve the water running off their roofs. If someone hasn't said it, someone should: "Water that falls on my property, stays on my property!" The Association plans to broaden its conservation activities and is currently partnering with the Conservation Council of Ontario. Watch for more conservation projects from the Conservation and Environment Committee in the future. But for now... **Roll Out The Barrel!**

Carol Dunk,
Conservation & Environment Committee

* **Water Butt** is the British term for a rain barrel.

Huntsville's Proud Juniors

Pictured at right are proud members of the **Huntsville Junior Horticultural Group**, showing off ribbons won at the local fall fair. The boy with the trophy, Chris Schankula, is the 2007 recipient of the Liz Trollove trophy. This is a District 18 award recognizing the Junior who best represents the ideals of Horticulture.

**Betty Morrison,
Junior Leader and District 18 Director**



Peterborough Horticultural Society Scholarships

Peterborough Horticultural Society is pleased to announce the recipients of six scholarship awards of \$1000 each to students studying horticulture or related fields. Applicants are students from the Peterborough area studying horticulture, landscape design, or other related programs at a Canadian post-secondary institution; **or** Canadian students studying in these areas at Trent University or Sir Sandford Fleming College.

The recipients are: **Julie Anderson** – Environmental Science at the University of Guelph
Jonathon Crowe – Forestry at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay
Sean Nailer – Bachelor of Applied Arts Land Planning Technologies at Fanshawe College
Morgan Mitchell – Biology at Trent University
Jennifer Sisson – Bachelor of Landscape Design at University of Guelph
Mary-Anne Young – Niagara College for a post graduate study in Eco-System Restoration

We also provide two \$100 bursaries annually to local high school students who are enrolled in horticultural courses. The Scholarship Committee is delighted with the caliber of applications received. We congratulate these fine young people and wish them continued success. This year we expect to award another \$6 000 in scholarships.

These scholarships, as well as grants for local beautification projects, are funded by the profits of **The Peterborough Garden Show – For the Love of Gardening**, an annual show sponsored jointly by the Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners. Last year attendance was over 7 000! Our 2008 show will be held on April 11th, 12th, and 13th at the Evinrude Centre in Peterborough. Featuring two hockey arenas full of exhibitors of horticultural based products and services, lectures, demonstrations, a judged Flower Show and a continuous demonstration of dry stone wall construction, this year's show is expected to be bigger and better. For more information, visit our website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca. Horticultural Societies who wish to send a bus should contact our show administrator through our website.

Dianne Westlake



Pictured from left are Gladys Fowler, chair of the Scholarship Committee, Sean Nailer, Jonathon Crowe and Morgan Mitchell.

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www.rbg.ca



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Rose Celebration

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- Lilac Celebration, May 17, 18, 19, 24, 25
- Iris and Peony Celebration, May 31 and June 1, 7, 8
- Rose Celebration, June 21, 22, 28, 29 and July 5, 6

Visit www.rbg.ca for full listing and details.

NEW! Helen M. Kippax Garden

July, 2008 — our new garden features native plants and native plant cultivars in an inspiring design that showcases sustainable gardening and the beauty of native plants.

Book your group tour today!

905-527-1158 (1-800-694-4769), ext. 273

RBG Centre, 680 Plains Road West, Hamilton/Burlington



Hanover Celebrates 45 Years

Members of the Hanover District Horticultural Society celebrated their 45th anniversary at their annual meeting on November 27th, 2007. Many of the Past Presidents of the society were in attendance and each was presented with a corsage /boutonniere on this special occasion.



Pictured above, they are:

Back – Bob Miller, Jean Miller, Velma Fidler, Merry Francis, Carl Preuss, Joan Purves, & Donna Gaasenbeek
Front – Mary Hershberger, Martha Jackson, & Wayne E. Pfeffer



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