

Trillium

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Ontario Horticultural Association

Summer 2020



Photo by Gail Murray, Ennismore Garden Club



Amazing Tulips

"The virus has put the brakes on so much in our lives but it did not stop the tulips in our community from putting on a show." Gail Murray



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Editor's Message



Gardeners are very special, thoughtful people. Many of you were so concerned that there wouldn't be enough submissions to put together a summer issue of the Trillium (me, too), that you bent over backwards to help out. With all of the "outside the box" thinking, the articles and photos

that were sent to me were innovative, inspiring and numerous. There are great ideas for communication and fundraising during these social distancing days.

I would like to thank Gail Murray, Ennismore Garden Club, for unknowingly providing a wonderful photo to put on the front cover. The article for Ennismore Garden Club and other lovely photos are in this issue.

Congratulations to *Pakenham Horticultural Society* on their 95th anniversary, *Brockville & District Horticultural Society* on their 115th and *Trenton Horticultural Society* on their 40th. It's a difficult year to celebrate these milestones.

Thank you to all of you who contributed to the success of the summer issue of the Trillium. The deadline for the autumn issue is September 1. Please know that articles and photos may be sent earlier.

Feel free to contact me if there are any questions and have a great day.

Laura Masterson
editor@gardenontario.org

The *Trillium* is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA, (Ontario Horticultural Association).

This is *your* newsletter. It is for all members of all Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario in every district. If you want to know what is going on in gardening, it is in this newsletter. If your club/society has a special project and you would like to share the news, please send in a story and photographs.

What you need to know to send articles and photographs:

Submission dates for 2020:

Sept. 1 – Autumn issue

Dec. 1 – Winter issue

The deadline for the next issue of the Trillium is **Sept. 1**, but know that submissions can be sent anytime.

Articles should be emailed in Word format or plain text. Photos and other graphics should be sent as separate files (i.e., not as part of a Word file), with a resolution of at least 1000 by 800 pixels whenever possible. Full-sized original files will be happily accepted. These requests make it easier to work with whatever is submitted.

Articles can be emailed to:

editor@gardenontario.org

Laura Masterson, OHA Trillium Editor

Please note that, for photographs that include minors, signed parental permission must be given. You don't need to send the signed papers, but we do need to know that they exist.

When submitting articles and photos,
please mention who wrote the article
and who took the pictures so that
a credit can be included.

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The Trillium is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA, bringing you the latest news of what's going on in gardening in Ontario.

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<https://gardenontario.org/2020-summer-trillium/>



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Ontario Horticultural Association

President's Message

What an unprecedented time we are in. I imagine there are maybe some of our relatives who were alive during the Spanish flu in 1919 and heard what a terrible time that was. My maternal grandfather, back from World War One, and a teenage uncle, died within hours of each other leaving my mother and three siblings as orphans. Now, we hear of people losing grandparents, parents, husbands, brothers, sisters and some have even lost children. Our every day lives have changed with wearing masks and social distancing. I can't hug my family or neighbours, as I am "a hugger". I can speak to faraway children through Facetime and see my children who live close by stopping for a chat but at 6 feet apart. Sure is a different way of communicating.

How are you spending your time?

I have been watching a lot of science programmes: BBC Earth, and Smithsonian Channel which has been showing "Canada on the Edge" – a travelogue and history lesson on different places throughout Canada.

I have been doing a lot of baking as some have seen on my Facebook page.

I also have received plants I ordered through catalogues and potted them as they come in as dry roots. I have been able to get to a couple of nurseries where I have picked up plants for my containers and garden. All these are waiting for the warm dry weather to get in the ground. I have edged all but three of my gardens. I have planted peas, lettuce, radishes, onions and red beets in my raised beds and potatoes in my potato bags. My garden has been and is always, my solace.

Yes, I miss the horticultural meetings and the exchange of information from the members. But hopefully, it won't be long before we get back to them. Our Tilbury Horticultural society members are going to adopt a container in our downtown, plant it and weed it. Yes, we will be social distancing. At this time more than ever, we need to have flowers in our downtowns to give us a smile and see how beautiful things can really be. Hopefully some of you will also be able to do this.

Community gardens are open. Growing our own vegetables with some marigolds and zinnias tucked here and there will give us food and the pleasure of working in the soil.

Thank you to all those members who are working every day to look after us – the garbage collectors, the postal workers, the grocery store employees, the coffee shops, the health care workers – nurses, doctors, laboratory technologists, ambulance attendants, fire and police – the hydro, water, natural gas, internet, satellite, cable and phone employees – the gas station attendants and the auto service people – the landscapers who cut some of our lawns and friends who help us look after our gardens. There are so many ways to help our elderly population who still live in their own homes. I am sure I have missed some. A big thank you to all.

And we, the officers and directors of your organization, continually work for you during this time. Many have asked questions about rebate in insurance (there will be no rebate). Many have asked questions about having meetings and elections and Charles has been incredibly good in bringing them to the officers' attention and giving a reply. Until the Emergency Measures Act is completely lifted and there is a vaccine to keep us ALL safe, there will be no large gathering of members. It will be a different "Normal". Districts have asked about virtual meetings – that is entirely up to your director and all costs involved will be paid by the district.

Conventions have been postponed a year – District 10 in London on July 14-18, 2021; Districts 7 and 8 in Guelph July 13-17, 2022 and District 2 in Kanata July 19-23, 2023. However, we will be holding an annual general meeting, as mandated by the Ontario government, 90 days after the emergency measures are lifted. Place, time, etc. are yet to be determined.

We have flattened the curve. Let's keep from having a second wave, by being responsible citizens.

Please remember to social distance, wash your hands and keep safe, and enjoy your gardens.



Katharine Smyth

Kathy Smyth

Katharine Smyth

President of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Brockville & District Horticultural Society

Celebrating 115 Years and Still Growing



The Brockville & District Horticultural Society was established 115 years ago and continues to be a thriving and important community resource. Each spring, we purchase annuals and fill the planters at the Brockville General Hospital. All season, we continue to maintain the planters and prune the bushes at the hospital. In 2015 and 2017 respectively, the Society installed a small perennial garden beside the pavilion at Rotary Park and a pollinator garden at the entrance to the Brock Trail (across from St. Lawrence Park). Our volunteers maintain these beautiful gardens on an ongoing basis, along with four public gardens in Athens, including the Memory Garden beside Athens Municipal Offices, the gardens in front of Athens & District Public Library and the garden at the Athens War Memorial. Volunteers also look after the Athens Community Garden, which provides fresh produce to the local food bank weekly throughout the growing season.

Visitors often compliment us on our gardening efforts and express their appreciation for the small part we play in our civic beautification. Our pollinator garden has been designated as a Certified Wildlife-Friendly Habitat by the Canadian Wildlife Federation. One goal of the pollinator garden is to raise awareness and inspire others about the importance of wildlife-friendly gardens.

The Society's speaker events are held January through June and September through November. There is always a highly informative speaker, so meetings are excellent opportunities to learn and meet other gardeners. Guests are always welcome

to attend our speaker events. Our May plant sale at the Brockville Senior Citizens Inc. and community outreach events in May at Ritchie Feed & Seed Garden Centre and in June at the Brockville Farmers' Market are usually widely anticipated.

The Society also offers summer outings and a visit to members' gardens. A highlight of our anniversary year was supposed to be a bus trip to Montreal Botanical Gardens and Jardins Michel Corbeil in August. The pandemic changed all of this, and most of our activities have either been cancelled or reformatted to safeguard our members.

As of May, we have 139 members. In addition to learning and having fun, members benefit from the discounts offered to Society members by a number of local garden centres. Most retailers provide a 10% discount but some offer more. Most members save their membership fee back many times over through these discounts.

For information about the Brockville & District Horticultural Society, visit our web page on the GardenOntario.org website. BDHS also has a very active Facebook page for sharing photos, asking gardening questions and finding information on events of interest; but most important of all, it's a venue for chatting with fellow local gardeners. Members of our Society all share a love of gardening; the experience and expertise come with time.

*Submitted by the Publicity Committee
Brockville & District Horticultural Society*

Bletilla Striata Orchid

Article and Photos by Helen Smith, Paris

I came upon the Bletilla striata orchid at a local garden centre many years ago. It was dry root in a package. I thought I would give it a try and I'm so glad I did! I've had it for many years and it still continues to put on a beautiful show!

Unlike many other orchids, Bletilla striata is an easy to care for, hardy terrestrial orchid in Ontario. It produces beautiful 2" cattleya-like flowers that are pinkish-purple in colour. This beauty will grow 12 to 16 inches tall and about 6 to 12 inches wide. It blooms for about 4 to 6 weeks in mid to late spring.

If you are considering getting a Bletilla striata orchid, plant it in the spring in part shade. It likes a rich, moist well-drained soil. I mulch mine to conserve moisture and to discourage weed growth. It will naturalize and spread by creeping rhizomes and also by seed dispersal in ideal conditions. The plants are tolerant of both acidic and alkaline soils.

My clump has slowly spread and it always puts on a beautiful show. Give it a try! You won't be disappointed.



Ontario Horticultural Association Nominating Committee Report

It is with great pleasure that the OHA Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for election:

- Charles Freeman has been nominated to stand as President by the Russell & District Horticultural Society. Charles has agreed to allow his name to stand for President.
- Sharlene Desjardins has been nominated by the Deep River Horticultural Society for the position of 1st Vice President. Sharlene has agreed to allow her name to stand for 1st Vice President.
- Vicky Culbert has been nominated by the Goderich and District Horticultural Society for the position of 2nd Vice President. Vicky has agreed to allow her name to stand for 2nd Vice President.
- Katharine Smyth has agreed to stand for a term as Past President.

Full biographies for Charles, Sharlene and Vicky can be found in this edition.

Rose Odell, Nomination Committee



Charles Freeman, Candidate for OHA President

Hello and Greetings to the Membership of Each and Every Affiliated Society/Club

I have served as the Vice President of the OHA for almost two full years and am now seeking to step forward to the position of President. I have been nominated by the Executive of Russell & District Horticultural Society and graciously accepted the nomination and the opportunity to continue to serve the Association.

This past year has been a continual learning experience. It has also been an extremely busy time. Conferring with Societies/Clubs that are closing or fighting to stay open, keeping communication lines open with our newest O.M.A.F.R.A. representative, answering to the best of my abilities the many different questions surrounding Society/Club governance, participating in monthly teleconferences as well as any other tasks all contribute to the continuing process of learning how best to lead the OHA.

With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic and all of the issues we all had to and have to face, the business of the OHA became even more time consuming, challenging and ultimately rewarding as we endured and continue to move forward through all of the challenges. An item of note on the COVID-19 topic is that I have applied for a \$300,000.00 grant for the OHA through Ontario Together. As of the writing of this document, the application has passed the first two levels of scrutiny and currently sits on what I refer to as the "still viable but not just yet" shelf.

My time in policing both working on the road and instructing in the classroom, being a Scout Leader, chaperoning school trips and international exchanges and coaching and refereeing provincial basketball has served me well as we conducted the regular business of the OHA and then navigated through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

I would be honoured to represent the OHA as President. I thank all of you for everything that you have done and continue to do as you represent your Society/Club in your community.

To the Officers and the Board, my deepest appreciation for helping to "keep the boat afloat" and heading in the right direction.

Kathy, "Thank You" is just the beginning of my gratitude for your guidance, assistance and friendship that has developed during the past two years. You are leaving large President shoes to fill and I will certainly try to follow your straight forward example without losing sight of my desire to "have fun and just dig in the dirt".

***Everyone, Please, Look After One Other....
Take Care and Stay Safe***



*Charles Freeman
OHA Vice President*

Sincerely,
Charles Freeman
OHA Vice President



Sharlene Desjardins, Candidate for OHA 1st Vice President

I have been nominated, and have accepted the nomination, put forward by the Deep River and District Horticultural Society for the position of 1st Vice President for the Ontario Horticultural Association. I have been within the umbrella of the OHA since I joined the Deep River Society in 2012. Within the Society, I held the position of President for two years and am the current Past President. I was also the Membership Chair for one year, Yearbook Designer and Editor for one year, Photo Competition Chair for two years and I am the current Spring Flower Show Chair. I joined the Pembroke Society as well in 2017 and have been active at the meetings as well as helping with the plant sale and flower shows.

I took over the position as interim Assistant District Director for the Upper Ottawa Basin of District 2 in the Fall of 2015 and was elected to the position in Spring of 2016. I held that position until the Spring of 2017 when I was elected as the District 2 Director. In April of 2019, I resigned from the position of District Director to pursue the OHA 2nd Vice President position which I was filling on an interim basis. I was elected into that position at the 2019 OHA Convention in July and I currently hold that position as well as being the OHA Awards Coordinator.

I am currently attending the OHA Judging School which will be completed the first week of June in 2020, the RBG Horticulture Judging School which will be finished in the Fall of 2021 and I have begun the Dalhousie University Master Gardener Program.

I am married and have three children, two boys and a girl. During their formative years, we travelled extensively for hockey and figure skating. During this time, I sat on the Skate Canada Eastern Ontario Board of Directors as the Regional Representative for Region 6 and was also the test Chair and Secretary of two different skating clubs. Prior to having my children, I was the Secretary of both the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 436 Executive and the Ladies' Auxiliary. I worked at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited for 26 years and I am currently retired and loving it.

I began gardening late in life and have since fallen in love with it. I continue to expand my garden beds and love experimenting with plants that push the boundary for my area. I grow vegetables, flowers and herbs and have several shrubs and two cherry trees. I have installed a pergola with a "zen" feel to it and have four raised garden beds and over 1100 square feet of total gardening space.

I look forward to having the opportunity to continue to work with the OHA and the Districts and all the wonderful people that make up our organization. Remember the following:

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments" – Janet Kilburn Phillips



*Sharlene Desjardins
OHA 2nd Vice President*

Sincerely,
Sharlene Desjardins
OHA 2nd Vice President



Vicky Culbert, Candidate for OHA 2nd Vice President

I live in Goderich with my husband Doug and two small dogs, Boots and Lola. We have six children, four sons and two daughters and are blessed with fifteen beautiful grandchildren between the ages of seventeen and one. I began gardening as a child at my mother's and grandmother's side and continue to love it. I continue to expand my garden beds and plant at least five new trees a year. My garden has beds of vegetables, flowers, herbs, grapevines and many cherished trees.

I was nominated, and have accepted the nomination, put forward by the Goderich and District Horticultural Society for the position of 2nd Vice President for the Ontario Horticultural Association. I have been involved with the OHA since I joined the Goderich and District Horticultural Society in 2007. Within that Society, I have held the position of President for five years and have returned as the President for the past two years. I have volunteered on all committees of the society including administration, activities and events. I enjoy the planting and maintenance of community gardens, garden tours, plant sales, regular meetings and flower shows.

I was elected to the position of Assistant District Director for the County of Huron of District 8 in the spring of 2015. I held that position until the spring of 2017 when I was elected as the District 8 Director. As the Director for eighteen Societies in District 8, I have learned and experienced the many rewards and challenges faced in the societies. One of the most exciting challenges is District 8 working in partnership with District 7 to offer the 2022 Convention and Annual General Meeting in Guelph.

As the chairperson of the Competitions for the Ontario Horticultural Association Annual Convention, I have met many of the OHA members from all over Ontario. Presently, I sit on the Executive for the OHA in the position of the South West Representative. I am currently attending the OHA Judging School which will be completed within the next year in 2021.

The three loves of my life are family, horticulture and Ontario history. I am a Horticulture Judge for the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, the Past President for "Discover the Gardens of Huron Perth" and have my garden open to the public during the summer months. I am the current Chair of the Goderich Municipal Heritage and Marine Committee, a member of the Business Improvement Area Board, and the President of the local Seniors' Centre. I am an active member of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors Archival and Historical Committee.

My wide range of experiences and organizational skills provide me with strong leadership capabilities that would be an asset to the Ontario Horticultural Association. I look forward to having the opportunity to continue to work with the Association and all the wonderful people that make up the organization.



*Vicky Culbert
OHA Officer as Southwest
Regional Representative*

Vicky Culbert
District 8 Director
OHA Officer as Southwest Regional Representative
2022 Co-Convention Host

How do you paddle a canoe in Leaside?

Written and Submitted by Deborah Browne, VP, Public Relations Director

It's an **oar-deal** but Leaside Garden Society does it **"The Butterfly Way"**. It all started in 2017 with the **David Suzuki Foundation** deciding to do something about butterflies and native bees slowly disappearing from the universe. Something had to be done as there is a definitely a lack of essential food sources and a loss of habitat happening. The Foundation decided to create garden patches with pollinator plants, shrubs and native wildflowers in parks, alongside the sides of the streets, churchyards and schoolyards as an initial plan. The gardens would be known as the **"The Butterfly Way"**. The project was created by Aiden Nolan, a member of the Foundation. Toronto is one of the five cities across Canada that is showcasing these specific gardens. **The Butterfly Canoe** is a wonderful addition and now part of the program that is continually expanding by the Foundation.

Our **Butterfly Canoe** and surrounding garden is located near the north-eastern corner of Leaside Public Library's grounds. Ritch Hutchings from our Society is the person responsible for digging out the garden in the shape of a butterfly where the canoe was installed. This is the first David Suzuki Butterfly Canoe in East York although there are others in the city.

The humorous joke in the title of this article is just another way that Rick expressed his excitement about the project for the Society. He first heard about this project on January 10, 2019 from guest speaker Jode Roberts. After making contact with Jode to obtain all

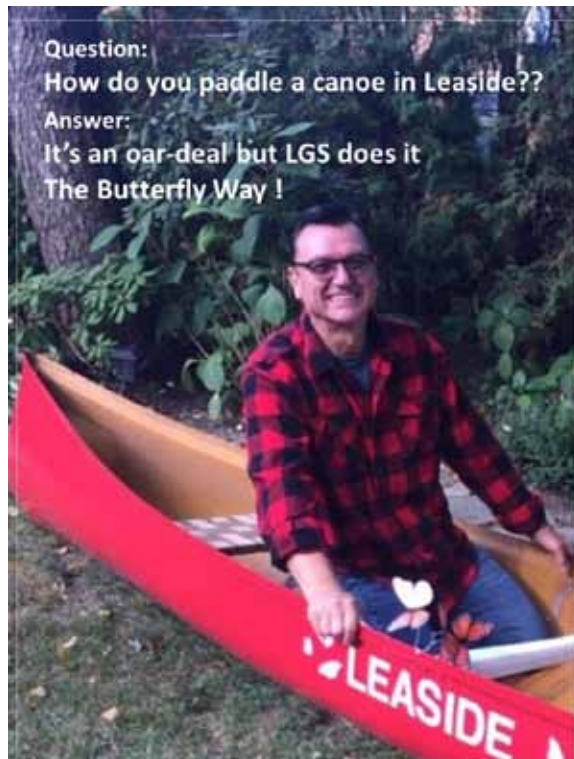
the information, the project took 10 months from start to installation.

Initially there was a delay as approvals took some time; so another canoe had to be designated for Leaside. The canoe was donated by Adele Freeman (Leaside Garden Society member). Rick actually had to drive to Kawartha to pick up the canoe and then painted it himself.

In February 2020, the **Canoe Garden** was officially designated as **"Property Certified Wildlife-friendly Habitat"** by the **Canadian Wildlife Federation**. This includes the Community and Anniversary Gardens at the library. Seeing a huge abundance of the native bees and butterflies this past summer says it all. Pollinator plants are popping up in many Leaside gardens as keen gardeners and volunteers are making efforts to support this project throughout the community and the city. We are continually inspired by the David Suzuki Foundation and the new platforms that they create and implement in our environment. Anchor yourself at the Library and view the garden in the Spring.

There will be some additional plantings in the spring with trees such as birch, redbuds and white pine, dogwood shrubs and coneflowers. City Parks, Forestry & Recreation will install rocks around the canoe to anchor the garden and the shape will become more oval.

A big thank you goes to the **David Suzuki Foundation**, **Leaside Garden Society**, the **Leaside Public Library** and **City Parks and Recreation Department** that made this project possible.



What's a butterfly garden without butterflies?

- ROY ROGERS

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Passing the Quarantine

Written by Nury Garzon, Submitted by Janet Shaw

This is my fifth week at home. With a lot of time to think, I remembered the unique event that took place in Colombia, "The Gaviria Hour", in 1992.

Due to an extremely dry season, the dam's reservoirs, used to provide water for activities such as irrigation, human consumption, industrial use, aquaculture and navigability, were empty. As a result, the government decided to cut off electricity for up to eight hours daily in the entire country and the clock was moved one hour ahead.

Consequently, work schedules changed, businesses were forced to buy power batteries and after six pm, the streets were dark and empty; also, a curfew was imposed in Bogota. But most importantly, this changed our way of living. I remember how people used candles as light; due to the lack of TV programming, we relied on these old battery radios to listen to news, soaps and music. At home, we moved dinner time and once finished, we played board games, chatted or just rested. However, what I remember the most now is how we had to change our behavior. There was more family time than ever, the best radio shows were created in this time; there was a big campaign to save water, "close the tap". Another important event happened the same year: my daughter was born; so, her birth certificate states that she was born at 7 am but in reality, it was 6 am.

Today, we are living in "the coronavirus time"; obviously there is not a comparison but I just want to reflect on these kinds of events that change lives forever. The pandemic has forced the entire world to stop, or at least to live in slow motion, giving us time to appreciate, to feel, to listen, to enjoy, and to reflect.

I complete one month at home. It is stressful and boring, yes. Too much time for home chores; I cannot go to my yoga classes; I can't use the public library or go window shopping. Keeping physical distance is easy for me, but changing routines and habits, not so much.

At the same time, I am grateful for how COVID-19 has changed my life. Why? Because, I am forced to learn or improve my e-skills. For instance, Mississauga's public library gives users the opportunity to borrow materials online <https://www.hoopladigital.com>, so now I read e-books, with no fines for late returns and I watch movies for free!

Secondly, my daughter is here working from home, she isn't thrilled, but I am. Family is very important; having loved ones close gives relief and peace of mind. Also, I have been in touch with friends, co-workers and relatives that I usually don't call but now we are keeping in touch using various video-conferencing platforms.

I also notice that people are more grateful with front line workers that provide the services that have been keeping us healthy, nourished, clean, and connected. Finally, due to the coronavirus outbreak impact on travel and industry, many regions experienced a drop in air pollution that possibly reduces both climate change and COVID-19 risks.

TRILLIUM AND QUADRILLIUM!

Photo by Angus Sutherland



The photo was taken at Sudden Tract Forest, an area of trails off highway 24A between Cambridge and Paris.

Dryden & District Horticultural Society

Alison Robinson

People! Plants! Aren't they the BEST things since sliced bread! Wait a minute... people and plants were BEFORE sliced bread...

But people and plants were what the Dryden & District Horticultural Society celebrated at our annual Plant Sale. We haven't seen these great people from our Society for ages! (Our regular meetings have been put 'on hold' for the present time.) And if it wasn't for our members' contributions of plants, there wouldn't have been the Plant Sale to bring everyone together. The evening of May 22nd was for Hort membership discounted shopping only and the morning of the 23rd was for the general public. The event was held in the large Agricultural Building on the fairgrounds where people could social-distance. But the plants? It was almost shameful the way the annuals were snuggling up to perennials, tomatoes 'squashing' the zucchini, and the herbs and succulents close enough to hold hands!!!! Thus, they had to be taken into protective custody by people who could place them under house and garden arrest...

In spite of the coronavirus limitations and the safety guidelines in place, our sales were only slightly lower than our 'normal' years, and our membership is as high

as last year – 75 (the total number of members, that is, not the age of members... just sayin...). A good time was had by all, especially when one potential disaster was averted...

We appreciated the many helping hands who quickly and efficiently (almost) unloaded the plant donations as vehicles drove up. One lovely hanging plant was brought in. Marvelling at its beauty and pricing it accordingly, we were abruptly halted by the owner. It wasn't for sale! She had stopped at a garden centre to pick up this basket for her own garden on her way over to the Ag building. The helping hands were very zealous in unloading her donations! Mishaps are the spice of life, and of Plant Sales too! And hear this overheard conversation:

Masked gal: Hi! Good to see you again – and by the way, I'm smiling at you.

Unmasked smiling gal: I know you're smiling – I can see your eyes!

Many thanks to all who joined forces to make this a very successful Plant Sale – the plant donors, the set-up and clean-up people, and our customers. Truly, it takes a village!

Pelham Garden Club

Wendy Vahrmeyer, Photos by Melissa Wright and Wendy Vahrmeyer

The Town of Pelham has offered a community flower bed competition to its citizens and the Pelham Garden Club has taken up the challenge! Within a week, Club members Melissa Wright and Wendy Vahrmeyer designed and planted a flower bed at Centennial Park in Fenwick. Volunteers from our club membership will water and weed the entry throughout the summer, with the judging to happen on Labour Day weekend. The Club is very active in our community. We maintain the flower beds at the Fonthill branch of our public library and have just added a pollinator garden.



BEFORE and AFTER, Club member Wendy Vahrmeyer is pictured.

The Ennismore Garden Club

Submitted by Gail Murray, Photos by Gail Murray

Well, here we all are in the middle of a global pandemic. I know we are in the same situation as most other garden clubs in Ontario, even Canada. We have cancelled all our meetings so far and our field trip is tentative, dependant on the virus, Directors' meetings have been with Zoom and our special War Memorial Cairn has been put on hold until September. We miss our monthly meetings and the camaraderie with our members. Our membership is down understandably and our garden work will have to all be done respecting social distance.

Our president is doing a great job to keep members engaged with newsletters, Facebook posts, updates and a coronavirus project page. Many of our members are doing great garden projects at home and vegetable gardening has seen a real resurgence.

We have no pictures of our members working and having fun together because we can't get together right now but here are a few pictures of the projects they have been working on.

We know we will get through this and hopefully all be together again soon to share our love of gardening.



Featured on Front Cover: The virus has put the brakes on so much in our lives but it did not stop the tulips in our community from putting on a show.



The daffodils surviving the snow and cold temps



The wonderful sight of peas popping out of the ground and rows of onions



East Gwillimbury Gardeners Get Creative When the Going Gets Tough

Brenda Near, President

Photo by Brenda Near

Well this COVID-19 thing sure has us thinking outside of the box and learning new skills! As it turns out, we are not a club to sit back and do nothing when there's nothing doing.

Regular outreach with the library? *Let's present a webinar!*

Plant sale? *Let's create a zero-contact sale with an email ordering format!*

Flower show? *The show must go on...line!*

When the East Gwillimbury Library approached us about doing a webinar, we were quick to say yes. We decided we would do our presentation on vegetable-growing for beginners. The Library tech people looked after the complicated computer stuff while H  l  ne Robert, one of our experienced vegetable growers, put together a great power point presentation. After a trial run, we were all set to go. The library did the advertising and we had a lot of interest! And on May 7th we held our first webinar to an audience of approximately 43 people! After positive feedback, we are going to do another one on June 16th at 7 p.m. about native plants and bees and butterflies. You can view the webinar on our YouTube channel @ eastgwillimburygardeners.

Now for the plant sale: we figured that people would really want plants this year as gardening has become the latest big thing due to the pandemic (silver lining?). While one of the goals of the plant sale is fundraising, our ultimate goal is to supply people with plants and to encourage gardening. So we had to find a way to bring the plants to the people! We knew there would be no way to ensure safety having a traditional sale. So, online it was! Charmaine Hunter catalogued all the plants people had to donate and organized them into an order list. Ellen Power then offered to look after all the orders. The list was sent out first to members, then to the general public a week later via Facebook. Here is how it works: people email in their requests from the plant list. Ellen sends out an invoice and lets the sellers of the plants know that they have an order. The sellers then get in contact with the buyers and arrange a curbside pick-up. Pots are wiped down and placed in a quarantine area to ensure safety. Buyers pay via e-transfer or mail-in cheque. We have had such a positive response! People just love

that we found a way to continue our sale as they have always enjoyed it in the past. And some people love it so much they would like us to do it this way every year.

With the onset of good weather, we are, of course, missing our flower shows and being able to see what beautiful things are blooming in everyone's garden. So Stephanie Stearn suggested an online May flower show! To keep it simple, there are just two broad categories to our **"2020 at home flower show"**:

1. Blooms or foliage in your garden
2. A spring design.

Members can send in up to 4 photos. All the entries will be arranged into a slide show presentation by H  l  ne Robert and uploaded to YouTube. The link will be emailed to the membership and posted to our Facebook page. Photos will be voted on by our board and the winner will be featured on our website, Facebook and Instagram page.

If this lockdown drags on, I am sure we will continue to find other new and innovative ways to reach our membership and the community.

Oh, did I mention we won the District 5 trophy for greatest percentage increase in our membership? We are awfully excited and proud of this! Way to go team!





Hello from OHA Past President



*Rose Odell, Past President,
Ontario Horticultural Association*

First, I just want to say I hope and pray that everyone has been able to stay safe and away from any of this virus COVID-19. It has changed our world, but it has also forced us to be more inventive how we lead our daily lives. I now know about 40 ways to have a meeting online or over my phone and how to have a video chat with my loved ones that I cannot meet up with, through Messenger on Facebook. We are more flexible than we thought we could ever be.

I have also been able to share many tips on gardening, houseplants, preserving and cooking with so many people that are connected with my Facebook page and I thank all of you for being in my life and sharing so much knowledge back to me.

I am sure it is hard for many of us to just stay at home when we know we would love to be out in our Community Gardens. However, we would rather see them not be maintained for a while rather than lose the people that are doing the maintenance. This also gives you time to work on your own space for a change, which many of us tend to ignore, to do all the other chores we usually do.

The Officers are still meeting monthly and there are far more emails and phone conversations than ever, working towards solutions to help our members. We are a strong team, all of us in Ontario, and plan to keep

it that way. It may just slow us down for a while. We had to cancel our March Board meeting which became a Webex and was rescheduled to May, which will also be a Webex. And sadly, we had to cancel the convention this year. We will be back like many other things, once this is over and be even more inventive because our world will never be the same again as it was. We will all hold our current positions on the board until the time allows us to hold an AGM. Stay tuned.

And the businesses we usually deal with have also been highly creative with restructuring their websites and many now have curbside pickup. I hope your Societies have found a way to channel the plants you would be selling at your plant sales with a similar idea.

I wish you happy planting and beautiful gardens to enjoy in your own space and hope to see you all when this is finally over.

In the meantime, since I take care of the Supplies for the OHA, I am still here and mailing orders out especially with our newest additions for you: Carebags – produce bags and Beeswax Wraps in Patterns or with the GardenOntario logo. There is information about this also in this issue.

Many warm regards,

Rose Odell



Shown is a photo of a fish I made many years ago out of a plastic bottle – Are you inventive??

Would love to see some of your creations shared on the GardenOntario Facebook page or send to me to share for you. pastpresoha@gmail.com



I am sharing 2 fundraising items with you that the OHA is very excited about!!

The OHA was able to bulk purchase these items to offer you a great price on these environmentally conscious items. These items would also make great gifts or thank you items for speakers or guests at your meetings.

Please share this information with all of your members and have them order, using the order form supplied, and send directly through OHA Supplies at the address provided or to: supplies@gardenontario.org

**Postage will be added when the order is sent – see note on order form*

CAREBAGS

- For your produce at the stores to help reduce plastic usage
- 4 carebags to a package
- Measures 8" x 10"
- Washable
- 92% Polyester/8% Spandex
- Made in Vancouver, Canada
- **\$20.00, tax included**



BEESWAX FOOD WRAPS

- To use at home in place of plastic wrap.
- Can be used to cover bowls, wrap sandwiches, cheese, fruit, cut vegetables and more
- Wipe with damp cloth or wash with warm soap and water and let dry
- 3 sizes per package (13" x 13", 10" x 10", 7" x 7")
- 2 types to choose from:
 - 1 package includes patterned sheets (choice not available, but similar to the photo)
 - 1 package includes sheets with the GardenOntario logo on them
- Made in Vancouver, Canada
- **\$25.00 (tax included)/package of 3 with patterned sheets**
- **\$27.00 (tax included)/package of 3 with GardenOntario logo**





ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION Carebags & Beeswax Food Wraps Order Form

Rose Odell
OHA Supplies Coordinator
302-9 Lodge St.
Waterloo, ON N2J 4S8
Phone: 613-955-1662

Please print or scan this page and send to Rose Odell, OHA Supplies Coordinator, either via supplies@gardenontario.org or at the address noted above via Canada Post.

Name: _____ District: _____
Society: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Postal Code: _____
Phone No.: _____
Email: _____

Carebags: Qty _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Beeswax Patterned Food Wraps: Qty _____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____

Beeswax GardenOntario Food Wraps: Qty _____ x \$27.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL OF ORDER: \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ **Cheque payable to Ontario Horticultural Association**

Or by ☐ **PayPal - PayPal Reference Number:** _____

Or by ☐ **e-transfer to treasurer4oha@gmail.com – no security question is required**

***NOTE: An invoice will be emailed to you and included with your order adding the postage. Do not send payment until you have a copy of your invoice showing the postage added. Thank you.**

Essex and District Horticultural Society

Seedy Saturday

Submitted by Joe Dicker & Pat Jackson, Photos by Joe Dicker

The day was a steady stream of gardeners and soon-to-be gardeners as they came to the Seedy Saturday hosted by the Essex and District Horticultural Society on March 14th. That morning, we heard recommendations had been made that events of more than 250 participants be postponed.

We had no idea how many people would show up but, in the past, there were 150 attendees. Through discussions, we decided to go ahead with the planned event as we would be in a gymnasium and another large area with a large hallway in between.

The well-planned event was attended by a steady stream of people with about 200 in total.

Another area had Master Gardeners Susan Kelsh and Sandy Ellenor sharing their expertise with those who had an endless array of gardening questions. Juliette St. Pierre from the Essex County Orchid Society showed off some beautiful orchids and offered advice.

Leo Silvestri, a local monarch butterfly enthusiast, offered milkweed seeds and tips for growing milkweed and raising monarchs. He had a simple but effective set-up to show folks how easy it is to help the population of monarchs.

Gardening books and magazines were available for the taking with donations accepted.

Proceeds from admission and donations amounted to \$420 and given to the local food bank.

Within a few weeks we were in virtual lockdown and seed companies were overwhelmed with orders as people re-discovered how important it is to grow our own food. Hopefully, participants will have successful gardens with help from local Horticultural Societies.



The \$2.00 admission fee gave attendees tickets to win one of many door prizes donated by vendors as well as local garden centres.

There were vendors selling their garden related items, cards from home pressed flowers, garden art, honey and beeswax items, home-made herbs and soaps, door wreaths and information and items from "Our Farms Organics".



The big event of course were the seeds. There were seeds for wild flowers, vegetables, perennials and annuals. Seeds were gathered and donated by members, attendees and garden centres.



Dunnville Horticultural Society

Do Seeds Have a Sense of Direction?

Article and Photo by Lester C. Fretz

Previously Printed in "Haldimand Press"



*This gardening article doesn't have to be very long
for you to "get the point".*

If, and when the weather turns warm and you can begin to seed your garden, a simple technique which will speed up germination and contribute to healthier plants is to plant seeds such as watermelon, cucumbers, zucchini or lima beans with the "point" of the seed downward. This end of the seed is called the radicle, the embryonic root of the plant. The dark spot on Fava beans is the radicle.

If this sounds too laborious or if you use a mechanical seeding device, regardless of the direction the radicle points, seeds have the ability to germinate as they contain a growth hormone that responds to gravity causing the root to grow downward and the stem upward.

If you enjoy research, you might wish to experiment by planting some seeds with the point downward and others upward.

Anticipating some early gardening, my zucchini and cucumber seeds have germinated in two days. Of course this was indoors with bottom heat and radicle end planted downwards.

The photo shows the radicle end of a zucchini seed pointing left. Two years ago, the first zucchini of this variety (Raven) was picked on June 28 and the last one on October 10. It is an extremely productive variety.

Trenton Horticultural Society

Judy Muldoon, President

We were looking so forward to the year 2020 as the Trenton Horticultural Society and Garden Club would celebrate their 40th anniversary. We were able to hold our February meeting as planned and then everything fell apart due to the pandemic. I know most of our societies were devastated at the news and we refused to give in until we had to. We cancelled our March, April, May, June meetings and flower show in July but we were bound and determined to hold our annual plant sale in May.

We are lucky enough to have the support of the Dairy Queen in Trenton and use of its parking lot to conduct the sale from 7:30 am. This year it was held on Saturday, May 23rd with a twist. We had approval from the city to conduct the sale as long as we practised social distancing and we decided to hold a drive-through event.

Everyone remained in their cars and were given a sheet of the plants we had for sale when they drove in. Each car was taken care of by at least 2 volunteers who also made suggestions for their garden based on garden location. When they were done shopping, all the plants were loaded in their car and off they drove to the cashier. We had a great turnout of our members and new gardeners. We also renewed memberships. We decided to only accept credit cards or cheques and that worked extremely well.

Thanks to the many donations of plants by our members, we surpassed our sales goal again this year. It was a fun event and gave us the perfect opportunity to see one another. We even held a brief executive meeting during a short lull.

Since we received our charter in September 1980, we have decided that our 40th anniversary will run from September 2020 to August 2021 and we are determined to have an outstanding anniversary year.



Gloucester Horticultural Society

Submitted by Angela Davis

When our board meeting was scheduled for April 6, 2020, our regular GHS meeting with a speaker had just been cancelled. COVID-19 spreading caused isolation and the community centres were closed. The President and Vice-President, Communications, sent out the agenda stating the issues. All 14 agreed to follow the precautions requested and not meet. Using email and phone conversations, we would then record our decisions after discussing the items.

Our board was willing to try being creative. Something tried was better than saying we could not meet. Many felt good could come if we tried, focusing on initiatives encouraging sustainability, native plants and food security.

Here are our discussions points:

1. **Membership:** Contacted for up-dates, first those who have not paid. There was a concern to keep the connection to GHS for those who had not responded.
2. **Bursary:** There will not be an opportunity for the school or GHS to award it in person this year. We would proceed with the process already started.
3. **Plant sale:** We have plants and people will need them. We cannot advertise and allow congregating due to risk:
 - Two members could organize some sort of plant exchange/sale using email.
 - Perhaps offer remaining plants in our front yard for neighbours passing by.
 - A plant sale may be available in September to supplement this May sale.
 - A member offered to complete the forms for a government assistance grant for non-profits if required.
 - Delivering is a risk. As a Horticultural Society, our mandate is to promote gardening. At this time of isolation, we must focus on essential gardening.
4. **Report on community gardening:** we would not consider this as schools are closed.
5. **Interest in food sustainability** like "Victory Gardens" as in WWII England: we could encourage food planting".

What happened then:

These plans worked very well:

1. **Connecting with members:**
 - Communications sent emails, posting photos and videos from members or gardens of interest, is keeping us interested and connected.
 - The secretary organized a contact schedule for one trial month to connect members wanting to be contacted by phone.

2. **Bursary:** Three finalists were named. As it was a difficult year for students finishing high school, a bursary would be awarded to all three. We had not used our speaker fees as our meetings were cancelled and we had the money. It was a close vote for and against awarding all three or just one.
3. **The Virtual Plant Sale:** Lists of plants for sale were matched with members' names and contact information. Members contacted sellers and made arrangement for curbside pick-up. Payment was usually using e-transfers to the Treasurer.
4. The project to distribute seeds for growing food was named "**Come Grow With Us**": we used the usual email system of contacting board members for discussion and then final vote.
 - Approval for trying this project and spending the \$50 in budget for the youth workshop at the plant sale which did not happen. We had also received a donation for \$100 and donor wanted it to be used to overcome issues of Covid-19. 100% in agreement.
 - 200 bags were prepared for families with children as a learning and entertaining distraction. The bags contained vegetable seeds from members and purchased seeds in small individual packages of 3 to 5 seeds. They had instructions and contact support if needed.
 - Distribution was to the Gloucester community where we have support. One area in Orleans had a member willing to distribute bags, work with the community association and support people if they had questions. Other members worked in their area communities.
 - Precautions: Since there is no sale, the contact can distance and walk by and pick up a bag.
 - Publicity and support: Our Facebook co-ordinator is available to us to advertise and support. Member involvement in their community gardens was encouraged.

We produced three initiatives that worked well and awarded three bursaries. The President and Vice-President want to thank our new board only installed for January with being supportive and making our membership work well together. Yes, there were a lot of interesting ideas and hard work and a willingness to try something new, was amazingly successful. We thought we would just try, yet the membership helped and we are very proud of what was accomplished. I can't believe, in less than two weeks, two hundred bags of seeds were given to families to start a new food garden. COVID-19 started something special here.

This is Not the First Time

Malcolm Geast, OHA Historian

As we are all well aware, the OHA convention has been cancelled for this year. But this is not the first time that convention planning has been dealt a blow by a society-wide upheaval. A few months ago, had you been asked to name that upheaval, the first to pop into your mind would likely have been one of the two world wars or the Great Depression. But now, with COVID-19 a part of our everyday lives, another historical episode comes to mind: the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic.

In 1918 and 1919, approximately 50,000 Canadians died from an influenza strain that came to be known as Spanish flu. Despite the name, the origin of the virus is still uncertain. Evidence exists to suggest that any one of China, Europe, or Kansas could be where it got its start. The connection to Spain comes because the first accounts of it came from Spanish newspapers in May, 1918. Spain, a non-combatant in the Great War and one of the few European countries without press censorship, was the first to report the flu's existence.

In Canada, the virus was likely delivered by soldiers returning from Europe. An initial appearance in the summer of 1918 was not particularly lethal, and was confined to sailors on a military transport docked at Halifax. It was the "second wave" in the fall of 1918, that was responsible for the overwhelming majority of deaths. The first case of the Spanish flu came in September. But by early October, multiple cases were reported across the country, and deaths began to mount up. At that time, there was no central medical authority for the province to provide advice or guidance. But by the middle of the month, numerous towns and cities across Ontario were taking it upon themselves to institute prohibitions on meetings and other public events, and closing "theatres, movies, dance halls, poolrooms, billiard halls, and schools". Along with these disruptions to daily life, newspapers from that time regularly include accounts of hundreds of people hospitalised, and numerous deaths.

In an article in the Toronto Daily Star on October 18, one of the city's "prominent physicians" stated that the flu would run "full steam ahead for two or three weeks" and would be "practically stamped out within a month or six weeks." Although a little on the optimistic side, the forecast was remarkably close. "Influenza is on the wane" read a headline on October 30, as a few communities began to remove bans on public

meetings. But in several areas, deaths continued to be reported well into November. Hamilton reimposed its bans as December began, and six more deaths were reported in Owen Sound near the end of the month. There was another minor wave in 1919, but for the most part, the disease had run its course by the time 1918 had come to a close.

During the OHA's early years, conventions were held in Toronto – transportation and accommodation facilities generally made it the most convenient for all attendees. And up until 1918, it had always been a November meeting. But in mid-October of that year, with the influenza "raging" across the province, a decision was made to postpone it, with the result that there was no convention in 1918. Unfortunately, there is no documentation available to show how long the OHA waited until making a decision regarding a new date for the meeting. But it certainly wasn't a long wait. Less than three months later, at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 1919, the 13th convention of the OHA was opened at the Canadian Foresters' Hall, on College Street, in Toronto. This was the third of four times that the location had hosted the convention. Despite the short notice of the change, the attendance was reported as "several hundred".

Little mention was made of the influenza's effect on the OHA. Only J. Lockie Wilson, the long-serving representative of the Department of Agriculture, discussed it as he made these comments in his opening address:

"For the first time since the organization of this Association, the Annual Convention was not held in November, as usual. Public meetings during that month were under the ban by the health officials owing to the prevalence of influenza and pneumonia, and, in consequence, arrangements were made to hold the Convention in February.

Many of the Societies, also, found it impossible to hold their annual meetings during the time prescribed for this purpose by the Horticultural Societies Act, and in all such cases they received permission from the Department to advertise their meetings for a later date."

When looking at the work of the societies, there was very little lasting effect. The Spanish flu came along when the growing season was over, and societies' annual activities were slowing down. For the most part, the biggest disruption was the postponement of many of the annual meetings of many (but not all) societies.

One very noticeable negative result of the disease could have been the loss of some societies. But there were, in fact, very few that shut down. A society that had been formed in Dryden in 1914 and the Cardinal Horticultural Society, one of the original members of the OHA, both had their last year of operation in 1918. As well, the society in Ford City (now a part of the City of Windsor) that had been born in 1916 disappeared in 1919. But just a few years later, another society was formed in the same community. Whether these losses can be fully attributed to the Spanish flu is not certain. The Kingston Horticultural Society also brought its activities to a halt, but in this case, it was a brief and temporary shutdown that began in 1917 and which was attributed to factors related to the Great War.

Influenza also failed to slow the growth in the number of societies in Ontario. Ten new societies were formed in 1919: Bothwell, Chesterville, Fenelon Falls, Iroquois, New Hamburg, New Toronto, Prescott, Russell, Burlington, and Arthur. Notably, the new Iroquois organization was located a mere 10 km from the Cardinal society that had shut down after 1918.

That is not to say that the flu played no part in the efforts towards organizing new societies. On September 20, 1918, an article on the front page of the Fenelon Falls Gazette announced the formation of a new horticultural society. But because of the illness that swept through the town, the organising meeting was delayed for two months until January 10, pushing the society's official founding to 1919.

What we've seen is that while 1918 was similar in many ways to 2020, it was also quite distinct. Compared to the Spanish flu, the disease that we're dealing with now appears to be more contagious, has a higher fatality rate, is more lethal for a different age group, and has a longer incubation period with no symptoms.

But perhaps the biggest difference that we're seeing is that the current threat has endurance. The Spanish flu made its first appearance in Ontario in September 1918, but was mostly gone by December. By comparison, COVID-19 has already been with us for over four months, and there is no quick end in sight.

It's often said that timing is everything, and that's certainly the case here. With the Spanish flu's arrival in the last few months of 1918, the main activity period of the horticultural societies was spared. But in 2020, the season was just about to start when COVID-19 made its presence felt. Garden shows, plant sales, spring planting, flower shows, and monthly meetings have not just been put on hold, but have been cancelled altogether.

The combination of an unfortunate timing of this disease, along with its staying power, has presented us with a challenge that is far beyond what we expected when it all began a few months ago.

If you're interested in knowing more about the 1918 pandemic, this is a good place to start:

The Last Plague – Spanish Influenza and the Politics of Public Health in Canada,

Mark Osborne Humphries

University of Toronto Press, 2013

ISBN 978-1-4426-1044-6

utorontopress.com/ca/the-last-plague-4

From the Bracebridge Gazette, November 21, 1918

Taken from a column called "FLUISMS"

Have you noticed just how many "positive cures" and "preventatives" there are on the market?

Although it has been one of the unwritten laws that there should be no kissing during the presence of the scourge, we have just learned on going to press, that a number of the young people have been flagrantly violating this rule.

Ripley and District Horticultural Society

Life on the Sunny Side

Tryntje Eisen, Ripley and District Horticultural Society's "For Our Youth" Club Leader



Peyton showing her 2019 harvest of bird-house gourds, cured and dried by winter.



A post COVID-19 project will be to decorate the birdhouse gourds the club grew as their 2019 growing challenge.

Are we not tremendously blessed to have green space around us during the many weeks of lockdown, due to the COVID-19 pandemic? We can see nature coming to life all around us. While many things are different, the timing of crocuses, daffodils and tulips are the same. Isn't it marvellous? This lockdown is an opportunity to notice the wonders of nature. There is plenty of time for our youth to get up close and personal with plants and critters in their yard.

When Ripley and District Horticultural Society's "For Our Youth" club meetings had to be cancelled, FOY leaders immediately saw an opportunity for the youth to take advantage of this time of isolation and focus their attention on the mysteries of plant life.

At the February meeting "mystery bulbs" from leader Tryntje Eisen's garden had been handed out. Normally these would have to go through a cold period so there is only a slim chance they will bloom, but some green was showing and the challenge is to determine by the foliage what kind the bulb is.

Leader Linda Jaynes (Grandma J.) has put together "2020 mystery seed challenge kits" for all members. WOW! Only she knows what they are! Who will be the first to discover what plants these tiny seeds will grow into? Club members are encouraged to send pictures of this project to Grandma J. and claim their reward by filling out the form she enclosed. She has graciously given some clues as well.

Leader Heather Newman obtained seeds to grow "giants" from organizers of the Port Elgin Pumpkin Fest (slated for Oct. 3 and 4). Some club members are going to try and grow mangel wurzel (giant beets), to be entered into the competition. In 2019, the largest beet root weighed in at 21.52 lbs. No pressure!

As always, the main objective of our club is to have fun while trying. Sometimes, despite all our best efforts, we have crop failure.

Sometimes plants turn out wonderfully well. The main thing is to live on the sunny side and enjoy the process of discovery.



Small beginnings: seeds of gourds (left), 2020 mystery seeds and mangel wurzel seeds.

Tryntje Eisen
Youth leader
Ripley and District
Horticultural Society's
"For Our Youth" club.



Sisters Ava (left), Gabby and Lauren showing their mystery bulbs.



Susie enjoying life on the sunny side with her mystery bulb she identified as a tulip.



Josie showing both her mystery bulbs (left) and mystery seeds.



OHA YOUTH UPDATES

Catherine McGill

I will say "Spring has Sprung" in spite of the snow that keeps reoccurring! The world is a different place for Youth groups/clubs this year. I have heard from a few and they are forging ahead. One group has reported over 30 kids signed up so far; they are doing a lot virtually, also hands-on, but at home with parent help. The youth have been given seed and are working on getting them sprouted. Soon, they will get planted in home gardens and be reported on. One bonus is that our youth have computer skills and have computers or smart phones to be able and willing to do photo contests and send in for judging and are so ready for a walk to find items for scavenger hunts.

- The OHA has been working on a few items to keep kids busy, we have colouring pages available: Youth of all ages printable colouring pages: Native Birds, Plants, Bees, Trees
<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/gardenontario-weplant-colouring-pages.pdf>
- The new youth policies for leaders have been posted. One of the changes is a recommendation to have yearly police checks. This can be costly, so help is on the way, check out our new police check reimbursement.
<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Police-Check-Process-and-Reimbursement-Form.pdf>
- We listened to you and heard that our old help grants were too restrictive so it was rewritten and now any OHA youth group/club or society/club can apply. It is first come so get your application in!
The grants will now be available for all OHA Societies/Clubs that work with youth, not just youth groups as it was in the past, check it out! <https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-youth-help-grant.pdf>

The Youth newsletter has been going to all youth group contacts and are archived on the gardenontario site, check them out. I hope you find some inspiration in them.

Sadly, Convention 2020 was cancelled, but good news; it will be held in London next year again! The same youth schedule will be used so get working on entries for those classes! The competition schedule can be found as a reference for you under Youth on the OHA gardenontario site. If you can plan for next year, this venue has a great kid-friendly pool and activities built in! We are still going to have a Question & Answer workshop, How to make Milkweed bomb workshop and other youth leader geared sessions. Can't wait to see and meet you there!

Catherine McGill
youth@gardenontario.org

Pakenham Horticultural Society

Lori Ray

Pakenham kicked off our 95th Year as a Hort Society with our Feb. 2020 meeting. Then COVID-19 hit Canada and all events were cancelled. Our March meeting was cancelled, our April meeting cancelled but the speaker added audio to her presentation and saved it to Youtube so our members could listen to it virtually. Then the first week of May, our Board of Directors met to discuss May events. The annual plant sale scheduled for the May long weekend was postponed to September and we decided to cancel the May meeting, but to host our Spring Flower Show virtually instead.

We could not be more pleased with the results. Over 160 entries, submitted via email then resized and saved by Class on Google Photos to share with the members. Pakenham Hort is well known in the Ottawa Valley for its Flower Shows. We simply could not let the virus interrupt the flower show traditions happening here for decades. So a little bit of technology to the rescue. While it is not the same as prepping the flowers for a proper show, and having the hall smell glorious with fresh flowers, the virtual show comes in at a close second. We threw away most of the flower show rules, we allowed members to use their phones to snap pics of the specimens in the garden and we had overwhelming support for this fun flower show event. We even had three floral designers enter the design classes.

To view the whole virtual spring flower show follow this link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/LbQxa2mG8Gj6ieVN7>

We hope you enjoy the virtual show as much as our members who participated in this fun event during an unprecedented time in recent history.



The daffodil collection – Judy McGrath



The hyacinth – Kara Lafreniere



"The Queen's Birthday - a centrepiece with a candle" – Toby Barratt

Pakenham Horticultural Society Fundraiser

Lori Ray

On Monday Feb. 10, 2020, the National 4H Leadership Awards Banquet was held at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Pakenham Hort was commissioned to prepare the floral centrepieces for the banquet, all thirty-eight of them. Read how we managed this mini project.

On January 23, we were contacted to see if we were interested in making the centrepieces for this gala event. Sherryl Smith quickly organized the floral designers and within one week, the team had developed two potential designs. The final selection was made by 4H Canada and incorporated an oxalis potted plant surrounded by a natural grapevine wreath covered in asparagus fern, pine, cedar and four white flower clusters. With less than ten days before the event, the designers were challenged to go outdoors, harvest frozen grapevines, thaw and assemble them into 38 base pieces. Sherryl ordered the oxalis plants from Acanthus in Almonte and organized the white flowers from Mitchell's Independent Grocers in Carleton Place.

Judy McGrath, Lani Holland, Toby Barratt, Sandy Black, Janice Connolly, Lori Ray and Sherryl Smith met the day before the banquet and assembled the wreaths. As the morning progressed, so did the arrangements... thirty-eight bases were completed. Sherryl served the team a delicious lunch for all our hard work. What a treat to work with fresh plant material when it was minus 25° outside that morning. Monday afternoon arrived – Sherryl and her husband Bob transported 38 wreath bases to the NAC – no easy task, but with careful planning they were up to the challenge. Luckily the oxalis were in boxes!! Lani Holland arrived at the NAC to assist Sherryl and take some pictures.

And that is how a small dedicated team of volunteers came together to make a bit of money for their club, but mostly to have a great deal of FUN.

Many thanks to 4H Canada for the wonderful opportunity.



Lani Holland and Judy McGrath preparing wreaths



Omamee and District Horticultural Society

Kelly Hiscock, Co-President

Photos by Kelly Hiscock



February 22, we kicked off our New Gardening Year with a "Roaring 20's-themed" potluck luncheon. Members made headpieces and dressed up to show their spirit. We travelled back in time as we were given the opportunity to name and guess what old "tools" were on our 'Name that Tool' table. We were very fortunate to have Joe Cook as our guest speaker that afternoon as he shared ideas on how to maintain our garden tools.

While things are different, we are trying hard to keep the spirits up of our members. One of our members, Joan Harding, celebrated a special birthday in April and we had 12 cars do a little birthday parade for her.

We recently connected with one of our monthly speakers, Sue Shaw, and she is doing a series of videos for our Facebook page on vermi-composting. It's a great way to connect with members while providing some valuable information.

Our annual plant sale has gone virtual and we are thrilled to be able to offer our members and community hardy plants for their gardens.

Things are different and we are learning to connect in various ways and navigate technology. Our Executive and Board Members continue to meet monthly using Zoom or Google Meets. For now, we will slow down and enjoy the scenery around us and remember that 'This too shall pass'.

What are We Going to Do Now?

Gary Westlake

Norwood and Omemee Horticultural Societies

In the before time, we took in the scents and potted delights from garden centres. We planned how to beautify our town and learned about gardening from speakers at our meetings. Some of us travelled to our annual convention. There we shared meals, business and small talk with old friends from across Ontario. We showed off our plants and arrangements and we went on garden tours. Now much of that is gone for the foreseeable future, but I would not wait for a magical return to life as it was. It may never come back and members may move on to other things. I am too old to spend the next year or two waiting for life to reset and it is time to think about how we might resurrect our gardening lives in a way compatible with social distancing. I offer a few suggestions.

There is no problem in working on our own gardens but the sharing our gardens with others on tours is difficult. Let's ditch the bus, which was getting too expensive anyway, we can form a convoy of cars. We can make it into a mystery tour where the next garden is revealed only after finishing the current one. It should even be possible for us to create virtual garden tours by making videos. Although it is not the same as the real thing, one advantage is that the garden can be shown at various times of the year rather than just one snapshot.

As long as we social distance, we should be able to continue to beautify our towns and villages, as many of our societies do now. The challenge is to find new ways to recruit our volunteers. We may even find safe ways to hold plant sales. If we do not figure out how we will dispense with our excess plants, we will soon be neck deep in hostas and daylilies.

As one who gives the occasional talk, I know that virtual talks are not the same as the real thing because



Gary Westlake
(Yes this is my real hair colour.)

not only do the listeners get more from an in-person presentation, but also the speaker gets energy from the audience. Even with these limitations, it is possible to create a video recording of a talk using products like Zoom. Speakers, you can just imagine the applause even if you cannot hear it.

While competitions can best be done in person, conceivably they could be accomplished through photos. The photography competition is the most amenable to this, but it might also be possible to create a set of rules that would allow even floral competitions to continue through photographs.

Business meetings are perhaps the most difficult to accomplish but it is not impossible. Many of us are beginning to experience getting together with family and others on Zoom, Hangouts and similar products.

So now that we have had enough of sulking in the slugmaster watching television, it is time to get up and figure out how to keep in touch with our members and offer fun things they will want to do.

My passion for gardening may strike some as selfish, or merely an act of resignation in the face of overwhelming problems that beset the world. It is neither. I have found that each garden is just what Voltaire proposed in Candide: a microcosm of a just and beautiful society.

– ANDREW WEIL

Virtual Plant Sale

Haldimand Horticultural Society

Elsie Eubank, Publicity Chair

Photos by Sharon Slack



COVID-19 can't stop gardeners from doing what they love to do. So Haldimand Horticultural Society is finding ways to involve our members, do a little fundraising and help gardeners get their plant fix at the same time.

In an effort to keep members involved and active, HHS held a virtual plant sale May 16, 2020. Plants were dropped off at the location, priced and labeled, all while adhering to social distancing rules. A plant list was made and circulated to members and posted online on Facebook. The list was updated as plants sold. The response was terrific, above our expectations. So we decided to have another one with pick-up date May 30, 2020.

For details of how, when and where to donate plants or pick up plants after sale, contact Michael Richards 905-745-4579 or mgr9407@gmail.com

We are also running a promotional contest online for a chance to win a prize; check us out on Haldimand Horticultural Facebook page.

Helpers are Nancy Spellen, Catherine McGuill, Michael Richards, and in front of the wagon, Elena Lazar.



Helpers are Rose Marie Mueller, Michael Richards, Catherine McGuill and Elena Lazar.



Rose Marie Mueller

OHA Trillium - Summer 2020

Stopping The Invaders

Haldimand Horticultural Society

Elsie Eubank, Publicity Chair

Photos by Sharon Slack



Bee on white cone flower



Monarch caterpillar on butterfly milkweed



Pink cone flower

HHS working to keep invasive plant species out

Haldimand Horticultural Society would like to see all invasive plants and trees like purple loosestrife, phragmites, ivy, gout weed, honeysuckle & periwinkle, just to name a few, eradicated and removed from our landscape. A complete list of invasive and non-native plants can be obtained from www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca

Invasive Phragmites (*phragmites australis*) in particular is the worst invasive plant in North America. Phragmites is a perennial grass that is damaging Ontario's ecosystems. It is an aggressive plant that spreads quickly and out-competes native species. It crowds out native plants, does not provide habitat or food for wildlife including some species at risk, it grows quickly and virtually creates a dead zone for anything native.

This highly invasive plant can only be controlled and eliminated by using the OMNR – approved "Best Management Practices". Spraying works but must be followed up by rolling or cutting and burning. Once it is established it is extremely difficult to remove.

HHS has taken a pro-active stance to this invasive plant. We have sent letters and made appeals to our local council, local MPP and MP asking for help to preserve and protect our landscape and biodiversity.

Some invasive plants are a danger to human health and safety such as giant hogweed and wild parsnip because their sap is toxic to the skin. Invasive plants drown out our natural forests, prairies and wetlands. They have adverse impacts on recreation and aesthetics, interfere with agriculture and reduce forest regeneration and productivity.

Alternative

Go all-natural native plants that support our wildlife with food and shelter. Trees, shrubs and flowers that occur naturally in our surroundings are better adapted to local climate and soil conditions and more resistant to local diseases and pests. Native plants have co-evolved with pollinators and wildlife in general so if you want to attract birds, butterflies or other wildlife, native plants are the way to go. Hummingbirds, as well as bees and butterflies, love the Bee Balm plant. Joe Pye Weed is usually known as a butterfly plant but many different types of bees love this plant and it has a nice sweet smell. Honeybees and bumblebees are voracious visitors to Purple Prairie Clover.

Returning birds depend on the native trees and plants that host our native insects and pollinators to feed themselves and their chicks. Because of the non-native trees and invasive plant species, our native birds are disappearing along with our pollinators. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, birds and bats who all play a role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. They pollinate our crops and plants which increases crop yield and biodiversity in the natural environment.

Information and a list of native plants and trees that support our pollinators and other wildlife can be found at www.pollinatorguelph.ca or www.canadianwildlifefederation.ca

HHS has been pro-active here as well. We have planted 5 trees native to the Carolinian Forest of Ontario at the fairgrounds in Caledonia. These trees: 2 Bur Oak, 1 Eastern Red Bud, 1 Tulip Tree and 1 Dogwood will provide educational information by identifying trees that are native to Haldimand, increase the wildlife habitat for species at risk, biodiversity, improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and carbon dioxide and aid in the conservation and soil erosion along the Grand River.

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Mary-Jane Pilgrim

Shawn LaPalm: The Co-operators Insurance Agency

"Making a difference 100 trees at a time" Campaign



Tamarack 'Larissa laricina'



Northern Hackberry



*American Mountain Ash
'Sorbus Americana'*

Shawn LaPalm of The Co-operators Insurance in Peterborough approached the Peterborough Horticultural Society in February 2020 with the idea of donating 100 trees to the community. He is the agent for the OHA for all of Ontario as well as living in our city. Our board of directors got to work and combined his request with the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority's tree seedling program which allows anyone to purchase tree seedlings inexpensively in lots of 25. A project was born!

Before the ordering deadline in March, we selected and ordered 25 each of American Mountain Ash, Hackberry, Saskatoon Service Berry and Tamarack. These choices were made based on their resilience in our climate, flexibility of growing conditions, various size choices and 3 of them have blossoms and berries that attract bees and birds. The trees ordered were "whips" – 3-4 years old and around 2 feet tall.

Shawn's only stipulation with respect to these trees is that the planting of them must involve youth. Due to isolation restrictions, the youth requirement was relaxed but still encouraged where possible. Tree recipients were also requested to take a photo when planting the trees, as Shawn will be putting together a picture collage for the project.

In early April, we opened up an online signup sheet for our members, allowing them to sign up for trees, with an initial minimum of 4 tree whips per member. All 100 trees were spoken for in short order.

On May 6th, we celebrated the arrival of 100 tree seedlings for our members and families, and on May 7th, contactless pickup occurred at the central home of two of our board members.

We'd like to thank Shawn LaPalm, insurance provider to the OHA, for his generous donation to our city and county's future!

Resources:

Otonabee Region Conservation Authority Tree Seedling Program

Shawn LaPalm: The Co-operators Insurance



*Saskatoon Serviceberry
'Amelanchier alnifolia'*

Insurance Queries?

Contact:

Shawn LaPalm

Non-Profit & Charity Insurance

The Co-operators

1-888-712-2667

shawn_lapalm@cooperators.ca

Additional information regarding the OHA insurance plan
can be found at:

<https://gardenontario.org/resources/#insurance>



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Ontario Horticultural Association Memorial Book

Donor's Name and Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Name of Deceased: _____ Year Deceased: _____

District No. (if applicable): _____

If you wish a family member to be notified, please complete the following:

Circle title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Other

Name and Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Relationship to Deceased Person: _____

Mail with your monetary donation (minimum donation is \$25 per name) to:

Ontario Horticultural Association

c/o Marilyn Cox

86 Church Street

R.R. #2, Keswick, ON L4P 3E9

For information, call 905-476-3000 or email: inmemoriam@gardenontario.org

Funds from donations to the OHA Memorial Book Special Fund are available for Memorial Tree Grants.

NOTE: Do you wish to have the deceased person's name acknowledged at the convention?

Circle your preference: Yes No

Convention Acknowledgment

If you wish to have the deceased person's name acknowledged at the convention, no monetary donation is required.

Please notify Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary, by email: secretary@gardenontario.org with the name and the District Number (if applicable).

Deadly Nightshade Vine

Solanum dulcamara L.

Article and Photos by Laura Masterson, Trillium Editor

One of the first plants that I could identify was the Deadly Nightshade Vine. When we were very young, my mother explained to my sisters and I that we were not to touch this plant because it was poisonous. She did put the fear into us because not one of us tried to get the other to touch it, as siblings might. On a farm, it would be easy to miss getting rid of this plant from the entire acreage.

Now on our farm, there is one place, on the north side of a large old shed, that this plant stubbornly grows. Repeated efforts to get rid of it work for a year or two – then it's back with a vengeance. In 2019, there must have been perfect conditions for its resurrection. The nightshade hid behind a wild grape vine until it had the audacity to show itself. Because it is toxic to horses and other livestock, we needed to, once again, eradicate it from existence.

The vine is a vigorous perennial that can climb very high if it has something to climb on. It can't hold itself up, so if there's nothing to climb on, rocks, the side of a building or fence, then it will cover the ground. I understand that it is related to our well-loved tomato plant and the pea-sized, egg-shaped berries certainly look like a miniature version of a grape tomato. The shape and size of the nightshade blossoms remind me of tomato blossoms except for the colour: they are purple with a yellow centre. Although tomato plants suffer growing near a walnut tree, it is not the case with nightshade – they are the best of friends.

It's important to recognize this toxic vine so that you can stay far away from it.



These photos were taken in early July until late September.