

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Spring 2022



Photo by Jan Dugdale, President and Public Relations Officer, LaSalle Horticultural Society



The Daffodil

Goodbye to winter.
Hello to spring, rebirth, sunshine and new beginnings.



Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Editor's Message



Partway through putting this issue together, I was told that the Trillium would now be printed in colour. And it wasn't even my birthday! This is great news to all of the subscribers who can now enjoy the wonderful photographs that all of you submit for the publication.

Yes, there is a slight increase in the price to cover the extra cost but it is well worth it. A few years ago, this wouldn't be possible but digital printing has come a long way. For those interested, the revised information for a subscription is on the next page. The digital issue is still free so if you're not signed up, be sure send your email address to the Trillium Distributor today.

Each Garden Club and Horticultural Society in Ontario is entitled and welcome to use the OHA resources. Reach out to the OHA officers and District Directors whenever you need advice or have a club/society question. If the person you have contacted doesn't know the answer, your query will be forwarded to someone who may be able to help. The invaluable knowledge and wisdom will be happily shared. Look for the "OHA Contact Information" page near the back of each issue.

Are you wondering why your Horticultural Society/Garden Club doesn't have an article in any recent issues of the Trillium? Why do some Societies and Clubs get more recognition? Simply – someone in the group has sent an article to me. The requirements are on this page and if you're not sure, I'll be pleased to check your submissions or answer any questions.

Once again, thanks for your wonderful stories and photographs that help keep everyone up-to-date with gardening news.

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 2022:

June 1 – Summer issue

Sept. 1 – Autumn issue

Dec. 1 – Winter issue

The deadline for the next issue of the Trillium is **June 1**, but 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. To avoid illegal copyright issues, please do not submit articles, artwork and photographs copied from the internet or elsewhere unless permission from the writer, artist or photographer has been given.

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

Printed Version: The full-colour printed version is mailed directly to you for only \$25.00 per year.

Online Version: The online version is free – just sign up and it will show up in your inbox 4 times a year.

To subscribe today, email a request to –

The Trillium Distributor, Lisa DeYoung:

ohatrillium@gmail.com

Available on the OHA website:

<https://gardenontario.org>

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New NOW IN COLOUR

Starting with the Spring 2022 edition, the hardcopy of the Trillium will be in colour. Subscriptions will now be \$25 to cover all fees.

You can also now pay the \$25 by E-Transfer to treasurer4oha@gmail.com but then you must also email ohatrillium@gmail.com and send your name and address and that the subscription has been paid by E-Transfer. We need your mailing address so you can get the Trillium sent to you.

You can still make your payment by cheque payable to:

The Ontario Horticultural Association and mail to:

The Trillium Distributor, Lisa DeYoung,
715 Chantler Road, Fenwick, ON, L0S 1C0



Trillium

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email: _____



OHA President's Report

Good Day to Everyone and Welcome to 2022

The year, unfortunately, started like Ground Hog Day with continuing or new restrictions and guidelines being enacted across the province. To say that we are all frustrated with the curtailing of the activities we were so used to doing is definitely a mild understatement. We will get through these issues as we all move forward. I would ask that whatever activities are contemplated, please consider that we all have different comfort levels with all that this pandemic has to offer. We have to look after ourselves and each other.

As a provincial organization, the OHA is really a coming together of like-minded organizations that have experienced great achievements and sometimes some difficult times. This has been especially so during the last two years. There have been numerous struggles with membership numbers and operating issues. Every year that a Society/Club operates and helps in its community is important, no matter how large or small their contribution may be seen. It is not contingent upon how long the Society/Club has been in existence or how large or small it may be or where it is located. Louise and I are members of a number of different Societies/Clubs with our, what I will call Home Society having been founded over 100 years ago and the others founded earlier or later than that. I do however think it is important that we all look around and congratulate each other for all our efforts over so many years. Every anniversary year is significant because it speaks to the dedication and willingness of the membership to ensure everything that can be accomplished is accomplished.

I would like to acknowledge some anniversaries which are coming in 2022:

- **50 years:** Seaforth & District Horticultural Society, Streetsville Horticultural Society, Collingwood Garden Club/Horticultural Society, Painswick Garden Club
- **75 years:** Deep River & Area Horticultural Society, Porcupine Horticultural Society
- **90 years:** Bracebridge Horticultural Society



Charles Freeman

- **100 years:** Bobcaygeon & District Horticultural Society, Guelph Township Horticultural Society, Teeswater Culross Horticultural Society, Thessalon Horticultural Society, Beaverton Horticultural Society
- **125 years:** Stirling & District Horticultural Society, Midland Horticultural Society (Midland Garden Club)
- **150 years and over:** Kitchener Horticultural Society (gardenKitchener) 150 years, Lindsay Horticultural Society 155 years, Fergus & District Horticultural Society 165 years, St. Catharines Horticultural Society 165 years, London Horticultural Society 170 years, Brantford Garden Club 170 years

... and there are another 251 anniversaries out there so *"Congratulations to all Societies/Clubs as you celebrate your anniversary and for all you have done and continue to do!"*

OMAFRA update: By now, each Society/Club should have been contacted by OMAFRA in respect to a new funding initiative which was announced February 4th.

This one thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) amount is similar in nature to the one thousand one hundred and forty dollar (\$1,140.00) amount that was received in 2021 in that this funding is extra and not part of the annual Grant each Society/Club receives from OMAFRA. The attestation form was simple to fill in and I hope that all Societies/Clubs took advantage of this opportunity. A windfall of supportive funding is always a good thing.

Also, the next OMAFRA Annual Report is coming. By the time you read this, it may be here, but time will tell that tale. In any event, please complete the Annual Report when you can, remembering the October 31st cut-off date for submissions.

ONCA Update: The OHA has sought a legal opinion and guidance from Carters Professional Corporation, a law firm which specializes in legal dealings affecting Charities and Not-for-Profit organizations. The OHA has also approached OMAFRA with the same questions regarding the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act which came into effect October 19th, 2021. When we have definitive answers, the information will be shared with all Societies/Clubs. REMEMBER, there is no rush with this as there is a three-year-period for complying with the new legislation if in fact that is what is required.

Acknowledgements: The Awards Committee has met and considered all of the OHA Awards and Grants nominations which were received by our Awards Coordinator Sharlene Desjardins. Thank you to all who nominated individuals or Societies/Clubs or applied for Grants or other forms of acknowledgment. The process is never a "done deal" so please continue to check the criteria on the gardenontario.org website under Resources.

I would also like to draw your attention to two very important volunteer recognition programs which deal with acknowledging the work of those tireless

individuals we have in our organizations, be they members of a Society/Club or working at the District or the OHA level. A message about both the provincial and the national programs was sent out earlier in February and I would ask that we all keep in mind the fact that there are avenues to acknowledge those who go "above and beyond". Even if the nominations deadlines have passed for 2022, please keep these program links for 2023 and beyond:

Ontario

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards-volunteering>

Canada

https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/volunteer-awards.html?utm_campaign=ESDC-CVA2021-CallForNominations&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Canada-Volunteer-Awards-Program-en&utm_term=PaidOutreachNFPs

Influenced by Year of the Garden 2022, Louise and I have ordered our seeds, keeping in mind the theme of "Plant Red" as I would believe many of you have done. By now, there may even be seeds starting to sprout along window sills, on table tops and on any other not-so-free space as we prepare to get outside and plant again. I saw somewhere a comment that I would like to borrow and share: "The difference between an experienced gardener and a novice gardener is that the experienced gardener has killed more plants." Well, just to add to that, both the experienced and novice gardeners still keep planting and growing and moving forward with their passion. Let's all continue to meet and garden in as safe a manner as possible!

Take care and stay safe.

Charles Freeman, President
Ontario Horticultural Association

Garden Moments – 1834

By OHA Historian Malcolm Geast

Friday, September 12, 1834: Just a few months after its founding in May, 1834, the Toronto Horticultural Society examines a selection of city's gardens and reports on their formation and state of cultivation. Mostly confined to the society's Patrons, this was the first garden contest in the province's capital city. Among those whose gardens were honoured were John Henry Dunn, best flower garden; George Markland, best collection of Exotic Plants; George Crookshanks, best collection of fruits, and William Allen, best ornamental grounds.

Accompanying image: **18340930_ThePatriot_ReportOfGardenCompetition**
(Source: *The Patriot* (Toronto, Upper Canada), Tuesday September 30, 1834)

The Committee, after the strictest investigation, as far as circumstances permitted, came to the following conclusion as to the respective merits of the Gardens visited.—Classed as follows—

Kitchen Gardens, best arranged, most extensive, &c. scientifically cropped.
The garden of the late Chief Justice Powell.

| | | |
|--|-----|------------------------------|
| 2d. | Do. | Hon. John Henry Dunn. |
| Best collection of Fruits. | | |
| 1st. | | Hon. Geo. Crookshanks. |
| 2d. | | Hon. Col. Wells. |
| Flower Gardens. | | |
| 1st. | | Hon. John Henry Dunn. |
| 2d. | | Hon. George H. Markland. |
| Best Collection of Exotic Plants. | | |
| 1st. | | Hon. Geo. H. Markland. |
| 2d. | | Hon. Geo. Crookshanks. |
| Ornamental Grounds. | | |
| 1st. | | Hon. Wm. Allen. |
| 2d. | | Hon. Chief Justice Robinson. |

Agincourt Garden Club

Look Who Is Turning 70 Years!

Submitted by Cheryl Penner, President and Susan Astill, Executive

Some facts & history of the Club –

A retired farmer, Mr. T. A. Paterson (father of Frank Paterson, for whom the popular lilac was named) and Mr. J. Lockie Wilson of the Department of Agriculture, teamed together to organize the first horticultural society in what was then the village of Agincourt. Its first meeting was held on January 14th, 1918 (a membership cost a whole \$1.00) and the Society operated until 1926. The aims of the Society were very similar to those we have today, including education about gardening and public and home beautification. Many trees were planted by the Society and remain to this day on the main streets of the old village, including Sheppard Avenue, Agincourt Drive, Lockie Avenue and Donalda Drive.

As the community of Agincourt (part of the city of Scarborough) grew in the post World War II period, a new horticultural society was established and on May 2nd, 1952, Mr. Joe Tiffin, along with 31 others formed the new Society under the Horticultural Societies Act. Most of the meetings in those days were held in the North Scarborough Community Centre. In the early 60's, the Society moved its place of meeting to the Christian Education Centre of Knox United Church where we are now located. In 1966, the members voted to change the name of the "Society" to that of the Agincourt Garden Club.

In 1978, our Club along with the Scarborough Horticultural Society and the then City of Scarborough established the Trillium Award Program, a program designed to recognize the efforts of all Scarborough residents who enhanced their neighbourhoods and the city as a whole through the beauty of their front gardens. The continued active role of our members has made this a very successful program.

We have a yearly planting program that is carried out by our Club under which we supply plants and/or also volunteer labour in the planting thereof at many local church properties as our contribution to the beautification of the Agincourt community.

On October 16th, 2002, our Club was presented with a "Long Term Service Award" by the Scarborough Community Council in recognition of our 50th Anniversary.

In 2012, we celebrated our 60th Anniversary. In 2014, in recognition of our 60th Anniversary, our members planted a garden outside Knox United Christian Centre.



Gardening is a joy when the lovely scent of the lilac is in the spring air.

Photos by Laura Masterson

Tillsonburg Horticultural Society

Submitted by Angela Lassam Photos by Pat Zeyen

Tillsonburg Horticultural Society has survived the pandemic by exploring how to continue doing what our mission says 'Beautification through Education and Experience' in different ways.

Members have been without their gathering of friends and special days but we have been able to communicate using the social media. Hopefully, this year will be a 'new norm' and we can enjoy the friendship we have within our Society.

The town gardens tended by member volunteers continued as other years. They were much appreciated by the townsfolk who commented to them that "it was a joy to see them and feel as if life still goes on".

We have had to learn many new technologies to reach our members but Facebook is the most direct communication. Pat Zeyen has been very active and informative – sharing many ideas and new ways for improving our gardens. It is instant publication for society news and events.

The Society still sends in a monthly topic to the local newspaper "It's still just dirt" by Angela Lassam which includes Society news. It can also be found on the website with updated information. For new members, there is an archive section which is a good place to find gardening trends and ideas. www.tillsonburghorticultural.ca

Sue Healey, who is our speaker co-ordinator, set up Zoom for meetings even going as far as arranging monthly meetings with speakers and question time. She also did a slide presentation of a vacation in Ireland visiting very different gardens. On meeting dates, Sue sent out some websites of gardening interest and some videos to check out.

We did have a Junior Gardeners Program co-ordinated by Pat Zeyen although scaled down from previous years and sadly, no Awards Party. Parents and children from past years showed interest and it gave the participants something to do throughout the pandemic. As there was no school interaction, the packages were doorstep-delivered. No fee was charged. Volunteers judged those that wanted to be judged. Medals and a gift bag



Junior Gardeners - Twins



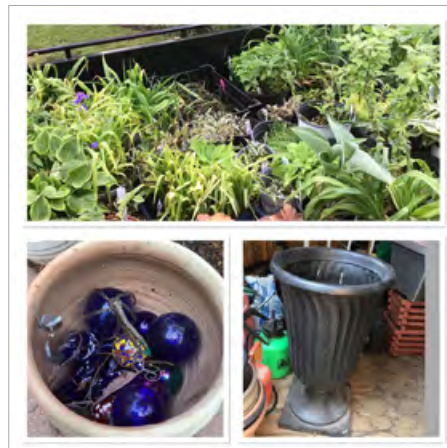
Society Mission



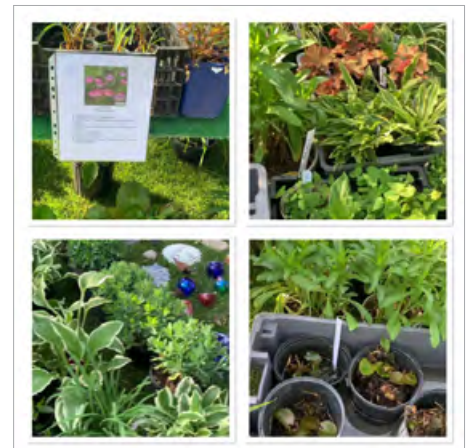
Bert Newman Park



Junior Gardeners - Collage



Plant Sale



Plant Sale

were delivered to the participants by member volunteers. All expressed their thanks for giving their children some 'normalcy'.

There was no plant sale and auction. Some members did plant sales roadside with an honour system. All proceeds were given to the Society as a way to cover the normal fundraiser. Our President, Christine Nagy, had the most productive one where many members and others purchased her plants and garden ornaments, pots and much more...

The Society did have meetings when allowed. We even had a picnic in the town's pavilion: a catered-in cold plate and a very amusing speaker. Everyone enjoyed the evening with a slideshow projected onto a bed sheet.

The Society board continues to meet and plan for 2022. We hope to have a Junior Gardeners Program, an Auction and Plant Sale at the end of May and a Summer Garden Tour on July 9th.

It is our 40th Anniversary and plans are being discussed. All we hope for now is a good year where we can meet again.



There was a pre-Christmas demonstration meeting before the pandemic shut us down once again.



MAKE IT MONTHLY

Submitted by OHA Treasurer Marian Heil

When considering making a donation to the OHA, consider making it monthly and start in March.

Go to CanadaHelps.org and search for OHA – Garden Ontario, then click on donate monthly to sign up. This promotion from Canada Helps will increase donations to our Association:

Throughout March, create a new monthly gift of \$20 or more in support of OHA – GardenOntario – through CanadaHelps.org, and CanadaHelps will make a one-time extra \$20 donation to our Association!

Terms and Conditions:

**Make It Monthly 2022 \$20 Offer is valid for new scheduled monthly donations of a minimum of \$20 per month beginning March 1st, 2022 at 12:01 AM Newfoundland Standard Time (NST) to March 31st, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST). CanadaHelps will donate to a participating charity an additional \$20 for each new monthly donation of \$20 or more that is made three times before June 2, 2022, to a maximum aggregate amount of donations from CanadaHelps to all participating charities of \$50,000 CAD. See full terms and conditions: https://go.canadahelps.org/e/905392/t-monthly-terms-and-conditions/3dq2h7/510140500?h=0oTWxulC8wVkJBPLBi72vC5_9oupnlkQb2l_okl7Pc*

Greetings from Haldimand Horticultural Society

Submitted by Barbara Wilson, Publicity Chair

As 2022 begins, it sees members planning for the “Year of the Garden.” During this year, our gardening friends will be encouraged to share their knowledge and passion and to mentor those just starting out on their journey with plants. Several activities are being planned and as the colour of the year is red, we will be thinking of how to incorporate red plant material into our gardens.

The HHS “Poppy Project” is also underway. We are looking for volunteers to knit or crochet poppies to create a beautiful banner to display for the Remembrance Day ceremony in Caledonia. We are very pleased to have received some donations of poppies already.

Our January General Meeting featured Micheline Higgins interesting and informative talk about her beekeeping.

February’s General Meeting will be held once again by Zoom with Molly Shannon from Canadian Succulents.

Hopefully, the March Meeting with Teresa Baid-Rock demonstrating Easter Decorations, will be once again in person.

In preparation for our in-person annual “Seedy Saturday” on March 26th at the Riverside Exhibition in Caledonia, some members met to plant spring bulbs in pots to have ready to sell that day. Guest speakers, (one speaker will be virtual: Paul Zammit for the RBG), workshops – adult and youth, free seed exchange, vendors etc., all things green and garden. Lots of inspiration, and something for everyone.

Upcoming events:

- April General Meeting on the 28th will feature speaker Darren Heimbecker from Whistling Gardens.
- May 14th – Plant and Bake Sale, a Spring Urn Workshop and our Annual Garden Tour in July.

“There are no happier folks than plant lovers and none more generous than those who garden.”



SEEDY SATURDAY

Submitted by Barbara Wilson and District 6 Director Catherine McGill

Please join the Haldimand Horticultural Society at it’s Annual Seedy Saturday Event, March 26th from 9 am to 2 pm at the Riverside Exhibition Centre in Caledonia.

Seedy Saturday is the place to get gardening inspiration. This is where you will learn to grow food, plants and trees and have fun shopping as well. There will be adult and youth workshops, a craft table with prizes for the children, speakers, a free seed exchange table, bulbs, draws, door prizes, food. Bring the family- something for everyone!

Adult admission is \$5, children 12 and under are free. The first 75 online tickets purchased receive a free yard waste bag. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the local Food Bank.

For more information visit our website at www.haldimandhorticulture.com

Following Covid-19 rules; you must be double-vaxed and masked.

We hope to see you there!

Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

2021 Public Planting Program and Covid-19

Submitted by Shirley Robson, Chair Public Planting

Covid-19 was ever present, but that didn't deter the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society volunteers in fulfilling their commitment to making our community beautiful. Volunteers wore masks and we all practiced social distancing while weeding, trimming, clipping shrubs, trees, digging and transplanting shrubs and flowers.



Thunder Bay Community Auditorium



TBHS Botanical Conservatory Pollinator Garden



Magnus Theatre



TBHS Dedication Garden

Our spring this year was very cold and windy. We received the Dusty Millers and Water Fall Petunias from the Conservatory later due to the danger of frost. Spring clean-up of the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium, TBHS Botanical Conservatory Pollinator Garden, Magnus Theatre, TBHS Dedication Garden, and the set-up of the rain barrels by Mike Sokol and Ian Robson were accomplished. Pioneer Ridge Home for the Aged received funding and was able to hire additional staff and they planted the raised garden beds and urns. Bonnie Anderson with the Coalition of Waverley Park assisted again this year by trimming the Annabel Hydrangeas and her efforts are certainly appreciated.

As Chair of the Public Planting Program, I would like to thank the following members of our society and the Coalition of Waverley Park, who consistently showed up rain or shine to do the work. They comprised of a very small contingent of the membership: Monique Misonne, Alan Hall, Madison Lehr, Richard Lehr, Diane Couch, Vickie Bureau Teresa Krela, Wilma Wood, Pat Izsak, Lana Stevens, Mike Sokol, Ian Robson and Bonnie Anderson.



Set-up of the Rain Barrels by Mike Sokol and Ian Robson



Volunteers Shirley Robson, Lana Stevens, Diane Couch, Madison Lehr, Richard Lehr, Alan Hal, Monique Misonne and Pat Izsak

Photo Credits: Shirley Robson took the photos with the exception of the Volunteer group and that was taken by her husband, Ian Robson.

Wheatley Horticultural Society

By Sophie Jefferson, photo by Donna Matier.

Mark your calendars and start planning your trip to Wheatley for our inaugural Garden Tour on Saturday, July 9th!

You'll have a chance to visit 7 private gardens including views of creeks, fabulous specimen plants, birders' paradises, yards developed for outdoor recreation and entertainment plus get a sneak peak at a new park. Musicians, vendors and refreshments will make it an exciting day for everyone, not just passionate gardeners. Tickets will be \$20/person for Horticultural Society members and will be available in early May.

To get on a contact list for tickets, please email Sophie.jefferson13@gmail.com



Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society

The Reta Caldwell Youth Award

Lynne Melnyk, President

As a charter member of Oro Horticultural Society in 1967, Reta Caldwell led the first Junior Horticultural Society in 1968. The group met on Saturday mornings at an Oro township municipal hall. This club continued for several years on Saturdays in the summer months but being a rural area, stretching between Barrie and Orillia, it became difficult to interest enough of our youth who had to be driven to the meeting place.

In 1976, the Youth Gardening program was reorganized to be held in the four township elementary schools at noon hour during the school year. Reta was a leader at one of these schools and Youth Co-ordinator for many years. She was a strong advocate for our Youth clubs to participate in competitions at the District 16 and OHA levels. Many awards were won by OMHS Youth activities at both these levels under Reta's leadership.

Reta was Co-ordinator of a Therapeutic Gardening program at a provincial facility in our township for adults with intellectual disabilities during the growing season. The last event of each year was a flower and vegetable show.

She held many other positions in Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society – 2 terms as President, chair of Flower Shows for several years and a director for many years.

She was also an Accredited Judge of Horticulture by Royal Botanical Garden and of Design by the Garden Clubs of Ontario and a Rose Judge for Canadian Rose Society. As an experienced judge, she led workshops for different horticultural societies.

Reta loved teaching children about nature and growing things. She encouraged other members of the society to become leaders of these clubs that continued to be held at schools until Covid-19 caused many months of school closures.

After the passing of Reta in 2017, the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society discussed how her legacy of introducing children to gardening and nature could be continued in different areas of our province. This award was endorsed by the OMHS Board as a lasting tribute to her vision and we hope will touch children province-wide over the years.

Reta Caldwell Youth Environmental Award

Sponsored by Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society

\$100 to be awarded annually to either a Youth Group or a Horticultural Society creating a Youth Environmental project/event.

The project can be activities such as*:

- School Garden
- Start-up for a new youth program (not a youth group)
- Having a speaker at a school geared to youth at a school or special event on an environmental theme
- Building a bee house, purchasing butterfly larvae, praying mantis hatching, etc.

**Not limited to these items*

The project must have an environmental and youth focus.

1. Applications must be received by Sept. 1, 2022
2. Must submit; project photos and details by Nov. 1 (year of winning) for article in OHA publication (Trillium/youth newsletter)
3. Societies may not win award 2 years in succession (even with different projects)
4. Send application to:

Youth Chair
303 Morrison Dr.,
Caledonia On N3W 1A2
youth@gardenontario.org

Selecting Garden Plants for the Visually Impaired

By Cynthia Levine-Rasky, PhD, Master Gardener, Member of East York Garden Club

When approaching a garden, whether our own or a friend's, we tend to privilege the visual. Our engagement is largely, often purely, through sight. We notice the blooms but also the shapes, heights and arrangements of plants. How do plants complement each other in their structure and height? How do they conflict? What looks healthy and what looks like it needs a gardener's hand? The overall experience of a garden is conducted with the eye.

While gardens are always stimulating to view, it is easy to overlook their capacity to satisfy other senses. People with visual impairment due to age, illness or disability, needn't be excluded from enjoying the pleasures of plants. The way plants smell, taste and feel aren't just bonus features; they can be emphasized in a gardener's plant selections. Who hasn't swooned with delight when sticking their nose into a lilac inflorescence or tasting the sweetness of a fresh garden pea? Who hasn't smiled when touching a pussy willow or when rustling a tall stand of ornamental grass? The joy of plants shouldn't be denied to the visually impaired. Indeed, exploring these integral qualities of plants deepens everyone's enjoyment of gardening.

The rewards in sharing a love of plants with friends and family members who have a visual impairment are multiple. Encountering garden plants with all of one's senses enhances the nature of the experience, transforming it from seeing to a fuller interaction.

Here are some plants that are sure to provide enjoyment for the visually impaired. Plant selections for the nose, the fingers and the tongue challenges those with full vision to enjoy gardens from a new perspective. Taking full advantage of plants means accepting their offerings to multiple and even simultaneous senses. Prove this yourself the next time you toss a few basil leaves into a sandwich, draw your hand through a spray of white pine needles or get up close and personal with a currant bush.

PLANTS FOR THE NOSE



Lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris*)



Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera x brownii* 'Dropmore Scarlet')

It's a challenging, yet joyful task to choose a few favourites from the hundreds of fragrant plants available. First up may be the enchanting scent of lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris*). Despite their classification as a shrub, their large size only means more blooms to enjoy. A standard feature of both rural and urban landscapes, lilac flowers are arranged as a panicle; some varieties have a double layer of petals. Scarlet sage (*Salvia splendens*) grows to 60 cm in full sun and is just one species in this large group of plants. Blooming from summer to autumn, grow clumps of them and enjoy their pleasant fragrance. Dropmore scarlet honeysuckle (*Lonicera x brownii* 'Dropmore Scarlet') is a vine that grows to 4 m with long trumpet-shaped flowers. Grow it in full sun or partial shade. Since it relies on moths as pollinators, it is most fragrant in the evening.

Daphne (*Daphne cneorum*) is a cute little evergreen shrub with fragrant flowers in mid-spring. It doesn't mind light shade, but it is best to protect it over the winter. Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*) is a small annual plant that grows no taller than 30 cm. Forming low, dense mounds, it spreads and often self-seeds to cover the ground in full sun or partial shade. Mock orange (*Philadelphus x virginalis*) is famous for its scent. Enjoy this shrub if you have room for it. At 3 m high and 2 m wide, it needs full sun and moist, well-drained soil. English lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) is a must-have in any garden designed for the nose. Give it lots of sun and a light sandy soil with low fertility.



Anise Hyssop
(*Agastache foeniculum*)



Chocolate Cosmos
(*Cosmos astrosanguineus*)



Bearded Iris
(*Iris germanica*)

Don't limit your plant selection to traditionally floral fragrances. Lemon, mint and even licorice await your olfactory experience. Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*) is an herbaceous perennial with aromatic leaves. Grown in the sun or shade, this self-seeding plant produces flowers in the summer and can grow to become a bush of 1 m high. Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) is a culinary annual herb that can be grown all summer long and has a strong but intoxicating fragrance when crushed. Pinch the growing tips to encourage its bushiness. Sow the seed to have a supply of fresh basil all summer. Many other culinary herbs like oregano, thyme, rosemary, cilantro and parsley also smell wonderful when crushed. Mint (*Mentha spp*) is a perennial herb whose celebrated fragrance requires no description. Sample a few varieties and discover the one you like best: Apple? Pineapple? Ginger? If you like the smell of licorice, you can find it in anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*), a native perennial. No bending is required to enjoy this plant that grows to a height of 120 cm.

No plant selection for the nose would be complete without chocolate. The annual, chocolate cosmos (*Cosmos astrosanguineus*) is a good choice. An easy-to-grow plant, its tubers can be lifted in the fall and stored indoors over winter to plant out the following spring. If you enjoy the fragrance of oranges, plant the native perennial, bergamot (*Monarda didyma*). It acquired its common name from the bergamot orange primarily cultivated for its oil that flavours Earl Grey tea. For more fruitiness, the bearded iris (*Iris germanica*) evokes the smell of grape. Plant it in full sun and in well-drained soil and it will reward all visitors to your garden. If you seek a savoury fragrance to diversify your nose palate, crush the foliage of the Lily Leek (*Allium moly*) and savour the vibrant tang of onion. The flowers of this plant are edible, too. Most members of the large *Allium* family have spherical flowers that are also stimulating to the touch.

PLANTS FOR THE FINGERS



Lamb's Ear
(*Stachys byzantina*)



Love-Lies-Bleeding
(*Amaranthus caudatus*)



Ornamental Grasses



Tamarack Cones
(*Larix laricina*)

From fuzzy to sticky, supple to coarse, plants offer it all to those who cannot resist their feel. Here are a few options for those wishing to explore plants in a whole new way: with their fingers. Dusty miller (*Jacobeae maritima*) is an annual that is loved for its velvety silvery-grey foliage. Mounding to 20-60 cm high, it needs at least six hours of daily sun to flourish. It has been known to over-winter and return the following year but you can take some cuttings from it in the fall and grow it indoors to plant out in the summer. The perennial, lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantine*) is unparalleled for its fuzzy texture. Growing to 45 cm, it works well as a ground cover in full sun. Another indulgence for the fingers is Artemesia 'Powis Castle', a finely textured foliage plant that may be grown as an annual in colder parts of the province. It prefers full sun and a relatively sandy soil.

Scotch heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) is evergreen and can reach 60 cm in height. The leaves and flowers feel like a scaly stem. Blooming in the summer, their profuse growth works well as a groundcover in full sun providing it grows in acidic soil. The popular annual plant, zonal geranium (*Pelargonium x hortorum*) comes in many colours. Touch its foliage, and you will discover a fleshiness or what gardeners refer to as succulence. With its slightly hairy stems, scalloped-edged leaves and dense blooms, it is a plant of many textures. Store *Pelargonium* over the winter in a cool basement and you will be able to enjoy them all over again.

The flowers of peegee hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora') are arranged in a large, soft cluster. They prefer sun or partial shade and moist – but not wet – soil and may be cut and dried indoors for continuous enjoyment all year. At 12" or longer, the softly drooping panicles of love-lies-bleeding (*Amarantus caudatus*) beg to be touched. An easy annual to grow in moist soil, this plant prefers full sun. Like the hydrangea, the flowers can be dried and enjoyed indoors all year around. For a distinctly tactile pleasure, swish your hand inside a clump of ornamental grasses. Many of them feature wispy flowers on tall slender foliage. Fountain grass (*Pennisetum orientale*), for example, has fluffy seed heads that some describe as rabbits' tails. While some fountain grasses have to be planted every year, this species is hardy to Zone 5, good for the most heavily populated parts of Canada. Try ornamental grasses that are native to Canada such as purple love grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*) and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) for their satisfying tangible encounters.

Conifers provide an excellent opportunity to interact with plants with one's fingers. Compare the small rose-like cones of a tamarack (*Larix laricina*) to the stubby scales of a mugo pine cone (*Pinus mugo*) or the narrow cigar-like cone of the Norway spruce (*Picea abies*). The feathery needles of an eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and the waxy sharpness of white spruce needles (*Picea glauca*) are utterly unlike the softly fanned leaf of an arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) or the stringiness of a thread leaf false cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Filifera'). Like many other plants, the sensory experience of conifers is not restricted to a single mode. Some of them release a pungent scent if you boil their needles. And the barks of virtually all conifer and deciduous trees make a strong tactile impact and should be included in any tour of sensory plants.

PLANTS FOR THE TONGUE



Strawberries
(*Fragaria x ananassa*)



Serviceberry
(*Amelanchier canadensis*)

While we may cook with plants every day, how often do we avail ourselves of delicious food fresh from the shrub, tree or vine? Here are a few excellent species chosen for their variety of flavour and, with perhaps one exception, their ease of cultivation. Some warrant more attention than they often receive as an enjoyable food source.

A favourite of many, strawberries (*Fragaria x ananassa*) need full sun or partial shade to grow and something to which they can attach their aerial roots (called stolons). Depending on the variety, a strawberry plant produces fruit from June to September. The small fragrant flowers are a sensory bonus. The edible small fruit of the Red Jade Crabapple (*Malus x scheideckeri* 'Red Jade') are easy to pick from this small tree with its weeping branches. Cook up the fruit whole with a big dollop of honey. Strain the peels, seeds and core and serve them with hot oatmeal or plain yogurt or use it as filling for tarts. Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) is a small tree native to Canada. Its flowers produce small, round, green berries that turn red and finally a dark purplish-black in early summer. They resemble blueberries in size and colour and are used in jams, jellies and pies. Few admirers think to pick and eat them right off the stem. They don't know what they're missing.

Speaking of blueberries, the lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) grows wild across North America and is hardy to zone 2. To meet its need for acidic soil (pH 4.0-4.8), in Ontario, grow them in deep containers filled with a medium made acidic from the addition of coffee grounds, peat, leaf mold or an acidified compost. It may be easiest to use potting soil formulated for rhododendrons. A pH test is advised. To ensure pollination, use at least two plants of different varieties. Mulch and place the containers in full sun. Then wait. Remove



Heirloom tomatoes



Common purslane
(*Portulaca oleracea*)



Ostrich Fern
(*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

flowers in the first year to stimulate fruit production in the second year (or longer). With time, your patience will be rewarded with contenders for the world's best berries.

The garden pea (*Pisum sativum*) is a fast-growing vine that produces legumes containing six to eleven seeds or peas. Best grown in the sun, this popular variety of pea is nature's candy enjoyed raw right from the vine from August to September. While the pods are edible, you may prefer to toss them into the compost heap. Who doesn't enjoy eating carrots (*Daucus carota*) raw or cooked? But who has had the fun of pulling a ripe carrot out of the soil? An excellent companion plant for peas, with so many varieties available – from long and conical 'Danvers' to round and plump 'Oxheart' – there is sure to be one that is best for your gardening conditions. Radish (*Raphanus sativus*) and turnip (*Brassica rapa*) give the same kick in pulling a root vegetable out of the ground but with the added benefit of edible leaves.

There's a reason why tomatoes are the most popular garden vegetable – they're easy to grow, they fruit prolifically and they're delicious. Heirloom tomatoes have grown in popularity and can now be found in most supermarkets. Notably, they have been isolated from the genetic engineering methods of the agricultural industry. Sample the vibrant juiciness from the large red Brandywine or the small yellow Blondkopchen among a dozen others available and you will find it hard to return to humdrum store-bought tomatoes.

There are a some lesser-known edible plants that can contribute to a tasting garden. While chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) and zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo*) are two commonly grown vegetables, their flowers are also edible. One source suggests stuffing squash flowers with ricotta cheese and frying them. Aggressive in the garden bed, common purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) is usually regarded as a weed. But grown in a container, it's an attractive succulent whose green stems spill nicely over the edge of a pot. That way, you can control its spread while enjoying easy access to this nutritious vegetable. Valued in cuisines from Egypt (where it is called rijlah) to Syria (betleh) and Latin America (verdolaga), try purslane either raw or cooked in a pasta bowl, a stir-fry or an omelet. While ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) can be grown as a tall and reliable groundcover in the shade, the plant produces delicious fiddleheads in the spring. Unlike those found (with difficulty) in the supermarket, freshness is guaranteed when you harvest your own. Both the leaves and the flowers of nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*) are edible, adding a mild spiciness to any dish. The seed is so large that anyone, including those with visual impairments, can participate in planting them. The same goes for the seeds of peas, squash, and beans.

Public Gardens for the Visually Impaired

- CNIB Ottawa Headquarters, Fragrant Garden, Ottawa ON
<http://www.csla-aapc.ca/awards-atlas/canadian-national-institute-blind-headquarters>
- Kingsbrae Scents and Sensitivity Garden, Saint Andrews NB <http://www.kingsbraegarden.com/scents-and-sensitivity-garden/>
- CNIB Fragrant Garden, Calgary AB
<https://everydaytourist.ca/calgary-visitor-information/calgary-gardens-cnib-fragrant-garden-a-hidden-oasis-for-everyone>
- Sensory Garden, Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg MN <https://www.assiniboinepark.ca/leaf/gardens/explore-gardens>
- The Fragrance Garden for the Visually Impaired, Niagara Falls ON www.niagarafallstourism.com/blog/the-fragrance-garden-for-the-visually-impaired
- The Children's Garden of the Senses, Norval, ON <http://gardenofthesenses.com/about/childrens-garden-of-the-senses/>

- Sensory Garden at the Children's Teaching Garden, Edwards Gardens, Toronto ON https://www.enjoyontario.ca/edwards-gardens/photos/100_1430.html
- Sensory Garden, Loretto Maryholme Spirituality Centre, Keswick ON https://www.enjoyontario.ca/edwards-gardens/photos/100_1430.html

PHOTO CREDITS

Plants for the Nose

lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* 'Katherine Havemeyer')

dropmore scarlet honeysuckle (*Lonicera x brownie* 'Dropmore Scarlet')

anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

chocolate cosmos (*Cosmos astrosanguineus*)

bearded iris (*Iris germanica*)

credit: Wendy Latham

credit: Shutterstock

credit: Cynthia Levine-Rasky

credit: Shutterstock

credit: Shutterstock

Plants for the Fingers

lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantine*)

love-lies-bleeding (*Amarantus caudatus*)

feather reed grass (*Calimagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster')

tamarack cone (*Larix laricina*)

credit: Shutterstock

credit: Shutterstock

credit: Wendy Latham

credit: Shutterstock

Plants for the Tongue

strawberries (*Fragaria x ananassa*)

serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)

heirloom tomatoes: Brandywine; Blondkopchen

common purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*)

ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) fiddlehead

credit: Shutterstock

credit: Shutterstock

credit: Shutterstock

credit: Cynthia Levine-Rasky

credit: Shutterstock

Flamborough Horticultural Society

Happy Birthday to Rosemary Brown

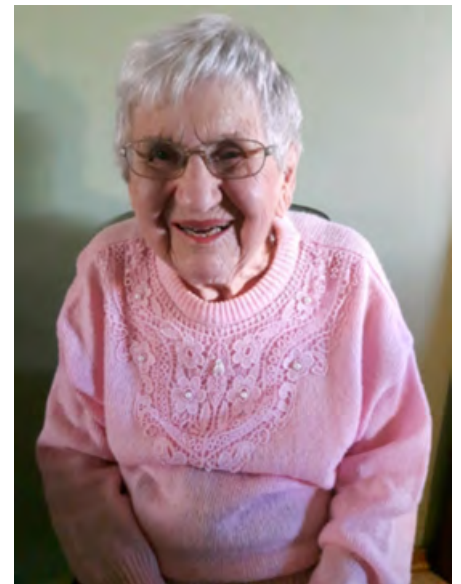
By President Susan MacMillan, Submitted by District 6 Director Catherine McGill

On Nov. 30th, 2021, Rosemary Brown, a Past President and life member of the Flamborough Horticultural Society (FHS) celebrated her 100th birthday.

Rosemary provided many contributions to the Society over the years. She volunteered on many committees, wrote poetry for inclusion in newsletters, shared recipes, stories about gardening and provided gardening tips. Rosemary's garden was often part of the Hamilton Open Garden tour and FHS member garden tours.

Rosemary is also a gifted artist specializing in watercolours. For many years, she provided art lessons for locals. The walls in her house are like an art gallery and a feast for the eyes with so much attention to detail. Rosemary's spunky personality continues to provide wit and humour to members who visit her.

Rosemary was honoured with a special Certificate of Appreciation and gift for all her years of volunteerism, donating plants, art, poetry, her many flower show entries and flower show judging, refreshments at meetings and for her wonderful and caring personality. Society members and her family helped her formally celebrate her birthday on November 27th. Rosemary created a small watercolour with a chickadee in the garden that was printed on bookmarks for friends and family who helped her celebrate this special birthday. What a lovely keepsake from Rosemary.



Rosemary Brown
Flamborough Horticultural Society
District 6

Leaside Garden Society

Submitted by Deborah Browne, VP & Director, Public Relations

Our \$1000 Scholarship!

Thanks to our wonderful Scholarship Committee, we are once again able to offer our \$1000 scholarship to a student of horticulture studies e.g. Botany, Ecology, Environmental Science, Forestry, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Plant Science.

Notifications are being sent to relevant Ontario colleges and universities. The deadline to submit an application is June 30, 2022.

If you know of someone who might qualify, please direct them to the application and details on our website: Leasidegardensociety.org.

Jim Hartley heads up our Committee with Carolyn Beange, Connie Uetrecht, Margaret Rousseau, Malcolm Geast and Joanna Blanchard.

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

The Leaside Garden Society Founders' Scholarship
will award \$1,000 to a student in a Horticulture-related program.

Goal:

to provide financial support to a student who will advance the knowledge
of horticulture within the community

Eligibility:

a Canadian resident enrolled full-time in an eligible program at a post-secondary institution
(e.g. Botany, Ecology, Environmental Science, Forestry, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Plant Science)

Deadline:

June 30, 2022

For application, full scholarship details, eligibility and deadlines, visit:

leasidegardensociety.org

The Leaside Garden Society Founders' Scholarship

was established to honour the initiative of those who in the 1980s had the foresight and energy to form the Leaside Garden Society

Leaside Garden Society

is an affiliated society with the Ontario Horticultural Association and is a not-for-profit organization. Part of its mission is to encourage, award and educate on the values and principles of gardening and the environment.

Leaside Garden Society

Nora Campbell and Joanna Blanchard

"Yes, District 5, there will be a summer! Here is Leaside's virtual tour from last fall to remind you how wonderful our gardens can be throughout the seasons. Enjoy scrolling through and looking at some stunning photos that showcase your fellow members' fabulous gardening efforts!"

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XLrC9KtREiMaWqgl2E-uo8urxmT6sPb9/view>

Nepean Horticultural Society

Creation of the North Nepean Pathway (for pollinators)

Submitted by Jack Wilson, Photo by Jack Wilson



In conjunction with the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterfly Ranger Program, the Nepean Horticultural Society helped establish 12 native pollinator plant gardens in north Nepean and west Ottawa in 2021. For its efforts, the Society had its gardens designated by the Foundation as the "North Nepean Pathway".

Beginning in the late winter and into the spring of 2021, members of the NHS attended the monthly webinars hosted by the Butterfly Rangers. The Society also had a guest speaker at one of our monthly Society meetings who provided information specific to pollinator gardens in the Ottawa area. And members read up on native pollinators and native pollinator plants.

Over the course of the spring and summer, the Society established 12 gardens in north Nepean/west Ottawa as well as three outside our district in Carp, Lanark and Lakeside Ontario. To help establish the gardens, seeds, plants and/or advice were provided free of charge.

The Society also had the involvement of two local churches: City View United and Carleton Memorial United. In the case of the latter, it was part of a grant submission to the United Church to help establish eight raised garden beds, one of which was for native pollinator plants, one was to provide fresh herbs for a day care, and six were for community vegetable gardens. As well, a pollinator garden was established on the grounds of the Nepean Museum whose gardens the Society maintains.

The David Suzuki Foundation is running the Butterfly Pathways program again in 2022. For more information, please go to <https://david Suzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/butterflyway/>

Paris Horticultural Society

Submitted by Serryn Stephenson, Publicity Director

PHS is responsible for Adopt a Road clean-up on Keg Lane from the fairgrounds to Trussler Road. This happens 2 times per year. Volunteers meet at 9 am on the scheduled Saturday. Gloves, garbage bag and safety vest are provided. Volunteers work each side of the street to pick up any garbage. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Nancy Chipman 519-442-1391 if you would like to help out.

PARIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PLANT SALE

Sat. May 7th, 2022

8 am to 11:00 am

Syl Apps Community Centre

Selections of perennial favourites from members' gardens, vegetables, annuals and native plants for sale.

Proceeds go toward horticultural/environmental education and public plantings.

Brant County Health Unit protocols will be followed.
Cash only, no debit or credit.

Master Gardener on site.

For more information call:
Carol 519-442-3918 OR Nancy 519-752-8702

**PLANT AUCTION
TO FOLLOW AT 11:00 AM**

Paris Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 7th, 8 am – 11 am at Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William Street, Paris, Ont. N3L 1L2. Selection of perennial favourites from members' gardens, vegetables, herbs, annuals, and native plants. Master Gardener on site. Plant Auction to follow. Call Carol 519-442-3918 or Nancy 519-752-8702 details

Paris Horticultural Society Annual Garden Tour Saturday & Sunday, June 4 & 5th from 10 AM - 4 PM in Paris. Six gorgeous gardens in & around Paris. Tickets \$15.00 per person. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Sobey's Floral Department in Paris, Green Heron Books, Walter's Greenhouse or at the Gardens on the day of the event. Please call Anne Vernon 905-536-2037 for more information.



The Garden of Hope near the Post Office is maintained by the club.



The small garden at the Legion was designed by Doug Hanna and planted by Dave Collins and Doug. Plant materials were supplied by Walter's Greenhouses and Garden Centre.



The Cenotaph in downtown Paris is maintained by the PHS



The Hillside gardens at the fairgrounds



King's Ward Park

The Hillside gardens at the fairgrounds began in 2012 with plans from Dave Collins and Doug Hanna. Over the years, the gardens have been increased from the perennial and shrub end on the east end to more shrubs and trees that are low maintenance on the steeper west end. Requests go out a couple of times a year for volunteers to help with clean up spring and fall and for any other maintenance.

Left and below:

Paris Horticultural Society received a grant for the 2 large evergreens and for Harold Hallett's tree. The club paid for the mulch and smaller plants. We are not responsible for maintenance here.

The tree planted for Harold and the memorial plaque are in the foreground and the garden with the 2 evergreens and planting is in the background at King's Ward Park north of the library. We are not responsible for maintenance at either of these gardens.



Garden Moments – 1893

By OHA Historian Malcolm Geast

Thursday, December 7, 1893: At the annual meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario (FGAO), held in the Peterborough Town Hall, a motion was passed to encourage Directors to actively encourage the formation of horticultural societies. Motivated in part as a solution to a falloff in FGAO revenue, the move was very quickly shown to be a success, as the number of horticultural societies in the province more than doubled from the low 30's in 1892 to 65 by 1905. With the support of the FGAO, the creating a community presence and influence that ultimately led to the formation of the Ontario Horticultural Association in 1906.

THIRD DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

THURSDAY, December 7, 1893.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Association, held this morning, it was resolved that during the coming year each Director be asked to undertake the work of forming horticultural societies affiliated with this Association, the expenses of such Directors to be paid, and the Secretary was instructed to furnish each Director with necessary information.

Accompanying image: [*FGAOMotion_18931207.jpg*](#) (Source: Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario Twenty-Fifth Annual Report, December 1893, p 74)

Schomberg Horticultural Society

Presented by Linda Jessop



Tree of Hope

From left to right: Trish McGuire, Janice Crone, Linda Jessop and Cheryl Fisher



*Valentines made by the children at the Schomberg Public School
Photo by Linda Jessop*

The members of the Schomberg Horticultural Society have been active and engaged in several community projects. Members prepared "stars" crocheted, knitted and crafted for the "Tree Of Hope" Christmas Tree project held at the King Heritage and Cultural Centre. Our theme was "Starry, Starry Night". Community groups brought and decorated Christmas trees that were then on display for the public to enjoy. Visitors could purchase a token for a toonie and then vote for their favourite tree. All proceeds were donated to the Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, the result was over \$1,000 being raised.

During the Christmas season under the watchful eye of one of our very creative members Janice (who planned the Tree of Hope display), a Christmas tree was decorated in a red and white theme, guarded by two small gnomes, at our Centennial Corner for a very festive display. The gnomes have retired and Valentines now adorn the tree along with more Valentines on the hedge courtesy of some of the students from the Schomberg Public School which is beside our garden. We hope to involve these students in a few more projects.

Our Program Director Angela has a great array of speakers lined up for our monthly Zoom meetings and our Flower Show Director Chris has prepared 4 seasonal virtual photo flower shows that also include wildlife in the garden. These Power Point presentations will be shown at the beginning of our meetings.

Preparations for several gardening projects are in the planning stage for the spring, including an insect habitat "house" that the students will be able to monitor. We are keeping engaged and active and as avid gardeners, we hope to be able to meet in person in the near future.

***Happy Gardening from the
Schomberg Horticultural Society***



*Christmas display at Centennial Corner
Photo by Janice Crone*



*Valentines display at Centennial Corner
Photo by Linda Jessop*



ReLeaf Stratford

Submitted by Maureen Cocksedge



ReLeaf Stratford is a project launched by the Stratford and Area Master Gardeners and supported by the Stratford and District Horticultural Society (GardenStratford). In 2022, Canada's Year of the Garden, we are partnering with organizations in the Stratford area to plant 2,022 native trees and shrubs... 2022 in 2022.

Concern about disappearing birds and insects due to loss of habitat has intensified among Canadians. Gardens diverse in native plants can help reverse this trend. Our gardens can provide food and shelter for pollinators in the caterpillar and larval stages of life, which in turn provides food for birds and supports diverse wildlife. To keep our ecosystem robust and healthy, and to increase Stratford's biodiversity, we can do our part by increasing native plantings.

In addition to providing food for pollinators in the early stages of development, a landscape rich in native trees and shrubs will benefit us all by sequestering carbon and mitigating the rising temperatures associated with global warming,

ReLeaf has ordered 600 native trees and shrubs and GardenStratford has committed to purchasing and planting 250, one for each member and some for public gardens we maintain.

Besides purchasing trees, GardenStratford will help the Master Gardeners by:

- Volunteering to assist in planting projects
- Spreading the word about the ReLeaf Stratford initiative via website and social media
- Making donations to ReLeaf Stratford via our website

Native trees and shrubs, especially stock which is 2-3 years old, will be in very short supply according to the Industry Panel speaking at the Landscape Ontario symposium on February 15, 2022. Prices will rise exponentially over the next few years. For this reason, it is critical to source plants through Conservation Authorities and native nurseries now and... *Get Planting.*

One native tree or shrub for every Society member... we challenge all Societies to do the same. For updated information please visit <https://releafstratford.ca/> releafstratford@gmail.com

Black History Month and Horticulture

By Brenda Near, East Gwillimbury Gardeners

As the world becomes more diverse and marginalized, sectors begin to have a voice in our societies, we gain opportunities to learn a wider breadth of history and an understanding of the reality of other people. A month like February's Black History month presents us with the impetus to do so. My relationship with horticulture and food growing has a lot of white faces in it and my understanding of gardening comes, not surprisingly, from a white, British based background. So I thought this month I would broaden my horizon by looking into black horticulturalists.

Two men are at the top of the list when you search for Black Horticulturalists – **George Washington Carver (1860's-1943)** and **Edmond Albius (1829-1880)**. Carver is best known for his work with peanuts but should be better remembered as the father of environmentalism in farming. He was talking about concepts of 'permaculture' long before it became the buzz word it is now. Carver was enslaved from infancy and freed after the American civil war. Able to attain an education, he studied botany at Iowa State Agricultural College. After graduating, he travelled to the southern United States and worked tirelessly to improve the land and the plight of the black tenant farmers of the area. The growing of cotton as a monoculture had destroyed the land: "[cotton's] shallow roots, and the practice of monocropping, mean that soil erodes faster from a cotton field than if the earth was left alone. (Carver... would describe eroded gullies on the Tuskegee campus¹ that were deep enough for a person to stand inside.)"² Working with the local farmers, Carver advocated ways to heal the soil by rejecting monocrops, using composting and planting cover crops like peanuts as a way to introduce nitrogen back into the depleted soil. Peanuts became a secondary cash crop and a food source for the farmers, allowing them to diversify. Not only was his work about revolutionizing agriculture, it was about combating racism and an unjust land ownership system: "He gave black farmers a means of staying on the land."³

If you have ever baked a cake and used vanilla, then you must give a nod of thanks to Edmond Albius. Albius, enslaved in India, was only 12 when he discovered how to hand pollinate the vanilla plant, which up to that time had baffled botanists. Vanilla had become incredibly

popular with the European upper classes who felt that vanilla soothed the stomach, increased urine flow and was an aphrodisiac. Horticulturalists of the day had tried endlessly to cultivate vanilla plants that would produce beans but they were unable to do so. Albius' discovery, that on the vanilla flower the pollen and the stigma are separated by a little 'lid' and his method to hand pollinate, revolutionized the industry and is in fact still used today to pollinate vanilla. Sadly, Edmond was never paid for his discovery even though the vanilla industry exploded and profited significantly from his discovery.⁴

As I dug deeper, other names emerged: **Mrs. Bessie M. Weaver** was one of the first black florists in the United States. Mrs. Blanche Hurston owned a huge flower farm in Florida in the 1920's and was known for her fantastic floral designs. **Mrs. Annem/Annie Reid** was selling plants and seeds to white people all across America: "Reid owned multiple floral shops, a five-acre nursery and commercial greenhouse. At the height of the segregation era in the United States, Reid's clientele in her home state of South Carolina included: the Mayor, Governor and folks from cities as far north as Boston. This speaks volumes to her floral artistry which crossed racial colour lines – something nearly impossible to achieve at that time."⁵ **Mrs. Anne Spencer** was a black writer, civil rights activist and horticulturalist. She had a magnificent garden and many of her poems had garden themes.⁶ **Booker T. Whatley**, an Alabama horticulturist, invented the concept of what we call today Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). He called it Clientele Membership club: "Members of this club paid an initial membership fee which contributed to the success of the farm. In return, they received fresh produce that they would pick themselves. This ensured a constant cash flow into the farm, while saving on time and labor. Dr. Whatley identified this as an essential aspect of a successful farm in the 1960's and 70's."⁷ **Marie Clark Taylor (1911-1990)** was a botanist who did her dissertation on how periods of light effect the development of floral buds, through a process called photomorphogenesis.⁸ And the list goes on.

These black pioneers were building upon a wealth of knowledge of farming and gardening practices that originated in Africa and traveled with their enslaved ancestors across the ocean. They had brought with

them seeds from their own gardens and farms in Africa. All seeds are a package of hope, but these seeds “their millet, their okra, their cowpea, their black rice, their egusi melon – braided... into their hair”⁹ carried not only the hope of germination and life, but also the hope of continuing a culture in the face of annihilation. On the plantations, they planted this seed, growing their own food on small areas of land not used by the plantation owners. These gardens were a chance to supplement meager diets and cultivate a sense of community. I had no idea of the history of these foods and I will have much more respect for the okra I harvest this summer.

To most people of European descent, gardens represent a place of peace or refuge. Our historical relationship with the farm/garden landscape is based upon dominance and privilege and as such gardens represent to us wealth, food security and beauty. However, to the black community, gardening can represent something completely different. **Leah Penniman**, author of “Farming While Black”, started Soul Fire Farm in New York in the early 2000’s to address the lack of good, fresh food in black neighbourhoods. “When I ask Black visitors to Soul Fire Farm what they first associate with farming, they respond, ‘slavery’ or ‘plantation,’” Penniman recounts. “We don’t stoop, sweat, harvest, or even get dirty, because we imagine that would revert us to bondage. And yet, we’re keenly aware that

something is missing, that a gap exists where once there was connection.” “Chris Bolden-Newsome, co-director of Sankofa Community Farm, explains, ‘The field was the scene of the crime.’ Hundreds of years of enslavement devastated our sacred connection to land and overshadowed thousands of years of our noble, autonomous farming history.”¹⁰ Reading this was an aha moment for me – one of those moments when your world suddenly shifts 180 degrees and you see the other perspective.

Happily, people like Penniman, and closer to home, groups like the Planting Black Roots Community Garden in Barrie, are working to heal the broken relationship Black people have with the land. They are reaching into the past to find knowledge, inspiration, resilience, pride and place rather than oppression. By learning their own garden history, “not the kind you find in books but the kind that runs in your veins.”¹¹ Black gardeners are connecting with ancestors like George Washington Carver, Mrs. Bessie Weaver and Mrs. Anniem Reid and more and rediscovering the pleasure and peace the garden can provide: “Black folks gardening is phenomenal. A radical act. We are returning to a connection to the land that was snatched away from us by hatred and racism. We deserve this peace and joy. Putting my hands in the dirt. The worst that can happen is the seeds don’t grow.”¹²

Previously Published in EGGardeners, February/March newsletter, Over the Garden Fence, Volume 25 Issue 1.

Footnotes/ references:

- 1 Tuskegee University is a private, historically black land-grant university in Tuskegee, Alabama.
- 2 & 3 <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/search-george-washington-carvers-true-legacy-180971538/>
- 4 <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/the-little-boy-who-shouldve-vanished-but-didnt>
- 5 <https://www.mcdonaldgardencenter.com/blog/black-history-month-featuring-annie-vann-reid>.
- 6 & 8 <https://www.dmbotanicalgarden.com/5-historic-black-figures-in-horticulture/>
- 7 <https://www.farmproject.org/blog/2017/2/4/hikqys8igw0bo368aco3mrb1rv7d1>
- 9 & 10 <https://www.motherearthnews.com/nature-and-environment/soul-fire-farm-seeding-sovereignty-uprooting-racism-zm0z20aszbut>
- 11 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/26/special-series/black-gardeners-pandemic.html>
- 12 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jun/20/tiktok-plantpreneurs-instagram-social-media-black-americans>

Ennismore Horticultural Society

Submitted by Gail Murray

Photos by Gail Murray

Hello to all our fellow garden clubs from Ennismore

We like everyone else are still navigating this pandemic with Zoom as our enabler.

We have a new President – Susan Newton. Susan will have big shoes to fill after Helen Young and Ethel Shackleton but I think she wears their size because she has just slipped right into them. Keep up the great work Susan.

We also have a new board member under 30 years of age. Yeah. Kelly Campbell is in charge of membership. Her computer savvy and young ideas are so welcome.

Ethel Shackleton has arranged a full line-up of speakers for the year with both Zoom and in-person presentations planned for each.

Here we have had a lovely thick blanket of snow to protect our gardens from winter's harshness.

Our members have turned their interest to their indoor plants that seem to be having a comeback. We just love to see something green and growing. It lifts our spirits and keeps that itch to get in the garden soon under wraps.

A highlight for the summer this year will be a day trip to the Quinte Botanical Gardens. We are having our meeting on a Saturday so everyone can come. It is a safe, outdoor tented and garden nature show on June 11, 2022. I know I am looking forward to that.

One of our members bought a Vegepod to get a jump on spring planting. It is a self-watering, raised bed with protective covers against the weather and another one to protect against insects. I saw it put together ready to go. It looks like it would be great for seniors or anyone with bad knees.

By the time this newsletter is coming out, we will have our grow lights ready, seed-starting soil purchased and more seeds bought than we can ever plant. Hope everyone enjoys this new season and all it brings us.

Happy Spring from all of us in Ennismore



A lovely amaryllis with a lovely snowy background



A couple of our gardens all tucked safely under their winter blanket

Sudbury Horticultural Society

Wayne Hugli, President

GARDENERS IN OHA DISTRICT 13 ENJOY VIRTUAL SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

Despite pandemic restrictions throughout 2021 and 2022, the Sudbury Horticultural Society has maintained monthly contact with its members through the Society website, Facebook group and "Gardening on the Rocks" newsletters.

Since in-person meetings and speaker presentations were not possible, free monthly virtual speaker presentations were offered to gardeners throughout OHA District 13 through a partnership with Sudbury's Parkside Centre. Generous donations provided by enthusiastic participants and Horticultural Societies made eight presentations possible for gardeners in Northeastern Ontario in 2021.

Presentations in 2021 included:

JANUARY – Lorraine Johnson: WILD ABOUT BEES
FEBRUARY – Sean James: POLLINATORS AND THEIR HOSTS*
MARCH – Abigail Burt: CREATING A WILDLIFE GARDEN
APRIL – Anna Leggatt: GARDENING IN THE SHADE
MAY – David Hobson: WILD IDEAS WITH POTS AND PLANTERS
SEPTEMBER – Helen Battersby: THE GARDEN OF REGRETS
OCTOBER – Kryslan Mohan and Shanelle Lacasse: E.S. HANMER FOOD FOREST PROJECT
DECEMBER – Dan Cooper: EXOTIC TROPICAL PLANTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA



Presentations planned for 2022 include:

JANUARY – Julia Dimakos: SUCCESSFUL VEGETABLE GARDENING
FEBRUARY – Darren Heimbecker: WHISTLING GARDENS AFTER 10 YEARS
MARCH – Jackie Morra: LAYERING WITH FOLIAGE THROUGHOUT THE SEASONS

Additional presentations will be offered throughout 2022 when pandemic restrictions prevent in-person gatherings at Parkside Centre. Gardeners wishing to participate in upcoming workshops will find more details each month on the Society website at <https://www.sudburyhorticulturalsociety.ca/> and Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sudburyhorticulturalsociety>.

*WHAT WE USED TO KILL (Caterpillars and Their Host Plants)

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION by Sean James, Sunday February 28, 2021

The Sudbury Horticultural Society, in partnership with the Parkside Centre, is pleased to present this virtual workshop for gardeners in Northeastern Ontario.

"It wasn't so long ago that if something was nibbling on our plants, we whipped out the insecticide. In recent years there has been an explosion of interest in pollinators, including butterflies and moths. Folks frequently seek advice to identify various caterpillars, larvae and other insects. Equally important is how to enhance our gardens to provide habitat for these creatures. Host plants and garden maintenance will be topics of the discussion."

Sean James has been named one of "20 Making a Difference" by Garden Making magazine, and as a 2020 Garden Communicator of the year by Landscape Ontario. "Gardening has been Sean's hobby and profession for almost 40 years. A graduate of Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, a Master Gardener, writer and teacher, Sean focuses on eco-gardening techniques, which makes sense since he grew up surrounded by nature near Crawford Lake in Campbellville. He has spoken from the Maritimes to Seattle and landscaped from Nova Scotia to California. Sean has had the honour of participating in the creation of the new Ontario Landscape Tree Planting Guide, the Grow-Me-Instead guide, the Ontario Horticultural Apprenticeship Curriculum, and the Master Gardeners Reference Manual. He has participated in chairing the Environmental Stewardship Committee for Landscape Ontario and the Environmental Committee for the Perennial Plant Association. He has moderated the Master Gardeners of Ontario Facebook page and judged both the All-American Selections garden competition and Hamilton's Monarch Awards Hamilton. He has been the Ontario spokesperson for Garden Days Canada and has appeared on many television and radio shows. Sean owns 'Sean James Consulting & Design' and instructs at Mohawk College."



Sean James

Charles Bowyer

April 20, 1933 - July 29, 2021

Remembering a long-time friend



Charlie loved his geraniums and amaryllis

A life well lived! He loved all things gardening. He had a passion for trees, as well as his love of rhododendrons, fruit trees, large 'Dinner Plate' dahlias, roses, lilies and orchids.

Charles Bowyer was a very active member of many Horticultural Societies in Essex County; in Amherstburg, the Fort Malden Society where he held many positions such as President for 16 years alternating as Vice-President and a Board member for over 50 years. Charlie was also President of Greater Windsor Horticultural Society which will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary this year. He was a supporter of the Ambassador Horticultural Society, Windsor (West End) and joined the new Ambassador LaSalle Horticultural Society when newly formed. He held many positions in this and all Societies and was always ready to help

out with their plant sales. He was honored with a Life membership in all of these Societies.

In his youth, Charlie was a Boy Scouts leader and also was a Beekeeper for many years. Always willing to share his knowledge, he was instrumental in organizing a Youth Gardening Club competition with Fort Malden Horticultural Society. For many years, he would help judge the gardens with his wife Florence. He, as well as his wife were Certified Ontario Horticultural Judges.

In his Community of Amherstburg at Seagram Park, a bench was dedicated in his honour as well as his wife Florence for their dedication to their Gardening and Community Involvement.

Charles was a proud member of Landscape Ontario as he loved trees and gardening. He did a stint at landscaping after his retirement from Windsor Hydro



Charles Bowyer



Charlie and Florence at Master Gardener picnic



Charles Bowyer receiving award



Essex-Windsor Master Gardeners, member for over 30 years



Loved growing and checking his friend Albert's Dahlia bed, 2020

but his right shoulder gave him much grief so after the surgery, he gave it up.

When the Master Gardener program was introduced in 1985, Charlie spearheaded this program out of the Essex Agricultural Office. He was a Master Gardener with the Essex-Windsor Master Gardeners for more than 30 years, including a five-year stint as the group's Co-ordinator. He attended these meetings religiously till Covid-19 hit as we no longer had in-person meetings.

He was District Director of the OHA representing Essex County for many years and loved to attend the annual District meetings to chat with fellow OHA members. In 2017, Charles was the recipient of the most prestigious award from the OHA, the "Silver Fir Award" as a member of the LaSalle Ambassador Horticultural Society in District 11. This Award is given to an individual who demonstrates "outstanding service" to the horticultural society in Ontario to which that individual belongs. He was the Assistant Director in District 11 from 1973 to 1980 and District Director until 1986. Charlie is a life member of the Canada Rose Society. Throughout the years, he has been recognized for his efforts including: District Service Award, Ontario Volunteer Award for over 30 years of service and recognition from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in 1983.

When the Belle River and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1992, he was there to support the new Society. He enjoyed participating in the Belle River Horticultural Society and Essex Horticultural Society annual bus trips.

When the Essex County Orchid Society was formed in 2009, he joined to support the group as a member. He loved to grow orchids as well.

Charlie was always involved with the Community Gardens helping to growing food for the needs of the community and would always lend a helping hand even during Covid-19 days.

Essex-Windsor Master Gardeners will be dedicating and planting a tree in the new year to commemorate Charlie's accomplishments as well as his wife Florence for all their work to the group and the Community. You are missed! RIP Charlie!

*Submitted by Juliette and Albert St. Pierre
District 11*

*Members and founders of Belle River
Horticultural Society, Belle River, ON*

*The photos with a flower content were taken by
Juliette St. Pierre.*

HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

First Convention of Ontario Flower-growers is a Success.

Over 40 associations were represented at the opening of the first convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association, which opened at the City Hall yesterday. Mr. W. B. Burgoyne of St. Catharines, the President, pointed out that recent legislation, the passing of the horticultural societies act, had placed the association on a much better footing and would enable them to work on broader lines in the future.

Major Snelgrove said that the association and its affiliated branches now had 4,000 members.

At the afternoon session a paper was read by Mr. S. Short, President of the Ottawa society, on the "Lady Minto Competition," in which he alluded to the interest this competition had created in the beautifying of public places as well as the homes of the people.

Mr. W. B. Burgoyne, St. Catharines, was re-elected President; Major H. J. Snelgrove, Cobourg, First Vice-President; Mr. R. B. White, Ottawa, Second Vice-President; Mr. H. B. Cowan, Toronto, Secretary and Treasurer; Messrs. J. Gilfoyle, Collingwood; A. Woodruffe, Woodstock; A. Alexander, Hamilton; J. T. Rose, Brantford; W. J. Diamond, Belleville; H. R. Frankland, Toronto, and the Rev. A. H. Scott, Perth, directors.

Garden Moments – 1906

By OHA Historian Malcolm Geast

Friday, November 9, 1906: Formation of the Ontario Horticultural Association – Seventy-two years after the founding of the first horticultural societies in Ontario, the Ontario Horticultural Association was formed. From that first group in Toronto, new societies had blossomed in southern Ontario from Windsor to the Quebec border and, by the early 1900's, reached into northern Ontario as far west as Fort William (now Thunder Bay). Originally proposed at a 1904 Ontario Fruit Growers Association meeting, the Ontario Horticultural Association soon became (and still is) one of the largest horticultural organisations in the world.

Accompanying image: [19061110_Globe_FirstOHAConvention.jpg](#)

(Source: *Toronto Globe*, Saturday November 10, 1906, p 7)

Ancaster Horticultural Society

By Betty Howitt, Program Director, Publicity Director and AHS Facebook Administrator



The Old Town Hall decorated for Christmas taken by Bob Wilt



AHS Tomato plant sale Covid-19 style taken by Jennifer Baker



St. John's Church taken by Carol Howe



AHS Trillium Awards Committee taken by Donna Parker



Fieldcote Memorial Park gardening crew taken by David Puskas

The Ancaster Horticultural Society, also known as Ancaster Gardeners, is a group of enthusiastic gardeners whose mission is to beautify Ancaster and share our knowledge and love of gardening. The society was established in 1961 after a petition was made and granted by the Minister of Agriculture. Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from January to June and September to November at the Old Town Hall on Wilson St. in Ancaster. Currently our meetings are online via Zoom. We are looking forward to resuming our monthly meetings in person in the future. All are welcome to join the Ancaster Horticultural Society's monthly meetings and learn from top notch speakers on a variety of horticultural and environmental topics.

We have the pleasure of holding our monthly meetings in a beautiful historic Ancaster building, the Old Town Hall. The Ancaster Old Town Hall was built in 1870 and stands today as one of the finest pieces of stone architecture in Ancaster. The hall was the centre of local politics for several decades and also various exhibitions such as the travelling Edison 'Magic Phonograph' demonstration in 1878. Today, the hall is retained by the City of Hamilton for its historic significance within the community and is available for community use. We also decorate the Old Town Hall for Christmas.

Our annual fundraiser is a very popular plant sale which we hope to return to, in person, on Saturday May 21, 2022 at Food Basics Plaza. We are once again offering our locally grown Heirloom tomato plants for pre-order through our website between Monday, February 14 – Saturday, April 30. All plants are \$5 and payable at pickup. Order early to get the best selection.

We run the annual Trillium Awards program in Ancaster during the month of July for the 125 most beautiful front gardens. Celebrating the 60th birthday of the Ancaster Horticultural Society last year, the Trillium Awards Programme recognized Historical Properties (built pre-confederation) with three special Trilliums. The winner of one of these awards is St. John's Anglican Church.

Many Ancaster merchants have supported our efforts with donations of plants, soil, door prizes and advertising. We are also supported by the City of Hamilton, Ministry of Farm and Rural Affairs and Harper's Garden Centre which has been key to our success over the years. We plant and maintain three municipal gardens: Brandon Park, Millennial Peace Park and Ancaster Square. We plant and maintain the beautiful gardens at Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum. The Fieldcote gardening team is looking forward to working in the lovely grounds of Fieldcote park again this year. Our annual community clean-up day has been cancelled for the last 2 years due to Covid-19 restrictions but we are happy to report that we have permission to invite members of the community

to help clear winter debris, spread woodchips and pull garlic mustard, preparing the grounds for planting. Co-chair Bob is busy organising this event which will take place on Saturday, April 30th.

Our members cover all ages and are only too willing to share gardening information. Becoming a member, you will receive a quarterly newsletter "Florascape" and a monthly electronic update "News Flash" which updates you on our events. Current memberships are up for renewal for 2022 at \$10 for single/\$15 for family with a "thank you" to those who have already renewed. Anyone who is interested in AHS and wishing to join can contact our membership director via the membership email at anc.hort.membership@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook or our brand new website at www.ancasterhort.org. where you will find information about Speakers, Events, Membership, The Annual Plant Sale, Ancaster Trillium Awards, and Community Gardening – Fieldcote. Feel free to contact us at ancasterhort.socy@gmail.com.

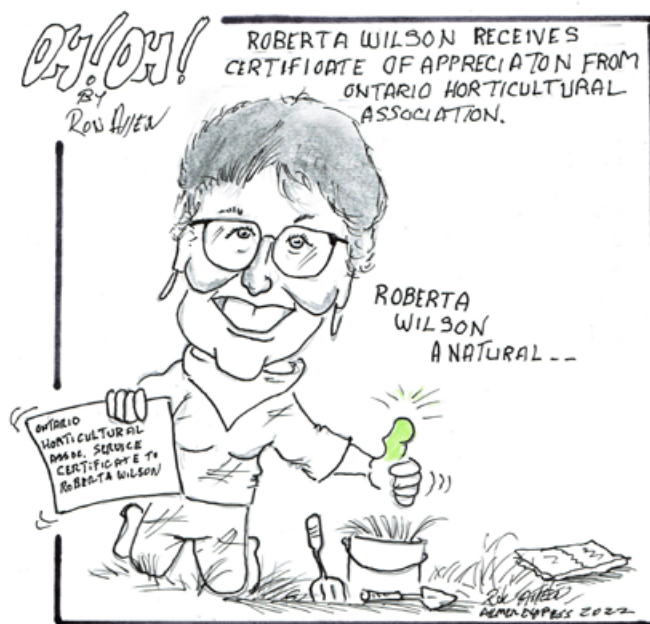
Aylmer & District Horticultural Society

Kate Kent, President

Aylmer & District Horticultural Society (ADHS) celebrated a long-time member Roberta Wilson at our December dinner meeting (catered in adherence with provincial regulations at the time). Roberta has done many, many tasks, activities, duties and held numerous positions of leadership for the Aylmer & District Horticultural Society. She did so even before it was officially associated with the Ontario Horticultural Association/Garden Ontario. She has been on and contributing to the Executive Board for a very long time. She has been a Director at Large, a position that she currently holds and has committed to do so for at least another 2 years, good health permitting, as that is the set term of commitment. She has been the Secretary when that position was twofold. In other words, the position used to keep minutes for the General and the Executive meetings, submit annual returns to District 10, OHA and OMAFRA when submissions were actually sent by snail mail! The position included maintaining the Gardening Matters entry to the Aylmer Express to let the community know what opportunities were available to all who wished to join ADHS. The secretary also has to submit ads in the Aylmer Express for our monthly meetings to identify the date, time, location and the speaker or special activities like our spring exchange and auction; to publicize our annual plant sale; to inform when we have our garden tours, etc. And speaking of our garden tours, she was absolutely instrumental in planning and helping on the day of our Country Garden tours almost 2 years ago now.

A photo of Irene VanderMeersch (Past President) presenting Roberta with an OHA Volunteer Service Certificate was taken and went into the local weekly newspaper. The week afterwards, Ron Allen, who creates a weekly cartoon for the paper, did one of Roberta.

It was perfect acknowledgement of her efforts!



Richmond Hill Garden and Horticultural Society

Fundraising through the Greenhouse Project

Submitted by Heather Ann Lowry, Board member

The years from 2020 to 2022 have found us, just like many other Horticultural Societies, digging in and learning even more about staying connected. Besides our monthly Zoom meetings, we've continued many fundraising initiatives online. Our annual spring plant sale became an online plant, worm compost and rain barrel sale. We continued through the summer with online selling of delphinium plants. In the fall, there were tulip bulbs, allium bulbs and water irises for sale, with many collected and dried by our members.



*Curbside pickup for worm compost fundraising
Photo by Gary Burke*



Photo by RHGHS president Doreen Coyne

Our spring sales of compost, rain barrels, and plants were the best we ever had! Our online shopping platform included all products posted with pictures, descriptions and pricing, tracking and filling of orders with Covid-19-safe curbside pick-ups. One of our members even provided plant care information on request. It was the best year in the past eleven years with over \$12,000.00 raised! This was an increase of over \$5,000.00 in fundraising from the previous year.

We couldn't have had our plant sale without 'The Greenhouse.' The Greenhouse Project began in April of 2015. A local Richmond Hill high school principal approached our Society board with a proposal. She would allow us to use their under-utilized greenhouse if we would come in and work with their students and staff. The following September, the Greenhouse Project began under the leadership of Doreen Bulled and Wolfgang Dall. Jennifer Pyke, our unofficial seed expert, joined the team shortly afterwards. Special education students had a space where they felt comfortable and welcomed. They learned to take cuttings and water the plants. One student loved to help with cleanup by hosing down the brick floors. Another student just loved to sit in the space and feel the calm of being surrounded by plants. Unfortunately, there were no direct interactions with students



*"Inside the Greenhouse project"
Photo by Sally Hossain, current team leader*

for over a year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Recently, the Greenhouse team has been able to help the staff and students learn to plant seedlings as they have returned to using the greenhouse again.

Today, there is a twelve-member team that works together to maintain the space and to germinate, propagate and get plants and planters ready for sales. This team is to be congratulated on what they accomplished despite the limitations on access to the Greenhouse in place for so long. After being closed for the summer months, the team regrouped in early September to begin cleanup and start the process of collecting plants, seeds and cuttings for another year. One of the team members wrote a poem encapsulating all that was done to get ready for this past fall.



Greenhouse project
Photos by Sally Hossain

Clean, Clean Greenhouse

*Fall's arrival around the bend
Gardens tiring, ready for bed
Our sunny greenhouse at the school
Needs our attention now instead*

*When we got there, looked inside
Bugs, larvae, wasps and dust
Thriving weeds and garden pots
Oh cleaning it all- is a must!*

*Early mornings we arrive
Hours and hours, we work hard
Wash, scrub and banish the dirt
A clean, clean greenhouse, our reward
For come October, when fall is here*

*We think we are starting to see some hope
A clean, clean greenhouse in our scope*

*Along comes Debbie, with a power washer
No cobwebs, no leaves, no dirt in sight
Oh, it brings us such delight!*

*We sort and we dust pots and pots
Big pots, hanging pots and little pots too
Little did we know, we had a lot
They'll all be washed, ready as new*

*We'll gladly welcome all your plants
We'll feed and tend them with loving care
But your bugs, we do not want!*

*Prep your gardens and clean your pots
Our spring Hort Sale is coming due
Coleus and tomatoes, just to name a few
From our clean, clean greenhouse... right to you!*

By Karen Kostin

Garden Moments – 1937

By OHA Historian Malcolm Geast

March 25, 1937: The Floral Emblem Act is passed in the Ontario legislature, proclaiming that "The flower known botanically as the 'trillium grandiflorum' and popularly known as the 'white trillium' shall be adopted as and deemed to be the floral emblem of the Province of Ontario". At the 1934 convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association, a proposal had been made to form a committee to propose a provincial flower. With a dozen wild flowers suggested, the following year's convention approved the committee selection of the trillium grandiflorum. Not everyone agreed however, with one prominent newspaper calling it a "pale and prolific nonentity", but also declaring that the "Trilliumites" would "get their law". They did get their law, and, 85 years later, the trillium still stands as a strong and recognisable symbol of Ontario.

Accompanying image: **FloralEmblemAct_1937_StatutesOfTheProvinceOfOntario1937.jpg**

(Source: Statutes of the Province of Ontario, Third Session of the Nineteenth Legislature of Ontario, 1937)

An Act respecting the Adoption of a Floral Emblem
for the Province of Ontario.

Assented to March 25th, 1937.
Session Prorogued March 25th, 1937.

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to adopt a floral emblem for the Province of Ontario; and whereas it is believed that the flower known botanically as "trillium grandiflorum" and popularly known as the "white trillium" is most appropriate for the said purpose;

Therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as *The Floral Emblem Act, 1937*.
2. The flower known botanically as the "trillium grandiflorum" and popularly known as the "white trillium" shall be adopted as and deemed to be the floral emblem of the Province of Ontario.

Bath Gardening Club

What's Happening in Bath

Submitted by Pat Chown

Photography by Don Taylor

We are pleased to announce that our membership drive has been very successful with the Bath Gardening Club now numbering 88 members. We welcome many new faces to our Club as Bath continues to grow.

As a community of gardeners, we are feeling very positive about the future as we head into spring with the opening of the Lafarge Memorial Grove and Pollinator Garden. This project has been a labour of love involving the Gardening Club in partnership with Loyalist Township and Lafarge Holcim Bath Cement Plant. The Bath Sunday Market, of which we are a part, will also be resuming and we are very excited as we look forward to our village planting.

Village Barrels and Gardens 2022

In keeping with the Canadian Garden Council's proclamation that 2022 is the Year of the Garden, and with the encouragement of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) to plant the colour RED, the Gardening Club has worked hard to come up with a beautiful selection of red flowers, complemented with a variety of other vibrant colours. This year the village gardens, planters and barrels will exhibit an abundance of: red Canna Lilies; Sunpatience in red, royal magenta, hot pink, purple and white; red and white Impatiens; white Cleomes; white Scaevola; white Supertunia; and red Vinca... the official flower of Bath. 398 plants in total! Loyalist Township will also highlight red flowers in the gardens at Loyalist Park complementing the red with accents of lime, orange and blue.

Meeting Updates: January and February meetings took place on Zoom. Both meetings were attended by 25 members and guests. In January, our speaker was Dr. Cathy Christie and her topic was "Planning your Food Garden, Selecting, Planting and Saving Seeds".

Cathy Christie describes herself as a mother, science educator, biologist, gardener and seed saver. She is currently the Chair of the Kingston Area Seed System Initiative (KASSI) and a Master Gardener in Training. The following summary of Cathy's presentation does not do justice to the wealth of information that she shared. Here are a few of the highlights of her presentation:

What are open-pollinated plants? These plants have been naturally pollinated by wind, insects and birds. Seeds that come from open-pollinated plants resemble the parent plant. Open-pollinated plants "retain their genetic diversity and adapt to a changing environment." Cathy reminded us that 9 out of 10 bits of food that we consume come from seeds. Open-pollinated seeds are considered to be "fundamental to our seed system". You can collect seeds from open-pollinated plants, save them, plant them and the results will be new growth that resemble the original parent plant.



Saving Seeds

Is there a difference between open-pollinated plants and hybrids? Yes. Hybrids may have been developed by pairing two open-pollinated plants but their seeds are not as stable as seeds from their original parents. You need to buy seeds that produce a hybrid plant. If you choose to save seeds from hybrid plants or from plants that have been cross pollinated, it is important to note that "the plants that grow from these saved seeds will carry the genetics from both 'parents' and may display different characteristics than expected".

What does heirloom mean? According to KASSI, there is no "legal" definition for heirloom seeds in Canada. KASSI does "define heirloom seeds as a variety worthy of being saved. This definition does not exclude successful hybrids. The term 'heirloom' does not necessarily guarantee that the seed is open pollinated".

What are the best seeds to buy? Open-pollinated, non genetically modified (GMO) seeds are more robust with predictable outcomes than hybrid seeds. A purchase of open-pollinated seeds will result in a plant that you expect. No surprises!

What kind of seeds are best saved? Squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, pumpkins, carrots, radish, to name a few. For this and other instructions for harvesting and drying seeds check out:

<https://rideau1000islandsmastergardeners.com/2020/05/19/planning-a-seed-saving-garden-with-cathy-christie/>
Article by Colette McKinnon



Complementary Colours

Photos by Don Taylor



Glowing White

Photography by Don Taylor



Monochromatic Garden

Photography by Don Taylor

During our February 21st meeting, the Bath Gardening Club was delighted to have Ken Brown as our speaker. Ken is a horticultural consultant, writer and photographer. He received his bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Guelph. When the Toronto Zoo was being constructed, Ken was hired as the Superintendent of Horticulture and, in this role, he was responsible for the planning and planting of all the indoor gardens and the overseeing of the outdoor landscaping contractors. Ken also worked in his own landscaping business for many years. In addition to being a certified horticultural judge, Ken taught courses in horticulture at the University of Toronto. His website: www.gardening-enjoyed.com, is not to be missed. Ken's topic for the Gardening Club meeting was "My Beauty from Bulbs".

Here are a few highlights of Ken Brown's presentation:

Ken plants thousands of bulbs in his garden, replenishing hundreds each year. He plants tulips, narcissus, crocus, snowdrops, iris, hyacinths and allium. Here are a few of the numerous recommendations and gardening hints that he shared with us:

Grass is a good growing medium. Snowdrops, for example can be planted in the lawn and they will bloom on the edge of melting snow. In the spring, a lawn appears to be "dead" but bulbs will still materialize. The first lawn cutting should be done on a high setting so that bulbs are able to rejuvenate for the following year's growth.

Some bulbs are a natural deterrent to squirrels. For example: Ruby Grant Crocus, Fritillaria, Tulip Lilac Wonder, Crocus Tommasinianus, Clusiana Lady Jane tulip, Clusiana Tinka. If squirrels are still problematic, use a variety of liquid repellents, blood meal or hen manure. The smell of these products is what deters the squirrel from munching on our bulbs.

Drill or use an auger to plant bulbs. Plant deep! Annuals can be planted on top of the bulbs. Tulips can be planted in a tree-shaded area but not in the shade of a house or other permanent structure. Trees are not usually in bloom when tulips are blooming so the tulips will actually be receiving the sun that they need.

The Big Ten!

The "**Food Gardening Network**" has identified 10 plants that will not only keep your gardens healthy and pest-free, some are also a great addition to your cooking.



Basil



Mint



Dill



Garlic

1. Basil

It is recommended that basil be planted near tomatoes. Both plants require a similar sun exposure and water conditions. Basil is a natural deterrent to pests that love to munch on tomatoes. Mosquitoes also do not like to hang around Basil!

2. Catmint and 3. Mint

Catmint discourages the presence of Japanese flying beetles, weevils and ants. Mint deters the presence of cabbage moths. Be aware that plants from the mint family can overtake your garden so planting these in a contained area or in a pot may be helpful.

4. Dill

Dill is a delicious herb to use in your cooking. It appears that spider mites, squash bugs and aphids do not like dill but tomato hornworms find it exceptionally attractive!

5. Garlic

This is often considered to be a "wonder" plant used in cooking and planted in gardens to deter aphids, Japanese beetles, cabbageworm, slugs, snails and even rabbits! Garlic is often used as an ingredient in commercial pesticides. Check out <https://www.networx.com/article/garden-pests-garlic-is-your-enemy> for more details.

6. Marigold

Marigolds attract pollinators but also can discourage the presence of nematodes, whiteflies, tomato hornworms and cabbage worms. Marigolds are edible but their smell may not enhance a fine dining experience.

7. Nasturtium

The addition of Nasturtium leaves and flowers to a salad not only adds a visual “wow” factor to the dish, the taste is delicious. Aphids however, also like to feast on nasturtiums but ladybugs, which are prevalent in our area, love aphids. A win for humans and ladybugs!

8. Petunias

Not only a gorgeous addition to your garden, petunias planted around your veggies will help to repel leafhoppers, squash bugs, aphids, tomato hornworms, potato bugs and asparagus beetles.

9. Rosemary and 10. Thyme

These two amazing herbs augment many a recipe. But, in addition to culinary delights, they also help repel unwanted pests. Carrot flies, snails, and cabbage moths are not attracted to rosemary. Tomato hornworms and whiteflies will also avoid areas where thyme has been planted.

And finally...

For more information on “What’s Happening in Bath”, we welcome everyone to keep in touch with us via our website: <https://bathgardeningclub.ca/>



Thyme

While Watching For Birds

By Stephanie Wilson

Winter is definitely here and for many of us, it means that we cannot enjoy many of our favourite activities. Something that perhaps one might enjoy is bird watching.

There are many beautiful winter birds to enjoy in southern Ontario including the cardinal, blue jay, downy woodpecker, cedar waxwing, nuthatch, brown creeper, purple and house finches, black capped chickadee and dark-eyed junco, to name some of them. Now is a great time to grab a book, from the library if necessary, and learn to identify them, their calls and their individual habits. It can be quite satisfying, enlightening and fascinating.

At the same time, if you wish to attract birds to your yard, learn about what they like to eat. Many hardware and pet stores sell bird seed. By reading the packages, you can decide what type of seed to buy to attract your favourite birds. And if you have been attentive to what environmentalists have been telling us lately, it may not even be necessary to buy seed.

If you have left your ornamental grasses and herbaceous perennials standing and untrimmed, the seed heads provide a buffet for birds, especially when the snow covers the ground and access to ground seeds is no longer an option. Birds find fruiting plants such as mountain ash, native American cranberry, serviceberry, Saskatoon berry and crabapple trees most enticing in the winter. The fruit has matured and softened, and provides quick energy.

Birds need shelter especially during the winter months when a cold wind blows. Their favourite havens for protection are native black and white cedars. Birds find comfort there, forage the seeds in winter and will often nest in cedars come spring. Any evergreen, for that matter, provides protection for birds come winter.

Open water of any kind, providing it is clean, attracts a lot of birds. If you have a garden pond, Mark Cullen suggests leaving a bubbler in the pond through the winter. Birds hop up to the edge of the ice and take a drink all season long. If you have a bird bath, use a bird bath heater to keep the water open.

Project Feeder Watch is a citizen science-based method of counting birds and registering them in the Birds Canada database. The “Watch” started November 13 and runs all winter, so sign up at www.birdscanada.org.

Keeping tabs on these beautiful creatures just might help to keep you going through the winter, help you to forget about the cold temperatures and the cruel hand that Covid-19 has dealt us. Before you know it, while watching for birds, you’ll be thrilled to see the first robins, hummingbirds and orioles.

Oh, and don’t forget to keep the cats inside. We want bird feeders, not cat feeders!

Martintown and District Horticultural Society

Gardening for the Birds

By Betty Riley



Red-Bellied Woodpecker



American Robin



Mourning Dove and Blue Jay

I am a member of the Martintown and District Horticultural Society for 20 years and am currently on the board. The Society has had speakers that do presentations on attracting birds to our gardens. The speakers have provided a wealth of information with suggestions for not only feeding birds but also on planting flowers and trees that encourage birds. Other gardeners in our Society regularly share their bird stories on Facebook so that we all learn from each other. Each summer, I open up my gardens to a garden tour for our Society's members. In 2014, I had (2 days in a row) big buses from different societies viewing my flower beds. The Hudson Garden Club has also been here twice. I regularly participate in competitions held by the Martintown and District Horticultural Society. I also have won many prizes from the Mark Cullen contests. Our society holds a barbecue each summer on our property. During Covid-19 we have even safely hosted our summer executive meetings outside on our property. My Red-Bellied Woodpecker photo of the day was shared recently on CTV News.

My husband and I live on 70 acres of land. For the past 23 years, we have been living at our beautiful country estate in St. Andrews West, Ontario. We manicure 4 acres of lawn, flowerbeds, trees and shrubs. During the Pandemic, we spent a lot of the summer gardening and the winter we do birding and snowshoeing on our property on the trails that we make with our ATV with the tracks. I also take a lot of pictures throughout the seasons. We have always been gardeners and take a big interest in nature. We are very avid bird watchers daily. We feed our birds all winter long and are always looking for a new arrival. This year for the first time, we have the Common Redpole and a Red-Bellied Woodpecker visit our feeders. We feed black oil sunflower seed, safflower, corn, mixed wild bird seed, nyjer seed, peanuts, suet cakes and I also make peanut butter suet balls from scratch. We also have an insulated watering box so the birds can have a drink all winter long. They love the pine and spruce trees, cedars and my clematis to hide in at night and the locust tree where the feeders are all located. I have many feeders, two of them hold 5 gallons of sunflower seed each.

The birds that we have here for the winter are Blue Jays, 4 pairs of Cardinals, Mourning Doves, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker,



Scarlet Tanager



Sandhill Crane



Northern Cardinals

Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, White-Breasted and Red-Breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinches, Black-Capped Chickadees, and the odd Robin. The Indigo Bunting we had last year has not arrived this season. For the first time, on our snowshoe adventures, we have seen a Sandhill Crane and the odd Ruffed Grouse near a creek.

Our summertime birds we look forward to are Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanager, Robins, Hummingbirds, Red-Breasted Grosbeaks, Fly-Catcher, Eastern Phoebe, Purple Finches, Goldfinches, Killdeer, Common Flicker and Sparrows. For the past 15 years, our garden has been home for my go-to 'spark bird' the Eastern Bluebird. To keep them attracted to the garden, we planted a wide variety of shrubs that produce berries, including wild grapes. In our forest they find thimble berries and elderberries. We also buy mealworms and have a special feeder for which they love us. The birds enjoy a field of wild flowers close by. Winter months is our time to make new bird houses.



Cedar Waxwings



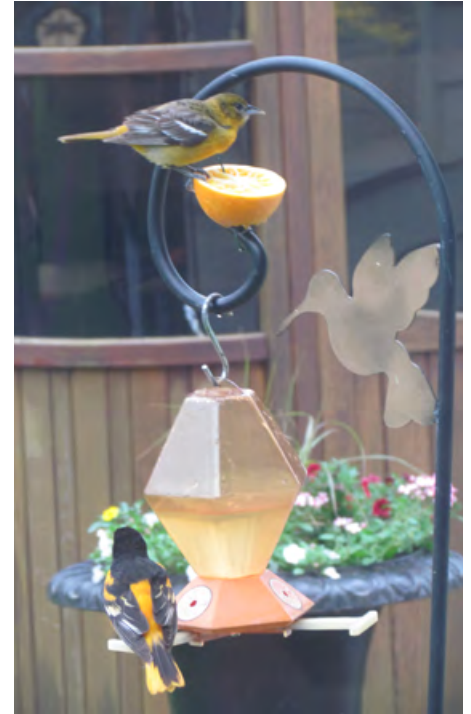
Eastern Bluebird and friend



Pileated Woodpeckers



Eastern Bluebird



Baltimore Orioles
(Top - female, bottom - male)

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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LaSalle Horticultural Society

By Jan Dugdale, President and Public Relations Officer, Photo by Jan Dugdale



Oh, my goodness, could spring be just around the corner? I see daffodils popping through the leaves now. Could we be getting more light for our plants? Get out your seed packages for those that are starting indoor planting in March. It's a good month to start at the beginning with Kale, Celery and Cabbage to the latter part of the month with Artichoke, Beets, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Eggplant, Lettuce and Swiss Chard. Check when they can go outside, for some it's 2 to 4 weeks before the last frost date and some are a week after. This year, the Old Farmer's Almanac says our area of (Windsor/LaSalle) will have a last frost-free date between April 17 to 28th, so to be safe, let's go with the 28th. Frost is actually predicted when air temperatures reach 32°F (0°C), but because it is colder closer to the ground, a frost may occur even when air temperatures are just above freezing. Always keep an eye on your local area's weather forecast.

As spring approaches, we have started up our plans of meeting in person, masks still in hand. We want to get our canna bulbs out of storage and prepare them for indoor planting and growing in a greenhouse until our very large May 7th plant sale.

We find keeping your members, youth and followers engaged, use Facebook to your advantage. We started a couple of years back at about 125 followers and now have 650. A word of advice from some youth, whom our societies are trying to attract, is not to bombard them with gardening stuff every single day. If they follow lots of groups and get too many notifications from one group, then they seem to stop following the busier ones.

In society news, we are planning a large "Egg to Butterfly" (4 hr.) workshop in May: presentations, props, literature to take home and knowledgeable speakers on how to raise butterflies, especially Monarchs in the summer. Our twenty-five-dollar registration fee will cover the speakers, literature, door prizes and lunch, teaching everything from the basics of how to attract butterflies by what to grow, locating eggs, diseases, feeding, etc. This will be a great event, especially for beginners who want to learn how to raise a Monarch. Of course, it will be advertised on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LasalleAmbassadorHorticulturalSociety/> and also on the Monarch Butterfly Enthusiasts of Windsor and Essex County Facebook page listed below: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/299958150869056/>.

Pollinator gardens still remain of great importance not only to butterflies, but bees and birds alike. A lot goes into the planning of such a garden: what plants go where and how to put them in. Two gardens are now in the works with some new youth and regular members from our society and a few butterfly rangers that are involved with the David Suzuki Society. To aid us in these projects, we've applied for several grants. Wish us luck!

Lastly, we are your hosts for the 2022 Spring AGM so look for more details as we get closer to the tentative date of Saturday, May the 28th and tentative location of the Vollmer Complex here in town.