

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Spring 2024



Photo by Melanie Ruigrok, Dunnville Horticultural Society



Butterfly Milkweed

Plant Orange in Your Garden as 2024's "Colour of the Year"



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Editor's Message



Congratulations to Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies on their special anniversaries in 2024.

Spring is my favourite time of year and this year gave us a taste early! The daffodils bloomed just in time to get snowed on. I thought they'd had the biscuit! The next sunny day, the daffodils surprised me by perking up

again and they bloomed for weeks afterwards.

Thank you to everyone for sending in great articles for this issue. Thanks also for the cooperation in obtaining and sending the waivers to share your wonderful photographs with us. Some Clubs/Societies are used to this and it's new to the others. It will be routine to all of us in no time.

I'm looking forward to working in the garden, digging up plants and potting some of them up for the Garden Club Plant Sales. Visiting Garden Centres is always fun, too and there's always room for one more plant!

Laura Masterson
editor@gardenontario.org



Daffodils on March 18, 2024

Photo by Laura Masterson

The *Trillium* is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA

This newsletter is for all members of all Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario in every district. Here is where you'll find the latest gardening news. If your club/society has a special project and you would like to share the news, please send in a story and photographs.

Submission dates for 2024:

- June 1 – Summer issue
- September 1 – Autumn issue
- December 1 – Winter issue

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

To send articles and photographs: Articles should be emailed in Word format, LibreOffice or plain text. Photos and other graphics must have signed waivers from the photographer/artist and 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. Please mention who wrote the article and the name(s) of the photographer(s) for a credit.

These requests make it easier to work with photos submitted.

Articles can be emailed to:
editor@gardenontario.org
Laura Masterson, OHA *Trillium* Editor

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.

To avoid illegal copyright issues, please do not submit articles, artwork and photographs copied from the internet or elsewhere unless written, signed permission from the writer, artist or photographer has been given.

WAIVERS

FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PHOTOS OF MINORS

Here is the link to waivers on the OHA site:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Media-Release-and-Indemnity-Form-2024-01-26.pdf>

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Oops!

Apologies for errors in the winter 2023-24 issue of the Trillium and any others anytime. Revisions were made for the online version on the website but the earlier versions were 'out there' before the errors were noticed.

The large group photo on page 8 was actually from the April District 1 AGM taken by Tony Beaudette, NOT: ~~Not~~ AGM by Glenda Villeneuve.

On Page 25, the OHA 2023 Arts Competition results: Under Class 7 and Class 10, Best in Show and Judge’s Choice, "Joan MacKinnon" was the winner, not ~~Jean MacKinnon~~.

On pages 28-29, the OHA 2023 Photography Competition results: In 5 instances in noting award winners, including Grand Champion, Larry Chamney was incorrectly spelled ~~Larry Champney~~.



Trillium Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Online Newsletter Subscription

To Subscribe to the Trillium

The online Trillium 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:
secretary@gardenontario.org

The Trillium is also available on the OHA website: <https://gardenontario.org>

OHA 50/50 DRAW

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer



GardenOntario®

50/50 Draw

License No. RAF1369110

Next Draw: July 14, 2024

For your chance to win, visit
<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>
 Before July 14, 2024



OHA President's Message

Happy Spring everyone! I hope you have all been enjoying the relatively mild weather that we have been having over the last month or so. I'm sure the seed catalogues are dog-eared by now and the garden tools are cleaned, oiled and ready to go. Some of you probably already have snow drops and crocuses poking through while the rest of us are waiting for just a bit more snow to go away. No matter where you are, Mother Nature is letting us know that gardening time is not far away. I hope you will be able to take some time to sit and read the Spring issue of the Trillium and catch up on what other societies around you might be planning for the coming months.

Please don't forget about the 2024 OHA Convention taking place July 12th to 14th in Guelph at the Delta Hotel. There are wonderful bus trips planned and amazing speakers to hear as well as the Friday night entertainment and the Saturday night Awards Banquet. We, of course, have to conduct the business of the Association as well and appreciate your participation and feedback. We hope that you will partake in all the events being held, reunite with friends and have a fantastic time. For all the latest details on the convention including accommodation information, competition schedules and registration information, please go to <https://gardenontario.org/convention/>. Hope to see you there!



Sharlene Desjardins

The OHA Family Bursary/Scholarship is still being finalized and our hope is still to have it ready by the Fall of 2024. Stay tuned for more information.

We are working to produce a Gardening Journal as a fundraising effort for the Association. We have a very dedicated committee of individuals that are working hard to produce a great book for you with gardening information, interesting tidbits and advice as well as journal pages, templates and blank pages to add all of your notes and progress. More information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

We were asked by members of the Association to have our Photo Waiver form reviewed by a lawyer. We have done as requested and have a finalized document that was sent out to all Societies/Clubs.

We have also completed a Garden Walk/Slip/Trip/Fall form for any Societies/Clubs wishing to hold Garden Tours. This form will assist Societies/Clubs in evaluating the condition of the property for a tour and to make recommendations before the tour happens. We are looking into additional one-day insurance that could potentially be purchased for garden tours. This is currently not available; however, it is being investigated.

The Society/Club Governance by Committee document has been sent out to all Societies/Clubs for information purposes should your Society/Club govern this way or choose to govern this way in the future.

A new Accessibility Statement and a statement on the Scope of the OHA have been created and have been posted to the GardenOntario website. The accessibility statement is available at the bottom of the About page or the Home page and the document entitled "What is the OHA?" is available under the Resources tab > Manuals and Guides > "What is the OHA?"

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for upcoming 50/50 Draws. Fundraisers like these help us to be able to put on events such as Earth Days, provide new and updated Grants and Awards and provide Bursaries and Scholarships among other things. We can't do it without your support! Please check out the raffle at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>.

Our 2025 OHA AGM, which is business only, will be held on July 19th, 2025. I hope that you will all consider attending to have your voice heard while we review the important business of the Association.

I am pleased to let everyone know about an agreement we entered into with Dubois Agrinovation. This is a company that provides high quality gardening equipment, tools and supplies for home gardeners both small and large as well as nurseries and farms. All societies will receive 2% back on anything purchased by their members. The Association also

receives 2% back on any purchases made by any Association members. Information packages have been sent out to all Societies/Clubs including the Society/Club discount codes, a how-to manual and the link to where this information is saved on the GardenOntario website. We are hopeful that this cooperative agreement will be beneficial for all involved.

I hope everyone has a very wonderful Easter and a great spring and I look forward to seeing all of you at the 2024 OHA Convention. As always, if you have any concerns, questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me anytime.

Yours in Gardening,
Sharlene Desjardins
OHA President



GardenOntario[®]
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL[®]

OHA Thanks Lisa DeYoung For Her Years of Service as OHA Trillium Distributor

Submitted by Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary, Photo by Gavin Taylor



*Lisa DeYoung (left) was presented with a Hoselton tree
by Kelly Taylor (right), OHA Secretary.*

The OHA would like to thank Lisa DeYoung for her years of service to the association. Lisa acted as our OHA Trillium Distributor, from 2014 to 2023, sending all electronic and hard copy editions to our membership and subscribers.

Thank you Lisa!



OHA 2024 Conference and Annual General Meeting



July 12-14, 2024

Hosted by Districts 7 & 8

The OHA 2024 Convention will be held at the Delta Hotels
Book your hotel room at a special rate now!

Delta Hotels Conference Centre, Guelph, Ontario

<https://www.mariott.com>

50 Stone Road West, Guelph, ON, N1G 0A9

1-844-496-8549

Bring your gardening enthusiasm to the *OHA 2024 Conference and Annual General Meeting* in Guelph. Check the OHA website regularly so you won't miss any of the fun (or deadlines). Details and updates will be added as available and don't worry – there is room and excitement for all. There will be wonderful people to meet, awards to be given, competitions to enter and view, bus tours to enjoy, amazing speakers on current gardening and environmental topics and delicious food.

OHA Competitions 2024

OHA 116th Convention • July 12-14, 2024 • Host: District 7 & 8 • Guelph

Theme: "The Heartland of Gardens Growing and Rivers Flowing"

Visit these sites for the rules and amazing categories to inspire your entries. It's fun and some of these have to be in early!

OHA 2024 – Flower Show Schedule

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-Convention-Flower-Show-Competition-Schedule-2024-02-05.pdf>

OHA 2024 – Arts Competition Schedule

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-ARTS-COMPETITION-Schedule-2023-11-09.pdf>

OHA 2024 – Publications Competition Schedule

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-PUBLICATIONS-COMPETITION-Schedule-2023-11-14.pdf>

OHA 2024 – Youth Competition

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-YOUTH-COMPETITION-Schedule-2023-11-07.pdf>

OHA 2024 – Photography Competition Schedule

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-PHOTOGRAPHY-COMPETITION-Schedule-2023-11-11-.pdf>

OHA 2024 – Creative Writing Competition Schedule

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-OHA-Creative-Writing-Competition-Schedule-2024-01-15.pdf>

<https://gardenontario.org/convention/>

Spring Greetings From Haldimand Horticultural Society

Submitted by Barbara Wilson, President

Photos by Barbara Wilson

This year is a special one for our Society as it is our 40th Anniversary – a “Ruby Jubilee”, 1984-2024.

Forty years ago, Wonder Woman dominated the Box Office and Tina Turner and “What’s Love Got To Do With It?” topped the music charts and HHS was incorporated by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. A certificate has been received from the Premier of Ontario congratulating us on this achievement. We look forward to celebrating this milestone along with all our regular events with 2024 being a year of more wonderful times in our gardens.

Planning is underway for our 7th annual Seedy Sunday on April 7th as well as the District 6 AGM which we are hosting on April 20th. A mushroom-making workshop will be held after the breakfast meeting.

A 40th anniversary tree, a native tulip tree, will be planted in the spring and we are bringing back our annual bus trip in July. Lots to look forward to.

Our Poppy Project continues to expand. We are collecting poppies (red, purple and white) from volunteers to create a new display at the Cayuga Cenotaph for November of this year. Approximately 2000 poppies were donated for our Hagersville Cenotaph display in 2023 and 2300 were donated for the Caledonia Cenotaph display in 2022. We are very grateful to all our community volunteers who donate their time to knit or crochet poppies to create our beautiful, moving displays.

Here’s to 40 years of cultivating friendships, cultivating knowledge and cultivating beauty!

Let’s all sow seeds of inspiration
for generations to come.



The winners of our monthly February GM competition



The Hagersville Cenotaph



The Caledonia Cenotaph

Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

Written by Vickie Bureau, President, Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

Photos by Vickie Bureau



Farmers Market information and membership drive booth

Although it is only February, the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society has been busy growing our society and spreading the seeds of knowledge to our members and the general public through our various venues.

Our outreach programs have started for the year with the Society's information/membership drive booth being set up at The Thunder Bay Country Market, for February - April, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The reception and interest in the society has been growing exceptionally well. Thanks go out to Ian and Shirley Robson, Yvonne Faid, Christine Paul and Vickie Bureau for attending the booth and promoting horticulture to the general public.

We are looking forward to sharing both seeds and knowledge at the upcoming Seedy Saturday events starting March 2nd at the Roots Community Food Centre, Thunder Bay, presented by Superior Seed Producers. Thank you Lorna MacAskill and Vickie Bureau for volunteering again this year. The 2nd Seedy Saturday is at the Gillies Community Centre



*2023-2024 Executive Board swearing in ceremony, by City of Thunder Bay Councilor Kasey Etreini
Missing: Director Tara Monteith, sworn in separately*



Sisters of Turtle Island Drum Group



*Ben Johnson,
Giant Pumpkin Growing Presentation*



*Erika North, Flower Show Committee Chair,
Summer Flower Show update*

in Nolalu, ON and presented by Misty Meadows Permaculture Farm on March, 4th, thank you Paul and Vickie Bureau for putting your names forward for volunteering.

Our February General Society meeting started with the swearing in of our Executive Board members by Thunder Bay City Councilor Kasey Etreni. The Sisters of Turtle Island Drum group opened our year of growing with song and drumming, along with a smudging. Our presentation of the month was on Giant Pumpkin growing by Ben Johnson, of the *Thunder Bay District Giant Pumpkin Growers* and was very informative and educational along with an invitation to this year's Giant Pumpkin Growing year-end windup.

Flower Show Chair Erika North gave a presentation on our upcoming Summer Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Show. This included some of the rules and regulations for exhibiting that will be in our 2024 Yearbook.

The annual society yearbook is close to printing and will be available at our March General Meeting. Thanks to all those who have contributed reports and pictures to our 2024 yearbook celebrating our 100th Anniversary.

*Congratulations Thunder Bay Horticultural Society
on its 100th Anniversary!*

The Gananoque Horticultural Society Park

Written and Submitted by Joan MacKinnon, Current Photos by Joan MacKinnon

The Gananoque Horticultural Society Park turned 100 years old in January, 2024. The story of how the Gananoque Horticultural Society came to be owners of a Park is an interesting one. William Stone Macdonald was the owner of Blinkbonnie, home of the Macdonald family who had settled in Gananoque in the early 19th century. The large, prestigious house is located diagonally across the street from the property which became the Park. William, a prominent civil engineer, died unexpectedly on May 18, 1923 at age 61 at his home in Brooklyn, New York. His widow, Louise Davies Macdonald, immediately started selling off all the Macdonald properties in Gananoque, including Blinkbonnie, Maplecroft Farm in the east end of Gananoque and the piece of property that included Lots 608 and 610 at the corner of Mill and Main Streets. The recently created Horticultural Society had already been involved in developing gardens on this property, with work bees held there in late April and early May, 1923. It seemed logical that these two lots would be turned over to the Society. On January 22, 1924, three Trustees for the Gananoque Horticultural Society signed an Indenture transferring ownership of the two lots to the Society for the sum of \$1.00. These three Trustees were John C. Linklater, teacher and principal for whom Linklater Public School was later named, and the President of the Society in 1924-1925; Andrew Edwards, a real estate agent and former cabinetmaker, and Society President from 1926-1932; and Josephus T. Green, a Society Director and Town Post Master.

The Park was initially planted with a combination of annuals and perennials, with an early photo showing hollyhocks bordering the edges of the Park and a few small trees. A Memorial Stone commemorating the history of the Park, where the first store and post office in the town of Gananoque had been located, was unveiled by family member Isabella Macdonald on August 7, 1924, as part of Old Home Week. However, purchase of the stone was expensive, and its cost put the Society in the red for the only time in its history. A small Town grant helped offset the cost of the Memorial Stone, but to economize in those early years, the Society made every effort to use donated plants in the Park. Two peonies were given to the Park following the Prince of Wales' 1927 docking in Gananoque, and were planted on either side of the Memorial Stone. The Society found care of the gardens in the Park time-consuming and expensive, given that its members were also caring for numerous other plots around town and gardens at the East and West Gates. In 1928, when Leeds Motors was built just east of the Park, the owner, Bruce Showler, proposed that the Society allow the company to create an access



Park view, seed hotel in rear, pollinator garden



Small iris, Bergenia and Alyssum

road across the upper Park, and in return, the company would care for the gardens in the Park. This arrangement lasted until 1952, and photos taken about 1950 by Leeds Motors employee, Art Byford, show a well-kept and attractive Park. From 1952, when Leeds Motors was sold, until the beginning of the 21st century, the Park was primarily a green space, with small gardens around the Memorial Stone, and a number of trees and benches. Over the last 25 years, the Park has been transformed into a series of gardens, with abundant colour through three seasons of the year.



*Photo of the Gananoque Horticultural Park about 1950
Taken by Art Byford. Courtesy Linda Beaupre.*

When the park was revitalized, the first priority was creating gardens in the area where Leeds Motors had formerly been located. A variety of lilacs, a magnolia and a catalpa tree were planted along the lot line, and a screen of tall grasses was created in one area. A number of peonies, poppies, daylilies, phlox and echinaceas with a border of perennial alyssum were planted, with hostas and astilbes placed in the shadier parts of the border. On the north side is a 4' x 4' garden, a demonstration garden showing how a lot of vegetables can be grown in a small space. The upper garden is bordered by a low wall, with the garden below full of daffodils and grape hyacinths in the spring, and a wide array of daylilies blooming in late July/August. The circular garden surrounding the Memorial Stone features our emblem flower, the petunia, on the west-facing side and a checkerboard barberry hedge with large hostas on the east side. A pollinator garden was created in the north section of the Park in 2017 and is now filled with echinaceas, agastache, monarda, phlox and other perennials; zinnias and cleome will fill in for colour. A Bee Hotel is a point of interest to visitors as well as being well-used by insects. A bird bath is regularly visited by butterflies, dragonflies and a variety of birds.



Four Square Garden



Memorial Stone with Surfinia Bubblegum petunias

On the south side of the Park is a more narrow garden filled with irises, Biokovo perennial geraniums, heuchera and hostas, as well as a Tree and an Itoh peony. Plans are underway to replace some of the plain orange daylilies in this garden with a number of more recent varieties. In 2020, for the 100th anniversary of the Society, we created a Centennial Garden to the east of this garden, full of different types of hostas, a border of silver-leaved pulmonaria and several large Japanese Hakonechloa grass plants.

The original 'Prince of Wales' peonies were dug out in 1966 when a Park renovation was undertaken before Canada's Centennial. The roots were sold to Society members for 50¢ each. When I learned this story, I started to think about who might have a piece of one of the original peonies. I contacted Metje Mabee, a former Society President, who was also President of the O.H.A. in 1994-95, and found out that she had purchased a root and still has the peony in her garden. She offered to give us a piece which has now been replanted in a prominent spot in the Park.

The garden also boasts two sculptures. The first, 'Heritage: Root Fence' by Tony Stappels, was installed in 2020, and last year, a second statue was added. This solid brass statue is by local artist sculptor Gaye Noel Bullock and was donated to the park by his estate. Noel, a founder of the Gananoque Arts Network, was known for large outdoor public sculptures and paintings in various mediums.

A seed library was installed in 2021 near the sidewalk, and filled with seed packages in 4 boxes, divided into Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables and Herbs. Last year, over 1000 packages of seeds were made available starting in mid-April, but by early May had all been claimed by eager gardeners. Throughout the remainder of the summer, magazines and books were stocked in the library, available for any interested gardeners.

Another new feature is four laminated signs explaining aspects of the Park – the Four Square Garden, the Pollinator Garden, the Daylily bed and the use of leaf mulch. These small signs answer some of the questions frequently asked by visitors to the Park.

Volunteers from the Society care for the Park. A weekly rotation is created in May, with 2 volunteers needed each week through the beginning of October to spend time in the Park, weeding, deadheading and cutting back plants as instructed. Work parties are held in late April to clean up the park and again in October to put it to bed. Additional work parties are sometimes called on to plant annuals or bulbs. We do hire an individual to cut the grass, but other than that, all of the garden work is done by Society members.

Although a water outlet was installed in the Park in 1976, keeping the gardens adequately watered was a major problem for many years. This past July, the Society hired Down Under Irrigation to install a watering system with 5 watering zones, designed to run in the very early morning. The watering system provides excellent coverage of the gardens and will make it easier to create more lush gardens, especially in the upper garden and along the south edges of the Park that have often been very dry.

The Horticultural Park is a charter member of the Leeds Grenville '1000 Islands and Rideau Canal Garden Adventure' tour. Created to encourage visitors to the area, the group has grown and changed since its creation in 2015, but the Horticultural Park has remained a part of the group throughout.



Spring view of Park



Fall Cleanup Crew

Plans are underway for a celebration of the centennial of the Park, to be held on August 11 in the Park. Displays, Park tours, and possibly a dramatization of the history of the Park are being considered for the event.

Located only 3 blocks from the waterfront, the Gananoque Horticultural Society Park is a regular stop for visitors to town as well as local residents. Visitors enjoy sitting on the benches, having a lunch on the picnic table and viewing the colourful gardens. One of the joys of working in the Park is the many compliments we hear from passersby. Hopefully the Park will continue to provide pleasure for many years to come.

*Congratulations to Gananoque Horticultural Society Park
on its 100th Anniversary!*

Leaside Garden Society

Submitted by Nora Campbell, Co-President andCarolynn Beange, Scholarship Committee Chair

The Leaside Garden Society is offering a \$2,000 scholarship in 2024 for a student enrolled in a post-secondary institution (second year or beyond) studying horticulture or a related subject such as forestry, botany, plant science, environmental science, etc. More scholarship information and the application form is available on our website: www.leasidegardensociety.org.

\$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

**The Leaside Garden Society Founders' Scholarship
will award \$2,000
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, 2024

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 1980's 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.

Flamborough Horticultural Society Celebrates its 85th Birthday in 2024

Submitted by Susan MacMillan, President and District 6 Secretary



Centrepiece, Photo by Susan MacMillan



Baby Bees, Photo by Marilyn Brown

The FHS was happy to host the District 6 Spring Breakfast Meeting on Feb. 24th, 2024. We had a lovely venue of the parish hall at the St Thomas the Apostle Church in Waterdown. While funerals and winter illness kept a few members away, 107 members representing 19 of the 21 societies attended. Members were generous and opened their wallets to support the Share the Wealth and penny sale. Part of the proceeds were donated to our District. FHS is fortunate to have so many good bakers and also several who provided a good choice of protein to add to the assortment of food. Volunteers were certainly busy in the kitchen that was full of camaraderie as they kept plates filled. Leftovers were sold to members who wanted treats to take home.

Lianne Krane, our District Director provided lots of updates, all in record time. Her presentation included many examples of the colour orange palette and also provided her PowerPoint for members to review the plants available for their gardens. With the convention so close to our District, she encouraged members to try and register for at least one or more days and to make submissions to the competitions. Many District members will be volunteering for the Hamilton Spring Tide Bulb Show Booth as part of a membership drive and answer gardening questions.

I discussed the Hamilton Trillium Awards that take place each summer. FHS has many judges and I am the Ward coach. This form of civic improvement involves front and side garden beautification by Hamiltonians. Homeowners nominate



Registrants at Spring District 6 Meeting, Photos by Trudy Bliedung, Treasurer



2024 Food Display, Photo by Trudy Bliedung

their gardens through an easy electronic submission or are nominated for the chance to receive a Trillium plaque for their garden to proudly display. Twenty white trillium plaques go to each of the 15 Wards, one pink per Ward and one red winner for all of Hamilton. Judges are represented from many of the Wards and many FHS members volunteer their time to judge and hand out awards. Our sister Society of Ancaster (also part of Hamilton) runs a Trillium Awards Program separately for Ancaster and they too, work hard finding and judging gardens.

Darrell Bley from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture spoke about the Coniferous Forests of Canada which included scenic photos of his trips to the forested regions with students, the importance of birds contributing to forests, the impact of clearcutting, how controlled fires help regenerate some trees and many other important aspects of the trees and the forest. This is a huge topic but members got a taste of how much there is to learn and appreciate about our forests.

Local businesses contributed to our penny sale and we are grateful to those that could. Several members donated prizes, brought in books to share and FHS accepted small donations for these.

All of us are looking forward to the upcoming Seedy Saturday/Sunday events that are precursors to our seed starting and plant sale fundraisers.



Fruit skewers, Photo by Marilyn Brown



Oranges, Photo by Marilyn Brown

Thorold Garden Club

Submitted by Leslie Daniels, President of TGC and D9 Director, Photos by Leslie Daniels

Our First SEEDY Saturday in Thorold – February 10th, 2024

It was a bright and spring-like day in early February. Mother Nature seemed to have made this day especially to frame Thorold's First SEEDY Saturday event...

And what an event it was. We had decorated the Senior Centre and prepared to welcome like-minded gardeners and friends brought out with the scent of spring, creating visions of plant and animal life returning.



Tami Lyons brought two of her quails – everyone loved them

More than 400 people passed through the Centre venue checking out a diverse selection of vendors, seed sharing opportunities, a penny table and many handouts full of ideas. One of the highlights, of course, was our kid's area complete with Tami Lyons and her cute little quail in a playpen that delighted children of all ages as they enjoyed their day with us.

We were lucky enough to have Liz Benneian, Wendy Sommers, George Scott and Mary-lyn Hopper whose presentations were informative and interesting to all. Food and refreshments including healthy snacks were available sponsored by the Senior Centre Board and members.

Hope to see you all back next year: Save the Date – Saturday, February 8th, 2025 same time, same place!

Embrace the present – so the future can unfold



This event was as the result of a community partnership between: the Thorold Garden Club, the Senior Centre Board, the Age Friendly Advisory Committee to Thorold Council, the Thorold Community Activities Group and the Thorold Public Library.

Congratulations Thorold Garden Club on its 95th Anniversary!

Paris Horticultural Society Plant Sale and Garden Tour 2024

Submitted by Serryn Stephenson, Publicity Director

We are a non-profit organization and use these two events as our annual fundraisers. The funds are used for public plantings around the Town of Paris, The Cenotaph, Garden of Hope, education, a bursary to a graduating student from Paris District High School and for our Society's horticultural programs.

We would truly appreciate if you would add us to your event list.

Paris Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11th, 8 am – 11 am

At Syl Apps Community Centre-Arena, 51 William Street, Paris, Ont. N3L 1L2.

Selection of perennial favourites from members' gardens, vegetables, herbs, annuals, and native plants. Master Gardener on site. Junior Gardener's Corner for children. Coffee and Muffin available \$2. Cash Only! Plant Auction to follow. Call Carol 519-442-3918 or Nancy 519-752-8702 details.

Paris Horticultural Society Annual Garden Tour

Saturday & Sunday, June 1 & 2nd from 10 am - 4 pm in Paris

Come and visit behind the gates of five beautiful Paris and area gardens. Live Musician's and Local Artist's will be performing. In the gardens. 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.

Lindsay Garden Club

Submitted by Patty Carlson Photos by Kim Magee

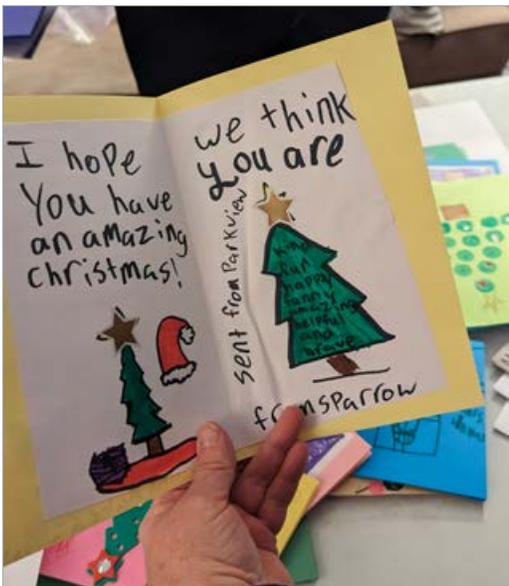
The Lindsay Garden Club "Flower Power" initiative was first inspired from Dahlia May Flower farm, near Trenton, whose charitable flower-giving initiatives give back to seniors in their community. Determined to show our local seniors the same appreciation, the Club struck a committee and the Flower Power Project was born. The Club hopes that other horticultural societies will be inspired to "spread the love, one flower at a time" in their own communities.

The Lindsay Garden Club was "Spreading the love, one flower at a time... to seniors this Christmas!"

The Christmas holidays can be a very challenging and often a lonely time for our loved ones in long-term care homes. With that in mind, on Dec. 14th, the volunteers from the Lindsay Garden Club "Flower Power" initiative, packed and delivered brightly coloured kalanchoe plants and handmade Christmas cards to over 600 seniors living in long-term care homes in Lindsay. The heart-warming handmade cards, made by local elementary school children, brought smiles, laughter and tears of joy to the residents as well as staff and volunteers. "Now this makes Christmas" was quoted by one of the recipients as she opened her card! Immediately following deliveries, messages from staff were received, "You can't imagine the ripple effect this had had through our home already".

A special thanks to the students at the following schools for sharing their love with their wonderful Christmas cards this holiday season: St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School, Queen Victoria Public school, King Albert Public School, Parkview Public School, St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School and Alexandra Public School.

The Lindsay Garden Club gives special thanks to Kawartha Lakes Classic Flowers for their knowledge and support bringing our project together. We could not have done it without them.





The Lindsay Garden Club (Lindsay and District Horticultural Society) has been operating in Lindsay since 1867. Currently, the Club has over 100 members and is growing! Our goal is to encourage interest and improvements in horticulture in our community through a variety of means such as educational horticultural meetings, field trips, plant exhibits, competitions, plant sales and community beautification projects. The Club holds the Lindsay Garden Tour each year, featuring the most beautiful gardens of Lindsay and area. It also dedicates many volunteer hours maintaining the gardens at Victoria Manor in Lindsay.

To find out more about becoming a Lindsay Garden Club member and the Flower Power initiative, please visit: <https://lindsaygardenclub.com/>



Conservation and Environment Committee Guidance on Dealing with Invasive Species at Flower Shows

*Poster Submitted by Christine Webb, Director District 19,
Education Coordinator, Woolwich Gardeners (Elmira & District Horticultural Society)
Story Submitted by Sandra Rammelaere, Director District 11*

Invasive species are a growing environmental concern. With the ever-increasing awareness of the harm that invasive plants are causing to ecosystems and our environment, it is helpful to outline some guidelines for flower shows.

VOLUME 8 – OHA Judging Committee newsletter SHOWTIME – October 2023 had the following question on invasives.

Question: Why do we have invasives on the show table, i.e., Lily of Valley and Hedera, as specimens? Also, why allow them in designs?

Answer: One has to be careful in what you consider to be invasive. The Ontario Government has a list of Plants that are named as restricted and invasive, and this is the list that OJES refers to. There are other groups such as the Ontario Invasive Plant Council and Ontario Wildlife Federation, etc., that have more lengthy lists that do include things like lily of the valley, etc. The show schedule can list specific plants that are not on the official government list but that is up to the Show Committee. No doubt more plants may be added to the official Invasive plant Regulation as time goes on.

The OHA website has the following slide show presentation on judging shows that inadvertently include invasive species. It includes lists of plants that are deemed invasive or aggressive:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-VIRTUAL-JUDGING-UPDATE-INVASIVE-SPECIES-March1.pdf>

The following information is from a slide from the above presentation, and offers these tips for Flower Show Committees and Judges:

HOW CAN JUDGES HELP?

1. Help educate Show Committees and Show Chairs by being knowledgeable about plant species that are of concern by providing information on how these plants can harm the natural eco systems and to show ways to reduce the potential harm by these plants.
2. Encourage Show Schedule writers to include rules about not using invasive or invading plants or aggressive plants on the show table.
3. Encourage your society to have educational exhibits to help members understand the threats of invasive and invading plants.
4. Encourage your society to get speakers to talk on topics such as Invasive Plants, Growing Native Plants.
5. Offer to review Show Schedules for your society.

Many of these same tips are valuable for Society plant sales and exchanges. For more examples of invasive plants and what to grow instead, visit www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead

See the full list of invasive plants:

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/>

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Plant Sales & Invasive Species

As good stewards of our local environment, please watch for invasive plants that might appear at your plant sale and refrain from selling them.



What are invasive plants?

Invasive species are plants that are found outside of their natural range, and whose presence poses a threat to environmental health, the economy, or society (Government of Canada, 2004).

Featured to the left: Vinca (Periwinkle), Goutweed, English Ivy, Yellow Flag Iris, Lily of the Valley, Invasive Honeysuckles, Ditch Lily

See the full list of invasive plants:

www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species

How to dispose of invasive plants:

Place all the plant material and the soil from the pot in a black plastic garbage bag. Tie the top. Place the bag and contents in a hot sunny location for 14 days. Dispose after 14 days by sending the bag and contents to landfill. Do not compost.

Resource for plant alternatives to invasive species

www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/

PREPARED BY
Garden Ontario Conservation &
Environment Committee (2024)

Garden Ontario[®]
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL[™]

The Williamstown Green Thumbs: A Year of Growth and Community Spirit

*Summary and submitted by Nicole Winters, Board Member
Photos by Nicole Winters, Arlene and Ian Kentell*

The Williamstown Green Thumb Horticultural Society is not just a gathering of like-minded gardeners; it's the heart of our village's vibrant community spirit. As we take a moment to look back on a bustling year, we celebrate the tireless dedication and green-fingered skills that have made our community a beacon of natural beauty.

Beautification Projects: From the iconic Bridge Boxes in Williamstown to the comprehensive care of the Williamstown Fairgrounds, our Society's beautification projects have become local landmarks. Our work with the Glengarry Loyalist and Nor'westers Museum and various local town entrances has not only enhanced the local aesthetics, but also instilled a sense of pride in our residents.

Youth Engagement and Education: The Museum's Summer Garden Program was a particular highlight, with fifty children getting their hands dirty and learning the value of gardening. Meanwhile, our scholarship recipient, Tavish McDonald, showed immense gratitude for the Club's support.

Horticultural Celebrations: The return of our 41st Annual Flower Show and Victorian Tea marked a high point in the year, filling the air with the fragrance of blossoms and the warmth of community camaraderie. Our plant sale was another triumph, showcasing the horticultural diversity and passion within our ranks.

Building a Stronger Community: The Green Thumbs go beyond tending to plants; we nurture relationships. Our garden strolls and social events fostered closer connections among members, building a robust network of friends and collaborators united by a love for horticulture.

Holiday Initiatives: Our commitment to bringing joy to the community is year-round, illustrated by our poinsettia donations to the Meals on Wheels Program and the festive lights that adorned the town bridge during the Christmas season.



Ian Kentell and Terry Mercer
Photo by Raylene Goulder



Arlene Kentell
Photo by Ian Kentell

*We celebrate the tireless dedication
and green-fingered skills
that have made our community
a beacon of natural beauty.*



Carol Anne Maloney holding a vase of flowers
at the Annual Flower Show and Victorian Tea
Photo by Nicole Winters



Poppies
Photo by Nicole Winters

Supporting Education: Aligning with our educational mission, we're delighted to introduce a new \$1,000 OHA scholarship, empowering members and their families to delve deeper into the world of horticulture.

District Engagement: As proud members of District #1, we've actively participated in regional events, sharing our knowledge and drawing inspiration from fellow societies. Our presence at district meetings has become a staple, where we exchange ideas and celebrate milestones such as Maxville's centennial. With plans to attend the larger district gathering in Guelph, we're excited to further expand our horizons.

Feedback and Improvement: Listening to our members is a priority. This year, a survey revealed valuable insights, leading to more engaging meetings and social events like the Victorian Sunday afternoon, where members mingled over a garden tour, croquet and refreshments.

Acknowledgments and Gratitude: The success of the Williamstown Green Thumbs is a collective effort. We express our heartfelt thanks to the board, committee chairs, volunteers and the entire community for their contributions. Everyone's dedication has woven the fabric of our thriving society.

A Flourishing Future: With renewed excitement and a growing membership, we're ready to embark on new projects that will further beautify our town and strengthen the bonds within our community. Here's to another year of growth, learning and green thumbs!

Ancaster Horticultural Society

Keeping Ancaster Beautiful for 63 Years

Submitted by Rhu Sherrard, Publicity Director 2024-2025

The Ancaster Horticultural Society, like many societies, is looking forward to getting back into the various municipal gardens and our gardens. Spring seems to arrive just on time. The mild winter has thrown a few plants and people off their gardening game.

We have been fortunate to host some lively and informative speakers via Zoom in January and February, 2024. January 16, 2024, we hosted Dr Gregor Beck of Birds Canada and Wildlife Biologist. He spoke on the topic of "Gardening for Birds". He is a wildlife biologist and conservation professional who has worked in the environmental field for over 30 years. Dr Beck has led conservation science programs with Birds Canada, Long Point Land Trust, and Ontario Nature, and he has been actively involved with Citizen Science projects, such as the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. He has been interested in birds, reptiles, native plants and the out-of-doors since childhood. Gregor is a keen birder and is a Senior Director of Northern Canada with Birds Canada.

Gregor spoke about the benefits and joys of gardening for birds, butterflies, pollinators and other wildlife. The Zoom presentations included tips for gardeners to utilize and make their gardens more nature and bird-friendly throughout the seasons.

On February 20, 2024, our speaker was Carol Pasternak, MBA, LLB, an author, photographer and sought-after Motivational Nature Speaker, who spoke on "Drama in the Butterfly Garden". Her slide show was both informative and very visually stimulating. With photos/videos of insects hatching, eating each other, transforming, parasitizing, fighting for territory, courting and even farming! She also elaborated on the lives of various creatures found in gardens and surrounding natural areas.

Our members are actively participating in District 6 events throughout the area including the Flamborough Horticultural Society breakfast on February 24, 2024. The Ancaster Home Show event is being held at the Ancaster Fairgrounds the weekend of Feb. 23-25, 2024. Upcoming volunteer opportunities and events include the Hamilton Spring Tide Bulb Show being held at the Gage Park Greenhouse from March 7 to 17th, 2024, and the Haldimand



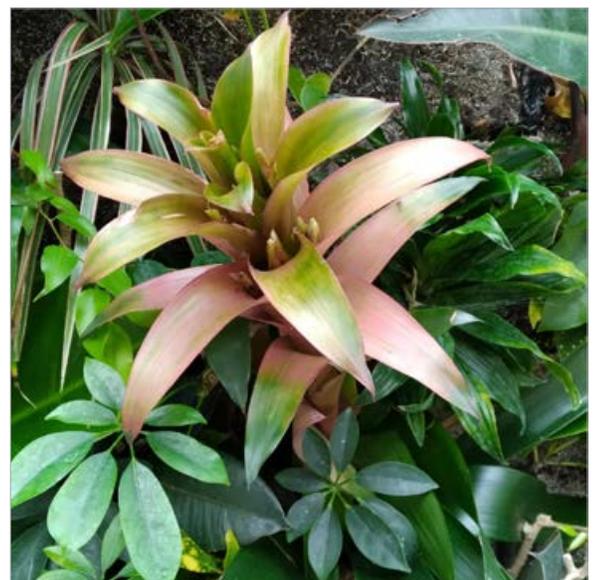
Photo of Snowdrops by David Puskas

"The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size." GERTRUDE S. WISTER

Horticultural Society AGM, being held Saturday, April 20, 2024, with Lorraine Johnson speaking on more native plants in our gardens.

Our local event to look forward to is our annual Plant Sale which is always the talk of the town. We have a new local supplier for our successful tomato sale. Wayne and Rosanne Kuntz will be providing our various heirlooms and we should have the details for everyone by mid-March, 2024. We want to thank Linda Crago for her previous contributions to our sales and our success.

The Fieldcote Museum, Millennium and various community gardens are ready for our team and community volunteers for their annual spring clean-up and summer beautification. We hope all your spring garden adventures are successful, whether they include new garden designs, seed starting, dividing plants or just simply enjoying being in the dirt!



*Pictures at Fieldcote Museum, Feb. 21, 2024
Photos by David Puskas*

*Royal Botanical Gardens and Around Ancaster
Photos by Rhu Sherrard*

Ancaster Horticultural Society Calender of Events:

March 19, 2024, **Start of in-person, monthly meetings**

Adrian Hodgson, Regenerative Landscape Design

"Let's Talk Permaculture"

April 16, 2024, Paul Faure, McMaster University Bat Lab

"The Natural History of Bats"

May 21, 2024, Helen Stailos, from Pure Life Soil

"Soil Health, Worm Wealth: Cultivating a Greener World"

June 18, 2024, Paul O'Hara, Field Botanist

Walking tour starting behind Lower Lions Club Road Pool

September 17, 2024, Jen Howe

Onsite tour of Summit Station Dairy

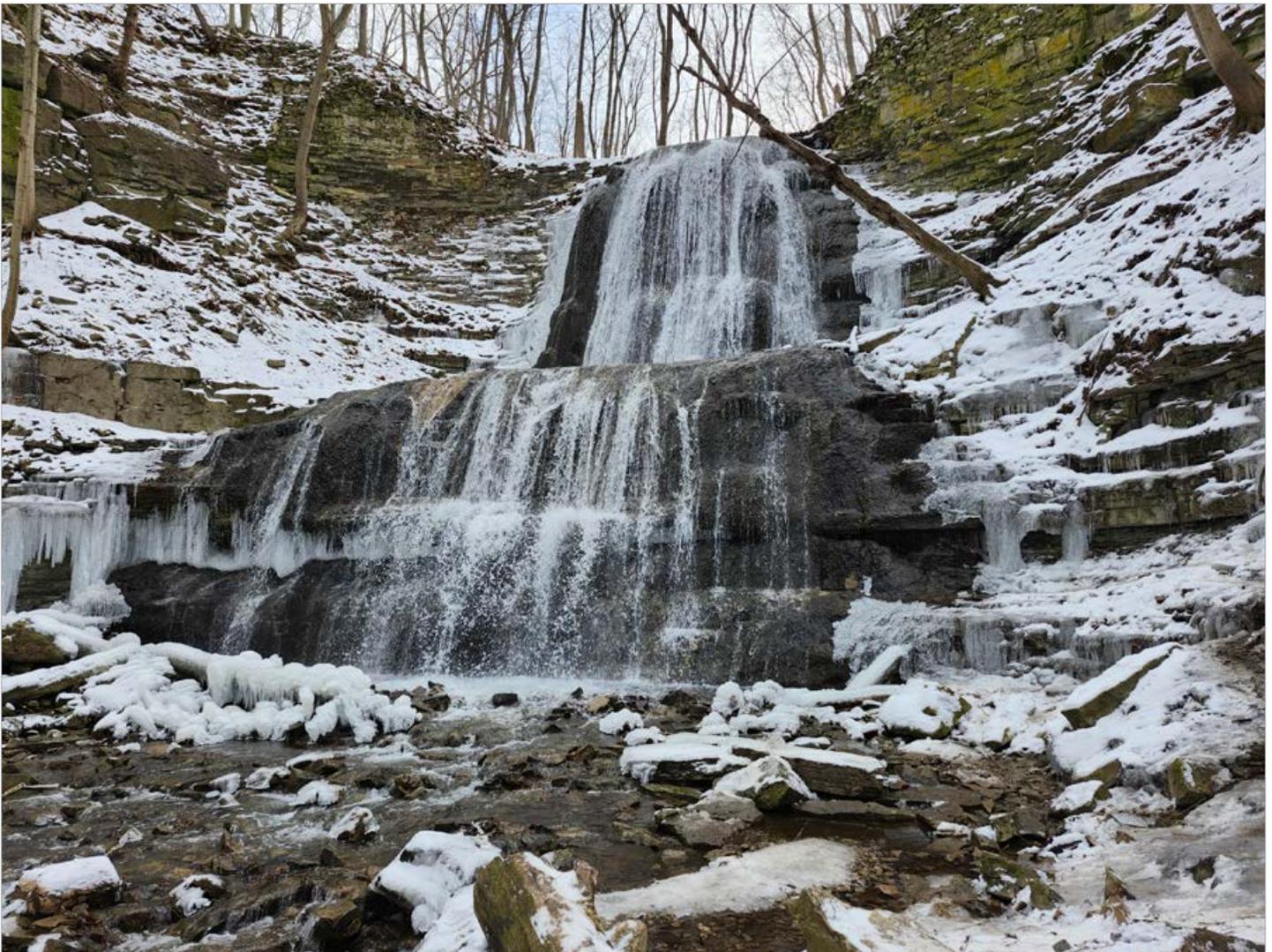
October 15, 2024, Mike Parrish, President of the HDCDS

"Demonstration and Learning about Dahlias"

[Hamilton & District Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society](#)



Photo by Rhu Sherrard



Sherman Falls

Photo by Rhu Sherrard

St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society Donates to Charity

Submitted and Written by Richard W. Cartwright, Secretary

The St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society has been fortunate for the past two years to be able to donate money raised from plant sales to local charities. In 1986, the Society began holding an annual sale at the municipally-owned Horton Farmers' Market on a Saturday morning on or near the Victoria Day weekend. This continued until 2020 when the Covid-19 Pandemic struck the province leading to uncertainty over market activities due to restrictions on all public events. As a result, that year's plant sale was cancelled.

For 2021, there was a change of venue to the historic CASO (Canada Southern Railway) Station in Downtown St. Thomas. In order to comply with Southwestern Public Health rules (face mask, hand washing and social distancing guidelines), the sale took place at the station's parking lot near the end of May. Public response exceeded all expectations.

Former President Diane Vaughan suggested that the next plant sale be expanded to include local craft vendors and a Garden Emporium featuring garden-related items to be held in the Anderson Hall (former dining room) of the railway station. The event began at 11:00 a.m. and ended at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 29th.

In 2022, it was decided to donate some of the money from the sale to a charity that would benefit most members. \$2,000 was given to the building fund of the Hospice of Elgin, the only region in Southwestern Ontario without such a facility. The following year, even more money was raised.

At the November 22nd, 2023 General Meeting of the Society at the CASO Station, Past President Jean-Marie Steward presented a cheque for \$2,000 to the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Foundation Director of Development Bobbi-Jo Gardiner and volunteer Susan O'Brien. The donation will go towards the hospital foundation's 'Transforming Tomorrow' fundraising campaign for an MRI machine and renovations to the diagnostic imaging department. We hope in the future to continue contributing to a worthy cause.



On June 4th, 2023, the St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society held its annual plant sale in the Anderson Hall of the former CASO Railway Station in St. Thomas. Photo by Gabriele Burnard



Plant sale volunteers (left to right): President Diane Vaughan and society members Gabriele Burnard, Kim Pook and Jen Buchanan. Photo by Gabriele Burnard



Presentation of the cheque to the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Foundation (left to right): Past President Jean-Marie Steward, Treasurer Sharon Wilson, society member Eve Norman-Vestergaard, hospital foundation volunteer Susan O'Brien, and former President Sherry Burgess. Photo by former President Shelley MacKenzie



OHA 50/50 Draw Winner

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer



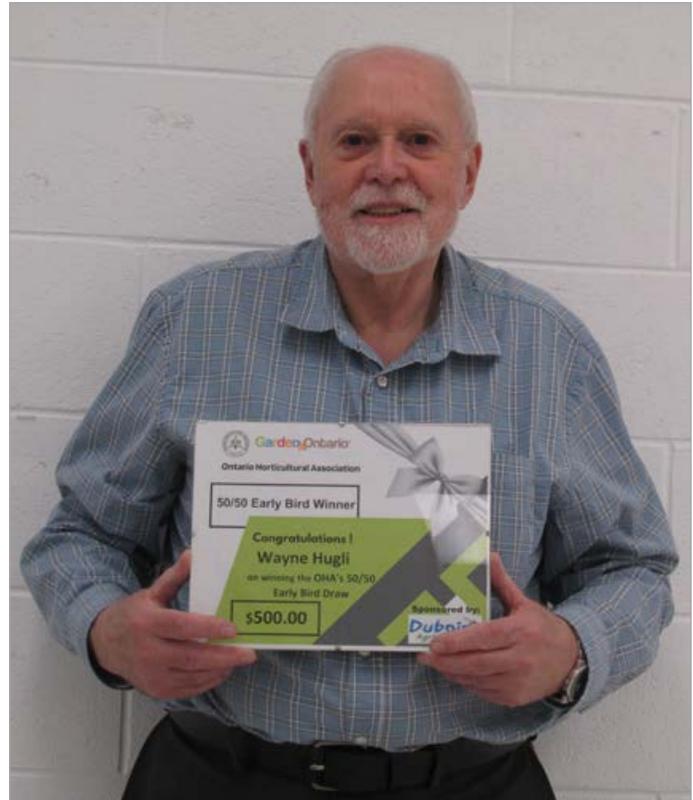
Winner Erin McClure

Photo by Dan McClure

We are excited to share that our Draw #8 winner is Erin McClure of Bath, Ontario with ticket number D5574. She is \$2955 richer just for buying a ticket.

Enter to win more than the jackpot because proceeds support grants to subsidize gardens across Ontario and contribute to education towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful. Will you be our next winner? Next draw will take place on July 14th. Enter here: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

Early Bird Winner



Early Bird Winner Wayne Hugli

Photo by Lisa Robinson

The Early Bird Winner in our 50/50 raffle was chosen on January 27th. The winning ticket number was A-2162 and was held by Wayne Hugli of the Sudbury Horticultural Society. Wayne receives the early bird prize of \$500 which was sponsored by Dubois Agrinovation Inc.



For your chance to win, visit <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

Ticket Packages

10 for \$10.00
100 for \$20.00
300 for \$50.00
800 for \$75.00

All proceeds go towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful® by way of grants and education



Next Draw:
July 14, 2024

50/50 Draw

License No. RAF1369110

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

Earth Day Celebration
April 19, 2024 7:00 - 9:00 pm Via WebEx

Join us on April 19th via WebEx to hear speaker, Claudette Sims who will discuss A Gardening Conundrum: Why are invasive plants sold in nurseries?

We'll also hear from our OHA Conservation & Environmental Committee on What's New for Societies/Clubs!

Garden Ontario

Sponsored by:
Shawn LaPALM
INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

Claudette Sims

A Gardening Conundrum:

Why are invasive plants sold in nurseries?

- Invasive plants are a threat to biodiversity, human health and our economy. They threaten native plants, insects, animals and our forests. So why are they still sold in nurseries? This talk will answer that question and suggest actions that we can all take to safeguard biodiversity.

<https://gardenontario.org/earth-day-celebration/>

OHA Conservation & Environmental Committee

What's New from the committee for Societies/Clubs

- The WebEx link will be shared with all Societies/ Clubs and on our GardenOntario Facebook page
- This event will be first-come, first-serve and opened up to the first 1000 individuals logged onto the WebEx account.
- The WebEx Account will be live starting at 6:40 pm.
- All cameras and microphones must be turned off to ensure viewing pleasure by all.

Schomberg Horticultural Society

Submitted and written by Susan Zweep, Photo credits by Eleonora Schmied



The Schomberg Horticultural Society has a new mission statement:

Cultivating an inclusive community by sharing a common interest in horticulture and a strong conscience for environmental protection.

We began our 2023/2024 season in December with the **"Trees of Giving"** initiative, a fundraising event held at the King City Museum. Various community groups each decorated a tree and the public was invited to vote on their favorite by depositing purchased tokens with proceeds going to the Oak Ridges Trail Association. Our **"Enchanted Forest"** tree is truly a work of art winning "Best of Show" with thanks to Angela Rose, Ruby and Mikael Stoffregen and Eleonora Schmied.

The gnomes in our corner garden welcomed everyone to Schomberg in their festive attire at Christmas.

Our members have already planned an exciting year of speakers and activities.

In January, we ventured on a photographic journey, **"Through the Garden Gate"** by Chris Somerville which took us through the most beautiful gardens in Schomberg and area with pictures taken by our talented photographers. Our selection has been taken from last year's photo competition together with photos taken throughout the year. What a lovely way to spend a winter's evening while the frigid winds howled.

February's focus will be on the emerging problem of **"Jumping Worms"** presented by Kathleen Gorsline. By educating our members, we are hoping to prevent the import of this threat to our area.



Giving Tree



Winter 2023



Valentine

Our Centennial Garden is looking particularly colourful and festive for Valentine's Day thanks to the creative genius of two of our members. In the middle of a bleak winter, Carol Rettinger and Eleonora Schmied made it look like the trees were blooming their very brightest, a wonderful gift to boost everyone's spirits!

Ken Brown, a well known and respected horticulturist, will be joining us in March to teach how to **"Grow Annuals from Seeds"**. We're sure to learn lots of tips and tricks.

Ashley Gatto, Master Gardener and Member of the Toronto Entomologists' Association will be enlightening us with **"Gardening for Monarch Butterflies"** in April.

Dan Scallion plans to challenge us with his talk **"Anything But Grass"** during our May meeting.

"The Power of Horticulture, a Professional and Personal Perspective" is the topic for our June meeting. Paul Zammit will enlighten us with his infectious enthusiasm.

Schomberg
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

2024 SELF GUIDED
GARDEN TOUR

JUNE 23
10 AM - 4 PM

RAIN OR SHINE

- Tickets \$15/person
- Sold on Tour Day at the Schomberg Public Library, 77 Main Street, Schomberg or in advance on Eventbrite.ca

In partnership with Art Society King there will be unique displays, artists and pop-up shops in the gardens.

Arts Society KING

SCAN ME

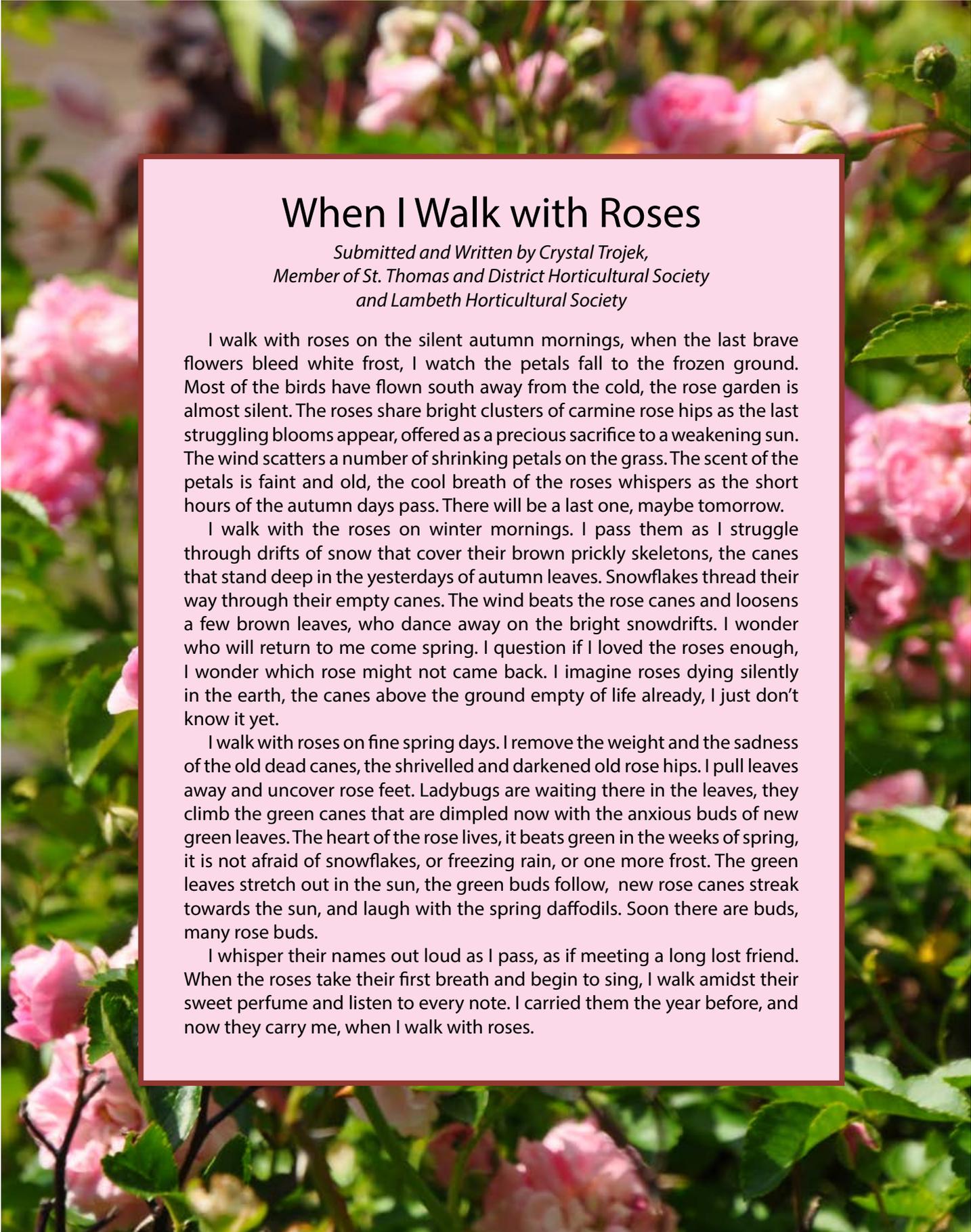
shsgardentour@gmail.com

The Schomberg Horticultural Society's **"Annual Garden Tour"** is planned for **June 23, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Tickets will be available from Eventbrite and at the Schomberg Library on the day of the tour.



OHA Youth Program Standards

Children are the future of our garden clubs and horticultural societies. If your members are interested in engaging the youth in your area in garden-related activities, it's a lot of fun for all. Ideas, suggestions, guidelines and rules are available on the OHA website: <https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-YouthStandards-2022-03-04.pdf>



When I Walk with Roses

*Submitted and Written by Crystal Trojek,
Member of St. Thomas and District Horticultural Society
and Lambeth Horticultural Society*

I walk with roses on the silent autumn mornings, when the last brave flowers bleed white frost, I watch the petals fall to the frozen ground. Most of the birds have flown south away from the cold, the rose garden is almost silent. The roses share bright clusters of carmine rose hips as the last struggling blooms appear, offered as a precious sacrifice to a weakening sun. The wind scatters a number of shrinking petals on the grass. The scent of the petals is faint and old, the cool breath of the roses whispers as the short hours of the autumn days pass. There will be a last one, maybe tomorrow.

I walk with the roses on winter mornings. I pass them as I struggle through drifts of snow that cover their brown prickly skeletons, the canes that stand deep in the yesterdays of autumn leaves. Snowflakes thread their way through their empty canes. The wind beats the rose canes and loosens a few brown leaves, who dance away on the bright snowdrifts. I wonder who will return to me come spring. I question if I loved the roses enough, I wonder which rose might not come back. I imagine roses dying silently in the earth, the canes above the ground empty of life already, I just don't know it yet.

I walk with roses on fine spring days. I remove the weight and the sadness of the old dead canes, the shrivelled and darkened old rose hips. I pull leaves away and uncover rose feet. Ladybugs are waiting there in the leaves, they climb the green canes that are dimpled now with the anxious buds of new green leaves. The heart of the rose lives, it beats green in the weeks of spring, it is not afraid of snowflakes, or freezing rain, or one more frost. The green leaves stretch out in the sun, the green buds follow, new rose canes streak towards the sun, and laugh with the spring daffodils. Soon there are buds, many rose buds.

I whisper their names out loud as I pass, as if meeting a long lost friend. When the roses take their first breath and begin to sing, I walk amidst their sweet perfume and listen to every note. I carried them the year before, and now they carry me, when I walk with roses.

Photo by Laura Masterson

Going to Town to Protect Pollinator Gardens: One Group's Initiative

By Cynthia B. Lauer

When in the summer of 2023, I retired and moved from Toronto to Innisfil, I expected to continue my garden writing and my small business, and to enjoy my family, my house, and my garden. I didn't expect to be spearheading a project to change my town's bylaws. Now that I have gained this experience, I'm very glad I stepped up. Lorraine Johnson had pointed out to me that our local property standards – like those of most other towns – can be used to destroy pollinator gardens. This can occur if a neighbour reports an alleged violation of plant height restrictions or presence of “noxious weeds”. A neighbour may also trigger the process if they feel that a garden is “unattractive” or, in some jurisdictions, that it negatively affects property values.

Responding to Lorraine's encouragement to instigate change, I started a process of research, writing and outreach. One of the things I learned was that many gardeners struggle to protect their gardens from bylaw enforcement. I hope that describing the process to date will provide support to them and some guidance to others who should be prepared to protect their thriving pollinator gardens against threats posed by their municipal government. Gardeners can advocate for change.

The first step was to formulate a strategy. The initial goal was to submit a deputation to the town council with a motion to change the wording of the relevant bylaws. Guided by documents published by the Ecological Design Lab at Toronto Metropolitan University, I found no fewer than three local bylaws with problematic wording. The goal grew when I saw the town's practice of clearing some residential culverts and applying a turfgrass slurry. We wanted to urge a change from turfgrass seed to native plant seed. Our strategy changed again after meeting with town staff whose support, I had been advised, was key to obtaining our town leaders' vote for a motion at a town council meeting. Months later, I realized that there would be no simple and direct route to the changes we sought. The process begins internally. Whether it will sadly end there, too, is unknown.

I needed support and found it in Ashley Schildknecht-Hammell, the coordinator of Pollinate Barrie, and in Megan Youdelis, my daughter-in-law and native plant advocate who lives nearby. I contacted my town councillor and requested his advice on submitting a deputation. At that meeting, he expressed his support for our initiative and facilitated a meeting with Nicole Bowman, the town's Director of Operations. On January 22, 2024, Lorraine

Johnson and I met with Ms. Bowman as well as the manager of parks and community spaces, the community standards leader, and the engineer in charge of stormwater and flood management. Coincidentally, the community standards leader is responsible for regular bylaw reviews and drafting changes most of which he said are classified as “housekeeping”. After this meeting, Ms. Bowman shared all of our emails enabling me to keep updated.

At the meeting, I distributed hard copies of a presentation showing our purpose, excerpts from relevant bylaws and our proposed changes, a rationale, and lists of advantages, models and legal precedents. In the paragraphs below, each of these components are summarized.

It took a few drafts to express our purposes as succinctly as possible. In the end, we went with this:

- To identify existing bylaws that have an unintended negative impact on pollinator gardens and pollinating species;
- To obtain your support for a motion to re-word these bylaws;
- To propose an alternative to turfgrass slurry applications to culverts;
- To show the economic, practical, environmental, and civic benefits of implementing these changes.

I had drafted a motion to change the wording of three local bylaws: The Consolidated Clean Communities By-Law 073-22; The Property Standards By-Law 075-02, and; The Roads By-Law 073-19. Each verbatim excerpt was followed by our recommended change. Here are two key clauses from the Consolidated Clean Communities By-Law:

Section 6, Ground Cover. Clause 6.1: Every owner shall cut and maintain the ground cover on their property to a maximum height of 20 cm/8 inches.

CHANGE TO

Every owner of land on which Turfgrass is grown, as defined in this bylaw, shall cut and maintain the Turfgrass on their property to a maximum height of 20 cm/8 inches.

Section 6, Clause 6.4: Every owner shall maintain their land to be clean and clear of noxious weeds.

CHANGE TO

No owner shall have, or be permitted to have on their land, any noxious weeds designated under the Ontario Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. W.5.

Plant height restriction is a ubiquitous provision in municipal bylaws and is essential to tackle. Most native plants achieve a height in excess of 20 cm. First, we needed to distinguish between excessive length of turfgrass and the natural heights attained by native plants that need to be left alone. (The sole exception concerns public safety and sightlines at sidewalks and driveways.) Second, we needed to distinguish legislated noxious weeds from a neighbour's opinion of a plant that turns out to be a native species offering important pollinator benefits. To ensure this distinction, we inserted the Weed Control Act every time a bylaw referred to "noxious weeds."

There was another provision we wanted to change. When the town receives a complaint about a garden that is allegedly in violation of a bylaw, the town can ultimately hold the gardener responsible for costs incurred in removing the plants. We proposed to remove the burden of proof from the town staff and from the gardener and place it on the complainant. That individual must determine that the offending species is, in fact, a legislated noxious weed.

In our rationale, we explained that turfgrass was a non-native sterile monoculture that contributes nothing to the natural environment. It provides no food for animals or insects, no place for breeding species to go, and nothing that can serve as overwintering habitat. The environmental value of native plants, however, is indispensable. Through evolution with native animals and insects, native plants have developed networks of mutual dependencies. The vast majority of bee and butterfly species are specialists that survive only if they can find their plant host. Native plants provide not only foraging for adult insects, but also sustenance for their entire reproductive cycle, and habitat for nesting and overwintering. Well-planned native plant gardens are not only drought-resistant and need no fertilizer, but support deeper root systems that increase stormwater filtration and water quality and reduce runoff. They eliminate the use of fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides. And they reduce greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating the use of lawnmowers and leaf blowers powered by fossil fuels.

No matter how well reasoned, I realized the staff would need incentives to support the motion. What emerged was a long list of advantages broken down into a few categories. I deliberately placed 'Operations' at the top.

Operations: Distinguishes turfgrass from native plants mistakenly identified as weeds; Excludes height limits for native plant species most of which grow taller than 8"; Ensures removal of only legislated and regulated noxious weeds; Avoids the need for staff to identify plants; Shifts the responsibility to the complainant to prove a gardener's non-compliance; Avoids personal assessments of a yard's

appearance; Reduces the administrative work involved in reacting to complaints.

Economic: Reduces costs of Terra Seed applications to culverts, and monitoring and maintenance of culverts on private property; Reduces costs of yard inspections, of serving property owners, and of removal of gardens that violate the bylaw; Avoids wasteful administrative and legal costs incurred with court proceedings since all cases are rescinded and charges dismissed; Reduces costs associated with the town's storm water management and flooding strategy; Supports pollinators for crops grown by local farms.

Environmental: Protects pollinator, native plant, and naturalized gardens as foraging sources and habitat for countless insect, bird, and mammal species; Encourages the replacement of invasive species with native plant species; Encourages biodiverse plants on privately maintained spaces; Prevents the risk of extirpation of species native to our region; Mitigates the impact of climate change by sequestering more carbon and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from lawnmowers; Reduces the need for water, fertilizer, insecticides, and herbicides; Culverts seeded with appropriate native plants mitigates erosion, flooding, and improves stormwater management, and mitigates contamination of water runoff into Lake Simcoe.

Policy: Consistency with Strategic Plan 2030: "... make sure we're *doing our part to protect the environment and contribute to a globally sustainable future...* encourage residents to adopt more sustainable ways of living and *reduce their carbon footprints*" (p. 15); Consistency with Integrated Sustainability Master Plan.

Civic: Makes Innisfil a model for environmental sustainability and a leader in best practices; Enhances the town's public profile for residents, prospective residents, businesses, and tourists; Collaborates with local organizations and native plant experts to provide information and support wherever needed; Appeals to young voters.

The presentation then outlined what some neighbouring jurisdictions have done to support pollinator gardens. Bee Cities were listed along with a few examples of municipalities that had revised bylaws to exempt "natural gardens" from groundcover height restrictions. I then listed eight legal precedents in which the gardener either won a favourable decision or received a cash settlement after the order was dismissed before it went to court. Next was a list of our supporters including the David Suzuki Foundation who sent us a quote we could use in our project. We also had the support of Living Green Barrie. Simcoe County Master Gardeners had offered to

help assemble an educational package for inspectors on native plants.

This section was followed by a list of the twenty-five plants designated by the Ontario Weed Control Act as noxious and, citing VASCAN, native to the Simcoe region. The last page of the presentation was a reference list.

We provided the staff with a separate five-page document showing native plant species with their height and light conditions, pollinator relationships and a few sources for seeds. Earlier, I had sent Ms. Bowman a spreadsheet prepared by Steve Weber for the Canadian Wildlife Federation featuring plant names, habitat type, seed type, reliability rank, cost details and a function for calculating costs and amounts for bulk ordering of native plant seeds.

We shared a slideshow that included photographs of pollinator gardens many of which I received after my Facebook post to Ontario Native Plant Gardening resulted in over 200 responses. Our aim was to demonstrate the diversity of pollinator gardens and to challenge a normative “appearance” defended by the bylaw. Ontario courts concur

Bio

Cynthia B. Lauer is a member of Simcoe County Master Gardeners, a retired sociology professor, and proprietor of Plum Publishing Development Services for academic and nonfiction writers. She can be contacted at clrdomain@gmail.com.

that something as subjective as “pride of ownership... and a keeping of appearance,” cannot be legislated as this town, like countless others, attempts to do.

A few days after the January 22 meeting, Ms. Bowman emailed all participants and thanked us for our time. As respectfully as our message was received, I am vague on what to expect next. At the meeting, Lorraine and I were told about some pollinator-friendly plantings the town had installed and a bit about the process by which bylaws are changed. But as the weeks pass, I wonder about the likelihood of any follow up. With its two components – bylaw wording and the treatment of ditches – our request was complex. If there is forward movement in either area, the process will undoubtedly be laborious and opaque.

I plan to contact the staff every few months to request updates. While the shape and speed of our progress is uncertain, we hope that the potential for this initiative to contribute to the native plant movement will gain momentum with sustained pressure.

The Star of the Show is Rhubarb

By Trillium Editor Laura Masterson Photos by Laura Masterson



Stewed Rhubarb

Wash, trim and dice about 3 stalks of fresh rhubarb. In a microwave-safe container, put 3 cups of the diced rhubarb and a little water (2 tbsps). Cover with a loose-fitting lid.

On high, cook in microwave about 2 minutes, stir and cook a couple more minutes. Stir again and leave lid off now so it doesn't boil over. One more minute at a time – mine takes about 5 minutes total. The rhubarb is done when it's soft. Add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of sugar and stir until it's dissolved. Serve warm or cold.

Frozen Rhubarb

Wash, trim and dice fresh rhubarb and put it in the freezer. Frozen rhubarb can be substituted for fresh in recipes.

Rhubarb Gelatin Dessert

Follow the directions on the 85 g box of jelly powder but substitute the stewed rhubarb for the fruit juice/water in the instructions. Put in the fridge to chill, stir every 20 minutes or so until the fruit doesn't float. Delicious with any flavour but some colours don't look as appetizing. My favourite is raspberry.

Rhubarb Cinnamon Spread

Make rhubarb jam according to the pectin package and add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of cinnamon at the end. Moisten the cinnamon with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of the jam liquid before adding to keep it from clumping. Spread on toast.

And rhubarb is gluten-free!

Fall in Anne's Northern Garden

Anne Harbord, OHA Director, District 2, Gay MacQuarrie, D2 Communications Prime

A quiet season in the garden

By GPOD Contributor



In this mid-fall view from the road at the entrance to the property you can see red maple (*Acer rubrum*, Zones 3–9), staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*, Zones 3–8), ivory silk lilac (*Syringa reticulata*, Zones 3–7), and Ginkgo biloba (Zones 3–8).

We're off to Canada today to visit Anne's garden.

You have visited my garden before (*A Garden That Works With Nature Instead of Fighting It*). We are located not far from Ottawa, Ontario, in a rural development. I thought it would be nice to visit it in autumn, a few years later.

Gardening on the edge of an arid alvar environment is sometimes a challenge but often a delight. The trick is to work with the environment instead of trying to change it. The limestone outcroppings all over our garden are a feature of the alvar environment, and we have embraced them.

Since the last time, I have added a permaculture berm in a corner of the front yard and have grown some pumpkin and squash on it. I have continued to encourage native plants in the borders (e.g., asters, goldenrods, columbines) and have noticed a distinct increase in pollinators visiting. I have also planted a pollinator garden area on the side (anise hyssop, echinops, lysimachia, etc.) and have taken out some invasive species (Norway maple, European buckthorn). The latter is still a major issue.

The garden is an ever-changing organism. Sometimes it's difficult to keep on top of it, but then, nature has its way.

I hope you enjoy my fall garden.



The staghorn sumac in fall color

Anne Gadbois, a member of the West Carleton Garden Club and Horticultural Society in District 2 recently had an article about her beautiful garden published in *Fine Gardening* magazine.



Around the pond there is a potted mum (*Chrysanthemum* hybrid, hardiness varies by cultivar) along with *Hemerocallis* (Zones 3–8), New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, Zones 4–8), and Van Houtte spirea (*Spiraea* × *vanhottei*, Zones 3–8).



The bounty of a permaculture patch from a previous year—squash and pink pumpkins!



A photo from early fall shows *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Vanilla Strawberry' (Zones 3–8), *Rudbeckia fulgida* (Zones 3–9), and *Paeonia* (Zones 3–8) leaves.



Including this New England aster, we have at least three varieties of native asters on the property.



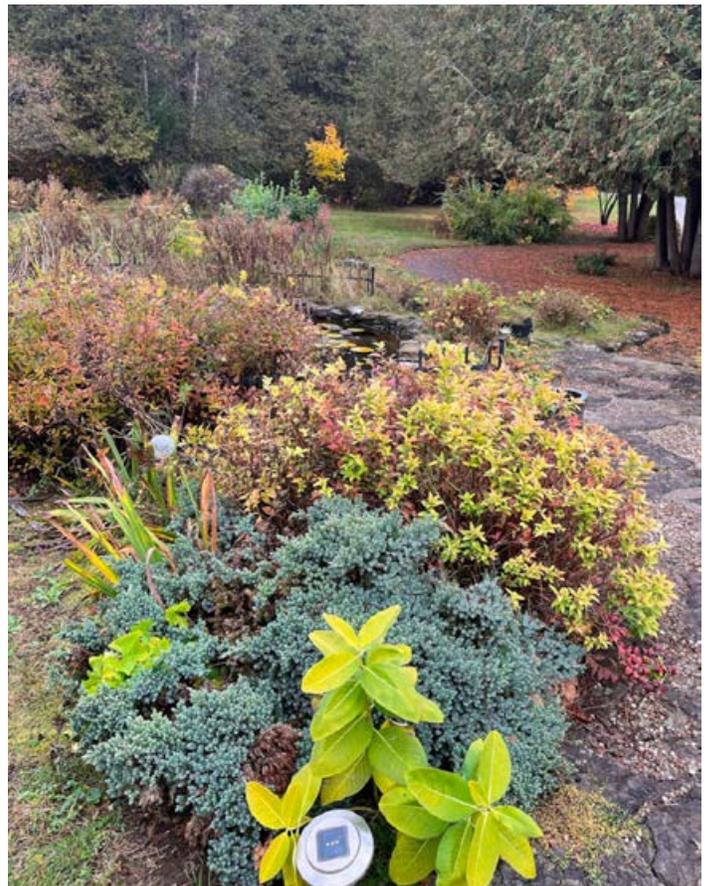
Hydrangeas in deep fall still show signs of life, but the phlox (*Phlox paniculata*, Zones 5–9) and goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) are spent.



Under the cedars: a view of the front garden in deep fall



Here is the front walk looking toward the road, with the permaculture berm in the distance on the left. The property is dominated by cedars (*Thuja occidentalis*, Zones 2–7), which are native to this alvar-bordering region.



The cedars have shed their autumn leaves. Native milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*, Zones 3–9) leaves are turning gold in the foreground.

Bath Gardening Club

What's Happening in Bath

*Submitted by Pat Chown, Jane Ledingham, Diane Nolting, Sylvia Whalen, Diana Wilkinson
Photography by: Sandra Lowman, Laurie Minorgan, Don Taylor, Diabolos at Pixabay, A Bircich at Pixabay*

Thank you to everyone who readied our village for the festive season, cleared our greens away and to those who will prepare our village for spring. Less than 80 days until planting begins!



President Sylvia Whalen Photo by Sandra Lowman

Message from our New President: Sylvia Whalen

It is so nice to be a part of such an amazing group, that is able to think of all things beautiful, year-round! I have been part of the BGC pretty much since I arrived almost seven years ago and have found it a great way to get to know people, while being very productive and having fun! I chose to become Vice-President and now President in order to keep our Club going. My aim is to ensure that the BGC remains vibrant and that all members can come together in a safe place of sharing, learning and working together with our shared interest. Our presence in the community, through the contribution of time and effort, is certainly appreciated by most everyone. My hope is that this will rub off and more local residents will get on board and take pride in keeping Bath beautiful. Perhaps these same people may be inspired to join the BGC! Connecting with others via Facebook, a very dynamic website, full of interesting facts and resources, our quarterly newsletters as well as ensuring knowledgeable speakers at meetings will keep us all young, relevant and even smarter! As with any organization, it is only as good as its volunteers. On that front, the BGC is pretty amazing! Many hands really do mean less work. I have to give a shout-out to those who have stepped into lead positions and leadership roles. It is really what keeps us running smoothly and efficiently.

Membership Update:

Our Club has well over 80 members. As we begin to think of spring and the activities in which we are involved, we welcome visitors to our meetings, new members and new ideas. This is a Club composed of interested and curious people. We are not necessarily skilled gardeners but we have found that by getting to know one another, and sharing gardening knowledge, that we are learning about local conditions and helping to create a better Bath together. Check out our Website: www.bathgardeningclub.ca for archived and updated information and follow us on Facebook page: Bath Gardening Club and Horticultural Society.

News from the Executive: Two vacancies need to be filled

Vice-President: We are in need of a Vice-President who will work directly with our President Sylvia Whalen and the Executive. The Vice-President's position offers a huge opportunity for someone who is interested in getting to know the workings of the Club and who is also willing to help out with the many projects that we undertake each year.

Communications Secretary: We are also looking for someone who would be willing to work with the President to disseminate information electronically to the general membership. As a Club, we are affiliated with the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) and frequently receive information from this group and from other Clubs that would be of interest to our membership. Having someone take on this dossier would be extremely helpful.

Program Committee Coordinators: We are delighted to announce that we have filled this position with two highly knowledgeable ladies: Janice Firth, Past President and Linda Jameson, owner of Frog Pond Farm.

2024 Kingston Climate Change Symposium

Article by Diana Wilkinson and Pat Chown

On January 29th, Kingston's 7th Annual Climate Change Symposium was held at the Grand Theatre. Over 400 people attended including five members from our Gardening Club. Zoom also provided an opportunity for wider participation. All participants were able to take part in the Q and A sessions during presentations and discussions. The theme of this year's Symposium was "Balance". Speakers addressed how we, as individuals and in our communities, can work toward creating a more sustainable planet by finding a balance between technology, nature and climate. The Symposium sponsors included Queens University, St. Lawrence College, Toast and Jam, Cyclic Materials, Sustainable Kingston, Utilities Kingston and Kingston Transit, who generously offered a free ride home to anyone who attended the Symposium! In addition to speakers, one of whom was Bob McDonald, Host of CBC's Quirks and Quarks, a number of interested groups provided Kiosks and readily distributed material and spoke one-on-one with visitors, answering questions and making connections.

Climate action requires all of us to take a hard look at how we live, work, move around, what we eat, how environmentally friendly our homes and properties are, what we purchase, our use of water, how we manage waste, etc. The topic is huge and complex. Our Gardening Club is committed to understand the many facets of action that are already taking place and also why, in some environmental areas, action seems minuscule. Education is critical for all of us to separate fact from fiction. Currently we are compiling a list of resources and speakers who might be able to help make sense of the problems and how we all may help in a solution.

Market News: The Bath Sunday Market returns this year with a new Facebook page: **Sunday Market in Bath**. Please check it out and "like" it. The market will start this year in May; exact dates will be indicated on the new Facebook page after consultation with vendors. We plan to have a full schedule of entertainment throughout the season, so come out, enjoy the music, and support your local farmers and artisans.



Climate Change Symposium Photo by Don Taylor



Village Gardens Photo by Don Taylor



Village Gardens Photo by Don Taylor

Planting Committee News: We welcome Val Behm and Elaine Nicholson as the Plant Committee Coordinators. Pat Chown and Marie Brough will continue planting and weeding the bridge areas and will provide help and support to Val and Elaine when needed.

The village will have a new look this year!

9 new round/oval iron planters will be permanently installed by Loyalist Township prior to planting day. The planters will replace many of the older barrels that have been used in the past and were beginning to look a little tired. Since the planters are raised, we feel that they will be easier for our volunteers to plant and weed the flowers and also the height of the planters will provide more of a WOW factor on Main Street.

The Flowers:

Cannas will again be planted in the large barrels and planters. Other flowers will add a plethora of colour: begonias, supertunias, petunias, scaevola, impatiens, vinca, cleomes, geraniums, and marigolds. Bath will be a plethora of colour including "orange", the OHA 2024 colour of the year!



Village Gardens Diabolos at Pixabay



Village Gardens Photo by Don Taylor



Village Gardens Photo by Don Taylor

Fertilizer Mixing and Sales:

The annual mixing and pick-up of orders for Fritz's Fertilizer will take place on Saturday, May 4 at St. John's Hall. The fertilizer sale is a huge fundraiser for our Club. Thanks to Diane Nolting for once again taking the lead on this dossier.

A bit of history... Fritz Fertilizer is named after Paul Fritz, graduate of Queens, Wisconsin and Cambridge Universities. Paul taught Modern British History at McMaster until his retirement in 1999. During his retirement, he and his partner, David Russo, specialized in heritage roses and lectured widely on these and other related topics in both eastern Ontario and northern N.Y. State. Paul Fritz passed away in January in Kingston at the age of 86. The following is the condolence that was posted by the Gardening Club. <https://cataraquicemetery.ca/tribute/details/1342/Paul-Fritz/condolences.html#content-start>

"A native of the greater Kingston area, Paul was kind enough to attend our Club meetings as a speaker and kept everyone who attended enthralled with his wit, his vast storage of information and his never-ending patience with our questions. Paul and David were generous enough to invite club members to spend an afternoon at their property in Athens and, as expected, they charmed everyone with their stories, tours of the property and lemonade and snacks. Paul had developed an all-natural, granular fertilizer to use specifically on his amazing roses. He was generous enough to share that formula with us to use as a fundraiser on the condition that we not share the formula with anyone until such time as we no longer wished to use it to the benefit of our club members. To this day, The Bath Gardening Club holds an annual "Fritz Mix Fertilizer" fundraiser, mixing and selling bags of Fritz Mix to the communities around us. Paul has, indeed, left us a legacy and will be remembered for years to come for his charm, sense of humour and his generosity of spirit."

Thank you to Wendy O'Neill for sharing the history of the fertilizer and the man, Paul Fritz, who gave the "recipe" to our Gardening Club.

Our village is now gearing up for the **Great Bath Clean-up** on April 20th to celebrate Earth Day. Roberta Young of Free-Flow Petroleum (Fast Freddy's) once again will host this event with participation of other local businesses, the Loyalist Township and our Gardening Club volunteers.



Earth Day Bath Cleanup *Photo by Don Taylor*

Dunnville Horticultural Society

By Jennifer Miller and Melanie Ruigrok Photos by Melanie Ruigrok

Dunnville Horticultural Society (D.H.S.) plans to bring an extra burst of vibrancy to the community this year! Coinciding with the unveiling of the Canadian Garden Council's selection of orange as 2024's 'Colour of The Year', D.H.S. will explore the power of this hue in the flowerbeds around Dunnville. Orange symbolizes energy, warmth and creativity. Planting orange calabrochoa annuals will be a delightful twist to celebrate the beauty flourishing within Dunnville's landscape.

Local nature enthusiasts and garden lovers eagerly anticipate the programs planned for this year. In February, Linda Crago of Tree and Twig Heirloom Vegetable Farm fascinated everyone with all of the unusual heirloom vegetables that are grown on her farm. Everyone who has been experiencing 'itchy' green thumbs were able to pick up seeds during the seed exchange. Members look forward to the March meeting in which Heidi Mungal from Generations Marketplace and Learning Centre will speak about homesteading. There will also be an early bird draw for those who have purchased a 2024 membership. In May, we welcome Mel North to give us the 'dirt' on soil and vermiculture. Members will also have a chance to win one of a number of rose bushes.

For those more on the techy side, D.H.S. excitedly announces the upcoming launch of an improved website. With up-to-date communication about local events and loads of information about gardening, there will certainly be much to explore. Adding Instagram along with the existing Facebook page and member emails will keep everyone in the loop about upcoming events.

Get ready to embark on an adventure as D.H.S. unveils a garden tour event in July. The event will conclude with a stop at Windecker Woods Flower Farm in rural Cayuga, Ontario. Attendees can anticipate a delightful blend of creativity, colour and socializing that is sure to inspire. Admission will be showing your 2024 membership card.

Dunnville Horticultural Society meets monthly at the Dunnville Optimist Hall at 101 Main Street E (except July, August and December). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Memberships may be purchased at the meetings. For more information about events or membership please send an email to dunnvillehortsociety@gmail.com.



Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
FEATURED ON FRONT COVER



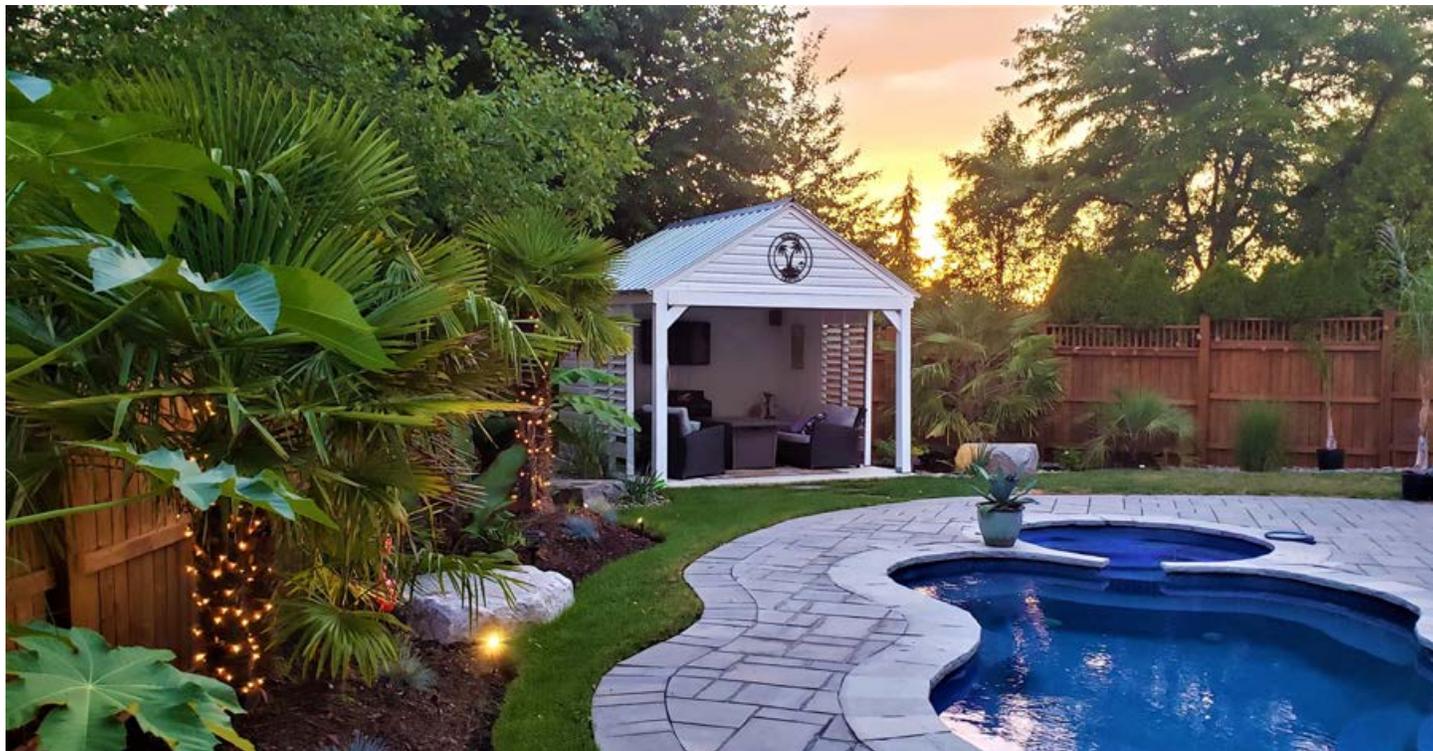
Canada Lily
(*Lilium canadense*)



Orange Echinacea

Experience the Beauty of Nature at the 2024 Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society Garden Tour

*Submitted by Aimee Medina, Volunteer Marketing Coordinator,
2024 NOTL Horticultural Society Garden Tour*



Lorreta Drive

Photo by Pineapple Dan, Courtesy of Niagara Tropics

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario – Mark your calendars and get ready to discover the enchanting world of Niagara-on-the-Lake gardens! The highly anticipated 2024 Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society Garden Tour is set to take place on Saturday, July 6, 2024 and promises to be an unforgettable day for garden enthusiasts and nature lovers alike.

Proceeds from the event will be used to create two scholarships: one for a student attending Niagara College and one for a student attending Parks Canada – School of Horticulture.

The NOTL Horticultural Society Garden Tour has curated a selection of eight carefully cultivated gardens, each thoughtfully designed. From vibrant flower beds to tranquil water features and meticulously manicured landscapes, visitors will have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of gardening styles and inspirations.

As an added treat, homeowners will be present to share their experiences, answer questions, and provide gardening tips. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, the homeowners' insights will ensure that you leave the tour with newfound knowledge and inspiration to transform your own green spaces.

Included in the event will be guided tours at the pollinator garden nestled within the grounds of Southbrook Winery. Situated in the heart of Niagara's wine country, Southbrook Winery was Canada's first certified organic and biodynamic winery, and has been using regenerative, organic and biodynamic farming techniques for over 15 years. Visitors will get a rare glimpse into sustainable winemaking practices. During the guided tours, guests can learn about the vital role of pollinators in the ecosystem while enjoying the beauty of the surrounding vineyards.

In addition to showcasing unique gardens, the 2024 NOTL Horticultural Society Garden Tour will feature a special Bonsai show, offering a distinctive view of the art of cultivating miniature trees. Bonsai, an artful presentation in a potted plant, conveys age and tranquility. Attendees can admire the intricate details of trees cultivated by Niagara Bonsai Society members, marvel at the patience and skill involved in Bonsai gardening, and gain insights into this ancient Chinese and Japanese art form.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, July 6, 2024

Time: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Various homes in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Tickets prices: \$25 before July 5th, \$30 on the day of event

The 2024 Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society Garden Tour is a celebration of nature's beauty, creativity, and horticultural craftsmanship. Don't miss this opportunity to explore stunning gardens, discover the art of Bonsai, and connect with gardening experts. We look forward to welcoming you to this event on July 6, 2024.

Ticket sales open on March 18th. Buy tickets online through Eventbrite before April 30, 2024 for a chance at winning fabulous prizes. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit notlhortsociety.com/event-details-registration/2024-garden-tour. Follow the NOTL Horticultural Society on social media for updates and behind-the-scenes glimpses at the gardens participating in this year's tour.

Media Contact:

Aimee Medina, Volunteer Garden Tour Marketing

Coordinator

NOTL Horticultural Society

marketjillofrades@gmail.com

289-501-9700



King St.

Courtesy of Randie Keeping Topps

About the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society is one of the oldest horticultural societies in Ontario. We are a volunteer-run, charitable organization. Our mission is to encourage the continual joy of learning about gardening. We welcome everyone with an interest in gardening, horticulture and environmental stewardship. In 2023 our Society had 165 registered members. The annual Garden Tour is one of our signature events, designed to showcase the talents of local gardeners and provide an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the natural beauty that surrounds us.

For more information about our Society and the Garden Tour, please visit notlhortsociety.com or follow us on Facebook at [@notlhortsociety](https://www.facebook.com/notlhortsociety).



Four Mile Creek

Courtesy Michael Lamb





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

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





Complete our online donor form: <https://gardenontario.org/donation-form/> or complete this form and mail to:
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DONATION REQUEST FORM

DONOR INFORMATION

My donation is (please select one): Personal Company In Memoriam

Company/Society Name (if applicable):

Name: First Last

Address:

Email: Phone:

DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

This donation is to be used to:

- Support grants, awards, convention, community initiatives, website and the general operations of the association
- Donate to the OHA In Memoriam Fund (supporting Tree Grants). For more information about In Memoriam donations, email inmemoriam@gardenontario.org or phone 905-476-3000

Name of deceased person: Year of death:

District # (if applies): Do you wish to have it recorded in the OHA In Memoriam Book? Yes No

Do you wish to have the deceased person's name acknowledged at the OHA convention? Yes No

Do you wish a family member to be notified? Yes No

If yes, complete the following: Relationship to the deceased:

Name: First Last

Address:

Other:

DONATION AMOUNT & PAYMENT

Payment Method: E-Transfer treasurer4oha@gmail.com Cheque Payable to: Ontario Horticultural Association
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Please choose your donation amount (Minimum \$25 for inclusion in the OHA In Memoriam Book):

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other Amount _____ Total Donation _____

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