Keeping Ontario Beautiful



Stock Photography: Growing Plant - New Life

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Some of the many available resources can be found on www.gardenontario.org

- ♦ OHA Service Certificate Application Form

- OHA OHA Proxy Forms
 OHA In Memoriam Donation Form
 2015 Photography, Flower Show, Youth,
 Arts, Creative Writing, and Publications
- ◆ 2015 competition schedules and
- permission/release forms

 2016 Photography, Arts, Creative Writing

Just to name a few, check out our site for so much more information.

2014/2015 OHA Board Contact Information

Executive 2013/2014

President Jeff Blackadar president@gardenontario.org
Vice President Suzanne Hanna firstvp@gardenontario.org
Secretary Kelly Taylor secretary@gardenontario.org
Treasurer Sharon Hill treasurer@gardenontario.org
Immediate Past President & PP Council Rep James Graham pastpresident@gardenontario.org

District Directors 2014/2015

District 1 - Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell, Stormont, Grenville and eastern Ottawa (Gloucester and Cumberland)	Charles Freeman	district1@gardenontario.org
District 2 - Lanark, Renfrew and western Ottawa (Ottawa excluding Gloucester and Cumberland)	Kathy Lindsay	district2@gardenontario.org
District 3 - Frontenac, Hastings, Leeds, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward	Penny Stewart	district3@gardenontario.org
District 4 - Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, City of Kawartha Lakes	Rose Odell	district4@gardenontario.org
District 5 - Toronto East, York Region East	Nancy Serrick	district5@gardenontario.org
District 6 - Brant, Halton, Norfolk, Wentworth, Hamilton	Donna Hussey	district6@gardenontario.org
District 7 - Dufferin, Wellington	Jane McDonald	district7@gardenontario.org
District 8 - Bruce, Grey, Huron	Sharon Nivins	district8@gardenontario.org
District 9 - Haldimand, Niagara North (Lincoln), Niagara South (Welland)	Susan M. Lusted	district9@gardenontario.org
District 10 - Thames Valley	Roland Craig	district10@gardenontario.org
District 11 - Essex, Kent, Lambton	Katharine Smyth	district11@gardenontario.org
District 12 - Northeastern Ontario	Anne Jamieson	district12@gardenontario.org
District 13 - Algoma, Manitoulin, Sudbury	Christine Marsh	district13@gardenontario.org
District 14 - Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay	Shirley Robson	district14@gardenontario.org
District 15 - Toronto West, Peel, York West	Carole Spraggett	district15@gardenontario.org
District 16 - Simcoe County	Russ Talbot	district16@gardenontario.org
District 17 - Durham Region	Elaine Davidson	district17@gardenontario.org
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Convention Registrar	Barb O'Malley	registrar@gardenontario.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear OHA members,

It is a pleasure at this time of year to look ahead to the spring growing season. I hope you have enjoyed attending a Seedy Saturday this spring to browse and buy seeds. If you are not fortunate to have a Seedy Saturday in your community, now is a good time to get together with other members of your horticultural society together to plan one for 2016.

Many of our members took advantage of a bulk order of Haskap berry bushes organized by Rose Odell, director district 4 and candidate for vice president. 1500 bushes will be distributed at cost across the province and I hope this will introduce many more people to this flavourful berry crop, grown from plants bred in Canada. It's another berry gardeners in northern Ontario can grow. It is also good for growers like me who can't easily grow blueberries since we lack acid soil.

We have completed our society annual reporting season. I would like to thank all of the society volunteers who persevered through the new website log-in process, your patience is appreciated. I also thank our web site volunteers Susan Lusted and Malcolm Geast who worked with literally hundreds of inquiries for passwords and help.

GardenOntario week will take place June 13-21. As you can tell, this is slightly longer than a week to allow 2 Saturdays for society events and also include the summer solstice. On the day when the sun shines the longest, spending the day with family doing things in and around the garden seems like a great way to conclude GardenOntario week. I hope your society can plan a meeting, show, garden tour, community beautification, garden-a-thon or other event during this time. Look for more details on GardenOntario week in this edition of the Trillium.

In October, the OHA Board passed a motion calling on retailers to end the use of Neonicotinoid pesticides on the ornamental, vegetable and fruit plants they sell to gardeners in Ontario. We remain concerned that plants exposed to these pesticides will damage the insect pollinators who visit the flowers on these plants and thus cause severe ecological damage. Some retailers, such as Home Depot, have taken a leadership role and are labelling plants that have been exposed to Neonicotinoids. The OHA has written to major plant retailers to ask them what their plans are to end the use of this class of pesticides on the plants they sell. I encourage you and every other member to ask about the use of Neonicotinoid pesticides when buying plants this spring and purchase only plants that are Neonic pesticide free. Together, we can work to protect our pollinators from this pesticide.

As your district's AGM's approaches, please support the volunteers working in your district by participating. I also hope you will consider serving in an office on your district board. Enjoy your spring meetings and have happy daydreams of working your soil and tending your gardens.

Jeff Blackadar President Ontario Horticultural Association

Agincourt Garden Club

Happy to announce that one of our members from Agincourt Garden Club - Lucy Bargold - won a Trillium Award on October 2nd, 2014 at the Scarborough Civic Centre. It was a great evening with a lot of the Trillium judges from Agincourt and Scarborough Garden Clubs attending. Lucy was presented with a Trillium award and 2 beautiful pictures of her garden. An outstanding garden.

Any question, please feel free to contact from Susan Astill AGC Member/Membership committee/Editor-Agincourt Garden Club newsletter







Picture of the new "Gerbera" Hasty note. They are sold in packages of 5 cards for \$5.00 or a set of 5 packages for \$20.00.

Please check out our updated Supplies Order Form and place your order at:

http://www.gardenontario.org/shop/order.php

District 14

Barbara Barnwell, a long serving and very dedicated member of the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society was presented the OHA Horticultural Service Certificate by President Wilma Wood at the General Membership Meeting on the evening of February 19, 2015.

Barbara served as a Director on the board as well as on many of the various committees throughout the years. She was a versatile helper during the 2013 OHA Convention hosted by District 14 held in Thunder Bay. She also held the position of Social Convenor for several years.

Respectfully submitted by: Shirley Robson Director, District 14



Trillium Submission Deadlines for 2015

Summer Issue – May 21st - Balcony Gardening Theme Fall Issue – August 21st - Therapeutic Horticulture Theme Winter Issue – November 21st - 3(or 4) Season, Vegetable Gardening Theme

The following 2016 competition schedules are now available:

- ⇒ Arts
- ⇒ Creative Writing
- ⇒ Photography

They can be found at:

http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/ com.php

Once the 2016 schedules are all uploaded, they can be accessed from this same link.



International Garden Tours with Sara Williams

Morocco: Heritage and Horticulture March 16 - April 1, 2015 Turkey: Heritage and Horticulture May 15 - May 31, 2015 Ireland: Heritage and Horticulture Sept. 20 - Oct. 4, 2015

Worldwide Ecotours 1-888-778-2378 Email: ruth@worldwideecotours.com or sara.williams@usask.ca

www.worldwideecotours.com





Save The Dates!

GardenOntario Week

The OHA is pleased to launch its first **GardenOntario Week** which will be held June 13 to June 21, 2015. We were inspired by the National Gardening Week events organized by the Royal Horticultural Society ("RHS") and thought "Whn not us?" We are hoping that our societies, partnering organizations, and other groups in Ontario will join us and share their knowledge, their ideas and their enthusiasm for gardening with their communities in Ontario.

Get busy now. June will soon be here.

Join the Celebrations

Events and activities are being organized throughout all 19 OHA Districts of our province. From workshops to guided walks, plant sales to garden parties, guerrilla gardening romps to community garden work and bee gardening, there is something for everyone and everyone is invited. Check the Events section of the GardenOntario Week website (http://gardenweek.caroldunk.com) and choose those activities that appeal to you.

Get Involved

Would you like to host a garden party, pick up litter in your neighbourhood or plant a tree? If so, you can get involved in GardenOntario Week by running your own event. You don't have to belong to the Ontario Horticultural Association to join in the fun. No matter how big or small, your activity will make the week more fun.

Advertise With Us

Advertise your event on our website: http://gardenweek.caroldunk.com. We'll gladly put your information up. Just email the particulars to events@gardenontario.org and we'll put your activity information on the events section of the GardenOntario website.

Do Something Fun

There are plenty of things you can do yourself or with your family or favourite group to get into the spirit of GardenOntario Week from building a bee hotel to making tasty strawberry jam or tidying a park. Everyone in Ontario is welcome to join GardenOntario Week.

Spread the Word

Don't forget to share your events, stories and photos with us in our newsletter, the Trillium, on Facebook or Twitter and on our GardenOntario Week website.



Oshawa Garden Club Annual Plant Sale on Saturday May 30, 2015 at the South Oshawa Community Centre, 1455 Cedar Street. This sale is in partnership with G.L.Roberts C.V.I. This school has a Horticultural Program for students in grade 9 to 12. Unique garden art will be available, Master Gardeners will share their expertise, and a wide variety of Plants will be for sale.

90 Years and a Name Change!

East Gwillimbury Gardeners, previously Mount Albert Garden and Horticultural Society, has a lot to celebrate – our 90th anniversary and our new legal name. Thanks to research by OHA historian Malcolm Geast we now know that, although a meeting may have been held earlier, the official founding date for Mount Albert & Garden Horticultural Society is March 24th, 1925. That year the society received \$75 in provincial grants; the OHA report at the end of that year shows that the society got off to a great start with 93 members, holding competitions for the best home garden and vegetable garden and conducting flower shows every two weeks in store windows!

At that time Mount Albert was the only town of any size in the rural township of East Gwillimbury. Our members now come from all of East Gwillimbury and beyond and we maintain public gardens throughout the area. To better reflect this, our members voted at our AGM in November 2014 to change our legal name to East Gwillimbury Garden and Horticultural Society. OHA and OMAFRA have approved this change. For everyday purposes, we are East Gwillimbury Gardeners and we will continue to offer the same great programs, speakers and love of gardening that began 90 years ago.

We celebrated the beginning of our 90th year with a 1920s fashion show and Gardeners Tea Party at the Temperance Hall in Sharon on May 10th 2014. About 70 guests, many dressed for the occasion, were transported back to the time of the flappers with daring new fashions which displayed legs and arms for the first time. Our models, who thoroughly charmed us,

were members of the society and friends and family members. Fashion History Productions provided the authentic costumes and narrated the program. In true 1920's style we enjoyed tea, sandwiches, scones and tasty treats made by the ladies of Mount Albert United **East Gwillimbury** Church, served by hort members.



Gardeners

Thanks to a \$200 tree grant from District 5 and the workforce of the Town of East Gwillimbury we have been able to plant a beautiful commemorative silver maple tree at the new children's playground in Queensville.

The many tasks involved with a name change – a new logo, changing all our materials, signage and making sure that all our community partners and the public are informed, are giving us an opportunity to really think about our brand and what we represent. It is an exciting time and there is a lot of good energy in the society. Our 11 active Junior Gardeners, under the leadership Of Russ Burton and Marie Nicolle, are off to a great start and eager to see the spring bulbs they planted at the Millennium Garden in the fall.

Bottom Right: Tree plaque photographed by Anne Hill Bottom Left: Nancy Serrick, Director District 5 and Valerie Liney, president East Gwillimbury Gardeners at dedication of silver maple in Queensville children's playground October 2014 is courtesy Tina Forrester





Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Ontario

As we all look forward to spring's new growth and eventually to the warmth of summer, we're also looking forward to the Ontario Horticultural Association's gathering of gardeners in the beautiful Ancaster area of District Six. Come and enjoy a fun-filled 2 1/2 day Convention (Friday through Sunday, July 3rd, 4th and 5th) at the picturesque campus of Redeemer University College.

If you haven't yet, check out the gardenontario.org website for all the details on the very interesting list of plenary speakers, seminars, workshops and bus tours. There's definitely something for everyone. Registration is now open. All the forms and detailed information on accommodations have been posted on the website. Get your registration in now, it's never too early and you'll have your choice of campus living, bed & breakfast or local hotel.

Now is also the time to get your creative juices flowing and make sure you get an early start on your entries for the Convention's many competitions, be it the Horticulture and Design Flower Competitions or the Art, Creative Writing, Photography, Publications and Youth contests. Winners will get bragging rights, along with prize money and ribbons.

All competitions are open to members of a society in good standing with the Ontario Horticultural Association. Some competitions have early deadlines so don't miss out. Details and pre-registration forms for all the OHA Competitions are posted on the OHA site http://www.gardenontario.org

The winter edition of the Trillium detailed the great bus trips planned for the Convention. Here is some information to whet your appetite on the speakers, seminars and workshops.

Speakers

The Banquet speaker will be one of our own District Six members, Lizzie Matheson. A very talented floral designer and entertainer, Lizzie's presentation, "Conversation Pieces" is guaranteed to amaze you and is generously sponsored by the Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society's Gladys McLatchy Fund.

(continued on next page...)

Our plenary speakers are:

- ◆ Cathy Kavassalis, Co-President of the Oakville Horticultural Society speaking on "Gardening for Life",
- ◆ Tobias Clarke, owner of Métis Bees on "Bees-What They Do For Us, What We Can Do For Them",
- ◆ Darren Heimbecker, Owner of Whistling Gardens on "Weird and Wonderful Oddities in the Plant World".

Hands-On Parallel Design Workshop

Friday afternoon1:30p.m.-4p.m. District Six's very talented Celia Roberts, an accredited G.C.O. Floral Design Judge and accredited R.B.G. Horticultural Judge, will offer this hands-on workshop. Don't miss this perfect opportunity to create a floral design arrangement that you'd be proud to enter in any Flower Show! Cost is \$30 and preregistration is required. If you have any questions you can email Celia at celiaroberts62@gmail.com. Space is limited to 18 entrants so enroll today on the **OHA Registration Form** and reserve your spot!

Friday Afternoon Seminars:

- ♦ Shawn LaPalm, from The Co-operators on "Insurance Matters: Who Sues Societies, etc."
- ♦ Victoria Bick, Acting Historic Garden Coordinator, Dundurn Castle on "History of Dundurn Castle and Its Gardens"
- ◆ Jim Lounsbery, Owner of Vineland Nurseries on "The Art of Pruning"
- ♦ Susan Lusted, DD9 and OHA Webmaster will hold a Computer Workshop with an overview of the OHA website gardenontario.org. You will learn how to navigate the site, how to upload documents and steps to add to the OHA Calendar of events. You will need your WiFi compatible laptops for this hands-on workshop.
- ◆Dan Cooper (Author) on "Gardening from a Hammock"
- ◆Lynn Leach, Horticultural Therapist, St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre and Stedman Community Hospice on "Horticultural Therapy"
- ◆ James Graham, Immediate OHA Past President/Gary Brenner, DD19 on how to "Attract New Members" with some interesting new approaches on increasing membership in your society with a brief look at some detrimental old habits, how to change and how to deal with "Bad Hort Breath"
- ♦ Wolfe Bonham, owner of Peace, Love and Landscaping on "The Evening Garden"
- ◆ Sean James, Fern Ridge Landscaping, on "Growing Gracefully Maturing a Landscape"

Saturday Afternoon Seminars:

OHA Judges' Updates: Anne Clark Stewart, Certified OHA Judge, Accredited R.B.G. & G.C.O. &

- ♦ Lily Judge on "Lilies"
- ◆Penny Stewart, DD3, Certified OHA Judge & Accredited R.B.G. Judge on "Judges on Judging"
- ◆ Janet Kronick, Historic Kitchen Coordinator, Dundurn Castle on "Making Food History Relevant"
- ◆ Jack Kent, Owner of The Potting Shed on "Understanding and Utilizing Ornamental Grasses"
- ◆Robert Howard, Hamilton Spectator Columnist on "9 Things I Learned From Other People's Gardens"
- ◆Trish Symons, Design, Horticulture & Rose Judge, on "Where Have All The Flowers Gone"
- ◆ Suzanne Hanna, OHA Vice President on "The OHA's Best Kept Secrets". Little known tips and tricks for successfully securing OHA funding for your society's proposed community initiatives. Whether it be a special project, community garden or a Seedy Saturday event. Learn how OHA grants can help your community bloom and prosper.
- ♦ Michael Erdman, President Greater Toronto Bulb Society on "Interesting & Easy Bulbs for the Summer Garden"
- ♦ Mae Leonard, Co-President, Delhi & District Horticultural Society on "In the Chair"

Some Seminar Speakers have still to be confirmed.

For the latest up-to-date information log onto: http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/con_reg.php or check out:

donnas2015conventionblog.wordpress.com

And finally, our Vendor Committee Chair, Cat McGill, will welcome fellow gardeners and shoppers to the great vendor line up for the Convention, showcasing many District 6 artists. Photographs, paintings, painted glass, fabric art, jewelry, along with natural cosmetics and health care products will all be available for sale.

Plant vendors with Native plants, herbs, lily and hosta specialists, suppliers of great dirt and water savers will also be there and Master Gardeners will be on hand to help with all your garden questions and needs. Plan to take home some treasures and memories from the Convention. District Six members invite you to attend the OHA 109th Convention to experience our 'Summer in the Southern Tier' hospitality! See you then.

By Lynn Townley, Chair, Publicity & Promotions Committee

Horticultural Society Changes Local Landscape While Celebrating Community Heritage

By Sarah Sullivan

Over two weekends in the sometimes sunny, sometimes rainy days of July 2014, the Ennismore and District Horticultural Society hosted a Dry Stone Wall workshop. The workshop was led by the charming and talented John Shaw-Rimmington, world's foremost expert on the art of dry stone walling. Plans were made well in advance of the workshop as the diligent Society met with Municipal and County governments to receive permission to build on a grassy traffic island. Local aggregate companies were approached and agreed to donate the 50 tonne of limestone needed to erect the dry stone wall. Community truckers donated their time and energy to deliver the stone. Near the end of June and with the guidance of Mr. Shaw-Rimmington, the specific location was chosen. Much thought went into the exact site for the future wall. Is it best in the center of the island or more to the north? What about the background? Ah, here is the perfect spot! Look at those beautiful pines and hardwoods, they will frame the wall and archway perfectly! This is the spot!

Stones were delivered, top soil was cut away, all by hand. No machines allowed, let's be totally authentic! Finally the workshop commenced. John likes his workshops small, no more than ten workers, some with experience, and many with none. After a brief tutorial, the troops began by sorting rock, lifting, and wheel barreling, and leveraging many tons of stone into organized piles. Slowly, the dry stone wall and archway began to take shape. Firstly, the centre stone



reveled itself like magic, and was set aside. Then the foundation needed to be built with great care and precision. Stones were cut using a hammer and chisel, just like in the days of old. With the close of each day, the Societies dreams were closer to coming true.

When the sun became too warm or the summer rain became too much, relief could be found within the two sun shelters the Society offered. Lots of chilled water, cookies, ham sandwiches and watermelon was on hand to feed the passionate participants and happy helpers.

As the bag pipe played, and the crowd gathered, four days of hard, dusty and sometimes muddy work, finally culminated in the laying of the centre arch stone and the removal of the wooden arch support. With a collective intake of breath, all looked on in amazement at the new Ennismore landmark, the 30' long dry stone wall and archway. Surely a thing of beauty!



A grand opening ceremony will be held July 2015 to dedicate this project to the brave Irish men and women who settled this tightly knit community. The Ennismore and District Horticultural Society is pleased to honour their ancestors and to add a legacy for generations to come. More projects are planned for this three year old Society. With a current membership of over 100, you can bet Ennismore will blossom, build and beautify with each passing year.

Aurora Garden Fair

The **Aurora Garden Fair** show-cases great outdoor living, our environment and the love of gardening. By popular demand, the Aurora Garden Fair is returning for its second year on Sunday May 24th at the Aurora Town Park. Open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our event theme is *From the Ground Up*.



Meet us at the marketplace – explore a variety of vendor's and exhibitor's booths. Stay awhile

for the music, displays and demonstrations; grab a bite to eat and mingle with old and new friends.

Our aim for this community event is to promote the benefits of developing outdoor spaces and gardens, and encourage a 'buy local' point of view within our community. Our AGHS booth provides information, while our own vendor component within the Fair is our annual Plant Sale.

Our inaugural event last year was a highly successful day with large crowds and happy patrons. We benefitted in garnering our Society much publicity, advancing our recognition in the community, and the event provided a substantial financial return.

Please join us this year. See for yourself whether this idea may be something your Society could undertake in your hometown. Check out our website at www.gardenaurora.com

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society, District 5



District #3 News by Penny Stewart

At our Fall AGM in Stirling OHA President Jeff Blackadar presented Bancroft Horticultural Society Co-President Wendy Taxis with a Certificate in honour of the societies 10th Anniversary. The AGM was well attended and lots of ideas were shared including looking for a D3 logo. In November as District Director I presented Brockville and District Horticultural Society (BDHS) with a 60th Anniversary Certificate. November was a very busy month of AGM's and their accompanying potlucks.



Bancroft 10th Anniversary Jeff Blackadar and Wendy Taxis



Brockville's 60th Anniversary
Mary Ann Van Berlo Penny Stewart Donelda Shackles

Brockville's 1st Seedy Saturday

Another great event was the first annual Brockville Seedy Saturday held February 14th 2015 at the Brockville Public Library. The event made for great networking amongst local groups including Butler's Creek Community Garden, Horticultural Societies from Athens, Brockville and Gananoque, Seeds of Diversity and the local citizens who brought in seeds for exchange. There were lots of interesting seeds free for the taking, lots of good garden advice and ideas exchanged. The library Community Development Coordinator Brandy Smith worked with John Defayette of the BDHS to bring this event to fruition. The local Press covered the event and by the end of the day there was talk of next year's Seedy Saturday promising to be bigger, better and seedier.

Give them Seeds and they will Grow it !!!







Brockville& Dist Hort Society Table

Athens Mary Slade

Gananoque
Penny Stewart & Joan Mac Kinnon

(continued on next page...)

OHA Service Award in District 3

Dave MacKenzie was presented with an OHA District Service award at the November Annual General meeting of the Brockville and District Horticultural Society. All society members and the community have benefited from Dave's never tiring dedication to the BDHS. Dave joined the BDHS in 1993 and has consistently taken an active role in the operation and development of the Society throughout 21 years of membership. Dave is always an advocate of community plantings and took a lead role in a number of BDHS's civic beautification projects such as the one at the Brockville Railway Tunnel (a national historic site). As well, Dave has held positions in the Society's executive and Board of Directors. He took a term as newsletter editor keeping the members informed of local and provin-



cial OHA activities. Dave has worked very hard over the years to keep the Society viable and vital in our community. He is still an active participant in Society events and rarely misses a meeting. The District Service Award recognizes that without the talents and commitment of people like Dave BDHS could not continue to do all it's good work. Congratulations Dave and thank you so much.

Photo of Dave MacKenzie with Penny Stewart D3 Director

My Glorious Garden

By Kaleigh Johnson Martin 2014 (Junior Member), Glouchester

When I made my garden this year I had so much fun. I shared my garden with my brother, Conor. I grew cherry tomatoes, pickling cucumbers, and squash. For my cherry tomatoes I had them all over my garden and they were delicious. I went away on vacation, when I came back my pickling cucumbers were too big to put in a jar to turn them into pickles so I gave them to Granny and Grandpa and they loved it. One of them was so big, I had to give it a name, so I named it Arnold. With my squash there were tons of them. The squash plant almost

took over the entire garden. I loved making a garden this year.

Next year I will definitely plant another garden.





As an annual presenter at the Dunnville Horticulture Society, the president requested that I submit an article which I wrote following a talk I gave on "Micro Gardening".

The article appeared in the most recent issue of Urban Farm, a California publication.

Both my wife and I are in our eighties and have moved into a retirement community in Port Colborne after enjoying rural life and gardening for several decades. This traumatic change caused me to find new avenues as an outlet for my interest in horticulture. The article to the right illustrates how we have compensated resulting in making many new acquaintances.

I am a retired Ontario elementary school principal and have lectured in Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone on a voluntary basis to train African nationals to become teachers. The presentation mentioned above is on power point which facilitates sharing it with other horticulture societies (e.g. at Welland this coming March).

Due to Zimbabwe's climate, we were unable to grow white potatoes, thus we acquired an appetite for sweet potatoes and learned how to grow them. For the past forty years, I have found they are exceptionally easy to grow in Ontario. This is another presentation I enjoy sharing with would-be growers.

Lester C. Fretz, B.A., M.Sc.

Young at Heart

hat does an 80-year-old who was given his own personal garden plot at the age of 4 and lived in the country for sevenand-half decades want to do upon moving into a retirement village? Downsizing and beginning small-scale urban-gardening practices became my next challenge.

I must admit that I didn't think that I could reinvent my dream garden in the city after living in the country for so long. However, it soon became apparent that urban

farming could become an enjoyable, productive and hospitable pastime. Blessed with a farming background, I began to explore how I could convert and utilize our new, cramped conditions into an unpretentious and unbelievable urban garden.

Wanting to fit in with our community, I observed what other properties looked like. A lonely maple tree stood in the front of each unit, and I noticed how each neighbor proudly added something decorative around their maple. But broken bricks, solar lights and artificial flowers were not for me. I timidly planted cherry and slicing stake tomatoes. With a wheelbarrow of compost ready to quickly hide a "soil additive," I brought in some manure from my brother's dairy farm to enrich my miniature garden.

My tomato plants thrived. The vigorous cherry tomato entwining the trunk improved

the maple's appearance and produced luscious fruit. I posted a sign inviting passersby to help themselves to the crop. What a joy to see a 70-year-old woman push a wheelchair with her 90-year-old mother to our tomato crop so she could enjoy doing something that she had done decades before.

An unsightly transformer box situated on our front yard along the sidewalk became another



Lester C. Fretz is pictured with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Sandi. Sandi and her husband built Lester a "produce stand" as a gift last Christmas.

space to garden. Hearty zucchinis, beautiful dahlias and an herb garden soon filled this space. Neighbors who walked by were welcomed to pick fresh parsley, oregano and zucchinis while admiring the beauty of large, pink, dazzling dahlias!

Despite the very limited space in a city setting, growing fruit, vegetables and flowers is more than possible! It is pleasurable and productive and creates many new and lasting friendships along the journey. Retirement has placed us in a village where many people can no longer garden. But as they pass by our urban "farm" — some with walkers, some in motorized scooters and some with canes — they are blessed by the gift of what our good

earth produces.

Throughout our lives, my wife and I have embraced the following saying: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." We value virtues of community, generosity, service, kindness, productivity, sustainable living and helping others. Our urban retirement village is just one place we live out these qualities. We are never too young or too old to enjoy gardening.



Fergus Plant Sales Allows Members to Share Best Gardening Practices

By: Ron Stevenson, Fergus Horticultural Society

Synonymous with spring are plant sales that seem to pop up everywhere. Many societies use this opportunity to raise much-needed funds while paring down gardens. The Fergus Horticultural Society is by far no exception. Fergus has a long history with this fundraiser.

A precursor to the first sale came about in 1998 when the society along with other town folk became involved with a national horticultural competition, *Communities in Bloom*. The objective of this still, long time running competition is to foster environmental responsibility and civic pride through community participation. Fergus won in its category in 1998 and 1999.

Because of this accomplishment, society members Roberta Vlietstra and Carol Defoe decided to pursue ways of buffering the anticipated cuts to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs' grants to horticultural societies. Due to the success of this community venture, Vlietstra and Defoe decided a plant sale was a viable idea for a fundraising event. Over the years, the event grew from a backyard venue to the Fergus arena (Sportsplex).

Because the yearly sale is held in early spring, longtime members can fondly remember thunderstorms, rain and even snow flurries. Unlike commercial nurseries, the plants at the sale originate locally from member's gardens or from the 25 gardens that the society tends.

Included in these gardens are the flagship Templin Gardens - large downtown installation and Terry Fox Park - heritage peonies and bicolour irises. A group of dedicated society members meet once a week to proudly care for the gardens. Known as "Diggin' in the Dirt" group, these members incidentally share gardening skills while enjoying fellowship.

Frequently, gardens will amass a vast quantity of surplus plants that need to be planted elsewhere. Often, some gardens are completely reinvented or individual plants have become so large that they require dividing. Simply using surplus plants repeatedly really does become monotonous. After all how many stands of the same perennial can be used creatively. The solution is to designate these plants for the sale.

These perennials are dug in the early spring when the new growth starts. Gardeners feel it is best to catch these plants early so they will be potted successfully. Experience has taught them that quality specimens are always chosen first at the sale over those that look like they are struggling. The reason for the success of the sale is the healthy, generous specimens on offer. Many are in one gallon containers.

Another enticing appeal is the majority of plants are bargain priced. A large, well labeled, organized collection is another drawing card. The collaboration between customers and society members is an unforeseen bonus. It truly underscores the mandate of the Fergus society to promote horticultural education.

Members who brought plants to the sale or had tended them in the society's gardens would have firsthand knowledge of their growing characteristics.

Due to past experiences, customers begin to line up well before the 8 AM opening. Specific varieties can be very limited. Customers know that the "early bird catches the worm" and do not want to be disappointed. On the day of the sale, individual horticultural queries always surface and members will try to propose solutions. As usual, last year's sale proved very successful. Many gardeners left with wheelbarrows full of assorted plants.

This event is the Society's only fundraiser. Proceeds allow the society to purchase new plant varieties, install garden structures and seating areas, while carrying on other horticultural activities throughout the year.

Grimsby Garden Club Celebrates 50 years in 2014

The Grimsby Garden Club has a distinguished history within the community and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014. The origins of the Club go back to 1895. The Grimsby Horticultural Society was organized by Edward A. Cole, the founder of Cole's Florists. With a hiatus caused by the Great Depression and WW II, the Society came back into existence in 1964. Since then it has continued to grow and to help beautify Grimsby.

This made 2014 a special year for us. We launched the year with a new logo to showcase this celebration. It features the Roberta Bondar rose, hybridized by Joyce Fleming, a long-time club member and well-known rosarian. This rose is the emblem of our Club.

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration chair was past president, Roberta Blackie. Her committee was creative and inventive and developed a program of special events to celebrate the year.



April was 'High Tea & Hats'

A celebration event for our 50th Anniversary, we were transported back to a time of pampered elegance with a selection of teas, dainty sandwiches, and elegant desserts. Lovely hats graced many of the participants, and flowers were beautifully displayed. Ann Potvin was our chair for this event.

May was 'Frankie Flowers at the Library'

Several hundred residents made their way to the Grimsby Public Library for a special evening with popular radio and TV personality, Frank Ferragine, author of *Power Plants: The Best Plants You Can Grow for your Health* was a truly enter-

taining speaker. This was a joint venture with the popular Grimsby Author Series and the Grimsby Garden Club chair of this event was Mary McLaren.

May 26th Monthly Meeting

James Graham, OHA president in 2014, was our speaker for the May meeting. His great love of gardening is matched by his exploration of various aspects of horticulture, and enhanced by his great sense of humour. We believe James that gardening is 'good for the body, mind and soul'.

June was '50 & Fabulous - A Flower Show'

Our annual flower show is open to all residents of the Town of Grimsby and to all OHA members. We had a wide and wonderful variety of entries, with Beth Sommers our Show Chair. Pictured here were our top winners of the show, with Chair Beth Sommers and President Wendy Fletcher.

July 5 was our 'Grimsby Garden Tour'

The July event was the wonderful Grimsby Garden Tour. Almost 200 people toured 10 gorgeous gardens. They ranged from compact urban gardens in new subdivisions to heritage homes on expansive properties that border the Niagara Escarpment or Lake Ontario. We think they are gardens that appealed to all, particularly on a beautiful sunshine-filled day.



Our garden tour chair was Roberta Blackie, and her committee members were Liz Willson and Shirley Taylor. They organized gardens and garden guides. There were about 40 garden volunteers who provided guidance and help so that tour participants had a wonderful time.

Finally, we are appreciative of the Town of Grimsby's generosity in showcasing our club's 50th anniversary. Our Grimsby Garden Club banners lined the downtown Main Street, highlighting our hanging town baskets more than ever.

It was a tremendous celebration year for the Grimsby Garden Club. Congratulations to the chair and committee members of the 2014 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Oshawa Garden Club Scholarship Award

Our Past-President Debi is seen here with Brandon, the second graduate to receive The OGC Scholarship.

Horticulture Technician

The Horticulture Technician Program now offered at the Whitby Campus, Durham College was started in 2011. Students learn the art, science, and business of horticulture: landscape construction, nursery management, and soil and plant nutrition. This is a two-year course and is part of the College's Field to Fork Vision. (Field to Fork is the term used on campus to mean the production of local food) These students are looking for careers working in municipal parks, horticulture equipment companies, property management, tree management, and landscape design and maintenance businesses.



Oshawa Garden Club representatives attended the first graduation in November 2013 and were proud to present the Oshawa Garden Club Scholarship, to Melissa for her outstanding academic achievement. One of our garden club members Marion, who worked hard to establish this scholarship said, "the value of financial support for students can never be underestimated."

Durham College has future plans for an orchard, a greenhouse, an arboretum, a pollinator garden, a green roof and more. It is exciting for our garden club to have this asset in our community.

Excerpt from the Etobicoke Newsletter

Editor: Catherine Leggett

"NATIVE PLANTS TO KNOW & USE"

Gardening with native plants can make a gardener's world go a little topsy-turvy. You really don't need to do that much maintenance anymore - I run out of things to do in my garden! There are fewer 'new' plants to buy each year as you no longer lust over the latest cultivar. You might find yourself frustrated with the native choices in the traditional garden centre's. All those books you bought about Best Perennials for This and That contain too much information about 'pest-free' plants from far-away lands. To steady yourself and to get ready for spring, why not spend some time this winter learning more about native plants? I have listed some books that are worthwhile.

By Lorraine Johnson: The New Ontario Naturalized Garden

Grow Wild!

100 Easy to Grow Native Plants

By Douglas W. Tallamy: Bringing Nature Home

Douglas W. Tallamy and Rick Darke: The Living Landscape Native

Brooklyn Botanical Garden: Alternatives to Invasive Plants

The 2015 County Garden Show - Prince Edward County

Prince Edward County has a lot to offer on a summer day. Why not make Saturday, June 13, that day this year, and come to Picton for the annual County Garden Show? It's happening in and around the Crystal Palace on the Picton Fairgrounds, 375 Main Street, from 10:00 until 4:00. There'll be a judged flower show, a silver-service Victorian Tea, plants for sale, a raffle with a huge collection of prizes, and dozens of vendors offering every kind of garden-related gadget and goody. General admission is \$2.00; the Victorian Tea is extra (and worth it!). On-site parking is free. The Prince Edward County Horticultural Society looks forward to welcoming members of other horticultural societies and garden clubs.

Check out the webpage at http://pechorticultural.org/the-county-garden-show/.





Winter Garden Party

On Friday January 23rd, the Waterloo Horticultural ushered in our 2015 program with our Winter Garden Party. This year we decided on a Hawaiian Theme for the event which included our Annual General Meeting, Presentations to the winners of our 2014 Garden Competitions and our first Competition of 2015 in Photography, Art and Creative Writing categories. Our sponsors were in attendance with information on what is new for the coming season. Hawaiian music played in the background and the members were all given a complimentary lei as they arrived.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of an Honorary Life Membership to our Past-President Wayne Weiberg. Wayne began his tenure as a Board Member of Waterloo Horticultural Society in 1975. He followed in his parents Hilda and Garnet footsteps who were also long serving Board members

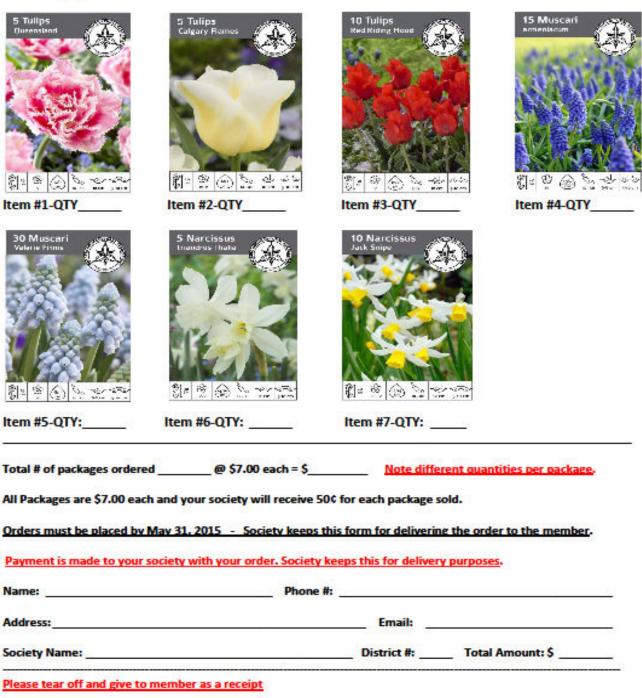
and community volunteers. In 2015 Wayne celebrated his 40th year as a member of the Board of Directors and was presented with a Forty Year OHA Service pin. His service was also recognized by the City of Waterloo. Councillors Angela Vieth and Brian Bourke presented Wayne with a 40 Year Community Builders award and a special certificate from Mayor David Jaworsky. Such commitment is rare and we are proud to have such a dedicated man as part of our organization.

Wayne Weiberg is presented with a City of Waterloo Community Builders award in recognition of his 40 year service on the Board of Directors of the Waterloo Horticultural Society by City Councilors Angela Vieth and Brian Bourke. Gary Brenner in his Hawaiian attire presented Wayne with his Honorary Life Membership and OHA 40 Year Service Pin.





2014/2015 OHA Bulb Fundraiser



Date Paid: _____ Cheque# or Cash: _____ Amount \$ ____ # of packages: ____

OHA Bringing Our Members a Marketing Opportunity



The OHA has chosen to introduce the Haskap Berry Bush plants to our members as a marketing idea so they can have the opportunity to purchase and learn more about this plant that is becoming more popular for its properties. We will be bringing 4 of the plant varieties to Ontario in March; to take to the District AGM's which will give the members a chance to purchase them. The varieties are all LaHave haskapa cultivars, from Nova Scotia, those being Larisa, Erin, Vicky and Ruth. This would provide a more substantial crop as the bushes grow to have more than one variety for cross pollination. They will be available for sale at a price of 4 (1 of each variety) for \$25.00. If you wish more information about the product please visit the webpage www.lahavenaturalfarms.com. There are recipes available and products made from the berries.

The Haskap berry is dark blue in colour, naturally delicious and very good for you. A freshly picked Haskap berry (*Lonicera caerulea*) produces a full sensory explosion in the mouth. It is tart yet sweet, heady with a robust, complex in mouth sensation and a wonderful finish. We feel the juice has more in common with a fine wine than with lesser juices such as blueberry, pomegranate, grape or apple.

It has been treasured and loved in Russia and Japan for centuries, for its very unique and sensuous taste and remarkable health properties. It contains extremely high levels of anthocyanins, Vitamin C, Potassium, Phenolic compounds and other antioxidants. Recent research shows that Haskap has nearly three times the number of antioxidants than a wild blueberry, making it an important part of a healthy and balanced diet.

Haskap berries were known by the ancient Ainu people of Japan as the fruit of long life and good eyesight. There is accumulating scientific evidence that bioactive compounds, such as antioxidants found in berries, have significant potential health benefits. Haskapa contain extremely high levels of anthocyanins, vitamin C, phenolic compounds and other antioxidants.

They are dark blue in colour, oval or cylindrical in shape and about one inch in length. The Russian varieties tend in general to be longer and larger than the Japanese ones.

A fresh Haskap berry or juice produces a full sensory explosion in the mouth! It is tart yet sweet, heady with a robust, complex in mouth sensation and a wonderful finish. Its taste is likened to a 'Zingy' combination of Blueberry and Raspberry with a hint of Elderberry.

Photo and wording permission from LaHave Natural Farms Article submitted by Rose Odell – District 4

Paris Horticultural Society Events

The Paris Horticultural Society will be hosting two events once again this year as our annual Fundraisers. The funds are used for public plantings around the Town of Paris, including 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 9th, 8 am – 11 am at Syl Apps Community Centre-Arena, 51 William Street, Paris, Ont. N3L 1L2. Large selection of perennial favourites from members' gardens, vegetables, herbs annuals etc. Master Gardener on site. Plant Auction to follow. Coffee with muffin \$1.00. Call Carol 519-442-3918 or email rboos3918@rogers.com for details

Paris Horticultural Society annual Garden Tour Saturday & Sunday, June 6 & 7th from 10 AM - 4 PM in conjunction with Springtime in Paris. Six gorgeous gardens to visit. Tickets \$10.00 per person. Call Serryn <u>519-442-9767</u> or email <u>serryn@execulink.com</u> for details.

Helen Scutt, Agriculture Organization Specialist

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Rural Affairs

1 Stone Road West, 3rd Floor SW, Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

1-888-466-2372 x63115 or 519-826-3115

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Insurance Queries?

Contact:

Shawn LaPalm

Non Profit and Charity Insurance

The Co-operators

1-888-712-2667

Shawn lapalm@cooperators.ca

Additional info regarding the OHA insurance Plan can also be found at: http://gardenontario.org/abo/insurance.php

Buyer Beware

By Carol Dunk

Most of us concerned about the plight of bees are now conscientiously choosing plants for our gardens that are good for bees. What we may not be aware of is that the very plants we are purchasing to help bees may have been treated with the same pesticides that have been killing or sickening bees worldwide – neonicotinoids.

Neonicotinoids or neonics are a group of systemic pesticides that are used on crops to control insects. When they are used as a seed coating or a drench, the insecticide enters the system of the plant



and can be found in all parts of the plant – leaves, stem, flowers, fruit. Insects feeding on any part of treated plants are affected.

The neonicotinoids widely used to prevent insect damage on crops have been recognized as dangerous to bees. Although bees are not the targets, they are attracted to the flowers of crops that have been treated. The bees ingest the neonics through nectar and take the pollen of the treated plants back to their hives to feed their young. Large doses of the pesticide will kill bees outright, but even very small doses of neonics, can cause bees to become disoriented, to experience memory loss or to lose their foraging ability. Honey bees are often unable to find their way back to the hive.

Those very same neonics that harm bees on crop plants may be present in the ornamental plants we purchase at nurseries and big box stores. Studies of plant material from a variety of retail sources have revealed the presence of neonics in plants offered for sale. Some growers use the pesticides on their ornamental stock as a control for insects just as farmers do on crops. And we purchase those plants for our bee gardens!

To reduce the danger to bees, many countries have banned the use of neonicotinoids, but there is no legislation banning the use of neonics on garden plants in Canada or the USA. The nurseries and plant producers, the sources of our plants, are free to use neonics on the plants they produce. Of course, we wouldn't choose plants for our bee gardens that contained harmful pesticides, but there is no way of knowing whether the plants we purchase have been treated with neonics or not.

Here's where you and I come into the picture.

The Ontario Horticultural Association has acted. OHA has written a letter to the main large box stores asking them to choose plants for sale that have not been treated with neonics and to label plants that have been treated.

You and I can act, too. We can ask our plant sources whether neonics have been used on the plants, and we can choose not to buy plants that have been treated with neonics. We can regulate the use of neonics with our purchasing decisions. Buy only bee-friendly plants this spring.

Home Depot is now requiring plants treated with the pesticide must bear labels. http://www.greenhousemag.com/gm0215-neonicotinoids-tags-home-depot-plants.aspx

Here are some sites you may want to visit for more information:

http://www.wired.com/2014/06/garden-center-neonicotinoids/

http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/Krischik-UofMN-PowerPoint.pdf

http://www.thecourier.co.uk/business/farming/scottish-study-claims-to-prove-pesticides-are-harming-bees-1.822577

http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2013/05/07/neonicotinoids-affect-bees.aspx

http://www.planetexperts.com/study-confirms-neonicotinoid-insecticides-impair-bee-brains/#sthash.00JDwuH9.dpuf

From the Editor:

Hang in there, Spring is just around the corner. I hope you enjoy this themed issue on fruits. Thank you all for your submissions. Since I live in Niagara on the Lake, I thought it would be appropriate to present facts about peaches. The information below is from the Ontario Tender Fruit site: http://www.ontariotenderfruit.ca/peach-facts.php

HISTORY AND TRIVIA

- Peaches have been grown since the prehistoric ages and were first cultivated in China. They are considered a Chinese symbol of immortality and friendship.
- Before arriving in Europe, peaches were grown in Persia. The Romans believed that peaches came from Persia and called them Persian (Iranian) apples. The name peach comes from the Latin word for Persian - prunus persica.
- Peaches grow best in warm, temperate climates. The Niagara Fruit Belt produces 90% of Ontario's tender fruit crop.
- The Niagara Fruit Belt is about 65 kilometres, mainly below the Niagara Escarpment along the south shore of Lake Ontario, extending from Hamilton to Niagara-on-the-Lake. It is one of the richest fruit-producing areas in Canada.
- Close relatives of almonds, peach seeds are used as an almond oil substitute in cosmetic preparations. The leaves and bark of peach trees are used as a medicinal tea for chronic bronchitis, coughs and gastritis.
- The Famous French painter, Renoir, encouraged students to improve their painting skills by reproducing the textures and colours of peaches.

EVOLUTION OF EXCELLENCE

- In 1779, peaches were harvested at the mouth of the Niagara River for local consumption.
- In the mid-1780s, Peter Secord, the uncle of Laura Secord, was believed to be the first Loyalist farmer, taking a land grant near Niagara to plant fruit trees. Ontario peaches, pears and plums have been thriving in the area ever since.
- In 1792, Lady Simcoe, wife of the King's representative for British North America, wrote in her diary that she had 3 standard peach trees that helped provide her with treats over the winter.
- In 1860, the menu at a dinner for the Prince of Wales noted that Brown's peaches would be served. (Joseph and John Brown are said to have had the first commercial orchard in Niagara.)
- In 1865, the price of a bushel of Crawford peaches was \$4.00 (poorer varieties from \$2-\$3.00); pears cost \$1.50 \$2.00 a bushel; and plums cost \$3 \$4.00 a bushel.
- By 1875, there were 375,000 peach trees in Ontario (not one of those varieties remains today).
- In 1930, local pilots flew Yellow Sun peaches via Montreal to England for the Prince of Wales.

So there you have it, a little bit of history regarding peaches. All the best, *Bernice*

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