
Peterborough Horticultural Society Newsletter

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Editor Dianne Westlake
Email: editor@peterboroughgardens.ca



150 years



P.O. Box 1372 Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7H6

www.peterboroughgardens.ca

Happy New Year! Welcome 2011

This is a special year for Peterborough Horticultural Society as we celebrate our 150th Anniversary. Stay tuned for some special activities and events throughout the year.

AGM

Our November meeting was also our Annual General Meeting and it was great to see so many members attending. The Financial Report was given by our Treasurer, Marie Doyle and the Garden Show Report was given by committee chair, Gary Westlake.

Carol Mitchell, Assistant Director for OHA District 4, conducted our election and the following are the Society's duly elected officers.

President –	Pat deVilliers
1st Vice President	Pat Lounsbury
2nd Vice President	vacant
Secretary	Cathy Fraser
Treasurer	Claire Sullivan
Past President	Anne Milne

One year Directors:

Chris Freeburn
Shaun Pyper
Sally Rye
Dianne Westlake
Gary Westlake

Two Year Directors:

Julie Burch
Gail Deck
Pauline Drake
Kathy Hewitt
Susan Fairs

Congratulations! We appreciate your contributions. Please remember all members are welcome to assist with our committee work. If you are able to help out, we would encourage you to share your talents.

NOVEMBER MEETING

We were fortunate that Vicki Taylor Scott travelled from her new home in Guelph to speak at the November meeting. Vicki has her own unique way of providing information while entertaining and yes, 'she is just certifiable!' She even brought her own entourage – her mother who was every bit as gracious as her daughter. Her presentation was a great wrap up to our 2010 calendar year and the last meeting with Anne Milne presiding as President.

NEXT MEETING

On Wednesday, January 26th at 7:30 p.m., Gary and Dianne Westlake will share 'Some of Our Favourite Gardens – Reasons to Visit Gardens While Travelling.' While they love to travel, they also learn from every garden they visit and frequently try to use this knowledge and ideas to incorporate in their own garden. All general meetings of PHS are held at the Peterborough Public Library on Aylmer Street.



Kew Gardens boasts many spectacular features including this glasshouse. Come and enjoy a taste of summer.

Did You Know...

PHS was organized in April 9, 1861 by a few local gentlemen. Rev. Vincent Clementi was the first president.



A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

At this time of year, we tend to make resolutions to change our habits. This is a great time to resolve to Lug-a-Mug. Bring your own and help to save the environment.

50/50

In November, Shaun Pyper was the winner of one of our biggest prizes ever: \$137.00. Congratulations, Shaun – a tidy little sum just before Christmas! We also had lots of amaryllis from No Frills on George Street and some lovely poinsettias from Sobey's on Lansdowne. Rachel Burrows donated a pair of tickets to the Festival of Trees, and our speaker, Vicki Taylor-Scott donated a poinsettia. My thanks go to both ladies for their thoughtfulness and generosity. It is appreciated. Dawna Rhodenhizer

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS: PETER K. MACK, GWEN STEVENS, JENNIFER DAWN STEVENS, ALICE TAYLOR, JENNIFER TAYLOR, AND STUART TAYLOR.

THANK YOU MEMBERS

As a society, we donated 147 lbs. of food to Kawartha Food Share. It was appreciated very much. A total of 15 pairs of mittens and 1 pair of slippers was also donated to Crossroads (a shelter for abused women and their children). When I delivered them personally, they communicated that they would be shared in the care boxes that the "involved families" receive. Together, we continue to make a difference in our community!
Pat Lounsbury

LIBRARY

This month we have some new additions in our Library. "Grow Great Grub", organic food from small spaces; "Succulent Container Gardens", design eye-catching displays with 350 easy-care plants; "Perennial Combinations", stunning combinations that make your garden look fantastic right from the start; "The Container Gardener's Bible", a step-by-step guide to growing in all kinds of containers, conditions; "Armitage's Vines & Climbers", a gardener's guide to the best vertical plants.

It's a long, cold winter so come and take a look at all the wonderful resource books we have and get some new ideas. Pauline Drake

GARDEN SHOW

The vendor and display areas are almost full with all but approximately 20 spaces left. This year's show promises to be better than ever and we are looking forward to a packed weekend. We have some new vendors, and of course, our loyal followers who have supported us over the years, great speakers and workshops, the Rotary Draw and a wonderful flower competition. As well, look for some new additions! The list of vendors, speakers, and flower show information has been uploaded to the website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca Remember to tell a friend about the show. They will thank you for it.

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteers are essential to the smooth running of the show. If you can give us a few hours we would love to hear from you. Volunteers provide information and direct traffic for the visitors, cover for vendors who need to take a short break, assist with set up and take down (outside of show hours), sell tickets, hand out programmes, cover the PHS table, and most of all SMILE. None of these jobs is difficult and we can make sure that you will be comfortable with your task. You will also receive free admission to the show on the day(s) you work. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the January meeting. It is not too early to let us know that you will help.

BUS TRIP TO CANADA BLOOMS

Join us on Thursday, March 17th for a trip to the 'south' – well Toronto is south! And what better way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day? Wear something green and get into the spirit! No, we will not be serving green beer but we can ensure a good time! This is the 15th anniversary for Canada Blooms and they are taking this opportunity to celebrate. Last year the Blooms moved to the Direct Energy Centre at Exhibition Place so everything is on one level – a welcome change. If you have not attended the show for a while, come out and join us for a great day. If you did go last year, it looks like it will be even better this year. Check out the website at <http://www.canadablooms.com/>

Details: Thursday, March 17th – Leave the Coach Canada yard promptly at 8:00 a.m. Return at approximately 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$45.00 per person and includes the bus, your entry and the show magazine. Plus some surprises along the way. Come along, join in the fun and have a great day away from the usual grind. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the January meet-



ing with payment is due at the February meeting. For more details, or to book your seat, contact Sally Rye at 705-749-6135 or krye2@cogeco.ca

MEMBERSHIP

It is time to renew your Peterborough Horticultural Society membership. A Single Membership is \$15.00 and Family Membership is \$20.00. The membership table will be set up in the hallway outside the meeting room. When you renew, you will be asked to verify your contact information. Please check this information carefully as it is used to deliver your newsletter, either by Canada Post or email.

At the November meeting we tried a new procedure. A box was provided for express registration and this proved to be very popular – approximately two thirds of our renewals were done this way. Thanks to everyone who tried this method. It seemed to work well and helped to reduce the lineup. To try to facilitate speedy membership renewal at the January meeting, please complete the membership form that was with the November newsletter or can be found on the website with the November 2010 newsletter. Or you could print your name, address, telephone number, name of family members if you have a family membership, email address and indicate whether you wish to receive your newsletter by Canada Post or email on a piece of paper. Have the correct change or cheque made payable to the Peterborough Horticultural Society ready you will receive your card and yearbook immediately and your information can be checked at a later time.

By Mail

If you wish to renew your membership by mail, send a cheque made payable to Peterborough Horticultural Society and complete the form that was included in November edition of the newsletter or download the form from the website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca/about_society.html Do not send cash though the mail.

For those members who have already renewed at the November meeting or by mail, your 2011 yearbook and membership card will be available at the registration desk at our January meeting. Look for the sign indicating membership card pick up area.

PLEASE NOTE: Rather than listing garden tasks in each edition, you will find a complete list for the year with your newsletter. This is also available (along with more fact sheets) on the Master Gardener website at peterboroughgardens.ca

STARTING SEEDS

Why put the effort into growing your own plants from seed? The cost will be much less. More varieties are available as seed. Most garden centres carry only a limited number of varieties which have proven to be the most popular with the public. You might find that you enjoy the challenge and find satisfaction in this activity. Starting seeds signals the beginning of the growing season.

TIPS

Choose seeds wisely

If this is your first time growing from seed, choose annuals and vegetables as these are the easiest to grow. Perennials can be more difficult but not impossible.

Keep records to allow for better planning

Record dates when seeds were sown, germinated and success rate. Also note when seedlings were ready for transplanting.

Store seed properly to maintain viability

Store seeds in a cool, dark location with low humidity, like a refrigerator. Place seeds in a small reclosable bag or empty film canister. Keep these in a larger plastic container. Label containers with seed name, source and year. When ready to plant, test the viability of a few seeds by soaking them in water for a few hours. The seeds that are still viable will sink to the bottom. Those that float on the surface will not germinate.

Select containers to avoid overcrowding

Wide, shallow, plastic pots or containers retain moisture and prevent overcrowding of seedlings. Some plants do not transplant well and should be sown into small, individual containers like cell packs or plug trays. Recycle plastic containers, like empty yogurt or margarine tubs after poking holes in the bottom for drainage. Containers must be clean. Sanitize by soaking in a 10 percent bleach solution for 15 minutes and air drying

Use sterile, soilless seed-starting planting medium.

Fill container to within a quarter inch of the top, tamp the soil to remove large airspaces and water well. Allow pots to drain.

Follow directions found on the package

Sow seeds thinly. Pay attention to the suggested timing as suggested on the package. Press seeds firmly to ensure direct contact with the soil. Some seeds require light to germinate but some need to be covered to the depth of two times the seed diameter.



Label all containers

Seedlings at an early stage can look alike and I promise you will not remember what is growing in that pot!

Germination Period

Cover the planted container with a plastic bag or film, keeping the cover from touching the surface. Place in a warm location and check daily to see if germination has occurred. This does not have to be in a well lit area but once there are signs of growth move the container to a sunny location or place under grow lights. Keep soil moist but not soggy.

Prevent disease by providing air flow and drainage

'Damping-off' is a fungal infection usually caused by too much moisture and poor air circulation. A small fan on low, directed to blow across the containers at the soil level can help.

Watering

Be careful when watering newly germinated seedlings as they can be easily disturbed. Immersing the entire pot in a container with an inch or two of warm water is a good alternative to watering from the top. Allow the planting medium to draw moisture from the bottom and then allow the soil to drain.

Thinning

Once a seedling has its first true leaves (not the first 'leaf' or cotyledon which is not actually a leaf) you may carefully lift the seedling out of the growing medium and transplant it into its own container. If you have only a few in a container, and do not wish to transplant, you should cut the weaker seedlings leaving only the strongest one. Do not pull the weaker ones as you might disturb the root system of the plant you wish to keep.

Keep stems strong

Most seedlings grow best with 12 to 16 hours of light each day. If using a sunny, south-facing window, rotate the container a quarter turn each day to prevent the seedlings from forming weak stems.

Feed them well

To keep seedlings growing strong, begin a half-strength liquid fertilizer regimen on a weekly basis once the true leaves emerge.

Harden off seedlings

To acclimate the young plants to direct sunlight and variable temperatures, place them in direct sunlight during the morning only of the first day. Repeat each of the next three or four days, increasing the time outside by a few hours each day until they are vigorous enough to be transplanted.

Transplanting into the Garden

Wait until all danger of frost has passed before planting. To help prevent transplant shock, water the seedlings and the planting area before transplanting. Try to transplant on a cloudy day, preferably avoiding the heat of the day. Dig a hole about twice the size of the root ball and set the transplant into the hole so the root ball will be covered by 1/4 inch of soil. Fill with garden soil and press firmly around the roots. Leave a small depression around the plant stem to help trap moisture. Water immediately after transplanting and every day for the first week. Be sure to water deeply so you plants won't develop shallow roots.

COMING EVENTS

LOCAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Lakefield

Tuesday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Lakefield Marshland Centre – Gardening Gently – Lakefield Chiropractor, Dr. Catherine Kirk

Norwood

Monday, January 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norwood Legion – Travels in Turkey – Betty and John Bennett

OTHER EVENTS

February 12 and 13 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Southern Ontario Orchid Society – Orchid Show at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave East at Leslie Street. Go to <http://soos.ca/> to print a coupon for \$2.00 of admission price of \$12.00 (includes HST)

February 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Get the Jump on Spring at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave East at Leslie Street – Free Admission – Displays, Marketplace, Speakers and more. A \$2.00 donation gives hourly chances to win great prizes!

March 3 – 6 – The Stratford Garden Festival – Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford. <http://www.stratfordgardenfestival.com/>

March 4, 5, 6 – The Kingston Gardening Festival – Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, Yonge Street, Kingston. For more information <http://kingstongardeningexpo.com/>

March 15 – 20 – Canada Blooms at the Direct Energy Centre Exhibition Park, Toronto. For more information go to <http://www.canadablooms.com/>

March 31 – April 3 – Successful Gardening Show at The Toronto International Centre, 6900 Airport Road – Toronto. For more information <http://www.home-show.net/successfulgardening/swg4show.ht>