

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Newsletter

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JANUARY MEETING

It was one of our more intimate gatherings. Terry Kennedy, our speaker for the evening was snow-bound, as were many of our members. But no matter how snowy and blustery it was outside, inside was warm and cheery and those who were able to come out had a good time. This was Anne Milne's first General Meeting as President. Well done Anne! Dawna Rhodenhizer brought a breath of spring with her flowery hat and Dianne and Gary Westlake filled in with a presentation on mistakes many of us make in the garden. Terry will come to our June meeting to share her 'World of Orchids' so mark that change in your yearbook.

50/50 Draw

The 50/50 draw was won this month by Cathy Fraser – \$47.50, which was really pretty good considering that we only had a few dozen people out for the meeting, owing to the weather. The big non-monetary prize of the evening was 2 tickets on the bus trip to Canada Blooms, worth \$100.00. Thanks to Sally Rye, bus tour organizer, for the donation! Other gifts, from Avant Garden on Sherbrooke Street, included a woodpecker suet feeder, several bags of birdseed, and two orchid pots – which would have gone nicely with the speaker, if the speaker had been able to get through the snow...

Thank you, Chris!

Chris must be commended for the work she has done on the yearbook. It looks wonderful and is filled with lots of information. Great work!



This tree with a 'split personality' should never have been planted under a hydro wire.

February Meeting

On Wednesday, February 25 Mark Peacock, Director of Watershed Services at the Ganaraska Conservation River Authority will be our speaker. Come out and hear about the Oak Ridges Moraine. This will be a busy meeting. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. The library is ready for business and the coffeepot will be on. Buy your 50/50 draw tickets and the membership table will be open for renewing your membership for 2009. Come out and have a great time and bring along a friend.

Yearbook

I want to thank Gary Westlake for the great job on the full cover for the 2009 yearbook and also his daughter Megan for the beautiful geranium photograph on the cover. Thanks also to Pauline Drake, Dawn Tack and Claire Sullivan for their contributions and to all the board members who sent in their committee reports. You all make my job so much easier, which makes it fun and rewarding.

Chris Freeburn



Welcome to our new member - Frank Pindar

PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW

The 2009 Peterborough Garden Show-For The Love of Gardening is only two months away and we are coming down to the wire. There are still some spaces left but inquiries are coming in daily and I have no doubts that we will be full this year. Don't forget to pass along the names of any potential vendors to me.

Every year have some turnover and which means there is space for new vendors while many of our previous vendors are joining us again this year. The complete listing can be found on our website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca. As the contracts come in, the exhibitors information is updated. When available, vendors' websites are included. Check them out and make out your shopping list for the show.

Keep your eyes out for our extensive advertising. Look for our road signs, and print advertisements in newspapers and magazines and our commercials on CHEX-TV. Remember word of mouth is still the best form of advertising. That is your part! Talk to everyone you know and meet about your show. Pick up flyers and a poster or two at the February meeting.

Once again we will have a judged flower show which should prove to be a great part of our show again this year. Entry forms are available on line at our website or pick one up at our meetings.
Niki Dufresne

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Again this year, we are looking for volunteers to help us with various duties. This year the show will be held on Easter weekend from Thursday evening until Saturday. In the past we had a great response and we are counting on your help again. If you are a new member, don't hesitate, come out and see what great fun it is and what a great show we put on. You, as volunteers, are the main reason for such a great success of our show. So, please sign up at the next general meeting or call Etela Vojnic (749 0730) or Anne Milne (741 3995).

Library

A mini "house cleaning" recently took place in our Library. Our carts were bursting and some of our books were out of date and tired, so we've made some room for future purchases. In the meantime, you are now able to view what we have in our collection of 299 books. Just go to our website and look under the "Resources" tab, see Books and it can be viewed through library-thing.com. If you have any suggestions for future purchases, please let us know.

Canada Blooms

After another brutal winter, it is time to start thinking about spring! Take a break and join us. There are still space left on the bus to Canada Blooms. On Thursday, March 19th we leave from the Coach Canada yard on Webber Avenue at 8:15 a.m. sharp and will return at approximately 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$50.00, which includes the bus, entry into the show and the show magazine. Call or email Sally Rye at 749-6135 or kar@nexicom.net

Membership

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2009, please remember it is due. Having a PHS membership provides many benefits: great speakers at our monthly meetings, a yearbook, monthly newsletters, workshops and bus trips. For insurance purposes, you must be a Horticultural Society member in order to volunteer at the garden show. The cost is \$15.00 (individual) or \$20.00 (family). Please make your cheque payable to the Peterborough Horticultural Society.

Peterborough Garden Show

for the Love of Gardening

2009





Workshops

Our next workshop is a '**Perky Pot**' crafting workshop. This workshop will be held on Thursday, March 5th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pat Lounsbury spoke to the small group at the January meeting and brought along some of her creations to show us how we can make an ordinary clay pot into a beautiful showpiece. We will be holding the workshop in the boardroom at the Peterborough Library. We ask participants to bring:

- their own clean clay pots (and saucers, if you like)
- rubber gloves (if you need them)
- special folk art paint (if you are particular about a colour on your pot) and/or
- treasures such as shells, jewels, buttons, bows to put on your pots

We will supply the putty, brushes, an assortment of paint and some extra gems. Please sign up for this workshop at the February meeting or call me to get on the list. Space is limited in the boardroom, so I need to know who will be participating. Get rid of the late winter blues and add a little beauty to your home with this crafting workshop.

Our **Seed Catalogue Ordering** workshop was a big success with orders getting placed from all of the three catalogues we used. Gladys Fowler gave us some great tips on how to successfully start and grow all the wonderful seeds that we ordered. Come on spring!

We have extra seed catalogues, which will be available to our members at the February meeting. Look for them on a side table by the library.

Upcoming Workshops:

Getting To Know Your Soil – In early May, we will hold a workshop at the Ecology Park. Cathy Dueck will give us some hands on advice about our own garden soil. We can each bring a sample and discover what is in our soil.

Flower Arranging – Plans are in the works to have an arranging workshop to take us into our first flower show at the May general meeting.

Daylilies – Dawn Tack will give a workshop at Gardens Plus on Sunday, June 7th – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Learn about dividing, propagating, and growing daylilies

Chris Freeburn

Fertilizing House Plants

It is about the time to start fertilizing your houseplants. As the light levels increase, their growth period will begin. Typically fertilizing during the winter months is not recommended, as many plants require a period of dormancy. The exception would be some indoor tropical plants that are in constant growth, like orchids. They require fertilizer all the time. As a rule, large and fast-growing plants need more fertilizer than small and slow-growing ones and plants that thrive in low light require little or no fertilizer.

Because water- or light-deprived plants can be damaged or killed by the sudden onslaught of nutrients, improve the growing environment and allow them some time to recover. Move to a higher light location and water well. At that point they can properly absorb nutrients. .

Match the fertilizer to your plant. Read the label and mix according to the directions. It's better to under-fertilize than over-fertilize

It is wise to flush the pot regularly. If you see a white residue forming on the surface, it is time to flush the pot by taking it to the sink and watering it thoroughly. Let the water flow through the soil to flush the extra nutrients out.

While you are working with your houseplants, remember that this is a good time to remove any winter grime from the leaves. Give them a shower in the sink or use a moistened soft cloth, or paper towel to gently wipe away dust and dirt. Use a soft paintbrush to clean rough leaves or cactus.





Coming Events

Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show

Saturday, February 14 and Sunday, February 15 at the Toronto Botanical Gardens located on the Southwest Corner of Lawrence Ave. E at Leslie Street – General Admission 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A special time for Photographers only: Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Admission \$10.00 <http://www.soos.ca>

Norwood

Monday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norwood Legion – Kathy Pimmett – Pruning

Omeme

Monday, February 16th – Cathy Dueck is speaking on Attracting Birds to Your Garden at Trinity United Church, fellowship time from 7 to 7:30. Refreshments will be available at 7:15. Meeting begins at 7:30. .

Get the Jump on Spring

Saturday, February 21, 2009 10 a. m. – 4 p.m. –at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Free admission

Lakefield

Tuesday, March 10th at 7:30 p.m. at Lakefield Marshland Centre –Paula Anderson: Growing Organic Vegetables

Canada Blooms

March 18 – 22- Canada Blooms at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building

Success with Gardening

March 19 – 22 – Success with Gardening Show at the International Centre, Toronto

District 4 – Spring Get Together

Saturday, March 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – OHA District 4 – Spring Get Together at St. Paul's Catholic Church Hall, Reid Street, Lakefield. Everyone is welcome.

PHS Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 9 – Peterborough H.S. Plant Sale at St. Alban's Church – mark your calendar and start some seeds.

Trillium Newsletter On Line

You can receive your own electronic copy of The Trillium, which is the Ontario Horticulture Association newsletter published four times a year. Just send your email address to Linda Hugli at editor@gardenontario.org and she will send it directly to you. There is no cost and you will be among the first to see each edition.

This Month in the Garden – February Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

- ✓ Take stem cuttings of geraniums and fuchsias.
- ✓ Plant impatiens, peppers and eggplants indoors.
- ✓ Examine trees for winter damage.
- ✓ Prune fruit and shade trees except maple and birch.
- ✓ Check out the dates of garden shows.

Have your gardening questions answered on the Master Gardener Hotline. Call 741-4905 or visit their website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca

