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# Peterborough Horticultural Society Newsletter

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Editor Dianne Westlake  
Email: [editor@peterboroughgardens.ca](mailto:editor@peterboroughgardens.ca)



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

[www.peterboroughgardens.ca](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca)

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

It was great to see such a large gathering of our members after the summer break and Martin Galloway did not disappoint. He was extremely interesting with his wonderful stories that always are informative as well as being humorous. Wouldn't we all have loved having a teacher who was this knowledgeable and entertaining?

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

How did you like the new flavour of ice-cream from Baskin Robbins? They graciously donated the "Very Berry Strawberry". The library was very accommodating, letting us store it in their freezer until the devouring time. A thank-you to both and we hope you enjoyed the change in snack!!

## OCTOBER MEETING

Anna Leggatt, past president of the Ontario Rock Garden Society will be presenting 'Rock Garden Construction.' Even if you do not have a rock garden, Anna always has lots of information that will apply to other garden situations so come out and get some new ideas. It is entirely possible that you will want to start your own rock garden after this presentation. The meeting will be held downstairs at the Public Library on Aylmer Street. It starts at 7:30 p.m. with the doors opening at 7:00 p.m. Come out, enjoy the flower show, have some refreshments, visit our library and get your 50/50 tickets. Don't forget to bring your own mug and be generous with your donations to the coffee fund.

## 50/50

This month's jackpot was a really big one: \$120.00 – won by Brenda Logan. Congratulations, Brenda! Other prizes included a delphinium and a peony root from Hazel and Joe Cook (Thanks so much to the Cook's!), some bulbs and pots for indoor planting/forcing, three bags of assorted goodies, including a book on containers and other items supplied by Marie Doyle. (Thanks, Marie!). We also had a blind draw (tickets taped under



*Paul Zammit opened his garden for our recent bus trip.*

the chairs) for little pots of mums, screensavers, and tea cup/clay pots. The mini mums, the bulbs, and various other items were purchased from Rural Routes on Lansdowne Street. Other items were purchased at various locations during a bus tour to the Niagara region this past August.

I would also like to publicly acknowledge the assistance that I get from so many other people. I have the fun job of spending the money but lots of other people contribute to the success of the 50/50 draw. This month I am so grateful to the following people: Gary Westlake who showed up early to tape tickets to chairs when I was stuck in traffic on the 401; Joan Clairmont who helped with set up; Kathy Hewitt who helped with the tickets; Marie Doyle who sold tickets for me until I arrived; Chris Freeburn who took "inventory" for me; Pat Lounsbury and others who assist with counting the money and other little jobs. I hope I mentioned everyone! I couldn't have done the job without their help, and I am grateful for their assistance. We have a wonderful team of people. Thank you so much. Dawna Rhodenhizer

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members: Anita Clifford, Bill and Vivian Heinmiller, Mollie Penn, Beverley Sumbler and Diane Webber.

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## **PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AWARD**

The board is pleased to announce that it has unanimously voted to change the wording for the annual award that PHS donated to Trent University. This revised wording will appear in the 2010/11 academic calendar: Established by the Peterborough Horticultural Society (founded in 1861) and in honour of Ann Greer-Wootten, Past President. To be awarded to a full-time undergraduate student who is majoring in Environmental & Resource Sciences/Studies and who has an interest in our natural world and its preservation. OTSS guidelines apply.

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

The designation 'Life Member' is used to recognize members who have contributed to a Horticultural Society over the years. The criteria for being a Life Member is the member must have held a long-time membership in the Society, have a continued interest in horticulture,

participate in the Society and contribute to its programmes.

In this way, the board wishes to pay tribute to Inge Buchardt, Rachel Burrows, Velma Doris, Beryl Harris and Trudy Minicola for their commitment to PHS. Congratulations and thank you for your ongoing support. Certificates will be presented to them at our October meeting.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Although your 2010 membership is not due until January, we will begin the renewal process at the October meeting. By starting now, there will not be a long line-up at the January meeting and if you are going away for the winter, this detail will be dealt with prior to your leaving. The cost will remain the same as it has been for last number of years: \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family. Correct change or a cheque payable to Peterborough Horticultural Society is appreciated.

The membership file has recently been converted to a new programme. Consequently, it is important to verify the information to ensure that nothing was lost in the process and any corrections are made to ensure that your information is kept up to date. When you renew, you will be asked to check the member information form with your contact information.  
Dianne Westlake

## **FLOWER SHOW**

Fall is here and so is our Fall Flower Show. It will be held at the next general meeting on October 28th. The categories are listed in your yearbook on pages 19 and 20. Please consider showing those flowers that have the tenacity to outsmart Mother Nature and are still going strong despite rain, wind and perhaps frost. Your entries must be in no later than 7:15 and entry tags will be available at that time. Remember that the specimen exhibits must be in see through vases or containers (skinny clear glass jars will work.) Have some fun and show off your plants and flowers. Flower Show Committee

## **BUS TRIP**

On Sunday September 20th an exuberant group of gardeners headed to Toronto to visit three wonderful private gardens, one of which belonged to Paul Zammit. We were not disappointed; in fact, some folks even came home with a plant dug from Paul's garden. Paul and his gracious wife offered us lemonade, cookies and muffins as we strolled through the garden. Paul's garden reflects his personality. It is flamboyant and filled to the brim. All I can say is WOW!!

A second garden was very restful and shady with many interesting plants. It gave us the added treat of three young raccoons high up in the majestic pine tree. The third garden had a front yard that had so many plants that it was hard to know where to look first while the back garden had a lovely pathway through many shrubs and flowers for sun and shade. Our next stop was Toronto Botanical and Edwards Gardens where we ate lunch and enjoyed the gardens. What a beautiful garden space in Toronto. Then it was back on the road to the Country Garden Market on Taunton Road. After checking out the many things they had to offer and purchasing a few we made our way back to Peterborough, a tired but happy crew! Sally Rye

## **FALL PLANT SALE**

The Fall Plant Sale was held at St Alban's Church on September 19th. Happily, we had a sunny, pleasant day this time! We made a profit of \$344.75 and many people got a jump on clearing out crowded fall perennial beds in preparation for next spring. Thanks to all who contributed plants and to those who volunteered their time to help with the sale both on Friday evening and Saturday morning.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

We have received a number of applications for the Peterborough Horticultural Scholarships. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting later this month to select eligible candidates for these \$1,000 post-secondary scholarships that are available for students studying Horticulture or a field related to Horticulture.

## FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Festival of Trees will be held from November 25 to 29 celebrating Memories from Around the World. Volunteers are needed particularly for the green committee which is working to continue with 'greening the festival' campaign. Contact person is Mary Conchelos at 876-9065. The website is [www.pfot.org](http://www.pfot.org)

## PHONE COMMITTEE

Last January we had a major storm hit Peterborough on our meeting date. It became obvious that we need a way to contact our members who do not have email. Joan Clairmont is looking for volunteers who will call our members in the event of another emergency. If you can help, contact her at 745-8268.

## OHA HISTORY BOOK

The Ontario Horticultural Association is preparing a second edition of the history which will cover the years from the early '70s to present. Pauline Drake has prepared the following report which will be included in the publication.

**PETERBOROUGH:** Established in 1861, the Peterborough Horticultural Society is one of the oldest. Records indicate membership was at an all time high of 596 in 1947, with as few as 162 members in 1970 and continuing low throughout the '80s. Membership has increased steadily, no doubt due to the increased interest of horticulture by the baby boomers, and it now stands at over 250 members (both male and female), not only from the city of Peterborough, but also from surrounding townships. There are a number of long serving members with 10 being granted lifetime membership.

In 1993 the PHS took responsibility for the care of Fleming Park, a half-acre park located in downtown Peterborough. The Park was originally dedicated in 1945 in honour of Sir Sandford Fleming, one of Peterborough's most famous residents. The PHS takes great pleasure in the revitalization of the park with its many heritage plants.

The most significant project, initiated in 2001 by the

PHS and Master Gardeners, has been the Peterborough Garden Show, "For the Love of Gardening Show" held annually over a 3-day period, drawing 8000 visitors, and 150 vendors.

On July 15, 2004, Peterborough experienced one of the worst floods in its history. Our extensive collection of library books, which was housed at the downtown Library was partially destroyed (128 books lost) and two blocks away Fleming Park was also heavily damaged. With the help of volunteers and hard work the Park was redesigned and revitalized.

PHS shares a website [www.peterboroughgardens.ca](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca) with the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners and the Garden Show. Much information about gardening and the activities of the PHS can be found on that site.

The PHS is very active. Our monthly meetings combine a bit of socializing and always include an informative guest speaker; 8-10 workshops are held each year; other activities include "Mystery Tours" and bus trips, usually 2-3 per year; as well as a Spring & Fall plant sale. In 2009 we have introduced judged Flower Shows (2 per year). PHS has a monthly newsletter, which can be found on our website [www.peterboroughgardens.ca](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca).

The Peterborough Horticultural Society is particularly proud that it has been able to contribute to a number of community beautification projects in and around Peterborough (revitalizing local parks, a school butterfly garden, local zoo, senior residences, as well as the Kawartha Tourism Visitor Information Centre). In 2001 a Scholarship Program was established to annually provide six awards of \$1000 each to local students studying horticulture or related programs. In 2008 the PHS Scholarship Committee established a permanent award at Trent University to be given to a full-time undergraduate student majoring in Environmental and Resource Science/Studies who has an interest in our natural world and its preservation. In all, PHS has contributed \$86,000 over the past 8 years to such things as community beautification projects and scholarships.

Since 2005 the city of Peterborough has entered the "Communities in Bloom" competitions. A daylily has been named "Peterborough" in honour of the Communities in Bloom activities. Each year, citizens offer their gardens in a garden competition and the city hosts the judges and proudly shows off the gardens of Peterborough.

In July 2009, District 4 hosted the OHA Convention ("Remember Yesterday – Protect Tomorrow") at Trent University in Peterborough. Approximately 500 delegates from all over the province were in attendance.



PHS was responsible for arranging the speakers and organizing over 175 volunteers. Activities over the three-day period included seminars, workshops, adult & youth competitions, a youth camp, vendor displays, bus tours and boat tours on the Otonabee River.

## COMING EVENTS

### LAKEFIELD

Tuesday, October 13, at 7:30 p.m. at Lakefield Marshland Centre – Propagating from Seeds – Susan and Mike Dolbey – This is the last mini-show of the year and will include chrysanthemums, zinnias, everlastings and the last rose of summer. Decorative Arrangement “Any Witch Way” – a design

### NORWOOD

Monday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norwood Legion –Tiptoe Through the Tulips – Dianne and Gary Westlake – Photography Show and Tell

### OMEMEE

Monday, October 19 at Trinity United Church at 7:30 p.m. – Unusual Perennials – Marvin Belfour.

## DISTRICT 4 FALL SEMINAR

Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Lindsay Vocational Institute – Tickets are \$15.00 each and include lunch, the presentation on the July OHA Convention, and speaker Don Kennedy, on "Native Plants and Plants that Host Insects". If you wish to attend, please contact Anne Milne.

## SPECIAL EVENT

Campbellford and District Horticultural Society special event – Monday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. Ed Lawrence will be speaking at St. John's United Church in Campbellford. Tickets are \$12.00 and space is limited. Tickets can be purchased at Earth Angel Designs in Campbellford, or contact Dianne Westlake to reserve a seat.

## MILLBROOK

Wednesday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church Hall Centre St, Millbrook – Decorating for the Holidays – Contact Wendy 944-8912 or Joan 799-5378 for more information

## *THIS MONTH IN THE GARDEN – PETERBOROUGH & AREA MASTER GARDENERS*

### OCTOBER

- Dig, dry and store summer-flowering bulbs and tubers.
- Prepare new garden beds. Incorporate nearly completed compost.
- Put ponds to bed.
- Cut off dead foliage particularly around lilies where pests can over-winter.
- To avoid the potential of infecting healthy plants with the Hosta X virus, wait until the leaves are dead and pull them.
- Leave ornamental grasses.
- Continue to plant spring flowering bulbs.
- Rake leaves from lawn and garden and add to reduced compost pile.
- Plant amaryllis for Christmas bloom.
- Remove and distribute almost finished compost and gather leaves to add to compost pile.
- Seed new lawns.

Have your gardening questions answered on the Master Gardener Hotline. Call 741-4905 or visit their website at [www.peterboroughgardens.ca](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca)