



Keeping Ontario Beautiful™

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Spring 2012



Galanthus (Snowdrops)

Photographed by Robert Pavlis

Editor:

Linda Hugli
181 Garson-Coniston Rd.
Garson, ON
P3L 1G3

Phone: (705) 693-2476

Fax: (705) 693-5057

E-mail:

editor@gardenontario.org

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President Carol's Spring Message

The spring message from the President usually starts off with something like "The snow is beginning to melt and soon we'll see the garden again." But I am in Florida as I write this message and can tell you that the sun shines almost every day and the hibiscus are beginning to bloom. Wish you were here.

The best part about being president of the Ontario Horticultural Association is bringing greetings to societies. When I visit a society, I celebrate the fact that, while all the societies are tied together under the umbrella of OHA, each society is unique and has its own flavour and character. Every society's meeting is just a bit different. Although the overall focus differs from one society to the next and the growing conditions change across the province, the love of gardening is a constant. And isn't that what OHA is about - many societies doing many different things but united by a passion for growing? Whenever you can, visit another society. It's a treat.

Spring also brings an OHA Board Meeting. Your 19 District Directors, four OHA officers, secretary, and treasurer travel from all parts of the province to meet just south of Barrie. All 25 of us work for a day and a half, addressing the needs and concerns of OHA and its member societies. Some of the items on our agendas include the next convention - its budget, seminars, tours, and competitions; the web site and ideas for making it more usable for members and visitors alike; membership and membership ideas; welcoming new societies; liability insurance needs, costs, and regulations; the format of the annual report; and fundraising to keep the society fees at the level they are as costs continue to rise. Each Board Meeting has a very full agenda.

Did you know that between Board Meetings, your District Directors work on committees and represent OHA at events such as the Western Fair and Canada Blooms? An interesting part of each Board Meeting is hearing or reading the reports from the District Directors about their activities for OHA and their societies since the last meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of the OHA is in March. At this spring meeting, the OHA Awards Committee chooses the winners of the annual Awards from the many applications that societies have submitted. Has your society submitted an application for an award or for a tree or special project grant this year? If not, put that on the calendar for next year.

New to the OHA organization this year are a Judging School Coordinator to ensure the availability and standardization of OHA judging schools and judging updates, and a change in name of one committee from Social Marketing to Promotion and Publicity.

Also coming this spring are your Annual District Meetings. At these meetings, district societies elect the persons they will send as their directors to the OHA Board. For those District Meetings, representatives of the OHA go across the province to bring OHA greetings and to facilitate your elections. Officers, District Directors, and Past Presidents pitch in to represent the OHA at each and every Annual District Meeting. Your OHA representatives look forward to meeting you.

2012 is the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The news is out that OHA is looking for a suitable project to commemorate the event. Our project will be chosen at the spring Board Meeting from all the suggestions we have received. The news of the Jubilee Project will be announced in the next Trillium and at your District Meeting.

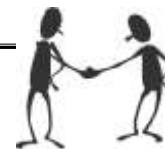
Convention 2012 will be held at Niagara College in Niagara-on-the-Lake from August 16th to 19th. Celebrating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, the theme of the convention is **Gardening Then and Now: 1812 to 2012**. The convention is complemented by an official rose named especially for the event - the **1812 Rose**. This scented, old-fashioned, crimson rose is being sold exclusively by the convention committee. The deadline for orders is March 15th. An order form is on the website.

Register early for the convention. District 9 has planned a wonderful experience for you with great tours and speakers and many truly creative and interesting competitions.

I'll see you at the 107th Annual Convention. Tap me on the shoulder and introduce yourself.



Carol



Membership Tip #3

Local events present a great opportunity to reach prospective members. Leave your society brochures and membership forms around at events. One potential member may read and sign up and instantly the event just became a successful membership meeting.

Bio-Fit Your Garden

Remember when, after only a short drive in spring or summer, your windshield would be covered with bugs? Now think: when was the last time you had bugs on your windshield?

Where have all the bugs gone? The insect population is being depleted. Urban sprawl, the cultivation of acres and acres of sterile lawns, and the introduction of invasive and non-native plants have seriously reduced habitat and breeding space for all invertebrates. Pesticides kill many more.



Insects aren't accidents of nature or pesky things to get rid of. They play important roles in our environment. Many work as predators keeping other insects under control. Others do a recycling and composting job. Without insects to do the dirty work, we would be up to our 'you-know-whats' in refuse and garbage.

One insect whose plight we are familiar with is the honey bee. European honey bees are employed to pollinate crops all over the world and, like all other insects, are now in trouble. Beekeepers globally lose about a third of their hives each year. Some crops such as almonds, apples, and blueberries are highly dependent on bees as pollinators and will fail without them. The situation has become so critical in China that workers are actually hand-pollinating fruit trees. There are just not enough bees to do the job!

The fate of honey bees is just part of the story. Remember the windshield? The disappearing insects include our native bees. They also have been affected by the chemicals we've used and the things we've done to the earth. Those native bees are vital to the pollination of field crops such as soy and alfalfa. They pollinate our tomatoes and our flowers. On a more personal level, without bees, chocolate and coffee would go! No bees, no seeds. We need our bees. We need all our insects!

You and I can't change the state of the whole planet, but there is something that we can do.

We can **bio-fit** our part of the earth -- our gardens. That one place that we control can become a safe haven for the insects. Here are some actions that will make invertebrates welcome in your garden:

- ❖ Plant natives instead of exotics and non-native hybrids.
- ❖ Provide accommodation such as bee houses.
- ❖ Don't cut back the garden in fall. Leave places for invertebrates to over-winter.
- ❖ Never ever use pesticides of any kind.
- ❖ Create a wildlife habitat with a log or a brush pile.
- ❖ Reduce your turf. Plant shrubs or bushes – or maybe a prairie.
- ❖ Plant a wild cherry tree or a willow or an oak.
- ❖ Add a small water feature without fish to accommodate frogs and dragonflies and to provide a source of water for the invertebrates your harbour.

If you and I and your neighbour and my neighbour and so on and so on converted just a little space for invertebrates, what a difference we'd make. AND if your habitat space abutted your neighbour's habitat space, that would be even better!



This spring, bio-fit your garden and tell your neighbours what you're doing and why.

Carol Dunk
Conservation and Environment Committee

Be a Pioneer

Grow a New Horticultural Society

Many of us belong to horticultural societies that have been established for decades, some of them are more than 100 years old. We all celebrate our long history of horticultural society community activity and beautification, but I'd like you to think about the first days of your horticultural society and the spirit that led to founding it.

All of us have benefited from the work done by volunteers before us who have founded horticultural societies. A fortunate few have founded their own horts. Without these pioneers, our family of horticultural societies would not exist.

We still have a lot of room to grow! Part of our OHA mission is to provide leadership and assist in the promotion of education and interest in all areas of horticulture and related environmental issues in Ontario, through an expanding network of horticultural societies dedicated to the beautification of their communities. So if we are to expand, where is the fertile ground for new societies?

Many large centres have no active horticultural society. In District 2, Renfrew, an important and historic Ottawa Valley town, has no Hort, yet it has many talented horticulturists and Master Gardeners. Renfrew is a fertile place for a new horticultural society. Look around your district at each town. Which ones don't have horticultural societies?

Another opportunity might be right in your town or city. Look at what our Ontario Horticultural Societies act says: 'In a local municipality, having a population of not less than 25,000, there may be two horticultural societies and for each additional 25,000 of population, there may be an additional society.'

You might be thinking:

- How can there be another horticultural society in our town when our present society already struggles to get volunteers?
- Won't a new society weaken existing societies?
- Didn't that horticultural society in (a nearby town) shut down a few years ago?

You might consider that:

- Establishing a new horticultural society is a generous act for the community and future members.
- Horticultural societies, like all things, have a natural lifespan. If a society folded in the past it does not mean the town is not a great place for a new horticultural society. (In Ottawa, where the horticultural society was re-founded 3 times, there

are now 7 vibrant horticultural societies.)

- People can be members of more than one horticultural society, many enthusiastic members are.
- Millions of people in Ontario love gardening; we have a huge pool of potential new members if we try to reach them. There are more than enough gardeners to build new horticultural societies.
- People have busy lives and don't want to spend time and money driving long distances to go to meetings. They would appreciate having a place nearby to enjoy their hobby.

A new horticultural society can offer many new opportunities. When I have seen membership lists in Ottawa, I have noticed some areas of the city are totally unrepresented. For example, a new horticultural Society in the Vanier sector of Ottawa, functioning in French and English, might bring in a lot of new members. Consider your community. Is there a new suburb where no horticultural society exists? Perhaps a horticultural society there, focused on the needs of people with new gardens, would be a great asset to them.

New horticultural societies could offer the ability to specialize. A club can't be all things to all people but a group of clubs can serve a diverse set of needs very well. For example, The Greater Ottawa Water Garden Horticultural Society (GOWGHS) was founded a couple years ago. It has attracted many dedicated gardeners who love ponds. At the same time other Ottawa area societies kept growing. A number of GOWGHS are members of other societies too. Different societies could develop specializations in growing food, shows and judging, hostas, bonsai, photography, environmental issues and more. Cooperation among the societies through the district would make the group stronger and offer more to all members.

How do you start a new society?

I've never done it, but I'm interested. Here are some ideas:

- At district meetings discuss this with the society presidents. They will know what areas are under-served and they can engage their members to see if there is interest in forming a new society.
- Thousands of horticultural society members and former members live in every part of the province. Be ready if they reach out to form a new society.
- Work with a newly forming society to advise them on how to incorporate with OMAFRA and become an OHA member society.
- Provide some seed money to pay for the first few

meetings and speakers until a plant sale can be held. Pass the hat at the district. See if an existing society can support the launch of the new one.

- Examine the OHA book Ontario Horticultural Societies and you will see the histories of societies that no longer exist today but could be brought back.
- Talk to local garden clubs. They may be interested in becoming horticultural societies.
- Put up notices in garden centres and other places where gardeners gather.
- Organize a society presentation in a different part of your community or in a nearby town. Promote the event, invite the public, and assess the level of interest.
- Talk to members in your society. Maybe some of them would want to launch a new horticultural society nearer to where they live if they had support to do so.
- Have your district meetings and shows in a town where there is no horticultural society. Make a point of inviting the public and gauge their interest in forming a horticultural society.

If you are reading this in a place that has no horticultural society, there is no time like now to get started in launching a Hort. Contact your OHA District Director for help.

Forming a new horticultural society is an enterprise of some risk. The new society could fail. It could take members away from another society. Yet, if our history is a guide, a new horticultural society will lead to many enjoyable hours of activity for its members, a more beautiful community to live in, and a richer and more stimulating group of horticultural societies.

Jeff Blackadar
OHA Long Range Planning Committee

**Milton & District Horticultural Society
Annual Plant Sale & Silent Auction**

Thursday, May 17 2012 @7:00 pm at Milton Fairgrounds, 136 Robert St., Milton. The friendly Society members can help you decide what, where, and when to plant. An excellent variety of plants will be available including annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs, as well as premium bagged garden soil. The huge Silent Auction featuring garden art, home décor, supplies, and services provides something for everyone!

Mark the date on your calendar now!

For more information call Beverly at 905-854-0275.

**2012 Perennial of the Year:
'Jack Frost' Brunnera**



The PPA's **2012 Perennial of the Year** is already popular in Ontario gardens. It is the *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost'. Jack is an easy guy, growing to 18 inches tall and wide in a mounded form. He is very shade tolerant but likes a bit of morning sun. His outstanding features are the silvery heart-shaped leaves and baby blue *forget-me-not* flowers. Good companion plants are hosta, ferns, and epimedium. This plant is great in a border or a container. Hardy in zones 3-8.

Plant profile courtesy of the
Mt. Albert Horticultural Society



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\$15.00 per year (4 issues)

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Make your cheque payable to the *Ontario Horticultural Association*, and mail to the OHA Treasurer, Sharon Hill, at PO Box 595, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1T8
Tel./Fax: 705-645-3552

Note: Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to receive a receipt.



1812 – 2012 Gardening Then and Now

OHA AGM & Convention in District Nine

August 17th to 19th



District Nine welcomes and encourages everyone to join us in our celebration of *Gardening Then & Now: 1812 - 2012*. Come early, stay late; make your time here a real vacation. From your base at Niagara College (pictured below), you will be only minutes away from numerous world class destinations: Niagara Falls with all its attractions and Niagara-on-the-Lake where the Shaw Festival makes its home. Our theme is historically based and you could, if you choose, fill your free time with nothing but history, as **The War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration** will be in full swing. We believe we have found the best people as speakers and seminar leaders and the best destinations for the optional tours. We hope you will come and enjoy all we have planned for you.

Pre-Convention - Thursday Night:

This has been left unplanned so you may enjoy one of the many attractions available such as wine tasting at a local vineyard, the Falls, or a trip to a casino. See the OHA website for information.

Friday Social Evening:

You can expect local entertainment, a penny sale table, and silent auction in a great setting with easy access to the outside patios. Join us for good food and fun and fellowship with other gardeners from around the province.



Plenary Speakers:

Friday: Innovations in Garden Designs – Changes Experienced and Projected.

Speaker: James Smith, Superintendent, Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens, School of Horticulture and Butterfly Conservatory

Saturday: Garden Plant Choices – The Contributions by Industry Providing Exciting Choices for Today's Gardeners

Speaker: Dr. Will Healy, Ball Innovations, Technical Service and Research Manager, West Chicago, IL

Sunday: Canada's Rich Garden History through Catalogues, Books, Magazines, and Other Media

Speaker: Beckie Fox, editor-in-chief of GARDEN MAKING magazine.

Saturday Evening Banquet Speaker:

Gifts from the Garden Speaker: Trish Symons, Gardener, Lecturer, Designer, Hockley Valley Farms, Orangeville.

Seminars:

- Little Known Garden Gems For Your Landscape
- Heirloom Vegetables -Lessons in Diversity
- Bugs Battles: Using Natural Controls in Your Backyard
- Extreme Makeover: Garden Edition
- The History of Gardening in Upper Canada – Early Pioneers to Present Day Enthusiasts
- 'Peonies' - A Hobby Grown Out-of-Hand
- Evolution of the Niagara Wine Industry - 200 Years and a few battles later
- Today's Greenhouse Floriculture Technologies as They Influence Garden Performance
- Container Gardening Over the Years
- Ancient Beauty: The Rose Defined
- Learning to Take Great Pictures With Your Camera
- Growing Lavender

Demonstration: Showcasing Heirloom Vegetables

Chef Jo Lusted will give a culinary demonstration featuring heirloom vegetables.

Tours:

- Private gardens around the Niagara region
- School of Horticulture, Botanical Gardens & Butterfly Conservatory
- Mystery Tour – Horticultural Delights
- Vineland Centre for Research and Innovation & Vineland Nurseries
- Historical: Puddicombe Farm & Private Gardens
- Green is Good
- Tour of the Niagara College Teaching Winery and Brewery



Competitions:

Consider entering one or more of the competitions: Art, Floral, Photography, Creative Writing, Publications, and Youth. Every society is automatically entered in the web competition. One entry per class is the limit in all competitions except for Horticulture where 3 entries per class will be allowed provided they are different cultivars. See the OHA website for details.

Youth Camp:

The Youth competition schedules on the web site detail the allowed exhibits for the Convention. However, this year we will not be offering a youth camp.



Accommodations:

We have booked the entire residence (80 suites) at Niagara College for the convention. Each suite can accommodate up to 4 people comfortably in 2 bedrooms plus a kitchenette area. Remember to say you are with the OHA group to receive the convention pricing. In addition, there is a list of area accommodations on the OHA web site. Contact info: Phone: 905-641-4435, Email: niagarsales@stayrcc.com, Website: www.stayrcc.com/notl

Pictured at right is one of the
'Painted
Ladies' featured on
a tour of private gardens.

The OHA web site, gardenontario.org, under 'Convention/upcoming' will provide the answers to most questions.

You can also call **Sue Lusted - Convention Chair**, at 905-945-0027 or email lin93@sympatico.ca.



Marian Brennan Enabling Garden 2011

The enabling garden, begun in 2009, was inspired by a donation left to the **Guelph Township Horticultural Society** by a former Past President, Marian Brennan. It is a joint project of the horticultural society, the Township of Guelph /Eramosa and the County of Wellington. The purpose of the garden is to incite all of the senses and to be accessible to everyone. The large cedar shade structure casts dappled shade on much of the patio and the patio itself makes getting about with wheelchairs and walkers easy in season. Many of the plants came directly from gardens of members of the community. Many others were purchased with donations from community members. There are now over one hundred species represented in the garden.

A row of ornamental pear trees ushers you into the garden. There you can rest on one of three benches, listen to the burbling rock, and enjoy the fragrance and visual attractions. Butterflies are regular visitors and birds love to dabble in the water burbling from the rock. This past season, the junior horticulture society members, led by Jane McDonald, and the West End Women's Institute members did a terrific job of installing and maintaining a delightful jumble of annuals in the three planters. It is hoped that these raised beds will be planted and maintained by different groups on a rotating basis. Any group interested in this opportunity this season is asked to contact Ruth Robinson at 519-824-8399 or at rjrhawkrige@hotmail.com.



Additions to the garden include vines and ground covers planted around the posts of the shade structure, and a mix of young native trees, donated by Green Legacy, which are scattered in the lawn adjacent to the garden. The Township of Guelph/Eramosa erected a supply shed, which sports a green/living roof. It has great aesthetic appeal as well as being a good demonstration model.

The Grand Opening and Strawberry Social, held in the evening of the first day of summer, was a great success. Robin Milne, Director of Parks and Recreation, acted as emcee. Marian Brennan's three siblings were present and her sister, Lynne Martin spoke on behalf of the family. Phil Sweet, president of the horticultural society greeted the attending community members, and Ruth Robinson, designer of the garden and chair of the society's Civic

Planting Committee, gave a brief history of the garden. Chris White, Mayor of the Township of Guelph/Eramosa and current Warden of Wellington County, extended his greetings and then he and his council and some staff served the strawberry shortcake to the attendees, who mingled to the strains of guest flautist, Rev. Dr. Pauline Head. Marion Campbell and her siblings and cousins, descendents of Benjamin Thurtell, the first mayor of Guelph Township, dedicated a large white pine in his honour. This tree stands in the picnic area of the garden.

The enabling garden, located behind the Marden Library and Community Centre on Wellington Rd. 30, is open throughout the year. The garden is maintained by the Civic Planting Committee, with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Department. Stop by to enjoy the sights, sounds, and scents the garden has to offer.

Ruth Robinson
Guelph Township Horticultural Society

“On behalf of the Goderich & District Horticultural Society, I wish to thank everyone who donated in any way to the Town of Goderich or the Goderich Disaster Relief Fund. This was much appreciated.

***Thank you,
Helen Sager”***

Mark your Calendars!

The deadline for submissions for the Summer Trillium is May 21st.

Passionate plantsman told it like he saw it.

Chris Graham: 1951-2012



Horticulturist Chris Graham loved to stir things up. In the mostly gentle world of gardening, he wasn't afraid to call a trend trashy, a plant ridiculous, or a practice completely without merit.

For nearly 30 years, Graham worked at the **Royal Botanical Gardens**. He walked in through the garden gate, so to speak, in 1975 as a sub-foreman at the Arboretum and, by 1987, he was manager of horticulture. He became director of horticulture in 2000, a position he held until he left the RBG in 2002.

Graham died suddenly Jan. 14 at age 60. He had moved to Eugenia in Grey County, Ont., where he was developing a collection of special plants at a property he named Kimberly Cottage Garden.

Former colleagues are remembering Graham as a passionate plantsman and gifted teacher who shared his knowledge far beyond the boundaries of the RBG.

Barb McKean, head of education, worked with Graham for many years and recalls his infectious laugh and gift for reaching out.

"Chris was a tireless educator for RBG," she said. "He loved sharing his immense knowledge with others, and between all the outreach programs he offered to groups across Ontario and the many courses he offered here, I'm not sure when he had time to himself."

He made sure there was time for his son, Thomas, and daughter, Liz, now of Whistler, B.C. and Branchton, Ontario, respectively.

Liz remembers camping trips, skiing, and how he instilled in her and Thomas a love for the outdoors. "You taught us how to toughen up, how to laugh at

ourselves, and the value of a strong work ethic," Liz wrote in a remembrance.

During the 1990s, when gardening enjoyed an immense growth spurt, Graham's night courses at the RBG were packed. He took timid gardeners through the very basics and, for the advanced, he offered courses in unusual plants. Students would walk away at the end of his classes dreamily clutching a fragrant daphne, or stroking the felt-like leaves of a rhododendron. They were on their way to becoming plant collectors, nudged along by an expert.

Former RBG director Sharilyn Ingram has only to look at her own yard to remember Graham: "I still have a number of plants in my garden that Chris championed — schizophragma, heptacodium (seven-son flower), daphne Somerset among others. He really believed in plants that earned their keep. They had to add value in more than one season."

Though Graham loved plants, he wasn't sentimental, and could be almost hard-hearted. When a mournful gardener would tell him of the demise of a rose or a lilac, he would smile just a bit devilishly and say, "Well, that's just an opportunity to try something new."

Mark Runciman, another long-time RBG colleague and its current CEO, appreciated Graham's dry sense of humour during some rocky periods at the RBG.

"His hearty laugh got me through many days," Runciman said.

Graham no doubt had a calendar full of speaking engagements for 2012. Last year, he criss-crossed the province speaking to garden clubs, demystifying plants. His talk on vines - Twiners, Stickers, Clingers and Hookers - was a classic and a crowd favourite.

That was Graham, sharing his devotion to plants, but adding his own mischievous twist. He also served as a president of the Perennial Plant Association and was one of the authors of Shrubs and Vines, part of the American Garden Guides series. For the past five years, he enjoyed selling his special perennials at the Flesherton Farmers Market.

His memory will live on in many gardens, in the special plants he told us about, and the ones that he said "had to have merit, or it's off to the compost heap."

Kathy Renwald, Mon, Jan 23rd, 2012

Special to The Hamilton Spectator

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Le Projet de Reverdissement à l'école St. Victor

La Société d'Horticulture d'Alfred et des environs has been working for a number of years in close partnership with the St. Victor elementary school. On a yearly basis, a few members have been working diligently on the school's existing beds. It gave us an opportunity to show the students their responsibility and pride in maintaining these beds for their school.

A few years ago, two very old and large trees had to be cut down for the children's safety. Unfortunately, over the last two years the yard looked naked and was also very hot without the shade of their foliage. So the administration approached us for our help in adding greens to their landscape. Our society granted them \$200 for a few trees and our energy to plant these trees and more if they wanted. Why not take advantage of a freebie? The administrator of the school purchased more bushes and evergreens. In our two-year plan with the school board, we will be adding a cedar edge along the school yard for a natural barrier and privacy. Afterwards, we plan to rotate in watering and maintaining all vegetation until the tree/bushes are well rooted.

We have many other projects because this year the Environmental Intendance of Prescott-Russell encourages any dwelling or public area to plant native trees for 2012. So we will sharpen our shovels for April.

Pictured from left to right are Guy Lockman, Yves Larivière, and Bertrand East.



Carole Larocque



Hosta Forum 2012

presented by the Ontario Hosta Society

When: Sunday, April 1st, 2012

Where: Royal Botanical Gardens,
680 Plains Road West, Burlington, ON

Time: 9 am to 4 pm Registration begins at 8:30 am

Cost: \$60

Our event features four great speakers: Martin Galloway, Ron Livingston, Kathie Sisson, Trish Symons; a live auction; prizes, and great food.

To Register: Send your \$60 cheque payable to Ontario Hosta Society, c/o Vanessa Chaborek, 69 Strachan Street, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 1H8.

REGISTER EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!
Be sure to include your address, phone number, and e-mail address. Your tickets will be mailed to you.

For registration questions, please contact Vanessa Chaborek., www.vanessa.chaborek@gmail.com. You may also call her at 905-269-2430 and leave a message. She will return your call. Please refer to our web site, www.ontariohostaassociation.com for additional details.

Listowel's 20th

The Listowel and District Horticultural Society is celebrating its 20th anniversary at the Listowel Golf and Country Club, Tuesday, June 5th, commencing at 7:00 pm. Paul Zammit, a well-known horticultural speaker, will entertain and inform the audience.

Tickets can be purchased for \$15.00. Contact Barb at 519-356-2326 for more information.



Summer 'Stalk' Theatre

2012 marks the 37th annual Rose & Flower Show for **Lambeth Horticultural Society**. It is one of the largest, loveliest shows in District 10. This year's theme is 'Summer Stalk' Theatre and all the design classes will reflect the theatre.

The Show is presented to the public on **Saturday, June 23rd, 2012** starting at 1 pm at the **Lambeth United Church** at the corner of Main St and Colonel Talbot Rd. The \$5.00 entry fee includes a tearoom and baked goods. For details and information check our website www.lambethhort.com

Jo-Anne Smith
President

Long Range Strategic Planning – the OHS Experience



In 2004-2005 the Ottawa Horticultural Society had developed a long-range plan to help guide its course over the next few years. Accordingly, in 2011 the OHS Board of Directors moved to update its plan. The first decision made was to allocate funds in the budget to cover a facilitator, meeting room(s), and contingency expenses. Next a small committee was struck. The committee was comprised of those who had had this type of experience through their work, had been part of the original team, or who were interested in the proceedings.

The Planning Committee met in the spring to review the previous plan and see whether we had met our objectives. It was decided that the mission statement was still valid and there was no need to change it. In order to derive input from the membership the merits of a questionnaire and focus groups were discussed. It was decided that there should be three focus groups formed of members having different numbers of years of membership. No one on the Planning Committee was to be part of the focus groups. All three groups would be posed the same three questions.

Through personal contacts, two facilitators were found and interviewed. After one was chosen, a contract was drawn up with an attachment containing a detailed list of deliverables, a timetable, and costs.

In the fall, the three focus groups made up of approximately seven people, met separately with the facilitator at the homes of some of the Committee members, who acted as note takers. The facilitator then compiled the responses and sent them to the Planning Committee for review. The Planning Committee and the facilitator then met in a room rented in a local library for approximately four hours on a Saturday to work through an updated Long Range Strategic Plan. The Plan contains goals, deliverables, measurables, and a timetable. The facilitator put together the notes of the meeting and a member of the Planning Committee then wrote up a draft Plan.

The draft Plan was circulated back to the participants of the focus groups to ensure it reflected what was discussed in the group meetings and then to the Committee. The updated Plan was presented to the Board of Directors and afterwards posted on the 'Membership Only' portion of the website for the members to review prior to its ratification at the Annual General Meeting in December, 2011. It is to remain on the website for the members and will be reviewed every year by the Board to guide its activities throughout the year and to check to see if we are on track with it.

Gloria Sola
Ottawa Horticultural Society

100th Anniversary 'Come and Go' Tea

From the left: Secretary Dianne Lawson, MPP Bill Walker, member Doreen Fathers, Lifetime member and former Past President Niki Hildebrand, Inga Klingelstein, Rose Reichhart, Immediate Past President Elly Pennings, and Current President Clive Cresswell, (holding the certificate from Larry Miller MP)



The **Markdale & District Horticultural Society** kicked off its 100th Anniversary year celebrations with a "Come and Go Tea" at Cooke's Presbyterian Church, in Markdale, on January 14th. Historical photographs and newspaper clippings of the group's activities over the years, along with Minute books of prior meetings, were displayed. The occasion was well attended by current and former members who not only enjoyed the delicious and well presented goodies with their tea but also spent some time reminiscing over the historical material.

There was a brief, but appreciated, visit from Bill Walker, MPP (Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound) who formally presented the M&DHS with a congratulatory certificate to mark the 100th anniversary. The anniversary celebrations will continue throughout the year with the highlight being a dinner on April 28th at the Flesherton Kinplex. All District 8 Members are invited to attend and announcements have been mailed to each member society.

Clive Cresswell

Floral Designing with Water

Making water a visible part of a design seems a natural way of doing things as water adds movement.

Movement is very important, being asymmetrical yet balanced. This can be fascinating and interesting. People are drawn to water as it can evoke all kinds of emotions, ranging from peace and tranquility to excitement. Using water as a visible element of floral design is becoming an alternative to more traditional designs.

Here are some tips to consider in working with water:

- ❖ Simple but dramatic designs usually work best. Often, it is best to design on the spot rather than try to move a large arrangement containing water to the desired location.
- ❖ Modern glass containers in a variety of shapes - round, square, cylindrical, or even fairly flat ones - work best for water designs. There are many interesting glass vases available.
- ❖ Use twigs and wire to fashion frameworks or armatures to hold plant material in place, either in or above the water line. Be aware that hydrated twigs may shrink as the water evaporates and they may dry out.
- ❖ Designers may use pliers to shape pliable craft wire. Coloured wire can make a statement. Red or gold wire can be part of the design or paper covered wire, above the water line, can be used as it blends into the wood of the twigs.
- ❖ Look for foliage with strong, waxy leaves. Make structures or framework of armatures to hold the plant material in place. Fashion armatures from twigs and wire, wedging them into clear glass vases to hold the plant material together. Sometimes the armature becomes part of the design while at other times it is hidden by plant material. The important thing is that they provide a way to hold plant stems in place without the need for floral foam.
- ❖ Keep everything very clean. Change the water once a day if possible and be careful that dyes do not come off plants in the water.
- ❖ Use large, bold, and durable flowers as it is hard to be dramatic with small flowers. Use tropicals such as Calla, Caesalpinia Gilliesii (Bird of Paradise) or Heliconia (False Bird of Paradise). One can use tulips but they will not last as long. Lilies can be used, as long as they are not submerged or spritzed.
- ❖ Set out to incite a particular feeling with a water design and when that point is reached, you know you're on the right path.

Kees Stryland, OHA Past President



Celebrating Brantford Garden Club's 160th Anniversary

In 1852 Brantford was a small town of about 3,000 persons beside the Grand River. Dr Alfred Digby and his friend Mr. A.B. Bennett were prominent citizens who, in 1852, started a club for those interested in horticulture. In 1868, the club was formally established as the Brantford Horticultural Society with a \$1 membership. In 1875 the Club held its first horticultural exhibition. There was a wide range of competition classes, generous cash prizes, and music to serenade the participants.

The Club has always played a part in the beautification of Brantford. In 1918, for instance, 50,000 bulbs were imported from Europe for the school children to plant, followed by more bulbs, trees, and shrubs which were given to the schools or sold at cost to the community. In 1919, at the Club's suggestion, the daffodil became Brantford's official emblem. Flowering crab apple trees were donated to Mohawk Park. In 1978, the Club contributed to the construction of the fountain outside City Hall as a Centennial Project. Club projects within the community included the placement of a fragrance garden at the Ross MacDonald School for the Blind, numerous trees planted in school yards, flower beds planted, and the installation of Therapeutic Garden Units in three local hospitals.

Flower arranging was very popular in the 1970s and 80s; they were always a big part of the Annual Garden Shows. Some displays of the arrangements were placed in local churches, at Myrtleville House Museum, Glenhyrst Art Gallery, as well as the Icomm Centre before it became the Casino. Our Annual Flower Show still showcases the best from our members' gardens.

Membership has fluctuated from a high of 886 in 1921 to a low of 50. Today's membership is approximately 115. In 1945 a junior group was established. Membership was 25 cents. However, by 1998, young people had found other interests and it was discontinued.

Unseen, but of vital importance to our community, are the countless hours that members past and present have given. To continue the traditions started by Dr. Digby and his contemporaries, we have the WaterWise Gardens. These six demonstration gardens teach us and others how to garden while conserving our precious water supplies. Congratulations Brantford Garden Club and happy gardening!

Alison Huhtala



Neat Things about Latin Names

1. The Point

Horticulturists refer to plants by their Latin names for reasons far beyond being snobbish (though the occasional plant person can be a bit of a snob). The Latin name can carry plenty of information about a plant (more about that in a moment) and it doesn't vary from one locale to another. For example, what's referred to as a serviceberry in Ontario is always called a Saskatoon on the Prairies, but it is *Amelanchier canadensis* no matter where you are. At least, as long as you're some kind of horticulturist.

2. Binomial System

'Binomial' means two-name, and the two names are the genus-which refers to the general kind of plant, like *Rosa* for rose, and is capitalized-and the specific epithet (or species name), which is the particular type of plant, written all lower-case. The great thing about the specific epithet is that it is an adjective: it describes the plant, so sometimes you can get a good idea what a plant looks like just from hearing its Latin name. For example, *Rosa grandiflora* is a large-flowered rose. Sometimes, though, the specific epithet gives information about where a species is from or who discovered it; you can't tell from the name *Rosa chinensis* what the size or colour of a Chinese rose is. Neither does the title *Viburnum davidii* tell you much about the form of that flowering shrub named in honour of French Jesuit and plant egghead Armand David.

3. Genus and Species Pluralized

Just to be a pain, the plural of genus is genera, while the plural of species is species. No wonder the Roman Empire fell.

4. Cultivar

When you see a capitalized name, unitalicised, in single quotes after the binomial name, that is the cultivar name. Cultivar is short for cultivated variety. When a hybridizer develops a great new variety, he or she gives it a name. Since that would be too easy, sometimes a grower, to market the plant, will give it a trademark name or name it as part of a series.

5. Colour

Some specific epithets for colours are: *alba* for white, *lutea* for yellow, *caerulea* for blue, *purpurea* for purple, *rosea* for pink and *rubrum* for red. When the species name is a colour, the plant is that colour - usually. Sometimes new cultivars muddle things up; for example, *Echinacea purpurea* 'White Swan' is a white coneflower.

6. Size

Nana means dwarf. *Grandiflora* means the plant has big flowers and *macrophylla* refers to big leaves.

7. Place

Canadensis means native to Canada and *sinensis* means from China. Other places of origin are generally easy to spot: *japonica* means from Japan, for example. *Occidentalis* means from the western hemisphere while *orientalis* means from the eastern. Something *montana* or *alpina* is from the mountains, *sylvestris* is from the forest, and *maritima* is from near the sea.

8. Growth Habit

Some of growth habits you see featured in specific epithets are: *paniculata* (blooming in panicles), *stricta* (upright), *repens* (creeping) and *scandens* (climbing).

9. Other Attributes

Maculata (spotted), *odorata* (scented), *tomentosa* (woolly) and *rugosa* (ridged, usually in reference to the leaves). Something *officinalis*, though it sounds like it has been sanctioned by someone for something, is simply a plant used as a herb, whether culinary or medicinal.

10. The Last Word?

Latin botanical names may transcend languages, national borders and ethnic cultures, but they do not transcend time. With so many botanists, horticulturists, and geneticists beavering away, sometimes a whole genus gets renamed or divided. One of the biggest upheavals in recent memory is the once huge genus

Chrysanthemum. It is now a much more limited genus, losing several plants to the genera *Leucanthemum*, *Ageranthemum*, *Leucanthemopsis* and *Tanacetum*. So, while it's good to feel comfortable with plant nomenclature, be sure you don't get too stuck on it.



Dorothy Dobbie
Ontario Gardener Magazine
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GCO 7th School for Floral Design Judges, Instructors & Exhibitors

Garden Clubs of Ontario is pleased to announce that plans are underway for the 7th School for Floral Design Judges, Instructors & Exhibitors.

In order to proceed with the planning of the school, we need to get an idea of how many people are interested in attending. The School consists of six three day sessions with sessions being held in the Spring and Fall of 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Prerequisites for admission are: evidence of exhibiting in at least two flower shows in 2012 and completion of a Basic Flower Arranging course. This course can be taken through Royal Botanical Gardens or Toronto Botanical Gardens. In some cases, members of garden clubs may take the basic course as offered through their clubs as these courses follow the same curriculum as the RBG and TBG courses.

If you are interested, please complete the information requested below and return same to us with a 'good faith' deposit of \$10.00 towards the first session fees.

Thank you.

Wendy L. Downing
Co-Principal

Celia Roberts
Co-Principal

Name:

Address:

Phone #: Email Address:

Garden Club or Horticultural Society Affiliation, if any:

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Please send to: Wendy L. Downing
1000 Creekside Drive, Unit 401
Dundas, ON L9H 7S6
Phone: 289-238-8626 Email: wendydowning@cogeco.ca

Ontario Horticultural Association Memorial Book

Donor's Name and Address: _____

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Name of Deceased: _____ Year died: _____

If you wish a family member to be notified, please complete the following:

Circle title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Other _____

Name: _____

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Relationship to deceased person: _____

Mail with your monetary donation (minimum donation is \$25/name) to:
Ontario Horticultural Association,
c/o Marilyn Cox, 86 Church Street, R.R. #2, Keswick, ON L4P 3E9
For information, call Marilyn at 905-476-3000



NOTE: If you wish to have the deceased person's name acknowledged at the Convention, please notify the OHA Secretary (ohasecretary@gmail.com). Funds from donations to the OHA Memorial Book special fund are available for memorial tree grants.

Aug 2011

Helen Scutt

Agriculture Organization Specialist
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture,
Food & Rural Affairs
1 Stone Road, 3rd Floor SW
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

1-888-466-2372 x 63115 or 519-826-3115

helen.scutt@ontario.ca

DOES YOUR SOCIETY REQUIRE A CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE?

Please contact the
OHA Treasurer Sharon Hill at
treasurer@gardenontario.org
or 705-645-3552.



OHA Supplies List & Order Form

Item #	Descriptions	Price	Quantity	Total	Item #	Description	Price	Quantity	Total
01-01	Youth Member Card	Free			04-16	Pin - 25 Year Service Pin	\$5.00		
01-02	Youth Service Certificate	\$1.00				Note Cards - 5 per pkg w/envelopes			
02-01	Society President Certificate	\$1.00			05-01	Trillium Design	\$5.00		
02-02	District Appreciation Certificate	\$1.00			05-02	5 packages	\$20.00		
02-03	Life Member Certificate - w/card	\$2.00			05-03	Lily Design	\$5.00		
03-04	Note Pad (4 1/2 X 5 1/2")	\$1.00			05-04	5 Packages	\$20.00		
03-05	Postcards	Free			05-05	Fall Colours Design	\$5.00		
04-01	Pin - President	\$5.00			05-06	5 Packages	\$20.00		
04-02	Pin - Past President	\$5.00			06-01	Decal, static cling	\$1.00		
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04-05	Pin - Past District Director	\$5.00			07-01	Natural Landscape Resource Booklet	\$5.00		
04-06	Pin - Secretary	\$5.00			07-02	Ontario Judging & Exhibiting Stds	\$6.00		
04-07	Pin - Treasurer	\$5.00			07-03	History of OHA Societies (soft cover)	\$9.99		
04-08	Pin - Member	\$5.00			07-04	History of OHA Societies (hard cover)	\$14.95		
04-09	Pin - Youth Leader	\$5.00				Society Manual CD - pdf format			
04-10	Pin - Life Member	\$5.00			09-02	includes files for OHA colour ads, bookmarks and new brochures	\$5.00		
04-11	Pin - Assistant District Director	\$5.00							
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