



APRIL 2012

# OAKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



*The society aims to further the knowledge of Horticulture, stimulating an interest in gardening in our community's youth and encouraging the beautification of both private and public properties since 1957.*

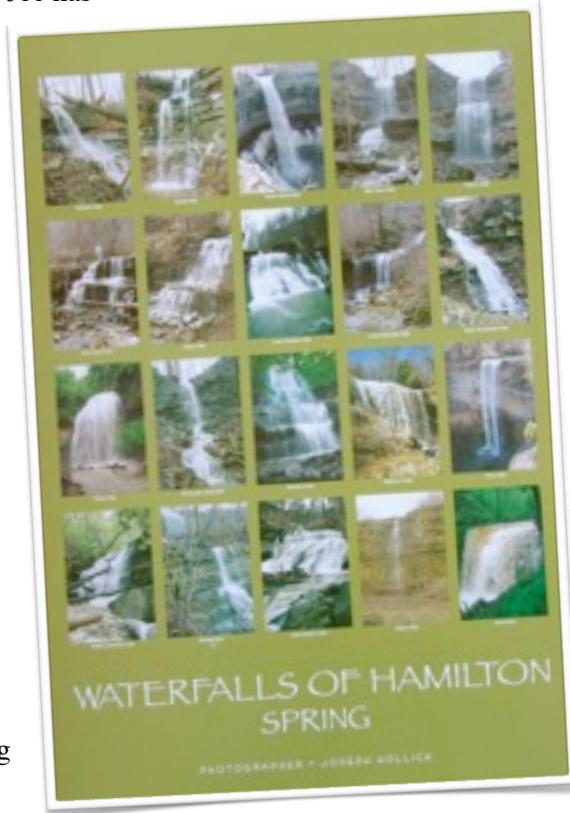
## April's Speaker – Joseph Hollick: Waterfalls of Hamilton

Born and raised in Hamilton, Joe Hollick grew up playing in the Red Hill Creek and at Albion Falls. A professional engineer, he holds degrees in both civil and environmental engineering and worked for the City of Burlington's engineering department for 31 years.

Since retiring six years ago, Joe has become a director of the Giant's Rib (Niagara Escarpment) Discovery Centre and writes about Hamilton's waterfalls in their monthly newsletter. He has produced three posters featuring the waterfalls of Hamilton and will have some for sale for \$10 after his presentation.

In 2004, Joe won an award from Tourism Hamilton for his work on the area's waterfalls, including his first two posters. His third poster won an Ontario Tourism Award for Best Travel Photography, and he has been recognized by Via Rail Canada Tourism and Dundas Rotary for his many years of photographing and promoting Hamilton's waterfalls.

Joe and his wife, Marilyn, live in a 160-year-old heritage home in Dundas which they have restored over the past 27 years.



### **Mailing Address:**

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### **President:**

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### **Website:**

[www.oakvillehort.org](http://www.oakvillehort.org)

### **Next Meeting:**

Monday 9 April – 7:30 pm  
MacMillian Hall, 89 Dunn Street

### **Hall Set Up (9 am):**

Gillian Moffatt, Julia Morrow, Wendy Twynam

### **Hospitality:**

Karen Lindsay-Bennett, Gillian Moffatt, Joyce Turner, Wendy Twynam

### **Clerking:**

Florrie Abbess

### **Library:**

Veronica Heiderich, Cathy Ryan

### **Doors Open (6 pm)**

*Where Gardeners come to flourish*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a wild ride this spring has been so far. It seems that overnight we went from our “phony” winter to mid-May, then back to March and now into April. And the gardens are responding to this early warmth. A stroll through Gairlock Gardens revealed the rhodos had started to bloom, and some of the early magnolias are blossoming. Looking in our backyard, the daylilies look like they may overtake the tulips. If our gardens keep up at this rate, there will be a good collection of large material for the plant sale this year.

The Plant Sale will be taking place on Saturday, May 12th. The organizing group is busy with the preparations and will be giving us more information in this newsletter and at the next meeting as to how you can get involved.

Christine Lee has the Garden Tour on track for the tour date of Sunday, June 17. Always on the lookout for interesting gardens, Christine would like to hear about your finds (perhaps your own garden).

Linda Tock from our Junior Garden program is looking for a special person who would like to lend a hand and learn the ropes with an eye to taking over the program.

Margaret Jeffery is again leading the Anderson Parkette program. She and Cathy Kavassalis will be seeing how well the new garden overwintered, what plants will need to be replaced, and what can be added. The garden will need help this year as it establishes itself, so please find some time to help with the watering and weeding.

For our society, the Plant Sale, Garden Tour, Junior Program and the Anderson Parkette are our big community

efforts. It takes all of our efforts to make each one of these programs a success. Without the revenues that the Plant Sale and Garden Tour produce, it would be hard to maintain our Society's guest speakers, monthly shows and newsletter. I encourage you to find the time to help with these projects; we do this for each other.

Moving on, the official opening of the Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre took place this past week. I have been hearing good reviews of the facility, so much so that it bears a closer examination. In our polling of

the membership, almost equal numbers were against moving as were undecided. If the facility could host us on favourable terms, maybe even providing a new location for the Junior Garden, then we should revisit a possible move.

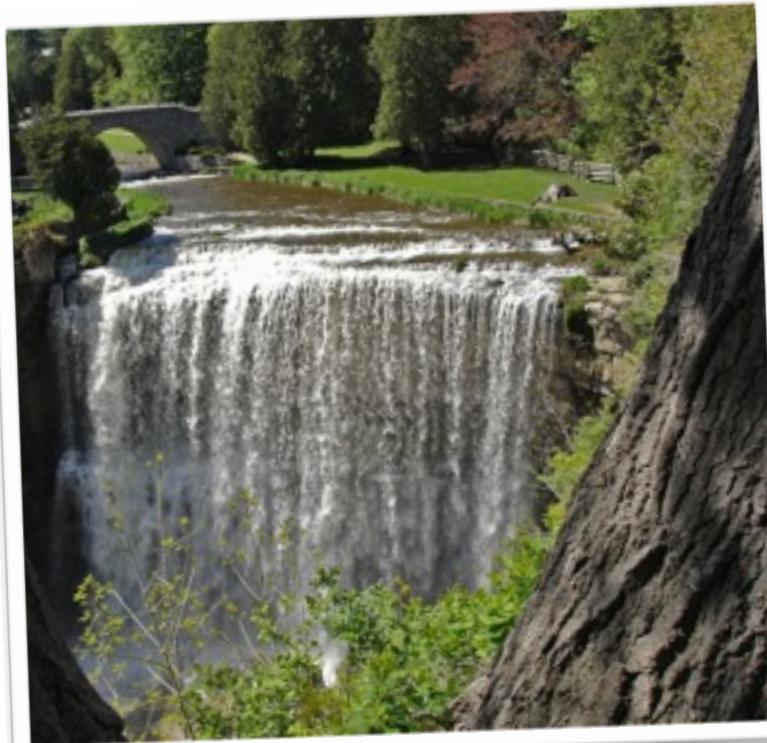
As a follow-up to a question at our last meeting, I have asked the Town's Urban Forestry section about the spread of Black Knot. I hope to have a response by our next meeting. Till then, read up about this fungus in this newsletter.

Closing out the month is the Carolinian District Six

Spring Workshop and Flower Show on April 21. It's a short drive out to Delhi and as this will be the last meeting chaired by our very own Celia Roberts, it would be great to see a large contingent of OHS members stand for the Roll Call.

I'm starting to ramble so I will sign off. If you have any suggestions or comments, please send me an email at [ohs.president@oakvillehort.org](mailto:ohs.president@oakvillehort.org).

*Stuart Gough*  
*President*



# OHS ANNUAL FUNDRAISING PLANT SALE

Spring has sprung and it's time to dig and divide your plants for this year's plant sale – Saturday May 12th.

Sometimes plants just don't perform well in our gardens but will do great in someone else's. To invigorate your plants, and improve your garden's growth, perennials need to be divided.

We would love to receive your plants to sell to the public at our plant sale!

There are three depots in east, west and north Oakville where you can pick up pots and trays, and drop off your freshly dug plants before Friday May 4th.

## East

Sonja Tessari and Stu Gough  
1311 Avon Crescent  
sonja.t@sympatico.ca

## West

Lisa and Godwin Kruitwagen  
567 Patricia Drive  
roukrew@hotmail.com

## North

Marie and Bob Decker  
1285 Gloaming Crt.  
mariedecker@cogeco.ca



The type of plants we welcome are:

Artemesia, Astilbe, Lady's Mantle. Columbine, Cranesbill, Geranium, Bleeding Heart, Lamb's Ears, Coral Bells, Primula, Phlox, Sedum Autumn Joy, Siberian Iris, Hosta (any kind), Day Lilies, Black Eyed Susan, Ferns (all kinds) (named varieties), Purple Coneflower, Fall Asters, Hens & Chicks, Ornamental Grasses, Monkshood, Solomon's Seal, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, May Apple, Mums, Shasta Daisy, Trilliums, Periwinkle, Sweet Woodruff, Japanese Spurge (Pachysandra), Ajuga, Aquatic Plants, Asters, Japanese Anemone, Bellflower, Border Pinks, Catmint, Corydalis, Delphinium, Herbs, Ivy, Lavender, Meadow Rue, Rhubarb, Yarrow, Yucca, Shrubs and Trees. We are also looking for water plants for ponds.

Keep in mind, with shrubs and trees the plant needs to be substantial as opposed to little seedlings. Rose of Sharon has no signs of life this early in the spring and is hard to sell to new gardeners.

Please label your plants with name and colour, sun or shade, using wooden sticks available from the depots. When labeling your plants, please use a waterproof marker so the information won't smudge or wipe off when the plant is watered.

## Volunteers are still needed:

- We need people to help on the actual plant sale day Saturday May 12 from 7:30 am to 11:00am.
- We need two people to set up eight signs one week before the sale and to take the signs down afterwards.
- We need volunteers to go to the depots one week before the sale to help with potting of plants.

If you would like to help please call or email me, or write your name on the clipboard which will be available at our April meeting



Let's all work together to have FUN and make this plant sale a BIG success!

*Sonja Tessari*  
**Plant Sale Coordinator**  
**905-845-9474**  
*sonja.t@sympatico.ca*

# WHAT ARE THOSE BLACK LUMPS ON MY TREES?

Perhaps one of the easiest diseases to recognize, Black Knot of *Prunus* (cherry, chokecherry, plums and prunes) is becoming a common sight in many trees in the urban and rural areas. It may be dismissed as a curiosity of little consequence.

In fact, those lumps (galls) are the signs of a fungus that is feeding on the tree and disfiguring it. While the tree will continue to grow, left untreated, the symptoms will continue to appear. The end result will be a highly stressed, highly distorted and unattractive tree.

## Symptoms / Characteristics

The characteristic feature of black knot is the presence of thick, black, irregular swellings on twigs and branches. The galls are often noticed in the winter when leaves are not present. The disease is difficult to notice during the early stages of infection. Initially, the disease appears as small light brown swellings on current or previous seasons' growth. The following year, the swellings appear olive green with a velvety texture. By the end of the season, knots darken and harden. Numerous knots may be present on one tree. Often the branch beyond the knot will either fail to leaf out or wilt suddenly.

Black knot is caused by the fungus *Apiosporina morbosa*, which infects trees in the spring, about the time of bud emergence. Spores are released following a period of

warm, wet weather. Only a few hours of rainfall are needed for dispersal. Temperatures between 16 and 27°C are ideal for dispersal, germination and infection. Splashing water, wind, insects and birds spreads spores.

The noticeable black gall-like growths do not become evident until the next year in late summer to fall. The following spring after infection, the outer bark splits, revealing a yellow to olive green fungal growth. In late spring, as the knots begin to develop, growths are covered with olive green velvety tissue made up of spores and spore forming structures. Often, a diseased branch will bend sharply at the knot due to one-sided growth. Knots then

develop very slowly and may appear as only small galls by the end of summer. The gall has a corky texture and becomes hardened and black. The black knot fungus overwinters in the knots, but gall enlargement ceases over the winter and resumes again in the spring when knots may then enlarge rapidly. Old knots enlarge every year and may range from ½" to 1 ft. in length.

Duration of the disease cycle is usually two years. Fungus in old knots may invade other tissues to form new knots. The fungus can also spread internally. Branches will likely be girdled, stopping the transport of water and nutrients, and dieback may occur. A branch may survive, but may have a large canker with a sunken center serving as an invasion point for other insects and diseases. Succulent new growth or wounded tissue is more commonly infected.



# WHAT ARE THOSE BLACK LUMPS ON MY TREES?

## Control / Prevention

This disease is a difficult one to deal with, but as with any disease, the sooner management practices are put into place the better. Prune infected branches at least 4-6" beyond the gall. Prune trees when they are dormant, before March 1 or after they are done flowering. Sterilize tools between each cut using chlorine, bleach or alcohol. Knots are capable of producing spores after removal so burning, burying or removing infected branches from the site is necessary. Maintain healthy trees and avoid stress on the tree by watering and fertilizing when needed.

In severe cases, apply fungicides during the dormant season before new growth begins as a protectant. Prior to a rain event and when temperatures are above 16°C (60°F), apply either a lime-sulfur solution (1 part lime-sulfur to 8 parts water), or 4:6:100 Bordeaux mixture. At least two additional sprays of very dilute lime-sulfur (1 part lime-sulfur to 50 parts water) can be helpful; one when the trees are in full bloom and one in the fall. There is a biological control — a parasitic fungus (*Trichothecium roseum*) — that shows promise for the future management of Black Knot.

Chemicals are ineffective if cultural practices are not carried out. The more knots you have on the tree and the greater the time it has been neglected, the greater the effort needed to deal with it. Black Knot may require two to three years of management to bring it under control. Complete eradication is currently not possible.

*This information was compiled from references found on the web (Manitoba Agriculture; Department of Plant Sciences, University of Manitoba; OMAFRA; Agriculture and Agri Food Canada; APSnet).*



Photos: Stuart Gough

Show your current OHS Membership card and enjoy great savings at these locations:

### Holland Park Garden Gallery

2243 Fairview Street,  
Burlington, Ontario

### Connon Nurseries

383 Dundas St East,  
Waterdown, ON

### Agram Garden Centre

2018 Dundas Street East,  
Oakville, ON



### Jade Gardens

5558 Trafalgar Road,  
Milton, ON

If you do not already have a Sheridan Nursery card, these will be available for pickup directly from Sheridan Nursery at the Mississauga store location.

## OUT ON A LIMB

Can you believe this weather? I got one of the last packages of refuse bags at Costco (don't they seem a lot thinner this year?) and am filling them at the rate of two or three a day.

As I gingerly pick out the dead leaves and branches, I'm finding it's interesting to see which plants have decided spring is here and which ones haven't. Bulbs don't seem to care at all – the daffodils are blooming now. However, natives like *Hepatica* – one of the earliest perennials – has barely cracked the soil surface. Should the weather turn

normal, the natives will be just fine (one more reason to make sure you have at least a few natives about).

This weekend I was at Canada Blooms at our annual garden writers lunch. I got some wonderful new products to try and heard a presentation on preserving – the next evolutionary step in the vegetable and fruit-growing trend.

I was floored to learn that the methods my mother had used, and I had followed, are considered completely unsafe! All that sterilizing of jars, whether on the stove, in the oven or in the microwave, is completely unnecessary and useless. The jars must be clean, obviously. But the heat processing must be done with the product in them. So, if you're planning on canning, be sure to check out the Bernardin website at [www.bernardin.ca](http://www.bernardin.ca) to learn how to process your fruits, sauces and vegetables safely.

We were also given several new plants to try. The first is called Pixie Grape. It is a naturally occurring mutant of *Vitus vinifera* 'Pinot Meunier', a variety used to make wine and champagne. It has been developed by the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre. They are planning to develop several more varieties in the coming years. It will begin producing grapes within the first year. Aside from being absolutely adorable (our sample came with a small bottle of wine!), this patio plant must be sheltered from the cold over winter. I'm putting mine in the garage. However, Rodney of Sunrise Greenhouses said it will also do well planted in a sheltered location in the garden, or you can even keep it as a houseplant and it will continue to produce grapes. It will be available at Loblaw's and other select nurseries.



## OUT ON A LIMB

The other very cool plant from the Growers of Ontario was 'Magic Bell', *Kalanchoe pinnata*. Like all Kalanchoes, it prefers to be dry and blooms for eight to 10 weeks. It has three bloom phases: the first, an oval that looks like a grape; the second, a beautiful orange cascading flower emerges; and the last stage when the flower falls out, the bud remains and turns purple. How's that for a plant! Mine is at the green grape stage and stands about a meter tall. I can hardly wait for stages two and three!

Well, I'm off to have a glass of wine. Look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

**Barbara Phillips-Conroy**

[www.barbarasgardenchronicles.blogspot.com](http://www.barbarasgardenchronicles.blogspot.com)



*"Happiness? The color of it must be spring green, impossible to describe until I see a just-hatched lizard sunning on a stone. That color, the glowing green lizard skin, repeats in every new leaf. ..."*



*The regenerative power of nature explodes in every weed, stalk, branch. Working in the mild sun, I feel the green fuse of my body, too. Surges of energy, kaleidoscopic sunlight through the leaves, the soft breeze that makes me want to say the word "zephyr" - this mindless simplicity can be called happiness."*

*Frances Mayes  
Bella Tuscany: The Sweet Life in Italy*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# garden

### Trees in a Changing Climate

April 5, 2012

Brantford and District Civic Centre  
69 Market Street South, Brantford

An advocate for tree conservation, an educator, and a Master Gardener, speaker Catherine Kavassalis stimulates public interest in the living world of trees. Info: Pat 519-448-1081.

### Successful Gardening Show

April 12 - 15, 2012

International Centre

Learn from the experts, experience perfect plants and flowers. Schedules, entry forms and information at [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org).

### OHA Carolinian District 6

#### Spring Workshop and Flower Show

April 21, 2012

8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Delhi District Secondary School

Speakers Kevin Kavanaugh on plants from the deep South, Darren Heimbecker on Whistling Gardens, and Gregor Beckon on attracting birds, butterflies and wildlife to your property. Admission \$13. Agenda and Flower Show schedule will be posted on the OHS web site.

### RBG Home & Garden Show

April 27 - 29, 2012

RBG Centre

Newest merchandise of the season, expert advice, food and entertainment. [www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca).

### RBG Auxiliary Plant Sale

May 3 and 5, 2012

RBG Arboretum

Rare and beautiful plants on sale at this popular fundraiser. Arrive early for the best selection. [www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca).

### Halton Region Compost Give Away

May 7 - 12, 2012

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Halton Waste Management Site

Bring your own containers and shovel. Compost is free, however donations of food and/or cash will be collected in support of local food banks. [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca).

### Halton Region Rain Barrel Sales

Saturday 9 June, 2012

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville (south-east parking lot)

\$40 (tax included) cash only. One per household. Proof of Halton residency required. Sales also take place in Georgetown May 12, Milton May 26, and Burlington June 2.

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

### Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society Rose Show

Saturday, June 23, 1:30 - 5:30 pm

Sunday, June 24, 10:00am - 4:00 pm

RBG Centre

Annual juried rose show. Come and get advice on rose culture and care. Free with RBG admission.

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

## NOTICES

### New Members:

Please welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Society.

- Helen Stephenson
- Anya Dunning

### Upcoming Meetings:

- May 14  
Wolfe Bonham: Gardens of Kyoto
- June 11  
Paul Oliver: Birds in the Garden
- September 10  
Wayne Brown: Poinsettias
- October 8  
Dave Naylor: Cacti and Succulents

### Flower and Photo Shows:

Please visit our website to view this month's show schedule. Or, download the complete OHS 2012 Show Book at [http://www.oakvillehort.org/eMShowGuide\\_OHS\\_2012.pdf](http://www.oakvillehort.org/eMShowGuide_OHS_2012.pdf).

### OHS Events:

- Plant Sale  
May 12
- Garden Tour  
June 17

