



NOVEMBER 2011

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.

November's Guest Speaker

Diana Pooke

Geraniums – The Garden Chorus Line

Diana is a Mississauga Master Gardener, an editor of the Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society's journal, a long-time member of the executive of the Georgetown Horticultural Society, an RBG certified Horticultural judge and a founding member of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Garden in Norval.

Diana and her husband Bill garden on $\frac{3}{4}$ acre near Georgetown. She has a passion for perennials, including grasses, and grows many of her plants from seed.



2012 Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your OHS membership for 2012, as your 2011 membership will expire on December 31, 2011. You can renew your membership at the November meeting or at the January 2012 meeting. The December meeting is our Annual Pot Luck Dinner, so no membership renewals at this meeting.

Please complete the Membership Renewal Form and Questionnaire included with this newsletter, indicating your name and membership number. Include your complete address, phone number and email only if there are any changes.

Mailing Address:

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President:

Catherine Kavassalis
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Membership:

Elizabeth Thompson
membership@oakvillehort.org

Mailing:

Joan Paris

Secretary:

Valerie Westwood
valerie.ohs@lycos.com

Treasurer:

Stuart Gough
treasurer@oakvillehort.org

Newsletter:

Natalie Ann Comeau
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Website:

www.oakvillehort.org

November Meeting:

Monday 14 November, 7:30 p.m.
(doors open 6:30 p.m.)

MacMillian Hall, 89 Dunn Street
Hall Set-up (9 a.m.): Carol &

George Gordon, Lisa Kruitwagen,
Rosi Croal, Cyndi Stackhouse

Library: Rosanne Swalwell, Anne
Ritchie

Refreshments: Kathy Graham, Pam
Jeremiah, Elly Cooper, Julie Douglas

Clerks: Mary Cameron, Rob
Welsh, Octavia Dutzak
(photography)

Executive Meeting:

Monday 21 November, 7:00 p.m.

Where Gardeners come to flourish

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Last night's frost has hung the pepper plants with black and cost the zinnias all their color.

Beside the gate among dry summer weeds half-dead spiders wait for colder weather.

Time to gather marigold heads, to tie together ice-tight lengths of twine.

Tubers underground may linger, but almost all the green has browned, stands tangled as balled twine.

Stiff hose, wire fence must be rolled up, stakes pulled and scraped. But diligence is done. One waits for winter.

The rush to use the harvest is passed; the daily watch over change, relieved. Unrest among the rows falls silent.

The peace that passed when spring began descends upon the garden.

The massed life gone, the cold ground mends.

(October Frost by Brooke Horvath)

November is upon us and our gardens rest. Now we have more time for houseplants, for floral designs and for sharing ideas and stories of seasons past and dreams for seasons to come. What better place to learn and share than at a horticultural society meeting? A new and inspiring horticultural society year is upon us – **it's time to renew your membership.**

There is a pull-out in this newsletter for you to complete and give to our Membership Coordinator Elizabeth Thompson at our November meeting. We invite you to provide us with comments and share your interests. Please also let us know if you will be attending our Pot Luck. In addition, we are asking you to vote on whether we should change venues. See my summary of the pros and cons of *To move or not to move* – please share the responsibility for making this important decision.

I am delighted to have so many new faces in membership and excited that some of our newest members have chosen to take active leadership roles. This bodes well for our society. We do need more of



True Beauty by
Nick Kavassalis

you, however, to contribute your talents and time. One of our stalwart volunteers, Sonja Tessari, has offered to help coordinate next year's plant sale, and we invite you to share this responsibility. We need you, yes YOU. If you are able to be a coordinator or volunteer let her know (905-845-9474 sonja.t@sympatico.ca).

Margaret Larson (our Program Manager and one of the Monthly Show Coordinators) has kindly stepped forward to run a 50/50 draw to replace our draw table – let us know if you would be able to help sell tickets. Also, Margaret is willing to organize a small silent auction at our December meeting. If you are able to donate an item for this auction, please contact me or Margaret (larsonmz@yahoo.ca).

At our December Potluck and AGM we will be electing new officers and board members. Currently, the following individuals have expressed their intention of running for positions:

- **President** – Stuart Gough
- **Vice President** – Sonja Tessari
- **Second Vice President** – Joan Paris
- **Treasurer** – Fred Teng
- **Secretary** – Veronica Heiderich
- **Board** – Marie Decker; Margaret Jeffery; Catherine Kavassalis; Christine Lee; Celia Roberts; Linda Tock; Elizabeth Thompson; Valerie Westwood

If you too are interested in serving, let me know. We will have a ballot to select our new team.

Finally, as it is our year end, we must prepare reports for the Ontario Horticultural Association and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, both of which oversee horticultural societies. Volunteers, please report your volunteer hours to committee chairs or to our secretary, Valerie Westwood (905-849-1108 valerie.ohs@lycos.com) These hours must be submitted to OMAFRA which tracks the number of hours volunteers contribute to their communities.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. If you have comments, questions or suggestions, please email c.kavassalis@gmail.com or call 905-849-7581.

Catherine Kavassalis

TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE

To move or not to move that is the question

As I mentioned in my president's remarks, we are inviting you to share in the responsibility of making the decision whether to move or stay at our current location. Several years ago, we began a search for alternative accommodations. The search was prompted by the following concerns:

- Accessibility – many members find it difficult or impossible to attend OHS Flower Shows and are not able to socialize – which is a major reason why many people come out to our meetings.
- Cramped space – with our membership now at 236, we are very cramped when 90 to 100 attend our meetings.
- Heating and cooling issues – the current facility can be quite hot and uncomfortable one or two meetings a year, and when fans are used it can be very difficult to hear the speaker.
- Parking – it is sometimes difficult to find parking near the facility.
- Perceived religious affiliation – OHA recommends societies meet in non-denominational venues so as not to create barriers for people who have different beliefs

In spring of 2012, the Queen Elizabeth Park Cultural Community Center (QEPCCC) will open. Located at 2302 Bridge Road (south of the QEW, between Third Line and Bronte), this modern facility is intended to bring together arts and cultural groups across the community under one roof. This could improve networking and cross-pollination of ideas between arts and cultural groups, and provide for support and growth.

The facility would address the above concerns. It is a single story, fully accessible non-denominational facility with modern heating/cooling management and ample parking around the center. The multipurpose room, in which we could hold our meetings, has a capacity of 200 and can be partitioned. It has a projection screen and sound system. The rental rates are pretty comparable.

•**QEPCCC** - \$1,675 (multipurpose room from 6pm to 10pm at \$34.41/hr; \$1 per year storage; \$113 QEPCC fee which includes CORE fee for use of Town facilities and non profit services)

•**Knox facility** - \$1,560 (\$1520 for room rental and cleaning; \$40 CORE fee used for library rental for executive meetings)

Despite benefits, there are potential issues for concern:

- We would be changing our location from southeast Oakville to southwest Oakville.
- We would need to change our meeting night from Monday to Thursday.
- We would be required to use QEPCC cafeteria rather than bringing our own refreshments (a company to manage the cafeteria has yet to be chosen so the details are not confirmed).
- We would probably not be able to hold a potluck at the facility.
- We would need to set up for meetings at 6pm and put away our own tables and chairs in rollers at 9:30 to be out by 10pm. (We currently set up in the morning and pay to have the custodian put away the chairs and tables).
- OHS will be required to provide 15 volunteer hours per year outside of OHS activities to reduce the overhead of running the facility (e.g. serving in a reception or support capacity on Family Day)
- There may be no library facilities

Please consider the potential benefits and opportunities provided by this new space against the potential challenges. We would like everyone to share in the decision, so we are asking you to vote on whether to make the move. Include your vote with your completed membership renewal form and submit it to Elizabeth at our next meeting.

Thank you.

Catherine Kavassalis

SHOW SCHEDULE

Horticulture

1. **Annual** - 1 stem
2. **Annuals, Collection of 3 kinds** - 1 stem of each
3. **Branch showing fall colour, under 36"**
4. **Cactus, Christmas**
5. **Chrysanthemum** - 1 bloom or spray
6. **Perennial other** - 1 stem
7. **Rosa (rose), red** - 1 spray or bloom
8. **Rosa (rose), other** - 1 spray or bloom
9. **Vegetable** - 1 specimen or bunch
10. **Dish garden or indoor planter** - OJES pg. 95
11. **House plant grown for flowers or fruit**
12. **House plant grown for foliage**
13. **House plant, trailing or climbing**
14. **Dried flowers** - 1 bunch grown and dried by exhibitor
15. **A craft item inspired by gardening, made by the exhibitor**, not previously shown
16. **Educational exhibit**
17. **Any other cultivar** (AOC)

Design

Stark Splendor

1. **Class of Distinction**
Take A Bow - A design
2. **Chairman's Trophy**
The Naked Truth - A design
3. **General**
Frost Bitten - A design
4. **General Novice**
Where Have All The Flowers Gone - A design
5. **Miniature**
Looking Forward
A design in a niche 5" high x 4½" wide x 3" deep

Photography

Class 1

What did they grow to eat?

Heritage Vegetable

Class 2

What did they grow to admire?

Heritage Flowers

Class 3

Splish/Splash

A waterfall

(don't forget the horticultural element!)

Class 4

The Ancient Ones

Old tree(s) in a sepia tone

Class 5

They were here before Europeans came

Native Plants

Photography Notes:

Complete rules for entering photo shows will be included in the 2012 Monthly Show Book.

The schedule for the 2012 OHA Convention in Niagara Falls is now available. As our schedule matches the OHA's, you can get clicking on next year's subjects. Please consider entering your photographs (by June 1, 2012) in the OHA photography show.



Natalie Ann Comeau

OHS BUDGET REPORT

	<i>Account</i>	<i>Year End Oct 31, 2011 \$</i>	<i>Budget 2010/2011 \$</i>	<i>Budget for 2011/2012 \$</i>
4000	RECEIPTS:			
4020	Bulbs, Plants, Seeds	1,127	1,500	1,000
4022	Draw Table	632	540	500
4024	May Plant Sale	5,933	6,500	5,000
4026	Membership	2,659	2,500	2,500,
4027	Interest	100	280	100
4028	Donations	29	--	--
4030	Garden Tour	--	2,500	1,000
4031	OMAFRA Grant	1,500	1,500	1,500
4032	Miscellaneous	22	--	--
4035	Community Programs	--	2,000	--
4040	Workshops	--	--	--
4045	Junior Program	300	--	300
4050	Non Fund Raising Activities	26	--	--
4060	Special Event: Freeman Patterson	24,498	22,250	--
4100	TOTAL RECEIPTS:	36,526	39,570	11,900
5000	DISBURSEMENTS:			
5026	Publicity	(89)	(450)	(400)
5032	Social Convenor	(319)	(470)	(400)
5039	Bulbs, Plants, Seeds	(1,017)	(1,500)	(1,000)
5043	Library	--	--	--
5045	Plantings	--	--	(500)
5046	Sustainable Gardens (ABP)	(6,345)	(10,000)	(6,000)
5050	Public Plantings	(6,345)	(10,000)	(6,500)
5054	Community Programs	(66)	(3,400)	(1,250)
5070	Executive	(1,728)	(2,750)	(1,650)
5078	Draw Table	(415)	(540)	(500)
5084	Annual Show	--	--	--
5092	Monthly Shows	(1,314)	(2,065)	(1,830)
5097	Garden Tour	--	(2,000)	(2,000)
5114	Newsletter	(2,190)	(2,500)	(2,500)
5142	Monthly Programs	(2,990)	(3,390)	(3,450)
5143	Photography	--	--	--
5145	Junior Program	(947)	(1,200)	(1,200)
5152	May Plant Sale	(2,243)	(2,600)	(2,600)
5160	Equipment/Improvements	--	--	--
5170	Special Event: Freeman Patterson	(6,277)	(6,650)	--
5180	Contingency	--	--	--
5390	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	(25,941)	(38,815)	(24,580)
6000	NET INCOME: GAIN/(LOSS)	10,585	755	(12,680)

RED OAK MEMORIAL TREE AT FORSYTH GARDEN

I'm sure that over the last few years, many of our Hort. Members who helped water our Forsyth garden or worked on the new garden this spring must have noticed the Red Oak memorial tree "In memory of Roy Taylor".

I thought it would be of interest to everyone to hear the story behind it.

When I noticed the name a few years back, I felt sure that Roy's wife Joan and I had worked together some years ago. It was only this past summer when I met with her that this was confirmed.

Roy was a Staff Inspector in the Halton Police Service, and when he died there were no grandchildren in the family. (Now his son and daughter-in-law have two children, a boy and girl, ages six and eight.)

The location for the memorial tree was chosen by the family because they live close to the Forsyth

Garden. The children call it their Grandpa's tree and visit it regularly when passing.

Unfortunately the tree, like many other Red Oaks in the area, is suffering this year from a blight and has not been looking too healthy. Joan was quite concerned about it and our knowledgeable president Cathy provided information on the disease to Joan. I know she is delighted that both the Horticultural Society and the Town of Oakville are taking an interest in the care of her family's tree.

Incidentally the garden was maintained in years past by Frank Pearson, a member of the Society and also a retired police officer. He planted and took care of the garden for many years, enjoying chatting to residents as they passed by.

Norma Kirkpatrick



OUTWARD ON A LIMB

I'm writing this in mid-October and can't believe what a great fall gardening season we're having. The vegetable garden just won't quit – the kale and little leaf basil are on overdrive. The summer annual pots are still looking so pretty, I've been procrastinating pulling them apart. And it's definitely time to turn my attention to my tropicals and trees in pots making sure their winter repositories are ready. I only wish puttering around in the garage and basement was as much fun as poking about in the last of the fall sunshine in the garden.

Bamboo - Is it for You?

I was at Sheridan Nurseries Head Office a couple of weeks ago and was surprised to see the number of bamboo plants they had growing in their trial gardens. With such beautiful forms and leaf colour, they're hoping that there is a bamboo or two in your future.

Before you make that purchase there's one important question to ask: Do I need a clumper or a runner?

Say you've got a 50 cm round space in a semi-shaded spot where nothing else has grown. This is a perfect spot for a clumper. Chose a bamboo with the botanical name of *Bambusa*, *Dendrocalamus*, or *Fargesia*. These are all clumpers and spread outward very slowly every year.

A great little Bamboo that I've grown now for three years is *Fargesia* 'Red Panda'. The culms (the bamboo stems) are red. It's about 75 cm high and, to my delight and surprise, is evergreen.

There is also *Fargesia* 'Green Panda' which is equally attractive.



Fargesia 'Red Panda'



Pleioblastus 'Green Carpet'

This brings us to the second category – the runners. These invasive plants have given Bamboo a bad name. Be very careful about planting any Bamboo named *Arundia*, *Phyllostachys*, *Pleioblastus* or *Pseudosasa*. In some states, *Phyllostachys* have formed groves destroying local habitats. No one knows what running bamboo will do in our climate. Many varieties are from Asia and grow in cold climates, so it's best to assume the worst about these gorgeous plants and treat them with respect.

Here are two varieties from the trial garden: *Pleioblastus* 'Green Carpet', which is being offered as an alternative to grass in the U.S. The one I saw was about 75 cm high and was just beautiful. It was as substantial as a small shrub and had a great tropical form. I can't imagine trying to get my push mower through it.

The second was *Pleioblastus* 'Little Zebra' which is a shade-loving variety. In a contained area, it would give you a nice bright patch in a dark corner.

Finding the right Bamboo for the right situation is key to enjoying this beautiful plant. Just be sure to do your homework so you're not surprised when that little puppy turns into a Great Dane rather than a Chihuahua.



Pleioblastus 'Little Zebra'

See you at the next meeting.

Barbara Phillips-Conroy

www.barbarasgardenchronicles.blogspot.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Amaryllis Bulb Sale

Monday 14 November

We will have a limited number of interesting Amaryllis bulbs available for sale at our November meeting from Van Noort Bulbs.

The cost of the bulbs will be \$8 to \$13. Support your society and buy some beautiful bulbs for the holidays.

RBG Evergreen Design Workshops

Table Design:

Tuesday 6 December, 1pm or 7pm

Door Design:

Wednesday 7 December, 1pm or 7pm

Hosted by the Auxiliary and demonstrated by experienced designers at RBG Centre. Cost: \$30 per workshop, which includes the container, mechanics, and fresh greens. Please bring a garbage bag, wire cutters, scissors and secateurs. Visit www.rbg.ca for information or call 905-527-5577 to register.

*"November comes
And November goes,
With the last red berries
And the first white snows.*

*With night coming early,
And dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket
And frost by the gate.*

*The fires burn
And the kettles sing,
And earth sinks to rest
Until next spring."*

- Elizabeth Coatsworth



Notices

New members:

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

- Sheila Abedin
- Carola Bergemann
- Erica Howard
- Heather Reccord

Please make them feel at home.

Upcoming meetings:

12 December

AGM

TBA