

# January 2013

Where Gardeners come to flourish



# Newsletter



## NEXT MEETING:

Monday, January 14th, 7:30 p.m.,

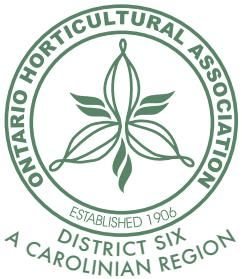
doors open at 6:30

Location: Knox Presbyterian,  
MacMillan Hall  
89 Dunn Street

Speaker: Michel Gauthier  
Topic: Flora Niagara 2017

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## President's Message

A new year begins, filled with our hopes and wishes for a wonderful year in and about the garden. Though our gardens are under a deep blanket of fresh snow, resting until spring, there is no rest for the gardener. It is time to plan for the coming year. The seed catalogues are arriving, new introductions are presented - so many must-haves for the garden. I'm waiting for the latest in strawberries to finally be released - white fruit with bright red leaves - something I learned about at the 2012 OHA convention - a good reason for attending this convention.

But before looking ahead, some unfinished business from the past year needs to be addressed. In this newsletter you will find a copy of the budget document that we were unable to view at the AGM. The past year's books are closed, and the audit will be complete by the time you are reading this. We will have a discussion of the budget and enter it into the official record at the January meeting. If you are unable to attend and have any concerns/questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

On to the future... What would you like to see in the coming year with our society? Who would pique your interest in the form of guest speakers? Would you prefer more demonstrations versus informational sessions? Do you have suggestions for a gardening project we could take on? Are you curious enough to try entering the monthly shows for the first time, maybe trying your hand at a design entry? Would you like to see an organized field trip to an interesting display garden/nursery? This is your society and it is up to you to decide how to make this a rewarding experience.

In the newsletter this month, Marie Decker discusses clerking at the flower shows in hopes that you might volunteer to help. Barbara has brought back her *Out on a Limb* column and talks about new plants. I'm looking forward to our speaker Michel Gauthier and his presentation on Flora Niagara - a huge project that will transform the Niagara region. And, on a housekeeping note - don't forget to keep your salmon/tuna cans for Family Day Fun with Flowers in February.

How well are your amaryllis doing? I have seen a few that developed five to six blossoms per stem and are very showy. Then there are the two that Sonja and I are growing...one is showing about 4 inches of shoot, the other is rocketing up oh, maybe one inch of shoot. We're looking forward to enjoying a fine display hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

Before our Editor cuts me off due to my rambling, I would like to take this moment to thank all our members for their time and efforts invested in this society. Let's make this a fun year!

Stuart Gough

## Events & Notices

### January 14th, 2013 7:30 p.m.

Michel Gauthier, Director of Flora Niagara 2017 will tell us about this upcoming international horticultural exhibition that will "bring the world of horticulture to a spectacular location within walking distance of the famed Niagara Falls and various locations throughout the Niagara Peninsula". Showcasing gardens, floral displays, industry trends and innovations, demonstrations and competitions, it is expected to attract more than 2.5 million visitors and 40 participating countries over its 150 days of operation - helping celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial. Come learn about this exhibition and the benefits for Halton and the Royal Botanical Gardens.

*For a complete listing of upcoming events please visit our website at [www.oakvillehort.org](http://www.oakvillehort.org).*



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## Proposed Budget for 2013

### Revenue

Account Number	Description	Year End Balance	2012 Budget	2013 Budget
4020	BULBS, PLANTS, AND SEEDS	327	1,000	250
4022	DRAW TABLE	859	500	500
4024	MAY PLANT SALE	6,694	5,000	5,000
4026	MEMBERSHIP	2,687	2,500	2,500
4027	INTEREST	856	100	700
4028	DONATIONS	20	-	-
4030	GARDEN TOUR	1,630	1,000	1,000
4031	ONTARIO GRANT	1,500	1,500	1,500
4032	MISCELLANEOUS	939	-	600
4035	COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	-	-	-
4040	WORKSHOPS	-	-	-
4045	JUNIOR PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS	84	300	50
4050	NON FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES	6	-	-
4060	SPECIAL EVENTS	-	-	-
Total Revenue:		15,602	11,900	12,100

### Expenses

Account Number	Description	Year End Balance	2012 Budget	2013 Budget
5026	PUBLICITY	- 109	- 400	- 300
5032	SOCIAL CONVENOR	- 239	- 400	- 400
5039	BULBS, PLANTS, AND SEEDS	- 232	- 1,000	- 500
5043	LIBRARY	- 6	-	-
5050	PUBLIC PLANTING	- 95	- 6,500	- 1,000
5054	COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	- 24	- 1,250	- 500
5060	MEMBERSHIPS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	- 1,092	- 1,250	- 1,250
5070	EXECUTIVE	- 710	- 1,500	- 800
5078	DRAW TABLE CONVENOR	- 364	- 500	- 400
5084	ANNUAL SHOW CONVENOR	-	-	-
5092	MONTHLY SHOWS	- 2,104	- 1,830	- 1,600
5097	GARDEN TOUR CONVENOR	- 23	- 1,000	- 500
5114	NEWSLETTER	- 1,103	- 2,500	- 1,600
5142	MONTHLY PROGRAMS	- 3,003	- 3,450	- 2,800
5143	PHOTOGRAPHY	-	-	-
5145	JUNIOR PROGRAM	- 776	- 1,200	- 1,000
5152	MAY PLANT SALE	- 2,106	- 2,600	- 2,500
5160	EQUIPMENT/IMPROVEMENTS	- -	- 300	- 300
5170	SPECIAL EVENTS	-	-	-
5175	MISCELLANEOUS	- 1,069	- -	- 600
5180	CONTINGENCY	-	-	-
Total Expenses:		- 13,055	- 25,680	- 16,050

### Net Income

2,548      (13,780)      (3,950)

# OUR WINNERS



Wye Trophy Winner Mary Cameron



Rob Welsh's photo of his award winning Hoya



Bell Trophy Winner Rob Welsh

## Congratulations to our 2012 Horticulture Winners

Last month, we spent some time with our Decorative winners - this month, it's time for the Horticulture winners.

Mary Cameron won both the Stratton Trophy for highest points in Horticulture and the Wye Trophy recognizing her abilities in both Design and Horticulture. While Mary has won in both horticulture and design, she told me that she finds horticulture easier. I wondered whether her garden design has been influenced by competing in shows. It hasn't. While she may look ahead to see what's in the show schedule, she simply grows what she likes. As far as getting ideas for her design entries, she credits her fellow competitors and also finds interesting concepts in books, where she'll modify them to fit the topic. Like a lot of our competitors, she uses what she's got on hand from her large garden. She said, "I resent buying if it's at all possible to use something from here." Mary also credits her husband for his help on show days, "He makes the meals, etc. So anytime I win, I always remember that he deserves the win as much as I do. I'm sure I'd forget to eat or drink if he wasn't there."

Finding time for meals on Mondays seems to be a common thread for these competitors. Rob Welsh, who had the highest number of points of all the male competitors last year, admits that he should really start his work on Sunday afternoon. He often misses dinner on Monday night working on his show entry. He too hasn't made any changes to his garden for the competitions, but did put in a scree garden (pictured below) after listening to Keith Squires in 2008.

I was delighted to hear that Rob enjoys growing plants from seed and starts so many that he's concerned about where he's going to plant them. "In 2012, I grew about 10 different species of *Aquilegia* to add to the three I already had (*A. 'Blue Barlow'*, *A. 'Tower Light Blue'*, *A. vulgaris*). Most of them (along with some other plants I grew) will be in the 2013 plant sale." One more reason to encourage friends and family to come shopping at this year's sale.



Rob Welsh

## Learn More About Flower Shows Through Clerking

A sign-up sheet for clerking will be passed around at the January meeting for the 2013 flower shows. This is your chance to join in on the fun and become a volunteer show clerk. If you've ever been tempted to compete in the monthly shows, this is a great opportunity to learn about entering and winning from the expert judges.

If this is your first time clerking, you will be paired with an experienced clerk. The experienced clerk and the show conveners will teach you the system so you will be able to carry out any clerking tasks at subsequent shows when you are ready.

### Basic Duties

The basic duties of clerks are to assist the judges in every way possible, and to know the location of the classes to be judged. As show convener, I'll help you with this. In a small flower show such as ours, the clerks put the stickers on the entry cards; complete the tally sheets; and remind the judge to award the Judge's Choice cards.

Clerks try not to distract the judges, but assist as the opportunity arises. Though they may not agree, the clerk will never challenge the judges decision. Nor, will they break their mutual trust by repeating the judge's comments. Clerks should **never volunteer information**.

### Specific Duties

- Come on time at 7:00 p.m. for briefing, as judging starts at 7:30. Ask for clarification of anything you are unsure of.
- Bring a pencil with an eraser and the show schedule from the yearbook.

#### Prior to the show you'll help me:

- Find clipboards with tally sheets and the stickers.
- If the show convener has decided to move or divide classes you may be asked to assist.

#### During the judging process:

- As a new clerk, you will place stickers and open cards. First place cards can be opened only after the judge has determined the Judge's Choice and Best-in-Show awards. An experienced clerk will work with you, complete the tally sheet and explain to you how it works.

#### At the end of judging:

- Return the completed clipboards with tally sheets and judge's notes to the show convener.
- If able, assist in show clean-up.

All in all, it's a great way to meet people and find out about the world of horticultural and decorative competition. I hope to be working with you soon.

Marie Decker

## LIFE MEMBER AWARD



Marie Decker received the Life Member Award at our AGM. Not only has she been a member of the society for 15 years, she has been the president of this society not once, but twice.

Marie has served on the executive and has run the very successful monthly shows. Additionally, she has been kind enough each year to turn her driveway and side yard into a nursery dedicated to our plant sale.

Marie also volunteers with OHA District 6, where she serves as secretary.

Marie, not willing to rest on her laurels, has volunteered to run the Flower Show at the OHA 2015 Convention when our district hosts this annual event.

Congratulations and thank you Marie for everything you've done for us.

Stuart Gough



Bob Clarke Photo

## Out on a Limb - Winners from the Trial Gardens

This is one of best unofficial seasons of the year - seed catalogue season. I always like to order a good selection of new, unusual plants, plus those old tried and true ones I can count on. This summer I visited Landscape Ontario, University of Guelph and Stokes Seeds trial gardens. This month I'll show you some of my favourites from Landscape Ontario that were growing beautifully over our hot dry summer. Should last summer repeat itself, you can't go wrong with these selections.



### Landscape Ontario Trial Garden

Once a year, Landscape Ontario invites head gardeners from municipalities across Ontario to visit the trial gardens to help them make their display garden selections for the following year. Also invited are Master Gardeners and garden writers so they can see what's new and promising.

You can see that Landscape Ontario's Milton trial garden is comprised of a series of beds right beside the 401. It really shows how flowers can make any area look prettier. There's always some difficulty during a trial. Last year their irrigation system was broken for part of the summer, so I was really impressed with the plants that had done well. If they can shine under those tough conditions, there's no reason why they can't do stupendously well in our gardens this coming summer. Here are five I really liked:

# Five Good Plants from Landscape Ontario's Trial Gardens & A Tricky Winner



## Perennial *Phlox subulata* 'Purple Kiss'

(35cm x 60cm)

In a year where everything that could have mildew, did, it was a surprise to find this lovely miniature summer phlox with beautifully clean leaves. Perfect for small gardens, or at the front of a large border, it really makes a good show for full sun. Each blossom has a white eye. Remove the spent blossoms to encourage more colour later in the season. Available as a plant from Heritage Perennials.



## Annual *Petunia* 'Supertunia Pink Charm' (Proven Winners)

(25cm x 125cm)

There were a lot of petunias to look at the trials. Because they're the workhorse of so many municipal gardens, there's lots of space devoted to them so you could see which varieties were best. This soft pink petunia stood out. It had an excellent display of blossoms and was as pretty in the ground as it was in a container. Deadheading is not necessary. Available as a plant.



## Annual *Scaevola* 'Bombay White'

(18cm x 35cm)

Much tighter and less leggy than those lovely purple fan flowers that were so popular years ago. This has a smaller form and is extremely drought and heat tolerant - unlike the older varieties that would punish you if you didn't get to them with the watering can the moment they wanted a drink. It does well in either gardens or pots and does not need to be deadheaded. Available as a plant.



## Annual *Petunia* 'Shockwave Rose Improved'

(25cm x 100cm)

Certainly not as wide as the projected 100cm when I saw them, but the colour was great. I also appreciated the lovely rounded form. Unlike a lot of the Wave series that seem to flower-bald in the centre, these plants showed good colour top to bottom. I wouldn't be surprised if we'll be seeing these growing in many municipal gardens around the province. Pan American seed. Available as a plant.



## Annual *Mecardonia* 'GoldDust' (Proven Winners) paired with *Impatiens* 'Sonic Orange'

(5cm x 35cm) & (30 x 30cm)

Such an adorable plant and so wonderfully named. Pictured here in the shade section of the Landscape Ontario trial garden (although they do well in the sun too) with gorgeous orange New Guinea impatiens. The tiny yellow flowers appear from May to October and are extremely heat tolerant (unlike impatiens). Finding a good yellow for shade can be difficult - but this little treasure fits the bill. Available as plants.

## Tricky Little Winner *Echinacea* 'Cheyenne Spirit'

What you see, is not necessarily what you get when it comes to this 2013 All America Selection winner. I was so excited to see the most marvelous colour of red/coral/flame *Echinacea* I'd ever seen and wanted to bestow it with my purple flag of brilliance - you can see someone had already marked it with their flag.



Upon further investigation, I realized that it was just one of the colours of 'Cheyenne Spirit' contained in a package of seed.

Here's the rest of the family:



If you want that glorious coloured plant - remember to grow as many as you can from your seed package to increase your chances of getting the one you really want. Fortunately this perennial blooms the first year from seed, so you won't have to wait long to decide who stays and who goes.

# MASTER GARDENER CORNER

Do you have a gardening question?

Send them to Subject Line  
"Help Me Master Gardener"  
[ohs.editor@oakvillehort.org](mailto:ohs.editor@oakvillehort.org)

I went green this Christmas and bought a living tree. How do I care for it now?

I've had several friends try to keep their new potted evergreen alive after Christmas. Sadly, very few have been all that successful. Most of the trees that have been containerized are *Abies* - Balsam fir that are suited to cold climates. They have a good conical shape and are perfect for hanging ornaments. Unfortunately, they are poorly adapted to our wonderful warm dry living room climates.

They resent having their dormancy broken - and let you know in the most dramatic way that they much prefer living outside where it's cold and snowy. Even a quick visit to the family room of about a week is enough for an impressive needle drop.

Unless you have kept your new tree in an unheated gazebo, I'm sorry to tell you it is unlikely to survive this adoption process. That being said, let's say you get lucky and you've watered the tree well while it's been visiting, and most of the branches have

needles. What you need to do, is get your tree outside and hope that the weather stays fairly moderate, rather than becoming horribly cold. Also, should we go through a warmer spell make sure it gets watered. The moment it gets warm, your tree will begin to drink and if doesn't get water, it will die quickly.

Should you be very lucky and the tree makes it through the winter, it should be transplanted to either a larger pot - hopefully one that will be left outside. Remember *Abies* are giants of the forest, so while cute now, remember it will eventually need a lot of room if you plant it in your garden.

My suggestion for next year is to buy a cut tree - support the tree farmers - and, if you want something that is conical, why not try a small rosemary bush? They're terrific in stuffing and much happier being ferried in and out of the house every year.



NEW MEMBERS	LIBRARY	SET-UP 9:00AM	REFRESHMENTS
Please welcome new members Wade Pitman Brian Burton	Veronica Heiderich	Christel Mahncke Cindy Popp Elizabeth Thompson	Cindy Popp Sheelagh Rowland-Brown Elizabeth Thompson