



# Newsletter



February 18th - Family Day 'Fun With Flowers' at Iroquois Ridge Community Centre  
(L-R) Marie Decker, Margaret Larson, Merleen Hall, Michelle Durrante, Valerie Westwood, Linda Tock, Cathy Ryan, Christine Lee, Celeste Duarte



**NEXT MEETING:**

Monday, March 11th, 7:30 p.m.,  
doors open at 6:30

Location: Knox Presbyterian,  
MacMillan Hall  
89 Dunn Street

Speaker: Rob Howard, Hamilton Spectator  
Topic: The Buffalo You Don't Know

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## President's Message

Needless to say, but I am becoming discouraged by how slowly spring is coming — it is snowing, again! But there are signs that spring is around the corner.

We have just enjoyed Family Day and our 'Fun With Flowers' event. Linda Tock and crew outdid themselves and arranged massive amounts of flowers for the families to create their own floral arrangements. It is really wonderful to walk into a room with so much floral creativity going on. None of this could have been possible without the donations of flowers and greenery from our supporting floral retailers.

The show season has begun, presenting us with what is new in terms of design and plant materials. I hope that you take advantage of these events. You can find a listing of the flower shows in our area on our web site.

This is also the time of year that the Seedy Saturday events kick into high gear. If you are unfamiliar with Seedy Saturday, in simplest terms these are get-togethers for folks that either have seeds for sale; folks that want to buy seeds; or folks that want to trade seeds. Oh, the events don't always take place on a Saturday. A typical event will feature a garden seed exchange, heritage and organic seeds for sale, gardening advice and workshops. These events are an ongoing project of Seeds of Diversity, a Canadian charitable organization dedicated to the conservation, documentation and use of public domain, non-hybrid plants of Canadian significance. With 1400 members from coast to coast they grow, propagate and distribute over 2900 varieties of vegetables, fruit, grains, flowers and herbs. One of their projects is to get Canadian gardeners to grow and document Canadian tomatoes. Over the years there have been over 100 varieties of tomatoes bred for the Canadian garden, but a Canadian tomato is getting harder to find. Hopefully this project will get these varieties back into our sandwiches, or should I say into our gardens. You can find out more about Seeds of Diversity and the Seedy events by pointing your browser to: [www.seeds.ca](http://www.seeds.ca).

On another note, I want to thank Treasurer Fred Teng for his work on the Pros and Cons of our society becoming a registered charity, printed in last month's newsletter. Fred has taken a good long look at this and has discovered that it would be positive for our society. Bill Kirkpatrick raised some questions and concerns - some of which you may share. Please take some time to review Bill and Fred's question and answers on page three. This is a big step for our society and it does need a full discussion. I need to hear how you'd like to proceed before we put it to a vote.

With luck the maple sap will be running soon, a sure sign winter is almost over. Look forward to seeing you in the garden...

Stuart Gough

## Events & Notices

### Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale

March 2-3, 2013 RBG [www.osrbg.ca](http://www.osrbg.ca)

### Canada Blooms "The Magic of Spring"

March 15-24, 2013 Direct Energy Centre

[www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

### Halton Eco Festival

April 6, 2013 Glen Abbey Community Centre

### London Spring Home and Garden Show

April 19-21, 2013 Western Fair District, London

### OHA District 6 Spring Workshop and Flower Show

April 20, 2013 Haldimand Horticultural Society Hosting

### Toronto Island Spring 2013 Garden Tour

May 25-26 Noon to 5 p.m. <http://www.torontoisland.org>

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



A Buffalo Garden Walk neighbourhood  
Learn more from Rob Howard at our next meeting

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
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## Charitable Status – Q&A Should the OHS Become a Registered Charity?

Bill Kirkpatrick studied the proposal of the OHS becoming a registered charity and had a number of questions. Subsequently Treasurer Fred Teng and Bill have spoken and I thought it might be helpful if their points of discussion were printed here – after all you may have the same questions:

**Bill:** [Would this affect the annual grant our society receives from the Province through OMAFRA \(Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs\)? Over the past few years we have received \\$1,500 annually.](#)

**Fred:** There would be no impact to our eligibility with the OMAFRA grant. We are not the first horticultural society in Ontario to become registered. Here are some examples of existing registered charities and the year they become a registered charity: Ancaster (1990), Barrie (1967), Brampton (1996), Dunnville (2001), Etobicoke (1997), Guelph (1967), Kitchener (1988), Beamsville (1995), Niagara-on-the-Lake (1972), Stratford (1975), and Waterloo (1984).

**Bill:** [Fund raising through the issuing of tax receipts – from whom could we expect to receive donations? What gifts could we receive from other charities? There seems to be a fair number of charities in the community, what makes us more attractive than the other existing groups? Our credibility in the community is well established, how would gaining charity status increase our credibility?](#)

**Fred:** Lindsay & District Horticultural Society went from virtually no donations, to between 10-20% of their revenue from donations. The ability to issue tax receipts gives our society an extra option on raising funds, and based on Lindsay's experience, it is significant. Personally, I rarely donate money to organizations that do not provide a tax receipt; I get a tax break and have more confidence that the money is being collected and spent properly. This could also open the door for receiving donations from estates. It also allows us to issue tax receipts for gift-in-kind such as soil, fertilizer, plants for programs like the Junior Gardeners. As you are likely aware, the costs to run the society are increasing each year, whereas our revenues are flat and in some cases decreasing. This is not sustainable. We need new sources of income. The membership revenues are almost completely used up covering just the monthly flower shows and we have speakers, hall rentals, cleaners, the newsletter, and various other expenses to pay for. We have been lucky in the past that the plant sale and garden tour have been able to keep our books in the black, but the success of these events is highly variable based on weather, timing, volunteers, and good luck. We need new long-term sources of funding.

**Bill:** [What is the total projected cash benefit, based on rebating the HST? Would this be on everything we purchase, would it include operating expenses?](#)

**Fred:** Based on last year's spending we could have recovered \$700-\$800 on sales taxes. That's almost one third of our membership revenue! Virtually everything that we purchase for the society that has sales tax we can receive a partial refund such as printing costs, envelopes and stamps, refreshments, draw table prizes, and plant material.

**Bill:** [What extra information is required to be collected, recorded and filed? How much extra work will this be for our Treasurer and our Auditors? As volunteers fill both positions perhaps their opinions should be sought. Or would we be required to employ a professional accountant to provide an acceptable audit for the CRA and at what cost? It appears that the fines and penalties are quite onerous, is this reasonable pressure to put on our volunteer Treasurer and Executive?](#)

**Fred:** Registered charities must complete an annual information form. Almost all of the form can be completed with the same information that is provided for our OMAFRA grant. Because we need to file for OMAFRA three months before the annual information form is due, and the information is essentially the same, we should have no trouble filing on time. According to the Treasurer of the Lindsay horticultural society, it does not take them more than an hour per year to complete. While the OMAFRA grant requires 2 auditors to review the financial statements and complete an Audit Certificate each year, a registered charity does not require an audit. If the CRA would like to audit us, they will send their own auditors to look at our books at no cost to our society. OMAFRA actually has more requirements than the registered charity information form mainly due to the fact that the government is providing us funds and needs to account for their spending.

**Bill:** [What if at some later date the society decides to abandon this idea, can we reverse our status with our funds intact? With the coming rule changes to registered charities, how might these affect our society – would we still be considered a “small supplier”?](#)

**Fred:** If we decide to revert back to a non-profit organization from a charity we will need to give all of our funds to another charity. This is a safeguard that the CRA has in place so that people are not setting up charities, raising funds, and then closing them down and keeping the money. A registered charity provides us more privileges than a non-profit organization, so there isn't really an incentive to go backward. The CRA is planning on issuing more guidance around issuing tax receipts. They have found a number of charities improperly issuing receipts despite significant guidance available online. In the coming months, the CRA will make issuing receipts more clear including more example scenarios. Yes, we are still considered a small supplier as our revenue is unlikely to increase to the levels necessary to collect GST/HST in any of our lifetimes.

**Bill:** [Are there any other benefits to becoming a registered charity?](#)

**Fred:** I believe I covered everything in the last newsletter. Hope this clarifies things and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Bill Kirkpatrick & Fred Teng

## Family Day 'Fun With Flowers' — A View From the Floor

I was quite keen to see this event in action, I'd heard so much about it. Linda Tock suggested I get there around 1:00 p.m. to capture the room and the volunteers — little did I know, I'd have to wade through a line-up that went down the hall and around the corner — hopefuls who were there 30 minutes in advance of the first of three scheduled events.



As I entered the door, I saw just the last bits of preparation and was amazed at how many beautiful flowers the volunteers had collected, prepared and organized for the children. The decision was

taken to start early and the first 30 participants were ushered in and quickly aligned themselves with an oasis-filled tuna tin. Linda provided a few flower arranging basics and the families got to work. 20 minutes of quiet industry produced some of the loveliest arrangements — who knew a tuna tin could be so pretty?

After a quick photo-op with their arrangements, it was time to switch places with the next round of participants. Back we swam through the line-up to head home.



Kudos to our volunteers and thank you to our sponsors who made this afternoon possible.



Many thanks to our generous sponsors:

Ada's Flowers  
another bloomin' flower shop

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The Flower Place  
upper oakville

forest of flowers  
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WHOLE  
FOODS®  
MARKET

Longo's

Sobeys



Stuart Gough



## THANK YOU

The Oakville Horticultural Society celebrated Family Day again this year, by hosting 'Fun With Flowers' at Iroquois Ridge Community Centre. Many families participated — over 100 people — that's a lot of fish tins! Thank you Wayne Curtis and others who provided the tins and to Celia Roberts for getting a great price on the oasis.

Everyone was delighted by the abundance of beautiful flowers so generously donated by local businesses. The rich shades and deep tones of the flowers, helped us all think ahead to the spring season. It was truly amazing to see how many original designs evolved and how many flowers were creatively placed in such small containers. I guess this feat takes three years experience! We had lots of repeat customers and smiles all around.

A big thank you to the volunteers of the OHS: Marie Decker, Elizabeth & John Thompson, Christine Lee, Margaret Larson, Merleen Hall, Michelle Durante, Margaret Jeffery, Gail Trenholm, Cathy Ryan, Celeste Duarte, Valerie Westwood, and my husband John. And a special thank you to the families of fathers, mothers, grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, cousins and most of all — the children, for making this delightful event possible.

Linda Tock

## You Are Connoisseurs of Floral Design

As so many of you enjoy the floral design displays at our many flower shows, we thought it would add interest if you knew more about how the designers see floral design and why they do what they do.

Based on *The Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Floral Design* and the guidelines from the *World Association of Floral Designers*, design is defined as "a combination of fresh and/or dried plant materials and/or inorganic objects arranged to produce an artistic unit. The designer uses the elements of design in the accepted principles of art to interpret a theme and create a design of harmony and distinction."

At the Oakville Horticultural Society, we have moved far beyond simple decorative pieces to floral art.

Art takes its inspiration from nature and floral design is no exception. Each season brings its own special beauty: spring brings the soft coloured flowers of bulbs — often using the bare bulb as part of a design; summer features the full blown and intense colours and forms of summer bloom; fall designs glory in the abundance of fall vegetables, lovely fall colours and shapes of foliage and interesting seed heads; and finally the sculptural effects created by winter effect on plant materials — such as the lacy effect on *Papaver orientale* (Oriental Poppy) seed heads or the outstanding beauty of a *Physalis alkekengi* (Chinese Lantern) seedpod that weathers to lace revealing the bright orange marble-sized seed inside.

We also use wood weathered by Mother Nature or the use of inorganic objects to emphasize a theme.

As you see the diverse interpretations of theme and use of widely differing plant material, both fresh and dried, we hope you will appreciate the artistic endeavors of our designers. And hope you will be tempted to try your own hand at floral design. We would love to have many more of you entering the design portion of the show.

Marie Decker and the Flower Show Committee



Marie Decker with her winning entries for miniature design — 'Fortune Cookie' and a dish garden at OHA 21st annual competition.

## Design & Horticultural Schedule

It's been three months since the last competition, I'm looking forward to seeing what our well-rested exhibitors will have in store for us.



### Design Division

1. Class of Distinction
2. Chairman's Trophy, Open Class
3. General, Open Class
4. Novice
5. Miniature, Open Class

### Changing Climate

- Electric Storm - A design
- Stormy Night - A design on pedestal: 42" tall with 12" square top, white in colour
- Tidal Wave - A design with visible use of water
- Winter Thaw - A design
- Tornado - A design in a niche 5"x4.5"x3"

### Horticulture Division

6. Bonsai
7. Branch, forced under 24"
8. Bulbs, forced, minimum 5 bulbs - 1 pot
9. Cactus or succulent
10. Gesneriad, including *Saintpaulia* (African Violet) single crown
11. House plant grown for flowers or fruit
12. House plant grown for foliage
13. A craft item inspired by gardening, made by the exhibitor, not previously shown.
14. Educational exhibit
15. Any other cultivar (AOC)

Anne Clark Stewart's winning entry 'Struck by Lightning' at OHA 21st annual competition

## Photography Competition - Two for One Revealed



As you may be aware, we have a photography competition this month too. In the schedule of photographic classes, there was a tricky one:

**Class #7 "Two for One"** - two related photographs in one 5"x7" matting, put together by computer. Not in colour; can use black, white or sepia.

Stuart was kind enough to give us an example at the last meeting to help explain what the judges will be looking for. I've reproduced it here for those who were unable to make it. His combination is a photo of Linda Tock hard at work at the children's garden and a photograph of their plants — to give you "Two for One".

| NEW MEMBERS                                  | LIBRARY            | CLERKING                           | SET-UP 9:00AM                                    | REFRESHMENTS   |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Please welcome new member<br>Robert D. Bates | Veronica Heiderich | Mary Cameron<br>Veronica Heiderich | Ted Bateman<br>Paula Korczak<br>Christel Mahncke | Karen Lindsay-Bennett<br>Joan Paris<br>Cathy Ryan<br>Sonja Tessari |



## Out on a Limb

I've been trying to outrun Kevin to the mailbox — not fast enough last week when he held up a puffy parcel and said, "What's this?". A little shake and then, "Are these more seeds?" Not only more seeds, but my shipment from Renee's Garden containing the four seed packages for the 'True and Official Italian Arugula Contest': 1. Italian Arugula, 2. True Italian Arugula, 3. Rustic Arugula and 4. Heirloom Arugula Rustic Style. My good Italian-Canadian friend, Frank and his mother and a number of others, who no doubt will all have their own opinions, will decide once and for all — which is the 'True and Official Italian Arugula'. Basically, whichever one we like best will be the winner, drinks and dinner to follow.

## Planting For Pollinators

I remember working for Weall and Cullen years ago when to my horror, a client insisted on finding something to spray on her fruit tree to kill the bees. I can still hear the collective buzz of relief when the pesticide ban was put into law. However, it's not enough that we've removed the weapons from the hands of the average gardener, it is important that we design our gardens to encourage wee creatures to thrive. Here are a few fast facts I found at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, <http://www.xerces.org> and [www.ezfromseed.org](http://www.ezfromseed.org).



### Native plants encourage native bees.

I live for the next new plant — but this year, I'm looking for more natives I can grow from seed. I'm hoping to have success with my *Vernonia* (Ironweed), a beautiful tall late flowering purple beauty. And if I'm successful — yet another, I'll be able to share at next year's plant sale.

### Flowers clustered in clumps of at least 1.25 meters are more attractive to pollinators than scattered individual flowers.

Easy enough to do if you have a large garden, but if you're a pot-scaper, consider putting your pots together - look at the action on these pots.



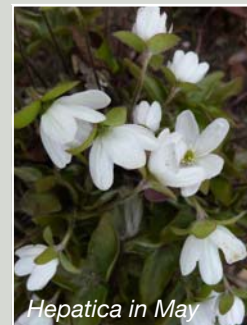
### Flowers of different shapes will attract different pollinators.

Remember, pollinators come in all different shapes and sizes, so plant a variety.



### A succession of flowering plants that lasts from spring through fall will support a range of bee species.

Pull out your photos of last year's garden to see when you had those flower blanks - send me an Email and I'll have our Master Gardeners help you find a plant to nourish those pollinators.



Barbara Phillips-Conroy