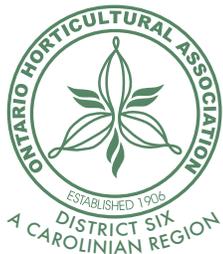




Newsletter



Elizabeth Schleicher & Mary Cameron before the March Horticulture, Design & Photography Competition



NEXT MEETING:

Monday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.,
doors open at 6:30
Location: Knox Presbyterian,
MacMillan Hall
89 Dunn Street
Speakers: Ellen Novack & Dan Cooper
Topic: Gardening from a Hammock

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President's Message

The weather forecasters are predicting a cooler spring. And it does seem that they may be right as this cold air just does not want to give up. It is now mid March and still too cold to be out in the garden. Could this be a return to the cooler temperatures of years gone by? While it may please the fruit farmers who suffered extensive damage last year when they were hit by hard frost after an early spring, I want to get out into the garden! Not only my garden, but the Anderson Bridge Parkette to see how it survived the winter.

And, in anticipation of a later spring, our plant sale has been moved from May 4th to the 11th. See page three for more details.

Our March meeting was a lively affair, with the beginnings of a good discussion on the merits of becoming a registered charity. It is good that we as a society talk this. At the March Executive Meeting a week later, it was decided to put this issue on hold for the current fiscal year, in order that a task force comprised of Executives and some OHS members explore this matter more fully.

Concerning the matter of membership fees, Treasurer Fred Teng has analyzed what it costs to run our society on a per member basis. His findings are on page five. We have 144 members. This is shy of the 200 member goal we seek each year in order to receive the maximum grant from OMAFRA, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs of \$1,500. With less than 200 members, our grant will be \$1,000. So if you have a friend or neighbour who likes to garden, why not invite them to join us.

The District 6 Spring Workshop and Flower Show. takes place in Caledonia on April 20th; the Haldimand Horticultural Society will host. I'd encourage you to attend, not only will there be interesting speakers and demonstrations, but also a flower show and horticulture and design classes.

Hopefully I'll see you and maybe a friend at our next meeting to hear authors Ellen Novack and Dan Cooper, 'Gardening from a Hammock', talking about the ultimate low maintenance garden.

Stuart Gough

Events & Notices

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

RBG Annual Spring Plant Sale

May 1st Members only, May 2, 4 & 5

Plant list www.rbg.ca

Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society

Annual Sale May 5 TBG www.onrockgarden.com/plantsale

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.

Notice:

The European Fire Ant has been spotted in areas of the Don River basin. They arrived in infested plant containers from Europe and have been found in Nova Scotia, British Columbia and now Ontario. While not hazardous to crops, it is a nasty pest. When its nests are disturbed - it will defend them aggressively, stinging people, pets and livestock. Unlike some ants, they don't create a hill when they make their nest in the lawn, so it's very easy to disturb them. Borax bait traps have limited success. Hopefully a safe control method is close at hand.

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Membership:	Elizabeth Thompson ohs.membership@oakvillehort.org
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The Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter is published 10 times a year from September to June. All photographs and articles are produced by the Editor unless otherwise noted. Articles and photographs should be sent to the Editor Barbara Phillips-Conroy at ohs.editor@oakvillehort.org. Deadline for submission is the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Our Annual Plant Sale - May 11, 2013*

Handy Tricks for Making Your Plants Look Fabulous



Find clump to divide

Saturday May 11th is the date of the OHS Annual Plant Sale and perennial plant material is needed. Please help by digging and dividing when you are redesigning your gardens this spring. The proceeds from this sale enable us to enjoy monthly speakers, newsletters, free tea/coffee, junior program and public plantings. If you need help digging, dividing and potting please call Elizabeth Thompson at 905-844-0220. The plants should be in a light soil mix, which is available, along with pots, at our plant depots.

With the change in date, we're looking for a new South West Depot. Responsibilities include sheltering plants dropped off by members; distributing supplies (pots, soil, labeling sticks); 2 weeks before sale, with Plant Sale Committee, help repot, identify and price plants making sure they're ready for sale.



Dig up/remove old leaves

Donations should be delivered from April 13th to May 6th to:

- North Marie & Bob Decker
1285 Gloaming Court
905-844-1837
- South East Sonja Tessari & Stu Gough
1311 Avon Crescent
905-845-9474
- South West Volunteer needed!



Divide with sharp knife

All non-invasive perennials are good sellers but some of our best sellers are: Ajuga, Artemisia, Asters, Astilbe, Bellflower, Black Eyed Susans, Coral Bells, Corydalis, Chrysanthemums, Daylilies, Delphiniums, Fall Anemone, Ferns, Hens & Chicks, Herbs, Hosta - all varieties, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Lady's Mantel, Lambs Ear, Lavender, Meadow Rue, Monkshood, Ornamental Grasses (clumping, no ribbon grass), Periwinkle, Phlox, Primula, Cornflower, Rhubarb, Sedum, Shasta Daisy, Siberian Iris, Solomon Seal, Yarrow, Yucca, Shrubs, and Small Trees.

It is easier to sell a plant if we know what colour it is, so please put that on the label. If you have any other questions, call either me or Elizabeth.

Article Sonja Tessari, Photographs Stuart Gough



Fill bottom of pot with soilless mix - spread roots



Fill pot with more mix



Water well



Label & keep in shaded location

*New Date



OHS Archive

In Memoriam

George Turner died on March 11th at the age of 88. He is survived by his wife Joyce, daughter Joyce (Jr.), Geoffrey and grandchildren Robyn, Kylie and Sara. A native of Bebington, Cheshire, England, George travelled the world twice before settling in Canada with Joyce and his two children. George and Joyce were known for their lovely, manicured garden and their huge collection of roses. Members of the Rose Society, George's last position was that of Treasurer. George, along with Joyce, were active volunteers and could always be counted on as the first to step forward to help. We extend our sympathies to Joyce and her family.

Winning Photography Entries



Mary Cameron

Up North, Down to Earth

Here are the four winning entries from last month's photography competition. To the left is the Judge's Choice. Mary took this photo while driving along the highway. The ice formations reminded her of being up north and down to earth. To the right, she found this perfect composition at Terra's on Highway 5. As she said, "This huge arrangement in the large, bright orange urn was tailor made for the March competition of Kitchen Harvest". Her third winning entry, below right, was taken on a garden tour in Dundas several years ago.



Mary Cameron

Kitchen Harvest



Wade Pitman

O Christmas Tree

Wade's winning entry would make a perfect Christmas card. This simple close-up of a decorated tree is delightful.



Mary Cameron

Our Green Inheritance

Encourage a Friend to Join Us

There were so many good questions and suggestions expressed about the direction of our society at the March meeting. Our membership now has reached 144 gardeners as of March, 2013. The membership fee and fundraisers - plant sale and garden tour – are our main sources of income but we also depend on a grant from OMAFRA – Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs. The amount given to a qualifying society depends on membership, a maximum of \$1500.00 for 200 members and \$1000.00 for membership of 50 – 199. We have some great speakers and knowledgeable members to entice gardeners to join and to learn. You are our best ambassadors to invite and welcome a like-minded fellow gardener to share new friendships, fellowship, enjoy speakers and to join a society where “gardeners come to flourish”. So bring a friend!

Elizabeth Thompson

The Real Cost of Membership for the Oakville Horticultural Society

I was asked to provide the amount that it costs per member to run our society. Based on current numbers, and without either the plant sale or tour, here are the figures:

Revenue:

Membership	\$2,500.00
Ontario Grant (Less than 200 members)	1,000.00
Interest on Assets	700.00
Total Revenue	\$4,200.00

Expenses

Refreshments	400.00
OHA, RBG, HEN Memberships	1,250.00
Executive Meeting Room Rental, Awards, P.O. Box Rental	800.00
Judges & Prizes Decorative & Horticulture Competitions	1,600.00
Newsletter	1,600.00
Meeting Hall Rental/Cleaning/Speakers	3,000.00
Community programs	500.00
Public Planting	1,000.00
Junior Program	1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$11,150.00

Shortfall **\$6,950.00**

The cost per member is \$77.43. Last year we raised an additional \$6,000 in the plant sale and garden tour - which was still not enough to cover expenses. After this year's plant sale and tour, we will be looking at how much we will need to charge members in order to sustain our society. Until then, I hope you'll be able to invite a gardening friend to join; donate as many plants as you can to the sale; and if you know of a beautiful garden that would be perfect for our tour, give Christine Lee a call to follow-up.

Fred Teng

Winning Horticulture & Decorative Entries March:



Rob Welsh

I was impressed with the alien looking plant that took Judges Choice Horticulture. I had never seen an *Opuntia subulata* before. I asked Rob Welsh if he could tell me a little bit more. Apparently this winning entry started as one of six cacti that he mail ordered from [Dominion Seed House](#) in the fall of 2006. He said, "The cacti were in labelled 1½" pots, in an egg-carton like clam shell. The only problem was that there wasn't enough packing within the clam shell, and all the cacti had been bounced from their pots. So the first order of business was to match each cactus to its pot, it was a good way to learn about them. The opuntia has gone from a 1½" pot, to a 2½" (Fall 2009 left), to a 4", to a 6", to the current 8" pot; one source puts the mature height at 4m (12ft) so I've got to get some bigger pots. The cacti are kept in (more or less) south facing windows, and some of them go outside in summer. I fertilize from May to October." Rob waters by standing the pots in water of a couple inches for 20 minutes once a week - a practice he's going to reduce somewhat in the future.



Rob Welsh's winning *Eranthus hyemalis* is pictured above. To encourage them to spread like those at George Eastman House - take the tiny seed heads and scatter them about.



1st Place Miniature Open Class
'Tornado' Jean Latham

Design & Horticulture Schedule

Design Division

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

Trees

- Birch Bark
- Poplar
- Old, Gnarly Oak
- Weeping Willow
- Japanese Maple

- A design
- A line design
- A design
- A water-viewing design
- A design in the Oriental Manner, in a niche 5" high and 4-1/2" wide x 3" deep

Horticulture Division

6. Bouquet of spring flowers in exhibitor's container, under 10" in any direction
7. Branch, forced, under 36"
8. Bulbs, forced - minimum 5 bulbs, 1 pot
9. Chionodoxa or scilla - 6 stems
10. Crocus - 3 stems
11. House plant grown for flowers or fruit
12. House plant grown for foliage
13. House plant, trailing or climbing - there may be more than one kind of plant in the container
14. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup - 1 stem
15. Narcissus, multibloom - 1 stem
16. Narcissus, other cultivar - 1 stem
17. Perennial, plant height under 6" - 3 stems (see Hort guidelines)
18. Pot-et-Fleur - see OJES pages 75,103
19. Saintpaulia (African violet) - single crown
20. Seedlings, 1 cultivar, minimum 6 plants - 1 box or tray
21. Spring flower, any other - 1 stem
22. Tulipa (tulip) - 1 stem
23. Spring craft item inspired by the garden, made by the exhibitor, not previously shown
24. Educational exhibit
25. Any other cultivar (AOC)



Elizabeth Schleicher's 'Struck by Lightning' 2nd place OHA Annual Competition

Mayor Burton Sends Thanks for Adopting the Forsythe Street Parkette



Office of the Mayor
Town of Oakville
1225 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, Ontario L6H 0H3
Tel: 905-338-4173
Fax: 905-815-2000
mayor@oakville.ca

February 28, 2013

Margaret Jeffery
1334 Greenridge Circle
Oakville, ON L6M 2J7

Dear Members of the Oakville Horticultural Society:

On behalf of the Council of the Town of Oakville and its Parks and Open Space Department, I would like to thank you for adopting Forsythe Street Parkette.

The Adopt-a-Park/Trail program offers environmentally-minded citizens a way of making a personal contribution to keeping Oakville beautiful. By working together we ensure a cleaner, safer, and more attractive community.

Your commitment to keeping Oakville beautiful is wonderful. I hope that you will continue to participate in the program. Should you have any questions please call the Parks and Open Space Department at 905-845-6601, extension 3076.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor Rob Burton

Survey Says: What Plants Would You Recommend to a New Gardener?

With the plant sale looming large, let's take a look at our survey results, to see what plants we recommend to new gardeners:

Plants for Sun:



Annuals

Cosmos
Geranium
Marigolds
Morning Glory
Petunia
Sunflowers
Sweet William
Zinnia

Bulbs/Tubers

Allium
Dahlias
Spring bulbs
Lilium - Tiger Lily &
Oriental Lily
Liatris

Vegetables

Arugula
Herbs
Swiss Chard
Tomatoes

Woodies

Amelanchier canadensis
Euonymus
Forsythia
Rosebush
Weigela
Cornus kousa
Hydrangea 'Quick Fire'
Ilex - Holly



Perennials

#2 *Hemerocallis* - Day Lilies

#3 *Leucanthemum x superbum* -
Shasta Daisy

Clematis
Echinacea - Coneflower
Iris
Paeonia - Peony
Phlox paniculata - Summer Phlox
Rudbeckia - Black-eyed Susans
Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
Stachys byzantina - Lambs Ears
Perovskia - Russian Sage



Plants for Shade:



Annuals

Begonias
Coleus

Perennials

Aquilegia - Columbine
Astilbe
Bergenia
Brunnera 'Jack Frost'
Ferns
Heuchera

#1 *Hosta* - 50% of our
respondents top choice

Pachysandra
Polygonatum - Solomon's Seal

Bulbs/Tubers

Caladium
Lilium - Martagon
Lilies

Vegetables

Arugula
Herbs
Salad Greens

Woodies

Amelanchier canadensis
Euonymus
Cornus kousa (Light shade)
Japanese Maples



NEW MEMBERS	LIBRARY	CLERKING	SET-UP 9:00AM	REFRESHMENTS
Please welcome new members Kate & Sandra Dawson Nino Zaino	Veronica Heiderich	Joan Paris Jean Latham	Gillian Moffat Wendy Twynam	Merleen Hall Paula Korczak Beryle Lowther Lillie de Silva