



## Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter February

### February's Speaker

#### Heinke Thiessen

Heinke's interest in gardening started as a small child on her parent's dairy farm in the Eastern Townships in Quebec and has never ceased. She owned and operated *Perennial Pleasures Landscape Design*, offering design, installation and maintenance services for 20 years and taught in the Horticultural Program at Sheridan College for 14 years prior to its close in 2012. A plant-a-holic at heart, Heinke is now enjoying her own garden as well as exploring gardens around the world and her interest in floral design.



Heinke is a Horticultural and Floral Design Judge accredited by the Garden Clubs of Ontario/Royal Botanical Gardens (GCO/RBG) and is currently President of Credit Valley Horticultural Society in Mississauga.

#### Hydrangeas for Every Garden

Explore a variety of hardy hydrangea species and cultivars while learning about



*Everyone loves a rose*

*Wishing all a*

*Happy Valentine's Day*

**Next Meeting: February 8, 2016**

**February Hospitality Volunteers:** Sonja Tessaru, Florenda Tingle, Heather Reccord, Sheelagh Rowland

**February Hall Set Up Volunteers:** John Raynor, Diane Wright, Pat Hopper

#### **Mailing Address:**

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#### **General Information:**

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#### **Junior Garden:**

Linda Tock  
[juniors.ohs@oakvillehort.org](mailto:juniors.ohs@oakvillehort.org)

#### **Website:**

<http://www.oakvillehort.org>

Ooh la la ... have you seen the new introductions for 2016? Hort Couture has trademarked a new variegated tropical milkweed cultivar, *Asclepias curassavica* 'Monarch Promise' that is just gorgeous. And beauty is spreading into to the vegetable patch with a stunning black carrot, *Daucus carota* 'Black Nebula', and a colorful candy-coloured celery called *Apium graveolens* 'Peppermint Stick.' You can check out All American Select Award Winners for 2016 at <http://all-americanselect.org/> You can browse through slide shows of new plants on the National Garden Bureau website. Check out new edibles: <http://www.slideshare.net/NationalGardenBureau/2016-national-garden-bureaus-new-varieties-vegetables-edibles-55759735>

I am always a little skeptical that these new beauties won't live up to the marketing hype. Nonetheless, I will undoubtedly try a few new plants this year. Hopefully, you will too, and we can share our successes and failures come next fall. This is one of the great benefits of belonging to a group such as ours. We can share our experiences, knowledge and ... our plants.

We can also develop new friendships and contacts. Marie and I thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon sharing tea and laughter with our society secretary, Heather Reccord, and new VP, Paula Clayton, as we worked through volunteer hours for 2015. Our members donated over 6,500 hours of service to this community last year, caring for gardens, teaching children, and advancing horticulture. It is quite impressive, really. That was the last number needed before we could send off our final reports to the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). These reports, due on the first of February each year, require us to document our activities, membership numbers, expenditures and volunteer hours.

Marie and I also had a lovely afternoon with Sybel Rampen and Jenny Cairns from Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre to discuss their development of community garden plots. Preliminary plans look exciting and we are delighted to be a part of the gardening adventure. Two members have already expressed a desire to access the new site as there is a two year wait for Town of Oakville plots.

We really enjoyed touring the art gallery and gazing out across the gardens and meadows. We are looking forward to holding our April meeting in the gallery so that you too can delight in the place. If you want to visit before hand, [the Centre](#) is at 1086 Burnhamthorpe Road East, 1 km East of Trafalgar on the South side. It's open Tuesday – Sunday 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

There are so many great upcoming events. First is 'Fun with Flowers' on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Read Linda's note to learn more about it. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be a District 6 Breakfast Meeting in Glen Morris. Come and enjoy wonderful food while networking with members of other horticultural societies. At the end of the month, on the 27<sup>th</sup>, we have Seedy Saturday in the Landscape Ontario Headquarters (7856 Fifth Line South, Milton). It will be a great place to learn and pick up seeds for your garden.

Congratulations to the 2015 Award Winner's for Horticulture and Design. Our first show will be in March. If you do not have a [Showbook](#) for 2016, it is available on our website. You can download the book from our online library or check under Meetings for a month-by-month list of what to enter. Note that there is a [photography show](#) in March. Think about what you might like to enter. Please do not be shy about sharing your photos, flowers and designs. We all greatly appreciate seeing and learning from the treasures only you can share.

We look forward to seeing you on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Tell us what you are planning to grow this year.

Cheers from

*Cathy and Marie*

[president@oakvillehort.org](mailto:president@oakvillehort.org)

P.S. A hard copy of the showbook is also available from the flower show chair at any general meeting.



## MARCH 2016 PHOTOGRAPHY SCHEDULE

- Class 17**      **Patterns in Black and White**  
                    Patterns Created by Plants
- Class 18**      **Woodland Landscape**  
                    Woodlands
- Class 19**      **Your Grand River**  
                    Photo of your Local River (Must include vegetation)
- Class 20**      **Wilmot Rose**  
                    A Single Red Rose
- Class 21**      **Wellesley Hollyhocks**  
                    Hollyhocks

### Photography Notes:

Complete rules for entering photo shows are included in the 2016 Monthly Show Book.

The Photo schedule for the 2016 OHA Convention in Ancaster matches our schedule. See complete schedule below. Please consider entering your photographs in the OHA Convention photography show.

Note: OHA Photo Competition Change Prints are to be mounted rather than matted. Mount size to be 5×7 inches (outside measurement), prints are to be no larger than 4×6 inches. Photo is to be placed on the mount.



*Peruvian Onions*

### ON TODAY'S EPISODE.....

On today's episode we are exploring Peruvian sweet onions which have an attractive, light colored skin with high sugar levels and low pungency. You don't have to cook these onions to bring out the sweetness! The rich, fertile soil and sandy nature combined with Peru's desirable climate produce an ideal formula for growing the Vidalia-type granex sweet onions. Because Peru harvests their sweet onions at opposite seasons from Vidalia, Produce Suppliers can offer a consistent supply of the versatile sweet onions which share common traits such as bright yellow skin and a flat shaped body. When Vidalia takes its rest from harvest, Produce Suppliers ship Peruvian onions from late August to mid-February.

AUNT BETTY'S PERUVIAN ON-ION DIP  
1/3 cup chopped Peruvian Sweet Onions  
1/2 cup Hellman's mayonnaise  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1 teaspoon Worcestershire Sauce  
1/2 teaspoon prepared mustard  
1 teaspoon curry powder  
Dash of paprika and season salt  
Blend mayonnaise and sour cream then mix in other ingredients. Stir well and cover. Refrigerate overnight. Serve with potato chips or bagel crisps

*Every day, thousands of innocent plants are killed by vegetarians. Help end the violence.*

## THE OHS ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW AND SHOW AWARDS



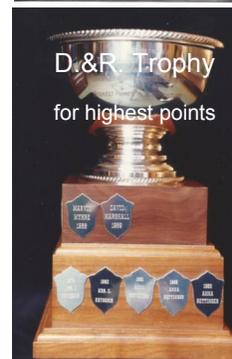
Silver Basket  
for best basket



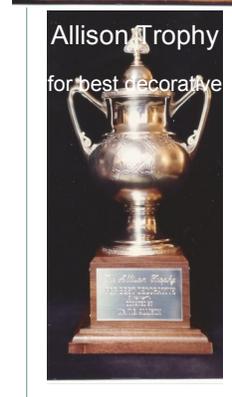
Judge's Choice  
decorative



Best Miniature



D. & R. Trophy  
for highest points



Allison Trophy  
for best decorative

Up until 2011, the OHS held an "Annual Flower Show" in July, in a public venue in Oakville, to increase public awareness of the existence and community mandate of the OHS and to further the knowledge of horticulture in the Oakville community. In the recent past, the show has been held at Hopedale Mall, Oakville Place, Trafalgar Village and at Knox Presbyterian Church.

The show was cancelled in 2012 as it no longer fulfilled our purpose for holding it. It engendered very little public attendance or interest; was costly to the Society, and therefore was discontinued after 2011. The Annual Show trophies have been in storage since 2012 with the exception of the Red Rose Tea trophy that

has been amalgamated into the "Monthly Show" awards.

The OHS Executive would like to invite all interested members of the Society to engage in a round-table discussion to determine the future of these trophies. If you would like to be part of this discussion group, or would like to express an opinion or put forward an idea as to the future of these trophies, please contact Cathy Kavassalis or myself, Marie Decker, at [President@oakvilleort.org](mailto:President@oakvilleort.org) or telephone us at 905-845-7581 (Cathy), 905-844-1837 (Marie) or speak to us at an OHS general meeting. The next meeting is February 8, 2016.

The Annual Show trophies are shown.



The Martin  
Award  
for best horticulture  
exhibit



OHA  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Trophy  
for highest points in  
decoratives

- Silver Basket**, for best basket, donated by The Oakville & Milton Real Estate Board, 1989
- Judge's Choice, Decorative**, donated by founding member, Mr. V. G. Allison, 1989
- Best Miniature**, donated by founding member, Mrs. R.R. Coggan, 1982
- D. & R. Trophy**, for Highest Points in Horticulture, donated by D & R Garden Supply, 1965
- Allison Trophy**, for Best Decorative, donated by founding member, Mr. V. G. Allison, 1989
- The Martin Award** for Best Horticulture Exhibit, donated by Dr. E. K. Martin, FRHS, 1959
- OHA 75th Anniversary Trophy**, for Highest Points in Decoratives, donated by the OHS, 1981

The Red Rose Tea Trophy(not shown here) has been added to the Monthly Show Trophies.

*A Society is defined not only by what it creates but what it refuses to destroy.*  
*John Sawhill*

## HORTICULTURE AND DESIGN EXHIBITS

Congratulations to the following OHS members, for their excellent horticulture and design exhibits. They have been awarded trophies and cash prizes for the show year - Nov. 1, 2014 – Oct.31, 2015.

### Marie and Valerie

Class of Distinction (Eaton Trophy)	1 <sup>st</sup>	Florrie Abbess
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Celia Roberts
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Not awarded
Chairman's Trophy (Wand Trophy)	1 <sup>st</sup>	Not awarded
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Florrie Abbess
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Not awarded
General/Novice Trophy (Allison Trophy)	1 <sup>st</sup>	Not awarded
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Rose
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Michelle Durrant
Miniature (Noad Trophy)	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jean Latham
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Marie Decker
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Not awarded
Overall Decorative (Cup of Excellence)	1 <sup>st</sup>	Marie Decker
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Florrie Abbess
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Celia Roberts
Highest Horticulture (Stratton Trophy)	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mary Cameron
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rob Welsh
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Marie Decker
Combined Hort / Decorative (Wye Trophy)	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mary Cameron
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Marie Decker
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jean Latham
Men's Highest Horticulture (Bell Trophy)	1 <sup>st</sup>	Rob Welsh
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Don Dusha
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wade Pitman
Best Red Rose (Red Rose Tea Trophy)		Don Dusha



### Cash Awards Nov. 2014 – Oct. 2015

The following members who earned ten points, or more, in our Monthly Shows, were presented with cash awards of 20 cents per point. Trophy winners and runners up are also awarded additional prize money. Cash is awarded for points in Judge's Choice and Educational Exhibits but these points do not count toward trophies.

Abbess, F	Cameron, M	Decker, M	Durrant, M	Dusha, D	Kavassalis, C
Latham, J	Mahncke, C	Pittman, W	Roberts, C	Rose, M	Ryan, C
Schleicher, E	Welsh, R				

# FUN WITH FLOWERS FOR 2016



Believe it or not, this will be the Oakville Horticultural Society's sixth year, celebrating Family Day by hosting "Fun With Flowers". Many of the same families participate every February – over 100 people – that's a lot of fish tins! Participants and volunteers alike are delighted by the abundance of beautiful flowers so generously donated by local businesses. The rich colors, varied shapes and textures must remind many of being in a candy shop – so much choice! Eye Candy. Incredibly, many original designs evolve in a very limited time frame. "The practiced" are also extremely clever at packing as many flowers as possible into a tiny can. This feat takes years of experience!

If you've never attended this event, you may want to join us on February 15 at Iroquois Ridge Community Centre, 1051 Glenashton Drive in Oakville. The chaos starts around 10:00. Just follow the big smiles (and line ups). Bring along your secateurs!

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I am reprinting an article that I found in our 2015 February newsletter for your perusal. If you have a winter garden photograph and would like to share it with the membership, please forward it to me unless you are entering it in the Competition.

"Photography of my garden? In the Winter?? Are You Mad???" Not at all. In fact some of the best photographs of gardens can be taken in the winter. If ever there was a time to examine the texture of your garden, winter is it. Gardens should never be flat. They should have hills and valleys and humps and bumps. Sometimes you can only see them clearly in winter. Tall grasses poking out from under the snow. That once pleasant summertime bench now abandoned for a fire place and warm cocoa. Those very first little signs of spring. Tiny Flowers hugging the ground for warmth. They poke up early when the competition is scarce. That magnificent Sundial in the middle of an unseen lawn. Pictures abound. Go! Take them now. Before it's too late.

## AGM PENNY AUCTION REPORT 2016



Thanks to all those who donated items to the penny auction held at the Annual General meeting on December 14. There were almost 40 lots to bid on, and we raised almost \$400 that has been put into our general operating account. And best of all, everyone had fun! Many lots included books from Wayne Curtis's vast collection and these will now be enjoyed by many of us for years to come.



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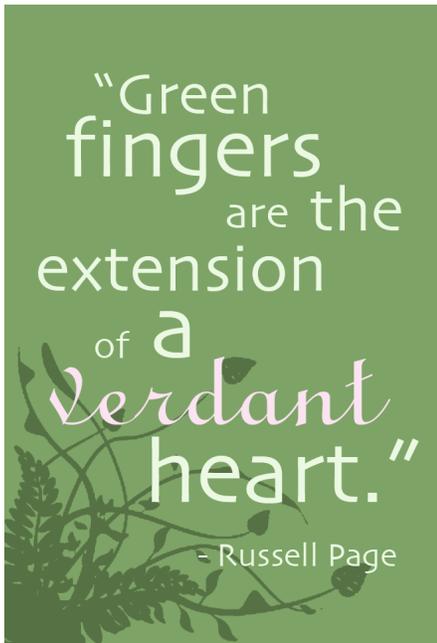
### Interested in Entering the 2016 OHA Photographic Print Competition:

A complete set of the Rules and Regulations for this event can be downloaded from the OHS web site. Entries must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2016. Click on the OHA logo to download your copy.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### OUR MISSION

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



**Saturday, February 20** - 8:30 a.m. to 12:00: **District 6 Spring**

**Glen Morris Breakfast Meeting (Doors Open at 8:30 am)**

Location: Glen Morris Centennial Hall: 17 Dunbar Street Glen Morris, Ontario N0B 1W0. Hosted by the Glen Morris Horticultural Society. Everyone is welcome.

**Saturday February 27** - 10 am to 4 pm: **Seedy Saturday.**

Location: Landscape Ontario 7856 Fifth Line South, Milton, ON Halton Master Gardeners, Hosted by the Milton & District Horticultural Society

**February 27 & 28: 35th Annual Spring Orchid Show and Sale**

Location: RBG Centre | 12:00PM to 5:00PM on Saturday; 10:00AM to 5:00PM on Sunday

**March 3-6: Stratford Garden Festival** <http://www.on.lung.ca/stratfordgardenfestival>

Location: 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford, Ontario. Cost \$9 a person.

**March 11-20: Canada Blooms and National Home Show.** Direct Energy Centre

**March 18-21: Successful Gardening.** Toronto International Centre.

**Sunday, April 17** 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. **6th Annual Hosta Forum**

Location: Glencairn Golf Club. Regional Road 25, Halton Hills, ON Cost: Members - \$55.00 until March 1st - \$60.00 after March 1<sup>st</sup> Non-Members - \$60.00 until March 1st - \$65.00 after March 1st c/o Norm Limpert, 11174 Sixth Line, Acton, ON L7J 2L7 Cheques payable: Ontario Hosta Society 905-878-3366 - normlimpy@hotmail.com To pay by credit card: Contact Glenn Wilson at 519-859-5701.

**Saturday, April 30:** 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 pm **District 6 Spring Workshop and Flower Show**

Location: East Plain United Church, 375 Plains Rd. East. Aldershot.

**Saturday, May 21: OHS Plant Sale** Munn's United Church

(Dundas St & 6th Line)

**May 26, 2016 History of RBG's Rock Garden on Burlington Heights**

7:00PM to 8:30PM | RBG Centre

Since opening in 1932 Rock Garden has undergone decades of change, culminating in the 2013–2016 rejuvenation project. The area also has a fascinating history, with stories stretching back to the last ice age, as important as the arrival of the railroads and the construction of Hamilton itself, and as dramatic as the War of 1812! Join RBG's Dr. David Galbraith for an evening exploring the history of this six-acre horticultural

gem. **RSVP to Danielle,** [ddaigle@rbg.ca](mailto:ddaigle@rbg.ca), 905-527-1158, ext. 514 of RBG's Rock Garden

**Sunday, June 26: Through the Garden Gate – OHS Garden Tour**

**July 29-31. The OHA Convention**

Location: The Crowne Plaza - 105 King Street East, Kitchener, ON