

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 6

# Oakville Horticultural Society

## Newsletter

**Happy New Year!**

Next General Meeting  
Monday, January 11,  
2016

7:30 p.m. MacMillan Hall  
89 Dunn Street  
Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Don't forget to renew  
your membership

### INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- President's Note
- Presenting Our Speaker – Wolfe Bonham
- Master Gardener Tip
- AGM Minutes
- Events and Notices



## Thank you all for a fun and productive AGM

Winter is upon us, with time to browse catalogs and online stores in anticipation of spring - March 20<sup>th</sup>. Check out *Seeds of Diversity* [seeds.ca](http://seeds.ca) for a compendium of seed providers. Our winter speakers are sure to provide inspiration for your gardening adventures. First up - an old favourite – Wolfe Bonham. Read more inside ...

### Save the Date!

#### Family Day

**February 16**

*Fun with Flowers* at  
Iroquois Community  
Centre. Volunteers are  
needed 8 am till noon.

#### 2016 OHA Convention

**July 29-31**

The 110th Convention will be hosted by  
District 19 and held at the Crowne  
Plaza Hotel 105 King Street East,  
Kitchener.

## Presidents' Message



On the first of January, a forsythia was blooming in the garden down the street from me. El Niño 2016 meant a mild start to our winter. I was delighted to harvest fresh parsley, sage and rosemary from my herb garden through the holidays. Now I hope they survive the cold snap under newly installed plastic cloches.

Meanwhile, Marie has been in Calgary, enjoying singing, skating and tobogganing on the more than abundant snow. It has been cold there with no spring in sight.



Marie and I look forward to hearing what you have observed in your gardens and on your travels at our next meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. We certainly enjoyed seeing so many of you at our December Potluck and AGM.

## Annual Awards

If you were not able to attend, you should know that it was our pleasure to bestow Extraordinary Special Awards to Joan Paris and Elizabeth Thompson and to recognize the distinguished service and valuable contributions of Paula Clayton, Wade Pitman, John Raynor, Valerie Rughi and Larry Urbanoski with President's Awards. These are amongst the many great volunteers that make our Society vibrant. When you are thinking about ways to contribute your time in 2016, please consider becoming a more active member.



## We invite you to get more involved.

### Our Mission

We have been charged with an important role in our community to promote the care and culture of plants. This mandate is set out for us within the Agricultural and Horticultural Organization's Act (R.S.O. 1990, c. A.9, s. 36). We are to **encourage interest and improvement in horticulture:**

- a) by holding meetings respecting the theory and practice of horticulture;
- b) by encouraging the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers on public and private grounds;
- c) by promoting balcony and community gardening and outdoor beautification;
- d) by arranging field trips, contests, competitions and exhibitions related to horticulture and awarding prizes;
- e) by distributing seeds, plants, bulbs, flowers, trees and shrubs;
- f) by promoting the protection of the environment;
- g) by promoting the circulation of horticultural information through any media;
- h) by promoting the benefits of therapeutic horticulture; and
- i) by stimulating an interest in the study of horticulture.

We make a positive difference in our community. You can help us better serve this community by sharing your talents and time. Contact Marie or Cathy to get more involved [president@oakvillehort.org](mailto:president@oakvillehort.org).



### Our Board

Thank you to those members who have offered to serve with us as executive officers: Paula Clayton -Vice-President; Liza Drozdova - Second Vice-President; Heather Reccord - Secretary and Larry Urbanoski - Treasurer. Thank you to the Directors for 2016 John Comber, Margaret Jeffery, Veronica Heiderich, Joan Paris, Florenda Tingle, Linda Tock and Valerie Westwood. Thank you as well to retiring Board members: Celia Roberts, Sonja Tessari and Elizabeth Thompson. Your service has been greatly valued.

Best Wishes to all for a Happy New Year!  
*Cathy Kavassalis and Marie Decker.*



## Dry Stone Walling with Wolfgang Bonham

We are pleased to have Wolfe Bonham join us at our January meeting to talk about Dry Stone Walling. Many of our members will know Wolfe, as he was a vital member of our society and Board for several years before he moved to Stoney Creek. Wolfe continues to operate [Peace, Love, and Landscaping](#) and shares his considerable expertise as a terrific public speaker.

For those who don't know Wolfe, he is a musician, artisan, motorcycle enthusiast and admitted garden addict. He received Honours Certificates from Mohawk College in both Landscape Design and in Horticulture Studies. He has been awarded Hamilton's Trillium Bursary for top marks in Landscape Design. He is also one of less than a dozen people in

Ontario to hold Certification through the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain.

Dry Stone Walling is the ancient art of building walls and structures **WITHOUT** the use of glues or mortars to hold them together. Most famously seen throughout Scotland, England, and Ireland, Dry Stone Wall construction is used throughout the world.

As one of the few who have studied the art, Wolfe will share some techniques and ideas for dry stone walling. You will enjoy the artistry or wizardry that goes into the creation of dry stone structures and gain an appreciation for their use as retaining walls and art forms in the landscape. You will likely be inspired to create a dry stone structure in your own back yard.



## Cloches

**A cloche, from the French word-meaning bell, is a covering for protecting plants from cold.**

### Herbed Oil

- 1½ tsp finely chopped fresh parsley
- ¾ tsp finely chopped fresh basil
- ¾ tsp finely chopped fresh rosemary
- ¼ tsp dried oregano
- ¼ tsp granulated garlic
- ⅛ tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- ⅓ cup extra-virgin olive oil

*A cloche is an instant mini-greenhouse. You can purchase commercial bell-shaped covers or use old soda pop bottles. These are placed over individual plants like tender herbs and vegetables. They should be pegged or weighed down and ideally should have ventilation that can be opened on warmer days so the plants don't burn.*

## Winter Sowing

### *A Master Gardener Tip*

While the winter winds are howling, you can start seeds for spring. Gather clear plastic containers, like 2 litre soda bottles or large clear plastic storage containers. These containers become mini-greenhouses. Essentially, you need a container that can hold about 10 cm (4 in) of potting soil and have at least 10 cm (4 in) of air space. An Internet search on *winter sowing* will reveal, dozens of examples. The photo below from [Bachman's Winter Sowing Guide](#) illustrates a few possibilities.



Once you've chosen your container. Wash it with warm soapy water and sterilize with 10 parts water to 1 part bleach.

Containers need drainage and ventilation. You may need to drill holes in the bottoms and or tops to ensure water and air circulation if openings are not already present. If using a large storage bin, you can fill the bottom with small plastic garden pots and plant them with a variety of seeds.

This technique works very well for perennials that require stratification. Some plant seeds require a period of winter dormancy before they will sprout. Winter sowing accomplishes this

with no need for refrigeration. Consider seeding columbine, coneflowers, rudbeckia, foxglove, penstemon, lobelias etc.



The technique can also work for tender perennials and annuals, but the containers should be put out closer to spring. Kevin Jacobs has a good list of [What to Winter-Sow...And When](#) for our climate zone. In addition to many perennials, he suggests spinach, kale, peas and broccoli in January and February. If you give this a try, keep a record of what works and we will report on it next year. For more details, you might like visiting: Karen Bertelsen's [Winter Sowing](#) or Dabbletree's webpage on [Soda Bottle Mini-Greenhouses](#).

### Seedy Saturday

Want to get started with *Winter Sowing* – come out to Seedy Saturday for a Seed Swap, Advice workshops and Horticulture vendors.

It will be held on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm at Landscape Ontario Headquarters: 7856 Fifth Line South, Milton, ON

*Hosted by Halton Master Gardeners, the Milton & District Horticultural Society*

# Minutes of the OHS AGM

## December 14, 2016

### Officers and Directors Present:

- Co-Presidents: Marie Decker and Catherine Kavassalis
- Vice President: Paula Clayton
- Second Vice President: Valerie Westwood
- Secretary: Heather Reccord
- Treasurer: Florenda Tingle
- Past President: Stu Gough
- Directors: Joan Paris, Celia Roberts, Margaret Jeffery, Sonja Tessari

Regrets: Elizabeth Thompson, Linda Tock

**Invitees:** John Baine – Assistant District Director

**Members:** 45 of 164 voting members present

**Call to Order:** The Chair (Cathy Kavassalis) called the meeting to order at 8:13 p.m.

**Agenda:** It was moved by Celia Roberts that the circulated agenda be adopted. The members consented to it as written.

**Awards:** Marie Decker presented an *Extraordinary Special Award* to: Joan Paris and Elizabeth Thompson (in absentia). *President's Awards* were presented to Paula Clayton, Wade Pitman, John Raynor, Valerie Rughi and Larry Urbanoski; and Stuart Gough presented one to Helen Stephenson for last year. Stuart Gough also presented a special award for *Service Above and Beyond* to Cathy Kavassalis and Marie Decker.

**Annual Report.** Cathy Kavassalis addressed the members and briefed them about the accomplishments of the OHS during the past year. She noted the society's contribution to Family Day, the exemplary Junior Gardener Program, the Plant Sale, the District 6 AGM, the OHA convention, the Speaker series, the Floral, Horticultural and Photography Shows, and the society's Community Gardens including the *Garden for Life* and new *Fields of Spring* Project and new Buckthorn removal initiatives. She encouraged all members to become involved in the activities of the society.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer presented

Total Revenue:	\$14,225.88
Total Expenses:	\$12,808.20
Net income	\$ 1,417.68
Bank Account	\$ 6,944
Savings Account	\$44,082
(Restricted Funds	\$ 7,325)
Total Assets	\$51,026

Florenda Tingle moved that the financial statement of October 31, 2015 be accepted. Veronica Heiderich seconded the motion and it was carried.

The Chair of the Budget Committee, Larry Urbanoski, then presented the proposed budget for 2016 (published in November newsletter). Larry moved that the budget be accepted. Bill Kirkpatrick moved that the line 5039 (Expenditures for Bulbs Plants and Seeds) be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 so that the Bulbs, Plants and Seeds Program would be subsidized by \$500. Don Dusha seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was carried. The budget was approved as amended.

**Elections for the year 2015-2016:** The following individuals presented themselves as candidates: Catherine Kavassalis and Marie Decker for Co-Presidents; Paula Clayton for Vice-President; Liza Drozdova (in absentia) for Second Vice-President; Heather Reccord for Secretary and Larry Urbanoski for Treasurer. The executive officers were acclaimed and sworn in by Assistant District Director, John Baine. The following individuals were presented as candidates for Director: John Comber (in absentia), Margaret Jeffery, Veronica Heiderich, Joan Paris, Florenda Tingle, Linda Tock (in absentia) and Valerie Westwood.

The meeting was extended from 9:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. by unanimous vote.

The directors were acclaimed and sworn in. A motion was made to accept the slated officers by Stuart Gough and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

# Gardening Trends Report 2016

## *Syncing with Nature*

“Whether it’s syncing to the iCloud, sinking their toes in the grass or syncing plants with local ecosystems that support wildlife, people want to get back in sync with nature.” This is according to Garden Media Group (GMG), a trade and consumer public relations and marketing firm in the US. They track gardening trends and publish a yearly report. This year, they identify eight consumer trends that will shape what you see in the marketplace.

1. **Connected Greenery** – From remote controls for lighting and thermostats, to mobile coupons, new software and technology will enable us to learn and do more through connectivity devices.
2. **Natechure** – Taken a step further, GMG expects we will see more opportunities to connect **technology** to with **nature**. [Leafsnap](#), for example, is an electronic field guide developed by researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution. This free mobile app uses visual recognition software to help identify tree species from photographs of their leaves. In addition to information tools, social gardening apps are popping up that connect people with common interests and of course, marketers to potential buyers.
3. **Welltality** – This year we will see plants and products marketed with our wellness and vitality in mind. Whether it’s growing plants indoors for clean air and or improved mental health or growing fruits and vegetables in the garden in support of the *grow local* movement, we should be able to find many opportunities to improve our health through gardening.
4. **The Makers Lifestyle** – Yuccies, *young urban creatives*, want opportunities to make stuff in the garden and from the garden. We can look forward to trendy new ideas for homegrown produce and a desire to relearn forgotten arts of using plant materials to make such things as dyes and other useful products. Consistent with this trend, our society plans on hosting a workshop on preserves next fall (contact Paula or Cathy if you would like to help with that).
5. **Backyard Boldness** – We have moved furniture outside, now GMG suggests that people want to “heighten sensory appeal,” with lighting, sound systems and LED swings. *Oh my!* ...I am not sure how this fits with their *syncing with nature* theme. Bats beware, for this boldness will expand into the evening with **Nightscaping**. “Stages are being set with light graffiti, multifunctional planters and colorful plants that make a statement.” Take a look at Pennsylvania’s Longwood Gardens Nightscape Exhibit <http://longwoodgardens.org/nightscapes>. It is pretty spectacular.
6. **Layered Landscapes** – “Doug Tallamy, professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, says people want to bring their yard back to its natural habitat as each plant serves a purpose in supporting local, natural ecosystems, pollinators and other wildlife. Dr. Tallamy says a living landscape starts with trees and is *layered underneath with shrubs and flowers*. With this in mind, more people will be planting for function in addition to beauty.
7. **Dogscaping** – In Canada, 34% of households had dogs in 2014. It is slightly higher in the United States. Pet-safe landscaping is a growing trend. Resources for creating dog-friendly landscapes are proliferating on the Internet. The ASPCA has created a useful list of toxic and non-toxic plants: <https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>.
8. **Precious Resources** – Sustainable gardening practices continue to be viewed as important. Use of drought tolerant site-appropriate plants, rain gardening, raised bed gardening and use of home composters and techniques that conserve our precious resources are all trending for 2016. This is good news for our environment.

The GMC report concludes, “**Being in sync with nature is the first step in a healthy, rewarding life.**”

The full report can be downloaded from <http://grow.gardenmediagroup.com/2016-garden-trends-report> or contact Cathy at [c.kavassalis@gmail.com](mailto:c.kavassalis@gmail.com) for a copy.

## Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre

Marie and Cathy visited Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre. They have offered us use of their gallery for meetings, at the same cost as our present accommodations. There is an ample kitchen for refreshments and an area for Flower and Design Shows. Outside there are extensive gardens and potential synergies of purpose with community garden plots and educational tree walks.

We would like to hold our April meeting at the facility to see if it would work for us. More details to come ...



## Notices

### Volunteers for January Meeting

#### Refreshments:

- Paula Clayton,
- Celia Roberts
- Lisa Drozdov

#### Hall Set Up:

- Carola Koitz
- Larry Urbanoski
- Marion Campbell
- Sheelagh Rowland

## Contact Us!

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**Next Executive Meeting:** Monday Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m. at Oakville Town Hall

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