



Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter November 2016

Speaker's Corner



The Futuristic Gardens of Singapore

Lately there is a lot of talk about Vertical Gardening and Rooftop Gardening, but how much of it do we really see being implemented. Well in Singapore you don't have to look very far. Its everywhere! Following a recent visit to this tiny country, landscape designer Wolfgang Bonham will take us on a pictorial tour of some of the amazing modern gardens of Singapore.

Wolfgang Bonham is an admitted garden addict. What began as putting a few plants in the ground around a storefront for his jewelry business more than 10 years ago quickly became an obsession. Wolfe received Honours Certificates from Mohawk College in both Landscape Design and in Horticulture Studies. He was 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. He worked for renowned landscape designer Sean James of Fern Ridge Landscaping, and was a former manager for Terra Greenhouses before deciding to branch out on his own to open up Peace, Love, and Landscaping in 2006. Wolfe is constantly furthering his education and can always be found attending gardening and landscaping lectures, conferences, and workshops.

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Website:

<http://www.oakvillehort.org>

Next Meeting: November 14, 2016

Location: MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street

Flower Show Clerks: Christel Mahncke and Mary Cameron

Hospitality Volunteers: Beryle Lowther, Mary Kirby, Florenda Tingle, Don Dusha

Set-up Volunteers: Rosanne Swalwell, Wade Pitman, Mary Rose

We are fast approaching the year-end for the OHS for the 2015 - 2016 season. This has been a year of welcoming new members and new Board members, innovation, new ideas, respecting old traditions, education, networking and companionship.



We have accomplished much. Under Margaret's leadership we have looked after three public gardens and on the brain-wave of Stu and Sonja introduced a plan for a new garden at Wellspring. We have two new members in Myroslawa and Jana who have joined our Board and jumped in feet-first with enthusiasm and fresh ideas. We have many new members whom we welcome and hope to make long-standing members of the society. The old and cherished tradition of the Garden tour has been resurrected with flair and great success by Paula, your in-coming President-elect and Diana and their hard-working team. This year's speakers have been interesting, informative, entertaining and covered a wide variety of topics. Under the leadership of Larry and Heather; in partnership with the Town of Oakville and Oakvillegreen, we have

involved the community in invasive plant removal and subsequent re-planting of trees and shrubs in a variety of location in North Oakville. Several members of the Oakville Hort Society attended the spring and fall District 6 meetings, the OHA Convention in Waterloo, the District Spring Workshop and Flower Show in Burlington (put on by your District 6 executive) and will be heading out to Milton on November 19 to meet our District 6 friends at our annual dinner. This is a very cohesive and active District and we are proud to be a part of it. At each meeting, flower show and District event we have met new people we now call our friends. We are indeed blessed!

The end of the year brings the close of Cathy's and my time as your society Co-presidents. It has been a great pleasure to serve you and get to know each of you better. Thank-you everyone, executive and Board members, committee chairs and members-at-large for your generous sharing of time, talent, ideas and plain hard work. The society only runs well because of you and you have made our job so much easier. We will still attend Board meetings in the role of past-presidents next year to offer help and guidance to the new executive.

The society will continue to thrive with such good membership. You can become involved and put your own thoughts and ideas for improvement in to play by joining the Board or a committee.

Specifically we are looking for:

- new persons to take over the **public Gardens** from Margaret to **look after volunteer schedules and plantings;**
- the **chair for the plant sale.** Both Veronica and Sonja have a wealth of information and written guidelines to help get the job done and will be available to a new **committee chair, or co-chairs** as a resource;
- **chair or co-chair with David Marshall** for the Plants Bulbs and Seeds Committee. David Marshall has done a wonderful job on this and is willing to share his catalogues, resource contacts and his own experience to assist you; (Check elsewhere in this newsletter for the Amaryllis bulbs David will have on sale at the November meeting.)
- we always need persons to **help out the refreshment/hospitality committee;**



Our good works are like stones cast into the pool of time; though the stones themselves may disappear, their ripples extend to eternity.....



You will notice on the list of persons who are allowing their names to stand for re-election to the Oakville Hort Society Board or Oakville Hort Society executive, **that we need a Vice President**. This is a position that will lead to the Presidency in two years but the candidate will have the opportunity to work closely with Paula, Cathy and myself. Paula has been in this position for the past two years and you will recall she has already chaired a couple of meetings. Paula says this job is a snap and no-one should be intimidated.

Just so you know, we have job descriptions for all these positions and the OHA has a "New President Start-up" booklet on line to help you and to do away with any feelings of intimidation. It is a wonderful way to get to know everyone in our Society and to appreciate all their individual talents. Your present Co-Presidents and the Board have committed the Oakville Hort Society to run the District 6 Spring Breakfast meeting at St. Simon's Anglican Church on Trafalgar Rd. on Saturday, Feb. 25. 2017. We will be passing a clip board at several up-coming meetings to enlist volunteers to look after food and beverages for the meeting, to bake, shop, to set up and take down. Be sure to sign up. The meeting includes a speaker and is, of course, free. Parking is plentiful. This will be our first event in our 60th Anniversary year. If you have other ideas and suggestions for celebrating our anniversary or the Canadian Sesquicentennial, please let us know. We like to celebrate the next year in a big way.

Marie and Cathy



2017 OHS Board and Executive:

President: Paula Clayton

Vice-President: **Vacant**

Treasurer: Larry Urbanoski

Secretary: Heather Reccord

Board of Directors:

Margaret Jeffery

Jana Schidler

Joan Paris

Myroslawa Lukiwsky

Florenda Tingle

Wade Pittman

Linda Tock

Valerie Westwood

Past Presidents: Marie Decker, Cathy Kavassalis, will attend Board Meetings but no voting privileges.

If you are interested in helping the organization in any capacity, please contact Cathy or Marie.



Looking for fall colours please go to: www.ontarioparks.com/fallcolour



A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust. - Gertrude Jekyll





Buckthorn Once Again!

European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) is a significant threat to Oakville's urban forest. This invasive plant is flourishing in many parts of Oakville and out-competes native species and reduces biodiversity. Buckthorn is now listed as a noxious weed under the Ontario Weed Control Act in recognition of its negative impact on our environment.

On October 15th, a group of 13 enthusiastic volunteers tackled buckthorn removal along the Nipigon nature trail near the Pelee Woods Park in north Oakville. This stewardship event was organized by Oakville Green but supported by youth volunteers, local community volunteers and the Oakville Horticultural Society. Oakville Green provided tools such as extractors and shovels, and the Town of Oakville made mulch available to spread through the working area.

The most effective way for the Oakville Horticultural Society to help eradicate non-native species is to collaborate with Oakville Green and other community associations that mount stewardship events. The partnership provides access to tools and expertise that improves the efforts of volunteers to tackle invasive species. Accordingly, Oakville Green and OHS have agreed to collaborate and support stewardship events.

I would encourage members to visit websites that highlight the negative impacts of invasive species such as buckthorn. The Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) has prepared an excellent website, www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca, that includes links to identify invasive species and Best Management Practices to counter the significant environmental and economic impact of non-native plants in Ontario.



On October 11th, Larry Urbanoski and I attended the Community Services Committee (CSC) meeting at which Oakville staff recommended amendments to Oakville's Private Tree Protection By-law. Due to the significant number of healthy trees being lost, staff advised that permits for all trees above 15cm dbh be required and that compensation trees be planted for trees removed (1 tree for every 10cm). The staff proposal was approved by committee and adopted at the subsequent Council meeting on October 17th.

At the CSC meeting, I recommended that an exception be made for the removal of European buckthorn, this recommendation is being taken under advisement. I made this recommendation based on the alarming increase in buckthorn in the community, as evidenced in Oakville's latest urban forestry report, "Growing Livability, A Comprehensive Study of Oakville Urban Forest" (Sept 2016). In this report it states that European buckthorn has "increased from 2% of the tree population in 2005 to 10.6% in 2015." That is an increase of about 192,000 buckthorn trees in ten years. It is now the third most common species of tree in Oakville (after White Cedar and Sugar Maple). The work of our society to stem the tide of this invasive species is very important. I am grateful to Larry for his efforts and thank those of you who were able to get out on the 15th of October to remove buckthorn along the Nipigon trail. Oakville Horticultural Society members can and do make a real difference. Keep up the good work.



Autumn is the perfect time to take account of what we've done, what we didn't do, and what we'd like to do next year. ~Author Unknown





Fields of Spring and Wellspring

- Daffodil planting occurred at Postridge Park on November 8 and at Sir Coulbourne on November 10th
- Planting Daffodils at Wellspring will occur on November 11, at 1:00 pm
- We are looking for people to assist in the management of the gardens. If you can volunteer your time, please contact Margaret Jeffery.

Anderson Bridge Park "Garden of Life"

- Plants were removed once again for construction work being completed in the area.
- We are looking for people to assist in the management of the gardens. If you can volunteer your time, please contact Margaret Jeffery.

City of Guelph Defines Leaves: Mother Nature's gold

City of Guelph wonders why you buy products for your lawn and garden and waste your time getting rid of yard waste? Everything you need to have a healthy lawn and garden is right in your own yard. Leaves and yard waste are worth their weight in gold. Keep your leaves on your lawn. Mother Nature deposits them there for a purpose: to feed and nourish your lawn. That's right, mulching leaves into your lawn is the same as feeding your lawn. This results in a greener, healthier lawn next summer. Research has proven that mowing leaves into your lawn can improve its vigor, and help to slow down weed germination in the spring. Organic matter and nutrients from leaves mown into lawn areas has been proven to improve turf quality. At Michigan State University, researchers set a rotary mower to cut at a height of 3 inches and then mowed an 18-inch-deep layer of leaves into test plots. That's the equivalent of 450 pounds of leaves per 1,000 square feet. The tests resulted in improved soil and healthy lawns with few remnant leaves visible the following spring.

You can achieve similar results if you set your mower to cut at the same height as in the Michigan State study, and mow at least once a week during peak leaf fall when your lawn reaches a height of 4 inches. Leaves shred most efficiently when slightly damp, so mow after a light dew. If you follow these simple guidelines, you will never rake another leaf and improve the quality of your soil.

David's Corner

To: Oakville Horticultural Members

From: David Marshall

Subject: Amaryllis For Sale

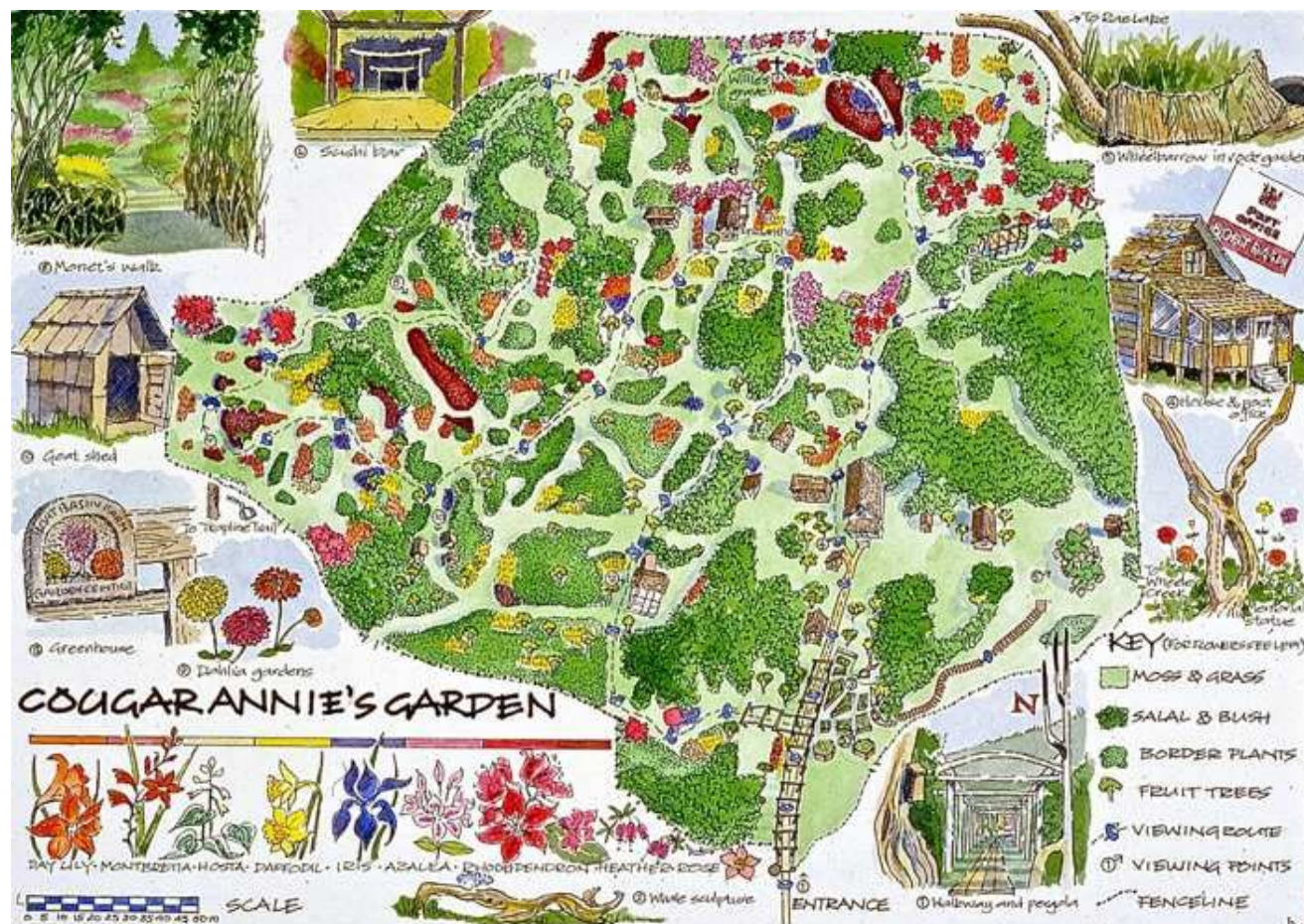
David Marshall will have jumbo and some smaller specialty sized amaryllis for sale at \$8.00 per bulb at our November meeting. There will be a few six inch pots and bags of soil for people who don't have any. If you plant them up immediately, you may have flowers by the end of December, or in January, when we all need a little colour in the house.

In addition, David will be selling the October bulbs (daffodils, alliums, crocus, Dutch iris etc.) at a very good price.



Remember: Cash Only!!!





Cougar Annie's garden, one of BC's oldest rural gardens that dates back 100 years, was at its peak of popularity in 1999. That was when the bestselling book by Margaret Horsfield on the life of Ada Annie Rae Arthur (better known as Cougar Annie because she shot a lot of cougars) and her five-acre rumble-tumble rustic garden set in the picturesque rainforest at Clayoquot Sound on the west side of Vancouver Island, was published. Horsfield's book went on to sell more than 21,000 copies and generated a new wave of interest in Cougar Annie and her colourful, pioneering life in the wilderness and her resourcefulness and enthusiasm as a passionate gardener.

In the early years of the last decade, hundreds of people made their way to Tofino to take a boat or float plane to visit the garden, located a little way down the coast at Hesquiat Harbour.

As many as 500 people a year are estimated to have made the trek to visit the garden where Cougar Annie lived from 1915 to her death at 96 in 1985. In that time, she had four husbands and 11 children. She also pretty much single-handedly carved out of the wilderness a large garden and planted rhododendrons, azaleas, fruit trees, roses, dahlias, irises and a diverse assortment of perennials, including a sizeable collection of hostas. All the time, of course, she had to deal with berry-savaging black bears and a never ending parade of prowling cougars, many of which she shot, mostly to protect her goats and chickens. Apparently, while Cougar Annie tolerated bears prowling in her orchard, she had less sympathy for any creature invading and damaging her garden. If you are interested in Annie and her entrepreneurial and pioneer spirit, please go to:

<http://vancouverisland.com/news/staff-blogs/revisiting-cougar-annies-garden>



Every dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. ~Harriet Tubman





AGM Potluck and Silent Auction

Monday, December 12, 2016

Doors open 6:00 pm, cocktails 6:30 pm

Renew your Oakville Horticultural Membership

All memberships dated 2016 will expire on October 31, 2016. Please complete the form that accompanies this newsletter. Provide your membership number and your name when renewing along with any contact information that may have changed. To comply with the Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation, the Society requests that you indicate your agreement to receive important information and announcements from our Society, the OHA district and association. Please indicate your acceptance by checking the box "I Agree to receive Society mail..." You may withdraw your consent at any time by sending an email to membership.ohs@oakvillehort.org with "Unsubscribe me" in the subject line along with your complete contact information. We thank you for your continuing support of our society.

Your Membership

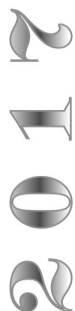


OAKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

2017 Membership

November 1, 2016 – October 31, 2017

Oakville Horticultural Society, Box 69605, 109 Thomas St., Oakville, ON L6J 7R4



- ☐ Renewing Membership
- ☐ New Membership
- ☐ Single Membership \$20
- ☐ Family Membership \$30

Membership Number: _____

Name: _____

Mail Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

☐

I agree to receive Society mail to the following email address:

Email: _____



Where gardeners come to flourish



A volunteer is like a rare gem. When placed in the right setting and cared for, they will shine and give pleasure to all who see them. Unknown



November 14 Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street

Monthly meeting will be held once again at Knox Presbyterian Church
MacMillan Hall 89 Street

November 18 Auxiliary of RBG Christmas Sale

Please join us for new ideas in seasonal design: wreaths and holiday table arrangements, unique seasonal silk designs for your home decor, selection of Amaryllis bulbs, baubles, beads and berries. Add some sparkle to your home this special time of year!

November 19 Fall District 6 Dinner hosted by Milton & District Horticultural Society

District 6 Fall Dinner hosted by Milton & District Horticultural Society. Key note speaker: Sean James. Dinner is being held at the Teatro Conference and Event Center located at 21 Chisholm Drive, Milton. Doors open at 5:30 pm, Dinner starting at 6:30 pm. Cost \$35.00 per person. Deadline: November 5, 2016. No Refunds. For tickets, please contact: Lianne Krane 905-875-8722 or by email: lkrane@freshstart.pro

November 29 OHS Wreath Making Workshop

Wreath-making Workshop Saturday, November 26 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Location: Trinity St. Paul Church, 26 Stavebank Rd. Mississauga Cost: \$40.00 per person. If you are interested, please contact: Marie at 905-844-1837

December 12 AGM Potluck and Silent Auction

Join us for the Oakville Horticultural Annual General Meeting, Potluck and Silent Auction. Please bring your favourite dish—a salad, main dish, dessert cutlery and dishes. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Cocktails at 6:30 pm. Most importantly bring a smile and a hearty appetite!

February 2017 Family Day: Fun with Flowers Family Day in February

What could be more fun than flower arranging for a mid-winter horticulture celebration? More information to follow.



Fun with Flowers Committee members are looking for empty fish cans example tuna or salmon cans for their Family Day Workshop! Could you please rinse the cans and bring them to our next meeting. Did you know that eating fish is very healthy and nutritional!

November is Food Bank Collection Month:

President's Message: Bring Items for Oakville Food Bank . We are going to hold our annual Food Drive at our November meeting. Please bring items or monetary donations are preferred. For Items most needed, please refer to the Oakville Fare Share website: oakvillefoodbank.com/needed-items/



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
~Albert Camus

