



Oakville Horticultural Society January 2018

	January Monthly Meeting
Date:	January 8, 2018
Location:	Knox Presbyterian Church, 89 Dunn Street
Set-up Volunteers:	Diana Wright, Christel Mahncke
Hospitality Volunteers:	Valerie Rughi, Christel Mahncke, Mary Kirby
Flower Show Clerks:	



**Our speaker for January is
Catherine Kavassalis**

Catherine Kavassalis is a passionate gardener and conservationist. A scientist, educator and inspirational speaker, Catherine endeavours to stimulate interest and awe in the living world. She is a member of the Halton Master Gardener group, the Past President of Oakville Horticultural Society and a former member of the Board of Directors for the Royal Botanical Gardens. Catherine loves to garden and has had her own eclectic organic garden featured on several tours. The subject of her talk to us will be:

Small Trees for Small Spaces

Often called the backbone of a garden, trees and shrubs give a yard structure and form. They provide benefits of year round beauty, while improving our environment and providing food and habitat for wildlife. How do you choose the right tree for your space? Native is best for biodiversity, but fruit bearing trees may be more to your taste. Large trees can be kept small, but there are many small trees and large shrubs that may be a better fit. The possibilities for small spaces, while not endless are extensive. Come and get a few ideas for creating your own small oasis.

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I want to begin by wishing all of you a very Happy New Year and all the best for the days and months to come. May all your gardening ambitions be realized.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Pot Luck dinner and Annual General meeting on December 11th. The food was yummy and the company was full of good cheer. We were able to close our 60th year as a Society by reviewing our many accomplishments and goals met in 2017. It was very satisfying to award our first OHS Post-Graduate Scholarship to Katherine Keary, a Masters student at the University of Guelph. And I was delighted to recognize Trish Bolton and Marion Campbell for their work with Larry Urbanoski in launching the annual scholarship. All in all, we have a lot to be proud of, as you will see when you read the annual report contained in this newsletter.

The evening closed with the induction of the executive and board for 2018. I want to welcome new board members Sheelagh Rowland and Lee Manley who bring a love of gardening, great attitude and many skills to the group. Thanks to Larry Urbanoski and Heather Reccord who will continue in their roles of Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, and to those carrying on as Directors: Florenda Tingle, Myroslawa Lukiwsky, Wade Pitman, Cathy Ryan,



Helen Stephenson, Jana Schilder, and Valerie Westwood. And many thanks to retiring Board members: Cathy Kavassalis, Marie Decker, Joan Paris, Margaret Jeffery, Pat Hooper and Linda Tock. It has been an excellent and productive group, with some serving for many years. I would like to encourage all members to get involved in the satisfying, fun work we have planned for the year to come.

Meanwhile, it is certainly white and cold outside, and nothing approaching a thaw as far into the month as the weatherman is prepared to predict. So what is an avid gardener to do? Well, there are seed catalogues and gardening books, magazines and TV programs to divert us, as well as watching visitors to the birdfeeders, caring for our indoor plants and bringing home cut flowers and evergreen cuttings to cheer up our interiors. Some of you will even travel to warmer climates where there are gardens in bloom! We will learn from Cathy Kavassalis about suitable small trees for every kind of space at our meeting on January 8, and many of us will begin scheming and dreaming about adding specimens as soon as spring arrives. Whatever you find to while away these coldest weeks of the year, I wish you all the best.

Paula

Renew your Oakville Horticultural Membership



"I grow plants for many reasons: to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty, or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow." - David Hobson





OHS - AGM and Potluck Dinner...

At the close of each year, our Society must reflect on its activities and confirm that we are meeting the mandate prescribed for us by the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act. There are nine obligations set out for Horticultural Societies under this act. These include:

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

This was a very special year, our 60th as a Society, and we pledged to do a few things to mark the occasion. We initiated a \$1,000 scholarship for Ontario students pursuing full time, post-graduate studies in the field of horticulture.

We held nine meetings, four at Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre (JCHAC) and the remainder at Knox Presbyterian Church in downtown Oakville. The March meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. At both venues we enjoyed excellent speakers:

- *Nova Scotia Summer* with Sean James
- *Planter Gardening* with Suzanne Zacharczyk
- *Plants in Jeopardy* with Kevin Kavanagh
- *Master Gardener Panel* with David Marshall, Donna Parker, Barbara Phillips-Conroy and Claudette Sims
- *Growing Lavender* with Kevin Beagle
- *My Dahlia Journey* with Kate Sault
- *Night Stalkers and Day Streakers* with Suzanne Zacharczyk
- *Making Festive Fall Planters* with Monique Theriault
- *Trends* with Jane Arnett

Thank you to Margaret Jeffery and Pat Hooper for organizing these terrific talks.

As in previous years, our talented floral arrangers shared their artistry at our meetings from March to November and gardeners exhibited some of their most beautiful flowers, vegetables and plants at our Monthly Shows. This was both an opportunity for contest fun and for members to learn about different species and cultivars. ***Thank you to Valerie Westwood and Marie Decker for organizing our shows and all of you who participated.***

Our meetings were made more special by the delicious goodies we could share while enjoying one another's company. ***Thank you to our hospitality team coordinators Valerie Rughi, Wendy Funk Death, Kathie Dick, and Olga Woroniuk for their work throughout the year and all of you who helped prepare refreshments. Thank you as well to Margaret Larson and Lee Manley for organizing our Draw Table and adding yet another bit of fun to our meetings.*** Our monthly meetings were times for learning, making connections and building friendships. Thank you all for attending.

Outside of our meetings, our volunteers cared for four community gardens this year.

Ongoing construction in and around the Anderson Parkette made for extra work but despite this, our 'Garden for Life' bloomed all season. We can also be proud of our two 'Fields of Springs' trial gardens. A beautiful flush of daffodils greeted passersby this spring. The planting near Sir John Colbourne Lodge seems to be



performing well. However, both grasses and daffodils are less successful competing with the weeds in the sun-baked clay soils of Postridge Park. New daffodils were introduced at both sites last fall and should be evaluated next year to see if they merit ongoing volunteer maintenance. The 2016 fall planting of over 2000 bulbs at Wellspring Birmingham Gilgan House brought a fabulous display of daffodils and muscari in the spring of 2017 for those using the services of cancer hospice. ***Our Society is indebted to Margaret Jeffery who has devoted her energies to manage our public gardens.*** It is our hope that new volunteers will come forward in 2018 to help organize volunteers for these special places. It is rewarding work that makes our community a more beautiful, livable, healthy community.

Myroslawa Lukiwsky continues in her the role of Newsletter Editor, bringing us an imaginative and comprehensive issue every month. Thanks to Wade Pitman, our website is up to date, accessible and a joy to visit while Veronica Heiderich maintains our Facebook presence in excellent order. All these folks help us meet our mandate to circulate horticultural information. If you think you would enjoy writing articles or creating posts please join our team of good communicators.

We held two successful fundraisers this year. Our May Plant Sale raised almost \$6,000 and our educational Garden Tour raised over \$2,600. ***Thank you to all who made both events educational and profitable.***

Where our society shares goals with community organizations like Joshua Community Heritage Art Centre, we have tried to work together and show our support. We support the Halton Environmental Network (HEN), Halton Master Gardeners, Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, the Royal Botanical Gardens and POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) and we maintain a good relationship with the Town of Oakville and the Region of Halton and have opened discussion with representatives at the new hospital. With considerable input from Cathy Kavassalis, the Town of Oakville has introduced a new initiative aimed at increasing the tree canopy – it is called PLANT or *please lets add new trees*. This organization encourages private citizens to plant more trees on their properties. The OHS has formally indicated that we would donate the first tree and stage a tree planting ceremony to mark this important undertaking.

From teaching the young the joy of gardening to meeting and learning together, we are a Society that makes many positive contributions to life in Oakville. We can be proud of our accomplishments for 2017. We did indeed connect people with plants - the lungs of our planet that breathe joy into our world. I would like to thank all of you for your contributions and support.

Join us, where

"Spring is Simply Grand!"

2018 District 6 AGM and Flower Show



Hosted by: St. George Garden Club
Glen Morris Horticultural Society
Lynden Horticultural Society

Saturday, April 14th, 2018

South Dumfries Community Centre, upstairs
(Elevator in lobby)
7 Gaukel Road, St. George

Speaker/Demonstrator: Susan Suter
"How to Grow Flower Designers"

Tickets \$15 - available at the door

Please bring your Society's Banner
and a \$20 to \$25 Door Prize.

Join us for fun, food, and fabulous company!



"What's in a name," said Shakespeare "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet". Perhaps so, but without accurate, universal, and unique names, we may not always get the plant we expected. The classification and naming of plants has a long history. The first known attempts were by the Greek philosopher Aristotle around 350 BC, who used visible physical characteristics such as leaf shape, as a basis.

Many other attempts followed, some requiring as many as twelve descriptors, but it was the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus who was responsible for our modern classification when he formulated the binomial system in the mid 1700's. This consisted of two words, The first word represented the genus and the second word represented the specific epithet, the two words together representing the species. Once the plant breeders got to work, it became necessary to add a third level indicating a sub species or cultivar (cultivated variety) e.g. *Cornus sericea* 'Kelsay'. Incidentally Linnaeus tried to classify all living things, including fifty seven dried fishes!



A plant can have several common names in one language, without considering its other names in other languages, but the Latin binomial name is universal, means the same in any language, and can represent only one plant.

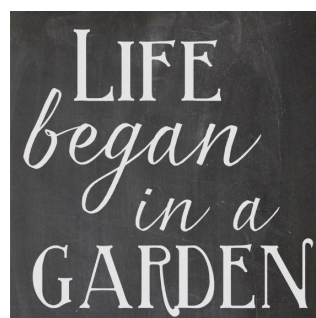
Linnaeus classified plants based on observed similarities and differences. But science is not static. We now have tools such as genetics which call into question many of the old classifications and so changes in genus are sometimes necessary. Of course since the rules are a bit arbitrary and loose, not all botanists agree to the changes, and the International Committee on Spermatophyte is the final adjudicator. But there is also another player in the game. The lowly gardener faces the challenge of calling familiar old faces by new names and often does not do so without a fight.

Take the garden chrysanthemum for instance. A few years ago, based on the work of a Russian botanist, Nicolas Tevelov, the garden chrysanthemum was moved to the genus *Dendranthemum*. In any genus, a particular species is designated the "type species", and all members of the genus must relate to it. In this case the type species was the relatively unknown crown daisy, *Chrysanthemum coronarium*, and Tevelov decided that our beloved garden mum had little in common with the crown daisy, so it had to go, along with several other members of the genus which were relegated to genera such as *Nipponanthemum* and *Tanacetum*. Americans largely ignored the switch and were thus spared the heartache, but such was the uproar in other countries, even by the usually compliant Dutch, that the Committee on Spermatophyte came up with the radical solution of changing the type species to *Chrysanthemum indicum*. Thus our garden mum was restored to its rightful place and the crown daisy became *Glebious coronaria* and was banished to the *Asteracea* family.

If the committee had been around at the time, perhaps we would have been spared the confusion surrounding the word geranium, which is commonly applied to the over five hundred species of geranium and pelargonium.

It seems inevitable that there will always be conflict between botanists, who want to get it right, and gardeners, who also want to get it right so long as everything stays the same! All is not lost though. The Royal Horticultural Society in Britain has set up an Advisory Panel on Nomenclature and Taxonomy, whose mandate is to speak particularly for horticulturalists, restricting name changes to, in the words of one panel member, "those that are incontrovertibly proven and helpful to gardeners" Amen to that.

Happy Gardening, David Marshall !



THREE AMIGOS

Healthy Gardening for Today's World

Applewood Garden Club's annual special evening January 23 features three well-known gardeners: Mark Cullen, Frank Ferragine, and Denis Flanagan. The Three Amigos will look at how people around the world are making biodiversity work, and how you can grow flower and vegetable gardens that are beautiful as well as good for the planet.

Biodiversity is a big word that describes a simple truth: healthy, alive environments with many kinds of plants, insects and wildlife. A diversity of plants attracts many bugs and birds, and together they maintain the balance of nature as it was meant to be.

Mark Cullen, who will address biodiversity's importance around the world as well as in your garden, is one of Canada's most popular garden experts. He reaches two million Canadians weekly through various media outlets such as the *Toronto Star* and "The Green File" on 680 News. He's the author of several books and is a Member of the Order of Canada for his work communicating the importance of gardening.

Frank Ferragine, speaks on urban farming in your own backyard, as well as global efforts to increase food production in a sustainable way. Also known as Frankie Flowers, he's a favourite on CityTV as Breakfast Television's weather anchor and City Line's gardening expert. He's also author of *Pot it Up*, *Get Growing*, *Power Plants* and the recent *Food to Grow*.

Denis Flanagan's topic is achieving beauty and diversity in ornamental gardens. Denis, a landscape designer who learned his craft in England, hosted HGTV's "One Garden, Two Looks" and "The Indoor Gardener." He is now manager of membership services and public relations for Landscape Ontario.

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 7 pm

Location: Great Hall, Unitarian Congregation, 84 North Service Road, Mississauga, L5G 2R9. (just east of Hwy. 10)

Tickets \$20. Available after Dec 10 through Wendy Bell, 905-891-7884, wbell.kaleidoscope@rogers.com and at Home Hardware, Applewood Plaza, 1077 North Service Rd., Mississauga.

Presented by the Applewood Garden Club, Mississauga applewoodgardenclub.ca

Proceeds to Highway of Heroes, hohtribute.ca

Donate Your Christmas Tree!

Help us reach our goal of 3,200 donated Christmas trees! This time of year, RBG uses discarded Christmas trees to rebuild creek channels with berms. These help keep carp out, and facilitates the regrowth of marsh plants creating habitat for native fish and wildlife.

Drop off your live trees (stripped of all decorations) at either Princess Point, or at Valley Inn (on Spring Gardens Road, on the way to Laking Garden) between now and January 12. Look for signage indicating the drop off areas.



January 8	Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street
January 14	Pearl of Africa
	2 p.m. to 3 p.m. <u>RBG Centre</u> In 2016, Peter Thoem volunteered for environmental work in the far south-west corner of Uganda where he found a lush, green and incredibly scenic land. Peter's assignment was to assess the potential for birding tourism. His illustrated presentation takes us into a remote corner of Uganda to meet its people, wildlife and geography. Fee: \$10 (Members 10% off)
January 23	The Three Amigos Healthy Gardening for Today's World
	Mark Cullen, Frank Ferragine, and Denis Flanagan. The Three Amigos will look at how people around the world are making biodiversity work, and how you can grow flower and vegetable gardens that are beautiful as well as good for the planet. Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 7 pm Location: Great Hall, Unitarian Congregation, 84 North Service Road, Mississauga, L5G 2R9. (just east of Hwy. 10) Tickets \$20.
February 12	Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street
February 19	Family Day: Fun with Flowers Family Day in February
	What could be more fun than flower arranging for a mid-winter horticultural celebration? More information to follow.
March 2	RBG Speaker Series: Perennial Design to Simulate Nature
	Join Roy Diblik for an evaluation morning of dynamic garden design using regionally reliable perennials along with native plants to stimulate natural settings. Friday March 2, 2018 8:30 am to 12:00 noon at the RBGT Centre. Fee \$100.(M10% off) Preregister by February 21.
March 2	RBG Speaker Series: Perennial Plant Communities "The Know Maintenance Approach"
	Roy Diblik's thoughtful way to design perennial plantings welcomes fresh contemporary styles and plant diversity integrated with responsible maintenance concerns. Friday March 2, 2018 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the RBGT Centre. Fee \$18.(Members \$6.00) Preregister by February 21.
March 9-18	Canada Blooms
	For more information please visit their website: www.canadablooms.com
March 12	Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street
April 14	2018 District 6 AGM and Annual Flower Show
	For more information please refer to the ad located on page 5 of this newsletter.

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!

Special Group Ticket Sales for Canada Blooms (March 9 - 18, 2018) Downtown Toronto.

Special Ticket Price for Horticultural Society Members:

\$14.00(advance OHS price); Price at the door is \$20.00; \$17 for seniors.



Did you know that the price of admission allows everyone into the National Home Show as well! - two shows for the price of one!

If you are interested, please see Florenda Tingle at our next meeting January 8, 2018.

