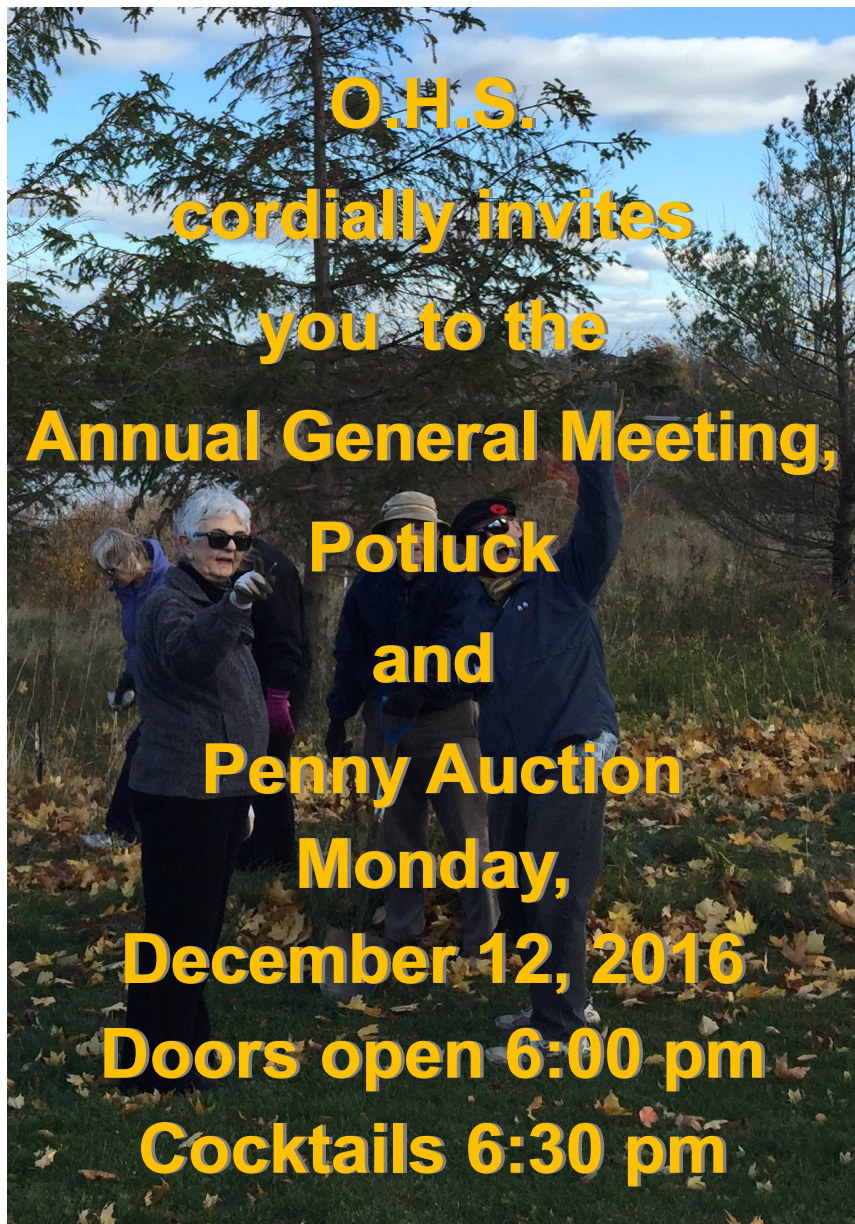




Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter December 2016



What will you bring this year? A salad, main course, dessert?
Remember to bring your dishes, cutlery and mug and of
course your best smile.

Next Meeting: December 12, 2016

Location: MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street

Set-up Volunteers: Don Dusha, Valerie Rughi, Ted Bateman, Stu Gough

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Connecting people with plants – How did we do?

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 rather formal obligations set out for Horticultural Societies under this act. These include:

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

We held ten meetings, two at Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre (JCHAC) and the remainder at Knox Church in downtown Oakville. At both venues we enjoyed excellent speakers:

- ***Gardens of China*** with Larry Urbanoski
- ***Dry Stone Walling*** with Wolfe Bonham
- ***Hydrangeas for Every Garden*** with Rachel Carson
- ***Summer Flowering Bulbs - flower, foliage and fragrance all summer long*** with Dugald Cameron
- ***A Secret in a Garden*** with Catherine Ann Marshall
- ***People and Plant Connection*** with Nancy Lee-Colibaba
- ***Costa Rica....Not Just the Beaches, Three Botanical Gardens!*** with Marsha Gettas
- ***How to design a great garden*** with John Karl Schilder



Thank you to Margaret Jeffery for organizing these terrific talks. We are grateful to Pat Hooper for offering to work with Margaret in 2017 to prepare another great year of learning for us.

As in previous years, our talented floral arrangers shared their artistry at our meetings from March to November. Gardeners also shared some of their most beautiful flowers, vegetables and plants at our Monthly Shows. This was both an opportunity for contest fun, as well as an opportunity 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. You are inspirations.



Connecting people with plants – How did we do?

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, Olga Woroniuk for their work throughout the year and all of you who helped prepare refreshments. Thank you as well to Paula Clayton 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 three gardens this year and began work on a fourth. Ongoing construction in and around the Anderson Parkette, made for extra work this year. But despite this, our 'Garden for Life' bloomed all season. We were proud that the Perennial Plant Association (PPA) recognized this garden for its exemplary design. The 2016 PPA Honor Award went to its designer, Sean James. We can also be proud as well of our two 'Fields of Springs' trial gardens. A beautiful flush of daffodils greeted passersby this spring. While the dry hot weather in May and June set back the establishing eco-lawn at both sites, by fall the deeply rooting fescues



seemed to be filling in quite well again. The planting near Sir Colbourne Lodge seems to be performing well. However, both grasses and daffodils are less successful competing with the weeds in the sunbaked clay soils of Postridge Park. New daffodils were introduced at both sites this fall and they will be evaluated next year to see if they merit ongoing volunteer maintenance. A new OHS offering for 2016 was a planting of over 2000 bulbs at Wellspring Birmingham Gilgan House. We can anticipate a fabulous display of daffodils and muscari 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 2017 to help organize volunteers for these special places. It is rewarding work that makes our community a more beautiful, livable, healthy community.

Thanks to David Marshall, we were given several opportunities to purchase a variety of new plants and bulbs at below cost. David will be retiring from the Bulbs, Plants and Seeds Committee next year. We are very grateful to have had his expertise and hope someone would like to learn from him and step into this role.

Just as Myroslawa Lukiwsky, stepped into the role of Newsletter Editor, we are fortunate to have so many volunteers who generously offer their talents and time. Wade Pitman continues to use his web wizardry to keep our website up to date and beautiful while Veronica Heiderich maintains our Facebook presence. All these folks help us meet our mandate to circulate horticultural information. If

you would enjoy writing articles or creating posts please join our team of good communicators.

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." — Unknown



Connecting people with plants – How did we do?

We held two successful fundraisers this year. Our May Plant Sale raised over \$5,000 and our educational Garden Tour, intended to break even, raised over \$4,000. This success was due to tremendous volunteer effort, generous donations and lovely weather. Thank you to all who made our Plant Sale fun, educational and profitable. Our special thanks go to Paula Clayton for not only coordinating and exceptional Garden Tour team but for also hosting a delightful volunteer tea in her garden in August. We love to celebrate all of our



members because you all make a difference by supporting our Society.

Big and small events highlighted the year. Our Teacup Bouquet Workshop at Sunrise Senior Living brightened the day of all participants. Celia Roberts generously shared her design expertise and many volunteers gave their time to share a little horticultural therapy with the seniors. Smiles were broad and eyes wide when all the



bouquets were complete.

Many more smiles appeared on Family Day as we hosted our packed event 'Fun with Flowers.' A rainbow of people waited in queue to enjoy the rainbows of flowers awaiting their imagination. Linda Tock does a great job organizing the chaos and the results are joyous.



Linda is also to be celebrated for her work coordinating our Junior Garden Program. This year, two bean trellises were constructed in the Garden in memory of Sue Ferry. They provide a beautiful framework in the garden and echo the gazebo recently installed by the Town. The dozen families who participated in the program benefited from the great educational experience and enjoyed their own abundant fresh vegetables and flowers. Thanks to Helen Stevenson, the children had a celebratory

harvest meal in the Whole Foods Kitchen. Helen has been coordinating this for several years and will be taking on more of the organizational responsibility for the junior program going forward. While most of our meetings were held at Knox Church in downtown Oakville, we held two meetings at Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre (JCHAC). We look forward to holding some of our future meetings at this facility and enjoying the beautiful gardens being developed there.



Where our society shares goals with community organizations like JCHAC, 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



Connecting people with plants – How did we do?

relationship with the Town of Oakville and the Region of Halton.

Working with several of these partners, Larry Urbanoski spearheaded a joint initiative to remove buckthorn along the Glen Oak Creek Trail. Many of our members are actively helping to address the problem of invasive plants species in Oakville and will continue to seek solutions in the coming years.

From teaching the young the joy of gardens, to bringing joy to seniors, 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 2016. We did indeed connect people with plants - the lungs of our planet that breathe joy into our world. Marie and I would like to thank all of you for your contributions and support. Have a very Happy Holiday. We hope to see you at our Potluck and AGM and if not in the New Year - our best wishes to all.

Every gardener knows that under the cloak of Winter there lies a miracle in a seed waiting to sprout, a bud straining to unfurl, a bulb opening in the light, and the anticipation nurtures our dreams. Barbara Winkler.

A comforting thought as we look out onto our bare gardens. The countryside is bare too, as the last few lingering leaves have fallen. Except, that is for the beeches and some varieties of oak, which retain their browned leaves through the winter. Seeing these on our Pathfinder Group hikes on the Niagara Escarpment reminded me that they are characteristic trees of the Carolinian forest zone in which we live, and I decided to write about it.

Eighteen thousand years ago there were no forests in Canada. The land was covered by a massive ice sheet up to two kilometres thick. As the ice melted and the glaciers retreated, the first land to be exposed was the peninsula of southwestern Ontario. 14000 years ago it was treeless sub-arctic tundra, but a thousand years later a conifer forest started to emerge. Between 11000 and 8000 years ago pine, hemlock, oaks, beech and maple returned from the South and began to dominate, and the Carolinian forest, the first forest in Canada, was born.

There are eight forest zones in Canada, from the Coastal forest zone in the West to the Acadian forest zone in the East, and the Carolinian forest is by far the smallest, occupying just 0.1% of the total forest area in Canada. It covers 43000 square kilometres and extends from Windsor to Goderich on Lake Huron to the West, hugging the shorelines of Lakes Erie and Ontario to the South, and never more than seventy kilometres from the shorelines to the North where it merges with the Great Lakes Saint Laurence forest.

The northern boundary seems to follow a line where the average daily temperature is eight degrees Celsius.

The name Carolinian derives from the fact that many of the plant and animal species in the forest have natural ranges as far South as North Carolina and reach their most northerly range in southern

Ontario. Characteristic trees include beech, various maples and oaks, and unique to the Carolinian forest, flowering dogwood, wild crabapple, redbud, hickory, American sycamore, pawpaw, black tupelo sassafras, tulip tree, red mulberry and cucumber magnolia.

Because twenty five percent of Canada's population lives in the Carolinian zone, there has been major loss of forest and wetlands to farming and urbanization. And eighty percent of the original forest has been lost.



Fortunately, the uniqueness and value of the forest has been belatedly recognized by various levels of government, and at least twenty significant areas are now officially protected, and many more informally by private landowners and conservation groups. However, the remaining forest still faces great pressure from urbanization, and as gardeners, we should do all we can to support enlightened preservation of our heritage. David Marshall



Hunte's Gardens in Barbados

in the garden of....

The magnificent Hunte's Gardens are situated in the lush interior countryside of Barbados in the parish of St. Joseph. The property, with a giant sink hole/gully at its centre, was bought by Anthony Hunte, a legendary English horticulturist with an unusual and very artistic flair. The gardens are located in a rain forest, and therefore display vigorous plants densely growing on many levels, from sunny open spaces to the dark heart of a real Caribbean jungle. Believe it or not, the gardens are not that old - about 7 years, which tells me he must have spent a small fortune on planting material and labour to get it to its present state so quickly. Of course, a 12 month growing season also helps.

Anthony Hunte has created a picturesque and easy-to-walk path that offers many surprises, thanks to the superbly created series of mini-gardens embedded within the main large unit, combining vibrant colours and textures of rare exotic plants.

Through the gardens, you'll find statues, antiques and other beautiful decorative pieces that add to this amazing experience. These Gardens offer to garden and nature lovers one of the finest experiences one can find on East Caribbean islands.

Hunte's Gardens are open daily.

Garden Discoverer—Florenda Tingle



*Learn to be an observer in all seasons.
Every single day, your garden has something new and
wonderful to show you. ~ unknown*





A picture is worth a thousand words

OHS Wreath making

Renew your Oakville Horticultural Membership



OAKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

2017 Membership

November 1, 2016 – October 31, 2017

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

2017

- ☐ 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

Your Membership



Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour.

John Boswell



Calendar of Events

December 12	AGM Potluck and Silent Auction at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	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 ate 6:30 pm. Most importantly bring a smile and a hearty appetite!
January 8	Ontario Rock Garden January Meeting
	The Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society will meet Sunday, January 8th, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The meeting will feature John Lonsdale of Edgewood Gardens, Exton, PA. John Lonsdale is an avid collector and grower of woodland plants. He will treat us to a presentation of photographs highlighting the shade loving plants that he grows at Edgewood Gardens. John has been an active member of a number of horticultural groups, including the Daphne Society, Alpine Garden Society, Cyclamen Society, North American Rock Garden Society, Scottish Rock Garden Club, AGS Fritillaria Group, The Crocus Group, Aril Society International and the Species Iris Group of North America. There will be free admission and parking. All are welcome! Bring your mug and a friend! Location: Toronto Botanical Gardens Street address: 777 Lawrence Ave. E. Toronto, ON Garden Hall.
January 9	January Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held once again at Knox Presbyterian Church MacMillan Hall 89 Street
January 26 -27	RBG Horticultural Therapy Basic Training
	This two-day training session covers the indoor and outdoor environment and introduces participants to plants that enhance surroundings, and have many therapeutic qualities. <i>Thursday and Friday, January 26 and 27; 9 to 4 p.m. at Woodingford Lodge, Woodstock. Fee: \$250(refreshments and workshop materials)</i>
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.
July 10-14, 2017	2017 International Master Gardener Conference in Portland, Oregon
	The International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) has been held every two years since 1987. The IMGC provides an opportunity for Master Gardeners, State and County coordinators to come together and learn through seminars and tours, celebrate successes through the International Search for Excellence Program , and meet and network with Master Gardener volunteers, faculty and staff from across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and South Korea.



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!



May the joy of the season be with you throughout the coming year!

