



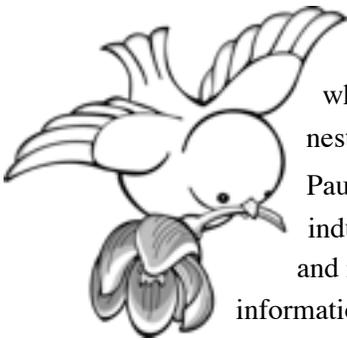
JUNE 2012

# OAKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



*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.*

## JUNE'S SPEAKER - PAUL OLIVER BIRDS IN THE GARDEN



Paul Oliver is an avid birder and a partner in the Urban Nature Store, [www.urbannaturestore.ca](http://www.urbannaturestore.ca), which specializes in seeds, feeders, birdhouses and nesting supplies for backyard birding enthusiasts. Paul has been involved in the lawn and garden industry for more than 10 years and is the founder and managing partner of TreeHelp.com, a tree care information service and product manufacturer that focuses on the health and needs of urban trees.

## THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE THE 2012 OHS GARDEN TOUR

Oakville Horticultural Society Members can purchase tickets for the June 17th garden tour for just \$10 each at the June meeting— a savings of \$5 off the regular price.

Take this opportunity to get a group together and enjoy the garden tour this year with friends. (Maybe it's your turn to treat someone!)

Cash or cheque, come prepared to take advantage of this special offer. We won't tell your guests that you bought the tickets at a discount!

**Mailing Address:**

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**Treasurer:**

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**Website:**

[www.oakvillehort.org](http://www.oakvillehort.org)

**Next Meeting:**

Monday 11 June – 7:30 pm  
MacMillian Hall, 89 Dunn Street

**Hall Set Up (9 am):**

Ellie Izadpanah, John Raynor, Anne Ritchie

**Hospitality:**

John Raynor, Rosanne Swalwell, Sonja Tessari

**Clerking:**

Heather Reccord, Sonja Tessari

**Library:**

Veronica Heiderich, Cathy Ryan

**Doors Open (6 pm)**

*Where Gardeners come to flourish*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the garden season well underway, now is as good a time as any to start planning for the garden's future. What can be added for that extra touch? After digging for the plant sale, there are blank spaces for new possibilities to fill. Shifting plants that need a change from their current location opens up even more avenues for renewing the garden.

In our garden, losing an old cedar has created a dry sun garden where it once was shady and almost moist. The addition of a good layer of mulch, and a repair to the mysteriously leaking soaker hose, should help the plants with the transition. (I do find it curious how the soaker hoses develop leaks in the vicinity of new plantings — one could not have anything to do with the other...)

So it is with our society, looking for possibilities to fill the blank spaces.

- This is the last newsletter our editor, Natalie Comeau, will prepare as she relocates to Prince Edward County.
- Our 2nd vice president, Joan Paris, feels it is time for another to fill the 2nd VP position.
- Margaret Larson has stepped down from her role as co-coordinator of the monthly shows.
- We are looking for someone to assist Linda Tock with — and eventually take over — the junior gardeners program.
- Sonja Tessari has indicated the position of 1st vice president will be open.

- Even our treasurer, Fred Teng, has informed me that due to his work he may not be able to continue in his role. So many opportunities to renew...

Now is the time to be fearless and try something new. There is a lot of experience available to help you grow in this society. As one who ventured forward into the publicity position, I had a lot of fun, sharpened some skill sets and — with a great safety net — tried things I would never have done before. Come and talk to me at the June meeting about how *you* can get involved in renewing *our* garden.

Wasn't that a great day for our plant sale? A good crowd of plant-buying people came out on one of the best weather days we have enjoyed so far. Cheers to all of you for making our plant sale the ongoing success it is for our society.

And now, we turn our energies to the garden tour. Christine Lee is preparing a collection of Oakville gardens for the public to view. This is another opportunity for our society to meet with the public, guiding them through the gardens. May we have another fair day weather-wise and a great day garden-wise.

I'm now getting beyond the word count limit our editor likes, so I will sign off. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to send me an email at [ohs.president@oakvillehort.org](mailto:ohs.president@oakvillehort.org).

*Stuart Gough*  
*President*

## WHY DOES THE OHS FUND RAISE?

Like many other organizations, fundraising brings more value to our society. We want our members to experience the best, most relevant and informative monthly speakers. We are involved in community projects such as Fun with Flowers and the Junior Garden — an award-winning program recognized by the province and the OHA. We maintain our public garden, the Anderson Parkette, and support our website, newsletter, flower show and refreshment committee.

Our current membership fees of \$20 per family do not cover all we do. Our fundraising efforts subsidize each member by \$15. This year, the plant sale raised \$4,600. Many members participated in making this event a success

and I personally want to thank you all! We had over 1,195 plants on the tables and sold approximately 990, with the remainder being donated to Oakville Green and Oakville's Humane Society for their plant sales.

Celia Roberts headed the plant sale committee for more than 10 years, and it was enlightening to walk in her shoes. The hardest part was the worry — would the public show up to buy plants? And THEY DID!

Now let's get behind our next fund raiser — our spectacular Garden Tour — Sunday June 17th.

*Sonja Tessari*

## OUT ON A LIMB

Kevin and I had a brilliant time in Amsterdam: To get on a plane and in just six short hours arrive in a country so completely unlike ours was magic. The architecture, canals, friendly people and beautiful flowers were a sight to behold. You can visit the flower market in town and buy 50 stems of tulips for just 10 Euros. There were amaryllis bulbs the size of small bowling balls, and begonia tubers I could barely fit into my hand. If that wasn't enough, the Keukenhof was simply beyond belief. Much bigger than I expected, it was planted to perfection and though there were close to 100,000 people there that day, it never appeared crowded. Many of my photos look as though it's just me, Kevin and a handful of others enjoying this world treasure.



Now back at home, I've been moving through the garden trying to be as efficient as those Dutch gardeners. This May long weekend, the weather jumped from cold spring to hot summer in an instant. Those "I'll get to them later" weeds launched a major attack when I started to work on them. It turns out they were *Cardamine hirsuta* (hairy bittercress). When my arm brushed them, they set off their seeds like scud missiles. I will be given ample opportunity to learn my lesson to pull them as soon as I see them.

The next unwelcome surprise was the welded-together leaves of my hydrangeas – the work of the Leaf-tier moth. Last year I noticed a couple of fused leaves, pulled them apart and dispatched the wormy contents. This year, several

of my mop-head varieties have many stems that are completely glued. I'm not certain if this is because we're all growing more of these lovely varieties so there's a buffet calling to them, or if our milder winter was kind to them.



The moth caterpillars' clever feat is accomplished by applying silk along the edges of two newly expanding leaves, cementing them together. The caterpillars encase themselves in their lovely green tent and chow down on the forming leaves and flower heads.

There are several recommended treatments: 1) Remove the leaves completely. 2) Squish the leaves together to shmush the contents. 3) My recommended method – pull the leaves apart, remove the offending creature and silk.

In methods one and two, the flower head is destroyed. My method, though a little messy, can save the flower head if you manage to reach it before the little creature does.

Without the ability to use pesticides, the imperative of watching for pests (and weeds) and dealing with them quickly is an essential part of gardening. Hopefully when you take a good look at your *Hydrangea macrophylla*, all will be well. But if it isn't, start unsticking those leaves and dispatching those unwelcome visitors.

Until then, see you at our next meeting.

**Barbara Phillips-Conroy**

www.barbarasgardenchronicles.  
blogspot.com

# UPCOMING EVENTS

# garden

## Ontario Iris Society Flower Show

Sunday 3 June – 1 pm - 3:30 pm  
Toronto Botanical Garden  
Members display iris bloom stalks for judging. Potted irises will also be on sale. Free admission.  
<http://www.sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/events>

## Halton Region Rain Barrel Sales

Saturday 9 June – 8 am - noon  
Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville (south-east parking lot)  
\$40 (tax included) cash only. One per household. Proof of Halton residency required. Sales also take place in Burlington June 2.  
[www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca)

## Peony Festival and Canadian Peony Society Ontario Region Peony Show

June 16 to 17, 2012 – 10 am - 4 pm  
Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens  
Open to all – join us and enter your cut peonies. Free admission and parking. For more information, please contact Judi Denny at [mjdenny@sympatico.ca](mailto:mjdenny@sympatico.ca).  
[www.peony.ca](http://www.peony.ca)

## Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society Rose Show

Saturday, June 23, 1:30 - 5:30 pm  
Sunday, June 24, 10:00am - 4:00 pm  
RBG Centre  
Annual juried rose show. Come and get advice on rose culture and care.  
[www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca)

## Veggie Village Gardening Series

July 12 and September 20  
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
RBG Centre  
Nancy Lee-Colibaba leads hands-on workshops in the Veggie Village: Caring for the Garden and Harvesting from the Garden. Members: \$20 each; Non-members: \$25.  
[www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca)

## OHA 106th Convention

Gardening Then & Now 1812-2012  
August 17-19, 2012  
Niagara Region  
Speakers, garden tours, vineyard and winery visits, competitions and more. Early bird deadline is June 30, 2012.  
[www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)

## NOTICES

### New Members:

Please welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Oakville Horticultural Society.

- Dodie Layton
- Sally Casey
- Cheri Russell
- Virginie Giard
- Maria Crane

### Upcoming Meetings:

- September 10  
Wayne Brown: Poinsettias
- October 8  
Denis Fallat: Bulbs, and More Bulbs
- November 12  
Dave Naylor: Cacti and Succulents

### Flower and Photo Shows:

Please visit our website to view this month's show schedule. Or, download the complete OHS 2012 Show Book at [http://www.oakvillehort.org/eMShowGuide\\_OHS\\_2012.pdf](http://www.oakvillehort.org/eMShowGuide_OHS_2012.pdf).

## WELCOME TO THE 2012 JUNIOR GARDENERS AND THEIR FAMILIES!

Ben and Oliver Camilleri, Verity Dawson, Ben Fullerton, Delia Jansen, Marie McColeman, Jack McNeil, Eila O'Neil, Max and Cecilia Overton, Jackson Patient, Olivia Savage, Thomas Stickland, Harper and Campbell Treschu.

Linda Tock

