

October 2012

Where Gardeners come to flourish



Newsletter



Sean James & Cathy Kavassalis at the Official Opening of the Anderson Bridge Parkette

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, October 15th 7:30 p.m., doors open at 6:30

Location: Knox Presbyterian,
MacMillan Hall, 89 Dunn Street

Speaker: Denis Fallat, Van Noort Bulb
Company - Bulbs for Colour in the Garden

WHAT'S INSIDE:

President's Message	2
Events & Notices	2
Junior Program	3
Anderson Bridge Parkette	4,5
Show Schedule	6
In Memoriam	7
Master Gardener Q&A	8
New Members	8
Sign-Up Duties	8

A Word from Our President

Volunteering is what makes the OHS fun and interesting.

First off, I would like to take this moment to thank Barbara Phillips-Conroy for volunteering to become our Newsletter Editor. And a wonderful looking edition it is. I find it exciting to see how the newsletter develops in the hands of each editor. Much as our gardens reflect our style, Barbara's garden is always filled with new and wonderful plants — our newsletter is going to be very interesting.

Next, I would like to congratulate everyone who had a hand in the development of the Anderson Bridge Parkette. We have come a long way from that forlorn island of flowers and a few shrubs centered in that patch of grass. It took vision and perseverance to see the full potential of this space become the wonderful garden we now see. The garden has become a destination for all to visit and enjoy. It is a learning centre on both how to create a water wise garden and showing off native plants thriving.

At this year's OHA Annual Convention, outgoing President Carol Dunk issued a challenge to all Societies to promote growing food locally. At the OHS, we have been active through our Junior Program doing just that: creating a fantastic learning centre for kids and parents, where participants plant, tend and harvest a bounty from the garden. At our last meeting, the Junior Garden Program showed us their flower arranging skills, using materials kindly donated by our members and our friends at the Municipal Greenhouse.

This past year we enjoyed successful fund raising drives, through our Plant Sale and Garden Tour. We all take part in the Plant Sale, digging, dividing and potting up donations for the sale, setting up the tables, arranging the plants and helping the public find just the plants they are looking for and offering advice on the best practices to ensure their purchases thrive. Our Garden Tour could not occur without the dedication of those that find the gardens, the garden owners themselves and our members who come out to guide visitors through the gardens.

At the Society's executive level, change is a constant and we are always looking for members who wish to help. There are exciting opportunities with 1st and 2nd Vice President, co-chairs of Junior and Monthly shows committees, audit committee and search committee positions.

And speaking of exciting, our Treasurer, Fred Teng, believes to have found a method of keeping more OHS funds available to support our on-going projects. This will be discussed at the October meeting.

Our members are our greatest strength and as ambassadors for the OHS. You make it a pleasure to be your president. Thanks.

Events & Notices

October 15

Last day to place your order for Crocosmia/Camassia
<http://www.oakvillehort.org/> for order form information

October 16

Paul Zammit is speaking at Eising Greenhouse and Garden Centre, 814 Cockshutt Road sponsored by Norfolk County Master Gardeners Public Clinic at 7:00 p.m. Free - all welcome. Further details norfolkmg@yahoo.com

October 19-28

92nd Hamilton Fall Garden & Mum Show Gage Park Greenhouse - Theme: The Jungle 10:00a.m. - 8:00p.m. daily, Admission \$6.00, Children & Seniors \$5.00
www.hamiltonmumshow.com

October 20

District 6 Breakfast Meeting Brantford Lions Park Hall hosted by Brantford Garden Club in honour of their 160th birthday

October 22

The Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. Oakville Public Library

President:	Stuart Gough ohs.president@oakvillehort.org
Membership:	Elizabeth Thompson ohs.membership@oakvillehort.org
Mailing:	Joan Paris
Secretary:	Veronica Heiderich
Treasurer:	Fred Teng
Website:	www.oakvillehort.org
Post Box:	Box 69605, 109 Thomas St Oakville, ON L6J 7R4

The Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter is published 10 times a year from September to June. All photographs and articles are produced by the Editor unless otherwise noted. Articles and photographs should be sent to the Editor Barbara Phillips-Conroy at ohs.editor@oakvillehort.org. Deadline for submission is the 3rd Thursday of the month.

The Juniors Celebrate the End of Their Season with an Evening of Flower Arranging

When young gardeners see a table full of summer flowers in every color of the rainbow, it's like being in a candy shop! Selecting what they want is not a problem, keeping up with them IS. They're so quick, serious and determined. Whew!

If you were lucky enough to witness this creative process before the final hooray at 7:00 on Monday evening, you were no doubt amazed. Most children had a "practice run", mid-July during one of our gardening classes. Small tins were provided (thanks to Wayne Curtis and his well fed cats), flowers and greens came from each child's garden. We had the opportunity to grow lots of annuals this year thanks to Tim Rivers at the Oakville Greenhouses. Butterflies and bees enjoyed the abundance too.

Thanks for being such a warm and wonderful audience – some of the little ones were a little bit nervous, although



Linda Tock Photo

not for long. Your encouraging rounds of applause made children and parents, alike, glow with pride.

Behind the scenes, my thanks to those who provided flowers/greens; to Merleen Hall for picking flowers with me the morning of this event; and to Lillie de Silva who has been so helpful during all the events that have taken place from Spring to Fall, I am most grateful.

Linda Tock



Linda Tock Photo

WELL DONE



The Juniors demonstrate
mastery of floral design

Anderson Bridge Parkette Official Opening of the Garden for Life

Saturday, 15 September, 2012

The sun shone on this triumphant event marking the official opening of the Anderson Bridge Parkette at the corner of Forsythe and Rebecca. M.P.P. Kevin Flynn, Mayor Rob Burton, Councillor Dave Gittings were among just a few of the officials present to help the Oakville Horticultural Society celebrate this great day.

A Bit of History

The OHS had maintained this little park for many years. It was, like other parkettes in Town, pleasant, but unremarkable. It had grass, bushes and perennials and unfortunately for our volunteers, no means of watering any of it. So, when the United Nations General Assembly declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity - a challenge to safeguard the variety of life on earth upon which our lives depend - we decided there was no better place to start than this parkette. Our goal in this 15 x 20 meter park was to demonstrate a biodiverse garden that was not only beautiful, but required very little water or maintenance for the community to enjoy.

Once our membership gave approval that this was going to be our 2010 project, we set out to fundraise. The cornerstone of the park financing was through a special event - an *Evening with Freeman Patterson* - renown photographer.

The evening was a great success. The presentation was beautiful and very well received. And our members were brilliant at finding sponsors, manning tables, and selling and buying tickets.

The Anderson Bridge Parkette would never have happened without the dedication and remarkable talents of volunteers and donations of free goods and services: Sean James of Fern Ridge Landscaping & Eco Consulting designed the garden and provided a crew to help with execution; David Hawley and Associates cleared the property of grass; Petrie's delivered soil and mulch and donated a truck to remove material for recycling.

Our members worked through the sleet in early April to remove existing plants. Later that month, on a much nicer day, more OHS volunteers were joined by a crew from Fern Ridge to layout, plant and put down 14 yards of mulch - a long, but rewarding day.

In October of 2011 The Town of Oakville laid an Eco-Priora(TM) pathway that allows water to flow through. As well, they continues in their support refilling our water barrel, delivering compost and removing garbage at a moment's notice.

Margaret Jeffrey and Cathy Kavassalis take moment from mulching and weeding the day before to show off their brand new sign



A Beautiful Garden Year-Round

The garden just shone that day - reflecting the hours of hard work and good design. Of the 630-700 plants representing 48 species and 28 plant families, many were in bloom. This is a garden that will be enjoyed from spring to fall by local residents, butterflies, pollinators and hungry bunnies.

Not Only Lovely, But Award Winning

As you may have heard, this project has been awarded the OHA Community Improvement Award which is a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone who participated and made it all possible.



How Many Government Employees Did it Take to Help Us Build a Garden?

Roughly 1 per 10 square meter of park. In addition to all the design, planting, maintenance, watering, replanting wayward plants and mulching - there was an enormous administrative component undertaken by Margaret Jeffery and Cathy Kavassalis.



Cathy & Mayor Rob Burton

The schematic below shows who they needed to speak to over the 2-year period from inception to opening day.

No doubt this list will help when we start to work on our next project.



MPP Kevin Flynn presented a certificate of congratulations from Premier Dalton McGuinty

Province of Ontario

MPP. Oakville
Kevin Flynn
Sean O'Meara Constituency Office Manager

Anderson Parkette Government Involvement

Halton Region

Gary Carr Regional Chair
Darshan Caglioti Assistant to the Chair
Water Efficiency
Kathy McAlpine Sims Program Coordinator
Communications
Samantha Thompson
Regional Construction
Rick Ranelli Supervisor, Construction

Oakville

Parks and Open Space
Chris Mark Director
Jane Arnette Senior Manager
Leo Ostner Supervisor Parks Tech. Services
Howie Kumagai Landscape Technologist
Candace Karandiuk Forestry Section
Various support staff for watering, tree pruning, etc.

Environmental Policy
Cindy Toth Director
Donna Doyle Senior Environmental Policy Analyst
Trisha Leszczynski Environmental Policy Coordinator

Communications
Giselle Shaw Director of Corporate Communications
Janine Ivinge Senior Communications Advisor

Engineering and Construction
Dan Cozzi, Director
Bob Dehoog, Road Corridor Permit Coordinator

Conservation Halton (HRCA)

Robert Edmondson Director, Watershed Management
Brenda Axon Manager, Watershed Planning Services
Jennifer Lawrence Manager Environmental Planning
Katie Jane Stewart Environmental Planning Technician
Ash Baron Terrestrial Planning Ecologist

Oakville

Office of the Mayor
Rob Burton
Denise Sproat Secretary to the Mayor

Oakville Councillors
Cathy Duddeck - Ward and Board of Directors HRCA
Pam Damoff - Ward
Allan Elgar - Board of Directors HRCA
Keith Bird - Board of Directors HRCA
Dave Gittings - Council support

SEPTEMBER



Just a Few of our Evening's Winners

#1 David Lewis shows off his stem of Sedum 'Stardust'

#2 Jean Latham's Decorative Miniature - Touch of Copper

#3 General Novice award winner for 'Yellow Wave' Veronica Heiderich

Horticultural Schedule for October

Perennials

1. Alcea (hollyhock) - 1 stem
2. Branch showing fall colour, under 36"
3. Branch, flowering, under 36"
4. Branch, fruited, under 36"
5. Bulb, corm, tuber, other - 1 stem
6. Chrysanthemum - 1 bloom or spray
7. Dahlia - 1 stem or bloom
8. Grass, ornamental - 3 stems
9. Perennial, other, plant height under 15" - 3 stems
10. Perennial, other, plant height over 15", spike form - 1 stem
11. Perennial, other plant height over 18", other form - 1 stem
12. Perennial, collection of 3 kinds - 1 stem each
13. Rosa, (rose), hybrid tea - 1 bloom
14. Rosa, (rose), floribunda or grandiflora - 1 spray or bloom
15. Rosa, (rose), shrub - 1 spray or bloom
16. Rosa, (rose), miniature - 1 spray or bloom
17. Rosa, (rose) climbing - 1 spray or bloom
18. Rosa, (rose), other - 1 spray or bloom
19. Rosa, (rose), hips - 1 spray
20. Sedum - 1 stem

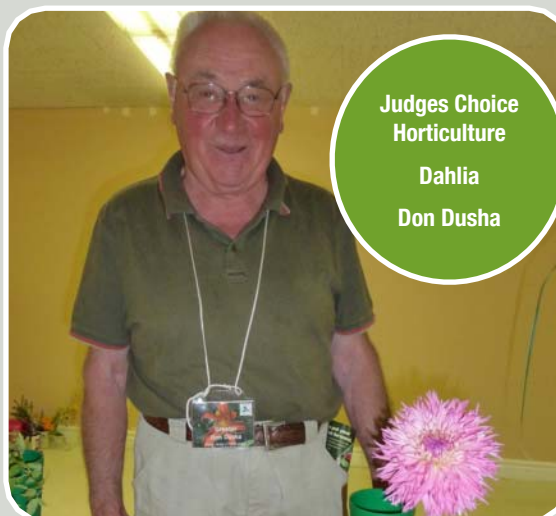
Annuals

21. Annual, plant height under 15" - 3 stems
22. Annual, plant height over 15", spike form - 1 stem
23. Annual, plant height over 15", other form - 1 stem
24. Annual, collection of 3 kinds - 1 stem each
25. Coleus - 3 stems
26. Plant grown specifically for butterfly habitat, grown without pesticides
27. Fall craft inspired by the garden, made by the exhibitor, not previously shown
28. Berries or small fruit - 1/2 pint
29. Fruit, large - 1 specimen
30. Seed heads, decorative - 3 stems
31. Seed pods - at least 3 specimens
32. Tomato, cherry - 1 truss or 5 specimens
33. Tomato, large - 3 specimens, calyx left on
34. Vegetable, large - 1 specimen, e.g.: squash, turnip, pumpkin
35. Vegetable, small - 3 specimens, e.g.: leeks, beans, beets
36. House plant grown for flowers or fruit
37. House plant grown for foliage
38. Educational exhibit
39. Any other cultivar (AOC)

DECORATIVE SCHEDULE - COSMIC JOURNEY*

1. Class of Distinction: **Plasma**, An abstract design
2. Chairman's Trophy: **Massive Mars**, A modern mass design
3. General: **Celestial Panache**, Un chapeau design
4. General Novice: **Starburst**, A design
5. Miniature: **Asteroid**, A dried suspended design in niche 5" high and 4-1/2" wide x 3" deep

*See 2012 Show Book at <http://www.oakvillehort.org/> for Design Notes



Judges Choice
Horticulture

Dahlia

Don Dusha

In Memoriam

So many of us were saddened to hear that **Renate Rodenburg** had died on September 8th in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She had been ill with metastatic ocular melanoma.

Renate and Hank were leading members of our society in their various official capacities, which included President and Treasurer. Perhaps more importantly, they were friends to so many of us.

As I have learned, Renate's journey to Oakville from Germany was a circuitous one. She met Hank traveling on a bus to Yosemite National Park in California and married him in 1964. Business took them to New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and then Oakville.

In Oakville, Renate's community spirit and dedication was evident in her many volunteer activities including the Royal Botanical Gardens, Gairloch Gardens, docent at the Burlington Children's Art Gallery, driver to seniors in need, and of course at the Oakville Horticultural Society where she first was a member of the annual tour committee - later becoming its chair; the plant sale; recruiter and lastly our President.

Anne Ritchie was one of Renate's friends and a recruit to our society. She spoke of one of her first 'adventures' with Renate. Several years ago, the OHS was given a mere 48 hours to remove anything worthwhile by the Town in advance of the ground-breaking for Great Lakes Boulevard housing development. Anne had no idea what was in store, as Renate's only hint had been, "Wear comfortable shoes." So with several other volunteers, they trekked into the bush on a wet cold May day and dug up huge pails of *Trilliums* for hours - dragged them back to the road, where they were lucky enough to hitch a ride with Halton work crew. Anne figured she was done for the day.... However, Renate told her to go home, have lunch and return so they could finish sorting, bundling, and transplanting red and white trilliums. Anne remembers getting a free trillium for her hard work, which blooms every spring time.

This Herculean effort paid off, as every single trillium and woodland treasure was sold at our annual sale.

The annual tours under Renate's stewardship were marvelous. She was completely dedicated to finding the very best gardens to visit. Norma Kirkpatrick even confessed that one year they were concerned that the

tour had become so popular, they might have too many people visiting the gardens at once. And, once the tour was over, the hunt began for next year's tour. She and Anne put on their walking shoes and starting scouting for fabulous gardens to delight visitors.

Fortunately, we were lucky enough to be able to visit Renate's own garden on the tour one year. Apparently she had to be arm-twisted, not thinking her garden was worthy. Anyone who had ever visited her garden paradise was overwhelmed with the perfection of it all. Plants were collected from many sources, but often planted only after careful consideration. She would watch the light and see how the new inclusion would work with others in the garden - often moving it several times in the pot, before it found a permanent home.

When Renate and Hank moved to Chapel Hill in 2006 to be closer to their children, she took courses at Duke University and volunteered at the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.

This summer, Renate and her family were able to enjoy one last family vacation by the coast where they were able to make more family memories. For those of us who knew her, or maybe have one of the beautiful *Trilliums* in our garden, she will live on as a shining example of a life well lived.



MASTER GARDENER CORNER



Do you have a gardening question?

Send them to Subject Line
"Help Me Master Gardener"
ohs.editor @oakvillehort.org



Too late for this
pod - seeds gone -
earwig in
residence

How do you germinate Hemerocallis (daylily) seeds?

Just as the seed pod begins to turn brown, it will begin to split apart. Pluck the seed pod. Let dry.

Researcher and breeder, Dr. Robert Greisbach found that "daylily seeds must be in the ground at a near-freezing temperature for six to eight weeks before they start to develop; they can still germinate after being exposed to slightly warmer conditions, but must remain at those conditions for a longer period of time." (<http://magazine.uchicago.edu/0008/features/daylilies.htm>)

His research and that of others suggest that stratification for 3 to 6 weeks in the refrigerator will ensure the seeds

germinate more quickly and reliably. They can then be stored before sowing and should take between 2 to 7 weeks to sprout. I see various recommendations from planting in pure vermiculite, good commercial planting mix or directly in the garden. It is advised to keep medium moist, not wet.

Some references: An original paper on dormancy and germination in 1955 by Griesbach http://www.daylilies.org/AHSarchives/Griesbach_1955.pdf
http://ces.ca.uky.edu/lyon-files/Q__A_6_Daylilies_from_Seed.doc

Dunwell - <http://www.ca.uky.edu/HLA/Dunwell/DYLYPROP.html>
(C. Kavassalis, Master Gardener)

NEW MEMBERS	LIBRARY	CLERKING	SET-UP 9:00AM	REFRESHMENTS
Please welcome new member Sandra Lex.	Veronica Heiderich	Mary Cameron Merleen Hall	Ted Bateman Cindy Popp Anne Ritchie	Margaret Jeffery Muriel Lee Beryle Lowther Linda Tock