

May 2013

*Where Gardeners come to flourish*



# Newsletter



## OHA District 6 Spring Workshop & Flower Show in Caledonia April 20, 2013

(L/R) Joan Paris, Mary Cameron, Marie Decker, Beryle Lowther, Veronica Heiderich, Merleen Hall, Valerie Westwood, Mila Golochtchouk, Sonja Tessari, Linda Tock, Celia Roberts, & Florrie Abbess



### NEXT MEETING:

Monday, May 13, 2013

doors open at 6:30

Location: Knox Presbyterian,  
MacMillan Hall  
89 Dunn Street

Speakers: Cathy Kavassalis

Topic: Ferns

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## President's Message

I took a break from work to see how things were progressing in the garden: Green shoots here and there, and even more when I cleared away the debris - we are spring clean-up gardeners. Still, there are many plants that have not yet made an appearance thanks to this slow spring. Hopefully, with last night's warmth of 19C and rain, this should finally get the ground warmed up and the plants leaping up.

And, just in time for our Plant Sale. Our next meeting happens after the sale, so this is our last chance to encourage you to help both your garden and the society by digging and dividing your overgrown perennials and sharing some of those little 'volunteers'. If each member contributed 5 healthy specimens, we would have around 1,000 plants for sale. Pots and planting soil are now available from the depots, so stop by and pick up what you need. Named plants sell for a higher price than mystery plants, so tag them with name, colour of blossom, and daylight or shade. If you have any questions, contact Sonja Tessari at [ohs.plantsale@oakvillehort.org](mailto:ohs.plantsale@oakvillehort.org).

On Page 5 you'll find a ballot asking you to vote on a membership fee increase for our society. As you've heard and read, it is necessary to ask for this increase in order to close the gap of what it costs to run our society. Please send your vote either by Email or post by June 1, 2013.

Our Junior Garden program is completely subscribed and will soon begin their program. Seeing the children spending time planting and tending their plants with the help of their parents is wonderful.

Margaret Jeffery is organizing a clean-up party at the Anderson Parkette now that the Town has completed the utility work. She needs help restoring the 40 plants that were lost and removing the gravel that was tossed into the beds. This year we're planting a red maple to replace the willow that fell this winter.

So you can see, there's lots going on at the Society and in my garden. It must really be spring.

Stuart Gough

## Events & Notices

### RBG Annual Spring Plant Sale

May 1st Members only, May 2, 4 & 5

Plant list [www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca)

### Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society

Annual Sale May 5 TBG [www.onrockgarden.com/plantsale](http://www.onrockgarden.com/plantsale)

### Halton Compost Give Away

May 6-11 <http://www.halton.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=8310&pageId=36015>

### Toronto Island Spring 2013 Garden Tour

May 25-26 Noon to 5 p.m. <http://www.torontoisland.org>

For a complete listing of upcoming events please visit our website at [www.oakvillehort.org](http://www.oakvillehort.org).



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**Mailing:** Joan Paris

**Secretary:** Veronica Heiderich

**Treasurer:** Fred Teng

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## Plant Sale May 11th

We're hoping that this is the best plant sale ever. Donations should be delivered, no later than May 6th to:



### North

Marie & Bob Decker  
1285 Gloaming Court  
905-844-1837

### South East

S Tessari & S Gough  
1311 Avon Crescent  
905-845-9474

**South West** David Marshall  
2039 Rebecca Street  
905-827-2564



**Hint:** Have a look at some of your photos from last year to see what you may be able to offer

Reminder: All non-invasive perennials are good sellers but some of our best sellers are: Ajuga, Artemisia, Asters, Astilbe, Bellflower, Black Eyed Susans, Coral Bells, Corydalis, Chrysanthemums, Daylilies, Delphiniums, Fall Anemone, Ferns, Hens & Chicks, Herbs, Hosta, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Lady's Mantel, Lambs Ear, Lavender, Meadow Rue, Monkshood, Ornamental Grasses (**no ribbon grass**), Periwinkle, Phlox, Primula, Cornflower, Rhubarb, Sedum, Shasta Daisy, Siberian Iris, Solomon Seal, Yarrow, Yucca, Shrubs, and Small Trees.

And, it's easier to sell a plant if we know what colour it is, so please put that on the label. If you have any questions, call either Sonja or Elizabeth Thompson at 905-844-0220.

## Charitable Status - A Word From Our Treasurer

We've established a working group to examine the possibility of the OHS becoming a charity. Over the next few months, I'll be sharing experiences from other horticultural societies. It is our hope that with this information, combined with the pros and cons and Q&As published in this newsletter, and a presentation from our working group, you'll be able to make an informed decision when you vote.

Here is the experience of **Bruce MacNeil, President Kitchener Horticultural Society:**

"We have had charitable status for a very long time. We have managed a 7.5 acre Botanical Garden for the City of Kitchener for over 80 years and early on the Society applied for and was granted charitable status. We apply to the City for grants to operate the gardens and currently our grant is around \$200,000. Over the years we have fund raised. Early in our history, we built up a fund of over \$125,000 through donations but from time to time have gone out and done some major fund raising. Some donations are targeted (To build a pergola - \$25,000 or in memoriam donations for trees or benches...)

Expenditures in 2012 amounted to \$222,000 (gardens and society) so you can imagine our accounting/bookkeeping is a little complicated. I don't think the amount of additional bookkeeping caused by charitable status is significant when you consider all the work that the treasurer does. You do need to keep good records and report regularly though.

HST rebate in 2012 from 2011 expenditures was over \$3300.

Because of our operation of Rockway Gardens, In Memoriam donations and a Concerts in the Gardens series program for which we solicit donations from local businesses et al, I couldn't imagine giving up our charitable status. Now not all donations ask for or receive receipts but the status has proven to be invaluable over the years. We have even managed to get a Trillium grant because of the status and our arms length relationship with the City."

Fred Teng



## Save the Date: June 9th Oakville Horticultural Garden Tour

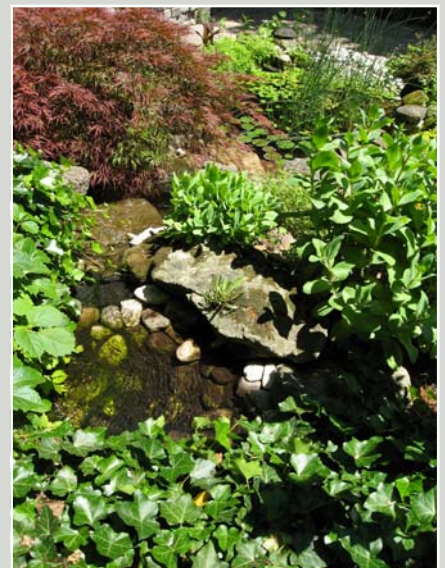


We hope you and your friends will join us at this year's garden tour on Sunday, June 9th from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. Late spring is an ideal time to step through new garden gates to explore and learn about the great horticultural diversity in our local landscape. Bring your camera and be inspired by the featured properties.

Volunteers from Halton Master Gardeners will be in attendance to answer your gardening questions. Tickets can be purchased on-line at [www.oakvillehort.org](http://www.oakvillehort.org) and at various retail centres (published on our website mid-May) for \$15.00.

As well, we're looking for volunteers to greet guests at the gardens (no extensive garden knowledge necessary - just a nice smile!). It's a great way to meet people and essential in making this a successful fundraiser. I'll be circulating a clipboard at our next meeting, but if you'd like to contact me directly to help, Email me at: [lee.christine158@gmail.com](mailto:lee.christine158@gmail.com).

Christine Lee





## Please Eat the Flowers



One of my favourite seed companies, Renee's Garden, <http://www.reneesgarden.com> has an excellent newsletter and site for growing plants from seed.

I was enchanted when I saw this gorgeous sandwich photo and just had to share. Aside from pansies, why not use rose petals, nasturtiums, scarlet runner bean flowers, calendula as well as herb plant blossoms such as dill, chives, arugula, thyme, fennel, oregano and basil.

If you follow the link above you can find a recipe for these beautiful and delicious creations. While you may not be a vegetable gardener, who knows there just might be something that finds its way to your table this evening.

## Increase to Membership Rates

As you may be aware, the cost of running our society exceeds the amount of money we collect through memberships. To lessen that gap, we are asking for your support to increase the general membership fees to the Oakville Horticultural Society. At our Executive Meeting on April 15th the following motion was made:

“To increase the general membership fees to \$20 per individual membership and \$30 per family membership to become effective Nov 1 2013 for the 2014 membership year, by Veronica Heiderich and seconded by Margaret Jeffrey and carried.”

This will not become final until a vote is put to the general membership via ballot which can be either emailed to [ohs.membership@oakvillehort.org](mailto:ohs.membership@oakvillehort.org) (Elizabeth Thompson) or mailed to the OHS mailbox

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by June 1<sup>st</sup> for counting before the June 10<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting.

### Membership Ballot for Mailing to OHS by June 1, 2013

Name (Please Print) : \_\_\_\_\_

**Do/Do Not (circle one)**

**support the increase in general membership fees to \$20 per individual membership and \$30 per family membership to become effective Nov 1 2013 for the 2014 membership year.**

## 'The Grand Experience' District 6 Spring Workshop & Flower Show



Beryle Lowther and Joan Paris enjoying the treats

On a day that started with a blizzard, it was a pleasure to attend the OHA District 6 Annual General Meeting and Spring Flower Show. From the moment we stepped into the hall, there was an abundance of gardening on display. Outside the convention hall were a number of local nurseries offering many plants and trees for sale, along with fascinating bulbs for the garden. Inside the hall there was a smorgasbord of treats and refreshments to help fuel everyone for the coming meeting.

During the business part of the meeting, it was reported that the members of District 6 volunteered over 38,000 hours of their time in horticultural activities. Put forward for a final confirmation of the name of the District, henceforth to be known as District 6, a Carolinian District. There was a review of the audited financials and a proposal to increase the amount each Society pays per member towards the District level. And of course the election and installation of the Director and Assistant Directors. Our Marie Decker is the secretary of the district and an Assistant Director.

Once the business part of the meeting was completed and everyone had a chance to refuel, we were treated to an informative presentation "Ruthven Park National Historic Site: An Evolving Rural Landscape" by Marilyn Havelka, curator and chief administrative officer. This 1,500 acre property on the Grand River began as a self-sufficient farm, family retreat for five generations of the Thompson family. Now this estate is open to the public for visitors to take part in the many activities offered and to tour the grounds.



Photographs Stuart Gough







Breaking for lunch, a number ventured out into the blustery cold for the tree planting ceremony. A sturdy looking red maple has been planted. Following the lunch, the attendees were treated to a brilliant performance of Floral Art and Design by demonstrator Lizzie Matheson. There would not have been a sound in the auditorium as she created three fabulous arrangements, if not for her hilarious banter. As each story finished, Lizzie would step back to reveal the finished arrangements to the oohs and aahs of the crowd. (see the photo of Madame Butterfly)

Our members did very well in the competition. By press time, I had heard that Marie Decker won first in the Miniature Design Class 'Dewdrops' and two seconds for her 'Bridges' design and miniature narcissus; Celia Roberts won a 2nd and Judges Choice 'Grandiose' and a 3rd for her 'Simply Grand' design; and Veronica Heiderich took two seconds for her violet entry and the rose and chrysanthemum arrangement pictured to the left.

Closing off the meeting were the draws where each society's door price. The OHS had donated a unique croton with a matching pot and tray. Also available in the draws were the floral creations from Lizzie Matheson (someone was very lucky to win one of those)!

Stuart Gough

## Design & Horticulture Schedule

### Design Division

1. Class of Distinction
2. Chairman's Trophy, Open Class
3. General, Open Class
4. Novice
5. Miniature, Open Class

### Balance

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Precarious Balance                  | A design  |
| On the Fence                        | A design  |
| Six of One, Half Dozen of the Other | A design  |
| In Balance                          | A design  |
| Counter Balance                     | An asymmetrical design in a niche 5" high and 4-1/2" wide x 3" deep |

### Horticulture Division

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 6. Apple/crabapple - 1 branch cut to 36" or less          | 23. Perennial, other plant height over 15" - 1 stem          |
| 7. Bouquet of small spring flowers                        | 24. Pot-et-Fleur - see OJES pages 75,103                     |
| 8. Bouquet of Myosotis (Forget-me-not)                    | 25. Primula - 3 stems  |
| 9. Branch, other flowering shrub - cut to 36" or less     | 26. Rhododendron or azalea - 1 branch cut to 36" or less     |
| 10. Bulb, corm, tuber, other than already listed - 1 stem | 27. Rhubarb - 3 stalks pulled, leaves trimmed to 2"          |
| 11. Dicentra (Bleeding Heart), old fashioned - 1 stem     | 28. Seedlings - 1 cultivar, minimum 6 plants - 1 box or tray |
| 12. Dicentra (Bleeding Heart), other - 1 stem             | 29. Syringa (Lilac) 1 truss                                  |
| 13. House plant grown for flowers or fruit                | 30. Tulipa (Tulip), single red - 1 stem                      |
| 14. House plant grown for foliage                         | 31. Tulipa (Tulip), single pink - 1 stem                     |
| 15. Iris - 1 stem   | 32. Tulipa (Tulip), single other colour - 1 stem             |
| 16. Narcissus, other cultivar - 1 stem                    | 33. Tulipa (Tulip), lily flowered - 1 stem                   |
| 17. Muscari (Grape hyacinths) - 3 stems                   | 34. Tulipa (Tulip), species - 1 stem                         |
| 18. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup, yellow - 1 stem         | 35. Tulip (tulip), other cultivar - 1 stem                   |
| 19. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup, other colour - 1 stem   | 36. Viola (pansy) - 3 stems with own foliage                 |
| 20. Narcissus, multibloom - 1 stem                        | 37. Vegetable - 1 specimen or bunch                          |
| 21. Narcissus, other cultivar - 1 stem                    | 38. Educational exhibit                                      |
| 22. Perennial, other plant height under 15" - 3 stems     | 39. Any other cultivar (AOC)                                 |
- (see Hort Guidelines p.2)

## Survey Says: What's growing in our vegetable gardens?

Almost 60% of our members grow vegetables. Here's what you'll find in their garden:



### Our Top 12

Our members listed 30 different types of vegetables they grow - here are the top 12:

#1	Tomatoes	100%
#2	Bush & Pole Beans	50%
#3	Salad Greens	41%
#4	Peppers	36%
#5	Cucumbers	23%
#6	Herbs	23%
#7	Beets	13%
#8	Radishes	13%
#9	Zucchini	13%
#10	Peas	13%
#11	Carrots	9%
#12	Kale	9%

### Growing Vegetables in Containers

Clearly, we are a group of gardeners who love our containers - we have 12 on average! If you're new to growing vegetables in pots, you may not know that many soilless mixes are **not suitable** for growing vegetables - **especially those with soil-moisture crystals.**

Here are three recommendations from Loblaw's Peter Cantley, VP of Floral and Garden:

1. **PC® Farmyard Mix Composted Manure** 15 KG – a blend of composted natural ingredients;
2. **PC® Land and Sea Compost** 10 KG – organic matter made from softwood bark, peat moss, kelp and unused portions of shellfish and limestone; or
3. **PC® 4 in 1 Soil Mixture** 25L – organic compost, sphagnum peat, composted cow manure & topsoil.

### Do you start your vegetables from seed?

While seed starters have more variety to choose from like the Wonderberry Tomato pictured below, only 30% of us grow vegetables from seed. Here's the top five of our grow-by-seeders:

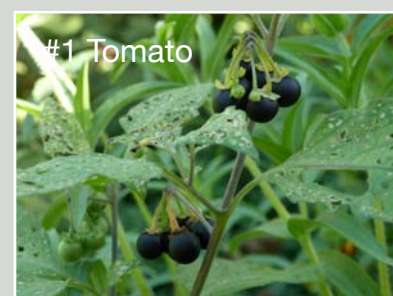
#1 Tomatoes

#2 Beans

#3 Peppers

#4 Kale

#5 Salad greens



LIBRARY	CLERKING	SET-UP 9:00AM	REFRESHMENTS
Veronica Heiderich	Shyami Gomezs Florenda Tingle	Lisa Kruitwagen Julia Morrow John Raynor	Ted Bateman Christine Lee Liz Lloyd Rosanne Swalwell