

OAKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Oakville's Tree Canopy with John McNeil

Our trees have been taking a beating over the past years. We have witnessed the oak die-back in the Iroquois Shore Woods, the attack of the emerald Ash borer, the spread of the "poop on a stick" black knot fungus. And now we have the damage caused by the pre-Christmas ice storm.

So, how are our trees coping with these assaults and what can we be doing to help prevent further damage and encourage the growth of our forests? What should we be looking at when assessing the tree damage on our properties? Should the tree come down or will it recover? And how to approach neighbours whose trees are badly damaged or dying from the EAB

To help answer these and other questions John McNeil will be coming to give us his view of the state of Oakville's forests and our trees.

John is uniquely qualified to help us understand the threats to our forests — John is the Manager Forestry Services of the Parks and Open Spaces with the Town of Oakville.

If the weather is threatening, check with OHS website for potential cancellation.

**Mailing Address:**

Box 69605
109 Thomas Street
Oakville, ON L6J 7R4

President:

Stuart Gough
president.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Membership:

Elizabeth Thompson
membrship.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Newsletter Editor:

John Comber
editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Mailing: Joan Paris**Secretary:** Veronica Heiderich**Treasurer:** position open**Website:** www.oakvillehort.org**January Meeting:**

Monday, January 13, 2014
Doors open 6:30pm

Location

Knox Presbyterian, MacMillan Hall
89 Dunn Street

Hall SetUp (9:00am)

Christel Mahncke
Larry Urbanoski

Hospitality

Judy Bridges
Christel Mahncke
Wendy Schmidt

February Meeting:

Monday, February 10, 2014



Where gardeners
come to flourish



President's Message

2014 has arrived with a blast of cold air and a crash of ice. Welcome to a real Canadian winter, now let's see how our gardens come through. I have not yet had a chance to wander over to the Anderson Bridge Parkette to see how it fared. Hopefully any damage will be limited to the rear edges and the hardier zones of the garden.

At our Annual General Meeting there was a good deal of discussion concerning the funding for the work we do with this parkette and the planned Fields of Spring project. Lets take a moment to review our "Sustainable Gardening Fund".

In 2009 then president Catherine Kavassalis presented an idea to the society of revising the garden at the Anderson Bridge Parkette and creating an example of a self-sustaining garden. Key to this garden project would be the selection of native plants that not only would be beautiful, but once established would require very little watering and would be low maintenance. Realizing that this type of project would be beyond our ability to finance, Catherine began exploratory conversations with the Town of Oakville and further she proposed a project that would, if successful, provide sufficient funds for this garden's creation.

An expense budget was drawn up to cover the upfront costs. Thus we started on this project that would see an Evening with Freeman Patterson creating our hoped for Sustainable Garden Fund. Our society put in a lot of hours organizing, fundraising and awareness-raising. These efforts were rewarded with a very successful evening. It should be mentioned here that all the upfront costs were covered by corporate and municipal donations, orchestrated by Catherine.

The Evening with Freeman Patterson event raised a total of \$14,148.15 (revenue of \$24,653.49 less expenses of \$10,505.34). We now had our Sustainable Gardening Fund (SGF). A quick explanation is needed at this point. The "sustainable" refers to sustainable gardens, not a sustainable fund. It was meant to be drawn down, used for endeavours that encouraged/demonstrated gardening projects that were environmental sound requiring little watering and low maintenance. Hence, a sustainable garden.

The sustainable garden fund should not be confused with our society's Community Programs, which covers our society investing in garden projects in the community. An example of this would be our donating plants, time and

monies to the Ian Anderson House or similar ventures. The Sustainable Gardening Fund projects are reported as Public Plantings.

At the AGM, a concern was where and how much is this Fund. As treasurer Fred Teng explained, it is part of our reported equity, and is not held in a separate account. We keep a spreadsheet that tracks the inflows and outflows of this Fund. It was recommended by our then Auditor to do it this way — creating a special bank account for this would have created more complex audits and present problems when reporting to the OHA.

The Sustainable Garden Fund

Nov 1, 2010	Opening Balance	14,148.15	
	Expenses 2010/2011	6,344.87	
Oct 30, 2011	Closing Balance		7,803.28
	Expenses 2011/2012	95.00	
Oct 30, 2012	Closing Balance		7,708.28
	Expenses 2012/2013	146.89	
Oct 30, 2013	Closing Balance		7,561.39

At of our year-end, the reported society equity was listed at \$51,284.84; of this \$7,561.39 is earmarked for sustainable gardening projects.

Another concern raised at the AGM is what happens to any projects undertaken through the SGF as it is drawn down: will the Society be liable for the ongoing costs? In short, the answer is no. These sustainable garden projects are voluntary co-operative ventures between our society, the Town of Oakville and the Halton Region. For the Anderson Bridge Parkette, the bulk of the expenses are behind us and we continue to maintain the garden as our society has done for many years.

The Fields of Spring is again a co-operative venture for this test case of low-mow ground covers with an aesthetic twist with our society providing the bulbs, seeds and volunteers for the initial planting. If these sites do not naturalize and become self-sustaining, they would revert to lawn.

Finally, monies within the SGF may be directed by the Board for appropriate use. If you have an idea for a project please bring it up.

I trust this helps clarify our Sustainable Gardening Fund.

Stuart Gough

Congratulations
OHS Monthly Show Award Winners
2012/ 2013

The following OHS members, whose excellent horticulture and design abilities, have earned trophies and cash awards for the show year Nov. 2012 – Oct. 2013!

Trophy Winners:

Class of Distinction (Eaton Trophy)

- 1st. Marie Decker
- 2nd. Celia Roberts
- 3rd. Florrie Abbess

Chairman's Trophy (Wand Trophy)

- 1st. Michelle Durrant
- 2nd. Marie Decker
- 3rd. Mary Cameron

General/Novice Trophy (Allison Trophy)

- 1st. Michelle Durrant
- 2nd. Mary Cameron
- 3rd. Veronica Heiderich

Miniatures (Noad Trophy)

- 1st. Jean Latham
- 2nd. Marie Decker
- 3rd. Mary Cameron

Overall Decorative (Cup of Excellence)

- 4th. Marie Decker
- 5th. Mary Cameron
- 6th. Michelle Durrant

Highest Horticulture (Statton Trophy)

- 1st. Mary Cameron
- 2nd. Rob Welsh
- 3rd. Marie Decker

Combined Hort/Decorative (Wye Trophy)

- 1st. Mary Cameron
- 2nd. Marie Deckerrts
- 3rd. Jean Latham

Men's Highest Horticulture (Bell Trophy)

- 1st. Rob Welsh
- 2nd. Don Dusha
- 3rd. David Lewis

Red Rose Tea Trophy (Best Red Rose)

- 1st. Don Dusha

Cash Awards Nov. 2012 – Oct. 2013

The following members who earned ten points, or more, in our Monthly Shows, will be presented with cash awards of 20 cents per point. Trophy winners and runners up are also awarded additional prize money. Cash is awarded for points in Judge's Choice and Educational Exhibits but these points do not count toward trophies. A total of \$572 will be awarded.

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| Florrie Abbess | Jean Latham |
| Mary Cameron | David Lewis |
| Marie Decker | Celia Roberts |
| Michelle Durrant | Cathy Ryan |
| Don Dusha | Elizabeth Schleicher |
| Merlene Hall | Linda Tock |
| Veronica Heiderich | Rob Welsh |

Marie and Valerie, Flower Show Chairs



Allison Trophy



Noad Trophy



Red Rose Tea Trophy

OHA District 6 New Logo

Three logos have been selected to represent our district and will be used once the finalist is selected by all of our societies. The hand-drawn submissions were sent to a Graphic Designer who computer generated them all at no cost!

The following are the three official finalists for the District 6 Logo. Have a look and then bring your favourite to our January meeting.

Logo 1



Logo 2



Logo 3



Our society's selection will then be forwarded for the final decision. Each society has 1 vote.

Coming Events

Savage Gardens, Nature's Ninjas

January 18 to April 13, 2014, RBG Centre

The captivating, bizarre, larger-than-life world of carnivorous plants

www.rbg.com

Stratford Garden Festival

February 27 to March 2, 2014

Beyond the Garden Gate...

www.stratfordgardenfestival.com

Successful Gardening Show

March 2–9, 2014, Metro Toronto Convention Centre

OHA Plant and Floral Design Competition Theme: Let's Dance!

www.internationalhomeandgardenshow.ca/the-successful-gardening-show/

Canada Blooms

March 14–23, 2014, Direct Energy Centre

Wild...

www.canadablooms.com/

OHA Conference 2014

July 18–20, 2014, Cornwall

A River runs by it...

The 108th OHA Convention, great speakers, design, horticulture and creative competitions

www.gardenontario.org/sho/up_conf.php/

OHA Convention 2015

July 18–20, 2014, Anacaster

Summer in the Southern Tier...

The 109th OHA Convention, hosted by our district

Mary Decker will be presenting further details on how you can get involved in the 2015 Convention.

Remember that if you volunteer at least 25 hours to help get this convention organized, you will be able to have your convention admission reduced by \$100

Society Notes

David Marshall will be organizing our Plants Bulbs and Seeds for the coming year. Let David know any varieties you would like to see brought in.

Our Treasurer Fred Teng has decided to step down from the position. Fred looked at his work schedule and determined he will be spending more time on the road this coming year and will potentially miss too many meetings. If you would like to take over as our Society's Treasurer, please let contact Stuart Gough.