



OAKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER EDITION

**General Meeting
AGM and Potluck
Monday, December 14
6:30 p.m. MacMillan Hall
89 Dunn Street
Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.**

**It's time to renew your
membership**

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- President's Annual Report
- Membership Renewal
- AGM Agenda
- Invasive Species
- MG: Hardwood Cuttings
- Events and Notices



Valerie Rhugi preparing refreshments for the D6 AGM
Photo: Elizabeth Schleicher



Remember the Deserts in 2014

**It's time for our
Annual General Meeting
&
Potluck with
Penny Auction**

**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. 😊**

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT: Looking back and moving forward



Marie welcoming D6 Convention attendees Photo: E. Schleicher

First, Marie and I would like to express our gratitude to all the members of this society for their ongoing support of our Mission. We have provided opportunities for learning about plant care, cultivation, and design. We have helped to beautify our community and to protect our environment. While doing all of this, we have had fun and made new friends.



Over 450 attended the 2015 OHA Convention. Photo: Art Ward



D6 keynote speaker, and new friend, Eric Davies with Cathy. Photo: V. Heiderich

2015 was a particularly busy as this was our year to host the District 6 AGM and as part of District 6 to the help host the OHA Convention in Ancaster. OHS volunteers shared their talents and time to make both events a great success.



Celia Roberts, Mary and Lawrence Cameron, Mary FcgYŻWadY Pitman, John Comber, Michelle Durrant, Veronica Heiderich, Joan Paris setting up at the OHA Convention Flower Show. Photo: Art Ward.



Fun with Flowers 2015

In addition to these two special events, our society continued our regular programs. In February, our outstanding Family Day Event – “Fun with Flowers” delighted young and old alike.

In May, we were delighted to see our eco-lawn sprouting and waves of daffodils emerging at our two new Fields of Spring sites – one along Lakeshore Drive near the Sir John Colborne Senior Centre and the other in Postridge Park. Our “Garden for Life” at the corner of Rebecca and Forsythe continues to flourish under the care of Margaret Jeffery and OHS volunteers. This sustainable pollinator garden provides an oasis for butterflies and passersby alike. We are thankful for donations from Petrie’s Topsoil and ongoing support from the Town of Oakville.

This year we participated in the Town of Oakville’s Keep Calm and Adapt event. Partnering with Halton Master Gardeners, we demonstrated seed sowing and advised attendees on waterwise gardening.



Marie presenting Tim a President's Award

We celebrated Tim Rivers, the retiring Senior Town of Oakville Greenhouse operator and welcomed Galina Tchouprikova into that role.

Galina started our Junior Gardening season with an interesting tour of the Greenhouses. This year’s junior program, organized by Linda Tock and Helen Stephenson culminated with a Taco Party at Whole Foods. Highlights of the summer program included building a hibernaculum with in-house naturalist Gail Trenholm and a monarch talk by Merleen Hall. Thanks are due to Petrie’s for soil and The Canada Compost Council for seeds.



Margaret Jeffery tending Postridge Park



A Junior Gardener



Junior Garden in Spring 2015

Photos: Linda Tock

This year our society joined a new provincial initiative, the Early Detection & Rapid Response Network. Larry Urbanoski and Heather Reccord represented our society at the regional open house on invasive species. Larry then put that knowledge to work and went on to assist Evergreen at Donovan Bailey Park with buckthorn removal. Cathy guided an Invasive Species walk at Lion's Valley Park in support of Oakvillegreen's new Discover Your Creek Event.

Our Plant Sale was held at a NEW location - Munn's United Church at Dundas & Sixth Line. This turned out to be a great change. After expenses we raised over \$3000. After the sale, Sonja Tessari passed the responsibility of chairing the sale to Veronica Heiderich. Veronica had to spend some time cleaning out the shed on the Oakville Trafalgar Hospital grounds, as it will be removed as the hospital is closed. We thank Jacques Deblois for letting us use that space for the past decade. In 2016, we will need to find another site to store our pots and signs for the Plant Sale.



John Comber making sure plants are ready for shoppers.

While all the events were going on, we enjoyed our monthly meetings and nine diverse and interesting talks:

1. Carol Dunk: A New Kind of Gardener
2. Celia Roberts: Floral Design
3. Jennifer Mark: What's New from Sheridan Nurseries
4. Cathy Kavassalis: Herbs – savoury, sensual, deadly poison
5. Lorraine Johnson: The New Ontario Naturalized Garden Grow Wild!
6. Sean James: Rain Gardens
7. Steve Wiersma: Plant Production for the Town of Oakville
8. Colin Cassin: Invasive Species
9. Marsha Gettas: Roses Redux

In addition to our speakers, we have enjoyed great flower and photography shows at our meetings. Marie Decker and Valerie Westwood encouraged all members to participate and invited members from other clubs to add their talents to our design competitions to ensure we had a Standard Flower Show. Students enrolled in Floral Design and Horticulture Judging Schools could then accompany accredited judges and practice the skills needed for completion of that program.

You can see it has been a fun and learning filled year. Marie and I are sure with all of your help, 2016 will be just as event-filled. Our challenges for next year will be to build our membership and to work on fundraising initiatives. We are looking forward to another great plant sale in May and a wonderful Garden Tour in June. Thank you for all you do to make our society and our community more beautiful.



Viewing tulips in May



Rooted Marie Decker OHA Convention
Photo: E. Schleicher



LindaTock viewing daffodils

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

All memberships dated 2015 expired on October 31, 2015. Please renew your membership and support all the good work that our Society does. You will find a renewal notice attached with this newsletter.

To comply with the Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation, the Society requests that you indicate your agreement to receive important information and announcements from our Society, the OHA district and association. Please indicate your acceptance by checking the box "*I Agree to receive Society mail* " You may withdraw your consent at any time by sending an email to membership.ohs@oakvillehort.org with "**Unsubscribe me**" in the subject line along with your complete contact information.

We thank you for your continuing support of our society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Agenda for Potluck and AGM

- 6:30 - 7:00 Cocktails and Appetizers
- 6:30 - 8:00 Auction
- 7:00 -Welcome Guests and Invitation to Dine
- 7:00 - 8:00 Dinner
- 8:00 - 8:45 Annual General Meeting
 - Call to order and opening remarks
 - Presentation of Awards for 2015
 - Summary of 2015 Annual Report
 - Nominations
 - Induction of Officers and Directors (Assistant D6 Director - John Baine)
 - Budget Report
 - Motion to increase Bulbs Plants and Seeds Expenditures
 - Conclusion of AGM

The current candidates for 2016 Executive and Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents: Marie Decker and Catherine Kavassalis

First Vice President: Paula Clayton

Second Vice President: Liza Drozdova

Secretary: Heather Reccord

Treasurer: Larry Urbanoski

Board of Directors: John Comber, Margaret Jeffery, Veronica Heiderich, Joan Paris, Florenda Tingle, Linda Tock, Valerie Westwood

Protecting Biodiversity – Combating Non-Native Alien Invasive Species (IAS)

By Larry Urbanoski

There have been a number of developments over the past year to combat the advancement of non-native invasive species that may be of interest to Oakville Horticultural Society members. Invasive plants such as garlic mustard, common buckthorn, dog-strangling vine, reed phragmites and Japanese knotwood are becoming very common in parts of Oakville.



Common Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*
Photo: Credit Valley Conservation

These non-native invasive species are a threat to nature, the economy and society.

The scope of these activities is far reaching and supports International, National and Provincial Biodiversity Strategies. OHS members, however, may be more interested in local initiatives. One example is the EDRR (Early Detection & Rapid Response Network Ontario) program that has been formed to detect, track and control invasive plants and insects in four pilot areas of Ontario, namely Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, Credit Valley Conservation Watershed and Halton Conservation Watershed. This pilot project is co-delivered by the Invasive Species Centre (ISC), which is a national organization and the Ontario Invasive Species Plant Council (OIPC) that has a provincial base. Colin Cassin, who was the guest speaker at our general meeting in September, is directly involved with the EDRR program.

The involvement of the Halton and Credit Valley Conservation Authorities brings this initiative close to home. A number of other organizations such as P.O.W.E.R (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) have been formed to provide support for community groups, including the Oakville Horticultural Society, to launch invasive species removal projects.

While our society has been active in combatting garlic mustard, as a first effort to control buckthorn, an event has been organized for Saturday, November 28th to remove this invasive shrub from a section of the Glen Oak Creek trail located in the Glen Abbey area of Oakville. This event is a collaboration of the Oakville Horticultural Society, Town of Oakville and P.O.W.E.R. Please support this event by joining the volunteers on November 28th. Your participation will promote the interest of community groups to help protect biodiversity of the trail system and broader environment in Oakville.

For further information contact Cathy or Marie at info.ohs@oakvillehort.org or Leslie at info@powerhalton.ca.

Master Gardening Tip – Hardwood Cuttings

This time of year, just after leaf fall, you can take cuttings from your favourite trees, shrubs and climbers to try and propagate them. Cut a few pencil-thin branches from this season's growth. They should show healthy plump leaf buds. Trim away any soft green tip growth. Cut into 15-25 cm sections, making a diagonal cut above the tip bud and a horizontal cut just below the lowest bud. You can dip the lower cut in rooting hormone and trim off a thin bit of bark to improve rooting. Then use a dibbler and make a 7cm deep hole in fast draining garden soil or use a deep pot filled with gritty, loam-based compost. Plant your cuttings and see what happens. Your cuttings should be left in place until next fall and then you can check for roots. Make sure they are in a location that gets some rain so they don't dry out. If you miss the fall window, you can try just before bud-break in the spring.

Events

Buckthorn Removal November 28th
10:00 AM to 12 Noon. Volunteers are requested to meet at the entrance to Glen Oak Creek Trail located on Nottinghill Gate across from Chapleton Place. Bring gloves, cutters and shovels if you have them. Volunteers should have sturdy footwear and suitable outdoor clothing, (there may be poison ivy). This activity is being done to restore and protect the biodiversity of the trail system in Oakville.

info.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG)

- December 1 & 2 - Evergreen Design Workshops hosted by the Auxiliary Register Online
- November 19 to 21 Auxiliary of RBG Christmas Show and Sale
Thursday, Nov. 19; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 20; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dalglish Atrium; RBG Centre
- www.rbg.ca/events

Notices

Welcome New Members

- ❖ Gian Egger
- ❖ Patricia Hooper
- ❖ Catherine Manning Marshall
- ❖ Sandra McCoy
- ❖ Ron Tingle
- ❖ Rosemary Young

Volunteers for December Meeting

Refreshments:

It's all of you!

Hall Set Up (9 AM):

John Raynor
Valerie Rughi
&
anyone who can help

Mailing

Address:

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

Co-Presidents: Marie Decker and Catherine Kavassalis
president.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Membership: Cathy Ryan
membership@oakvillehort.org

Secretary: Heather Reccord
secretary.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Treasurer: Florenda Tingle
treasurer@oakvillehort.org

Newsletter: Vacant
editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Webmaster: Wade Pitman
info.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Website: <http://www.oakvillehort.org>

Next Executive Meeting: Monday Jan. 18th
7:00 p.m. at Oakville Town Hall

The Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter is published 10 times a year from Sept. to June. Cathy Kavassalis produced all photographs and articles in this newsletter unless otherwise noted.