

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 public and private properties since 1957

October 2015 (Harvest Season) NEWSLETTER

President's Remarks for October 2015

Dear friends, I am writing this on the first day of fall. A monarch is fluttering outside my window gently alighting upon an aster and then lifting gracefully in search of more nectar that will help to fuel this glorious vehicle of beauty on its journey south. One of a trio of hummingbirds is visiting the bright red salvia I joyfully picked up on clearance at the close of summer (I love bargains). While this was money well spent, I bemoan that a raccoon has trampled a penstemon and turtlehead, also new additions to my hummingbird garden (money not so well spent). Yet the hummingbirds are unperturbed by the loss. They are busy preparing for their fall journey to warmer places. For now, I can enjoy them and the goldfinches that dangle from sunflowers and the chickadees that dance in the spruce. I am filled with a great sense of joy, knowing that my garden brings beauty to the eye and nourishment to so many of the wild creatures with which we share this space.

October is upon us. It is a time of beauty; a time of transition; a time for gratitude. As the leaves begin their annual pageantry, we celebrate our garden harvests, prepare for winter, and give thanks. With this season, our society finishes its annual cycle, budgets are prepared, board members change and we must thank all of you for your support of our society and the beauty you bring to our community through your gardens and your good works.

In particular, I want to thank the volunteers who have helped Margaret Jeffery care for the two Field of Springs sites. In September, Petrie's donated topsoil so the sites could be reseeded to produce a thicker more lush ground cover. We can now look forward to another spectacle of daffodils next spring. (With bulbs, courtesy again of David Marshall, at our next meeting, you too can create your own spring feast for the eyes.) Petrie's also provided mulch for the Anderson Parkette at discounted price and volunteers have worked to enrich the soil and care for that ever-evolving 'Garden for Life.' We can be proud of this garden and encourage you to join the team volunteers to ensure that this garden remains a true oasis in the heart of the Oakville.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Sonja Tessari, and Elizabeth Thompson who will be retiring from the Board after many years of service to our society. These individuals have been tremendous assets and have provided their time and skills to help manage this volunteer organization. We are grateful for their many contributions. In addition Florenda Tingle, our treasurer, will be passing over our account books in 2016. With the complications of the D6 convention, Florenda took on a big job and handled it beautifully. We so appreciate her attention to detail and generosity of time. Please thank these fantastic volunteers when you have the chance.

Like any organization run by volunteers, we are always looking for new people to lead the way into the future. If you have talents or time to offer our society... we need you. We will hold elections at our AGM on December 14th and there are positions on the Board as well as on Committees that need you.

Marie and I will continue our second term as co-president's. Paula Clayton currently Second VP will become First VP as Valerie Westwood has resigned that position (but will remain on the Board as Flower Committee Co-Chair). The position of Second VP is then open. Heather Reccord will continue her second term as secretary, but with Florenda's resignation the position of Treasurer is open.

In addition to the five Officers, there are seven Board of Director positions. To be eligible to be elected to the Board, a member must agree to manage a particular program area, e.g. chair or co-chair one of our many committees: Junior Program, Flower Show, Newsletter, Website, Membership, Publicity, Programs, Public Planting, etc. Many of our Board members have agreed to continue their terms, but all of us feel it is important to have new members join and thus we would like some new faces on the Board. We are currently searching for a membership chair and anyone who might enjoy co-chairing existing committees or would like to define a new role. We are open to your ideas. If you are interested in learning more about serving on the Board, call me 905-849-7581 or email c.kavassalis@gmail.com.

Together we share the love of gardening, the enjoyment of learning, a commitment to protecting Ontario's natural environment and a dedication to making our community beautiful. I encourage you to get more involved. Sometimes volunteering is hard work, but there is always great fun to be had and many wonderful people with whom to make great friends.



Ladies and Gentlemen Our speaker for 5th October, is Marsha Gettas .

Margaret Jefferies, who arranges many of our speakers, would like you all to know a bit about our up coming speaker

Her lectures will be on roses with a very up to date view point on new disease resistant, repeat blooming and yes some very fragrant bred roses.

"Roses Redux" hopes to entrance the gardener back to great non fussy roses for the garden.



Marsha Gettas, is a member of the Etobicoke Master Gardeners

She is a graduate from Ryerson's School of Fashion She has worked in national marketing, sales, and commissioned design work for interior designers, movies, television and theatre.

In her copious spare time she was teaching design part-time at Ryerson University, OCAD University and The Haliburton School for the Arts for 25 years. (I get tired just thinking of all that ed)

Ms. Gettas has also studied horticulture at University of Guelph as well as being a member of the Etobicoke Master Gardeners for 11 years

She has a long list of accomplishments, not the least of which were her award winning gardens. They have been featured on "Thorough the Garden Gate" Toronto Botanical Garden Tour, Etobicoke Horticultural Society Tour, Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society Tour; and, for many years, was part of Toronto Open Gardens a charitable tour. As if that were not enough in 2011, she was awarded "The Best Use of Plant Material" in the City of Toronto West District Garden Contest.

But wait There is more. Other things of note include her designing, in 2013/14, the Outdoor Classroom and Butterfly Garden for Robert Hornell Junior School as well as designed and consulted for a Toronto Women's Shelter Edible Garden

She currently shares her vast knowledge giving lectures on garden design, low maintenance, edibles, roses and tropicals.

Finally when Ms. Gettas is just hanging around the house with nothing else to do she operates "Marsha Gettas Design" where she gives sage advice on garden planning, consultation advice and garden renewals.

Surely this will be a speaker worthy of your full attention. You will want to get in early to get a front row seat.

Page 4: Who is doing What

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October Meeting: Monday 5th

Featuring Marsha Gettas speaking on Roses

Location

Knox Presbyterian, MacMillan Hall
89 Dunn Street

Hall set up: Ted Bateman

Gilbert Jeffery and John Raynor

Hospitality: Beryle Lowther, Ted Bateman,

Margaret Jeffery and Florrie Abbess

Show Clerks: Florrie Abbess and

Anne Clerk Stewart

Next meeting Monday Nov 9th 2015

New Members arrive all the time

We would like to give a warm welcome to

**Dawn Teal, Wendy Gay,
Myroslawa Lukilosky and Mary Kirby**

From Margaret Jefferies

Hi Everyone,

Thank you so much to all of you who came out to help and let me know your availability.

Just to confirm we will be spreading 4 cu yards of mulch on Wednesday 7th October between 9:30 and noon.

Because this is a large amount we will need all hands since the heap will have to be gone and the sidewalk clear by the end of the time.

Last week everyone did a great job and we were done well before noon. Thank you so much.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on Monday night and on Wednesday morning.

The weather is expected to be quite nice.

If you have already let me know you will attend the mulch spread there is no need to respond again.

Many thanks for all your help.

Best regards,

Margaret

Upcoming things of interest

The Auxiliary of RBG Christmas Show and Sale

~Fresh evergreen designs & a selection of fresh greens

~Boxwood wreaths & trees ~seasonal table designs

~unique silk designs ~baubles, beads, berries for your own designs ~selection of amaryllis & paper white bulbs.

Thurs. to Sat. Nov. 19 - 21 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Check www.rbg.ca & 905 527-1158 for list of events

The Windsor Orchid Society called to tell us they are having their 3rd annual Show and sale

The Show will take place on October 25th and 26th, 2015 at the Columbus Centre, 2401 Columbus Drive, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Never hurts to plan ahead

The next District 6, A Carolinian District Event, is the Spring Breakfast Meeting Saturday, February 20 Centennial Hall, 17 Dunbar St. Glen Morris, ON

From the desk of Dave Marshall

"The amaryllis bulbs will not be here until November, but I still has lots of daffodils, tulips, crocus and paper whites at very low prices. bring lots of money or cheques, because I don't want any left"

Now the exciting part of this newsletter. The Budget!!! You really should read this. It is important and a lot of work went into it.

Budget Summary November 1st 2015 – October 31st 2016

Revenue

Description	2015 YTD Balance	Budget 2015	Variance 2015	Proposed 2016 Budget
Bulbs & Plants	697.85	1,000.00	-302.15	1,000.00
Draw Table	788.21	360.00	428.21	800.00
May Plant Sale	5,544.71	5,000.00	544.71	5,000.00
Membership	2,281.00	2,300.00	-19.00	2,300.00
Interest	330.74	600.00	-269.26	450.00
Donations	2,095.00	0.00	2,095.00	0.00
Garden Tour	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	1,500.00
Ontario Grant	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	158.59	300.00	-141.41	0.00
Community Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Workshops	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Junior Program Registrations	330.00	360.00	-30.00	360.00
Total Revenue	13,226.10	11,920.00	1,306.10	13,910.00

Expenses

Description	2015 YTD Balance	Budget 2015	Variance 2015	Proposed 2016 Budget
Publicity	243.44	300.00	-56.56	500.00
Social Convenor Total	375.28	400.00	-24.72	400.00
Bulbs & Plants	910.65	1,600.00	-689.35	1,000.00
Public Planting Total	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	1,000.00
Community Programs	60.16	250.00	-189.84	250.00
Memberships - Other Organizations	910.15	1,250.00	-339.85	1,250.00
Executive Total	805.38	1,675.00	-869.62	900.00
Draw Table Convenor	295.96	300.00	-4.04	350.00
Monthly Shows	1,016.02	1,600.00	-583.98	2,400.00
Garden Tour Convenor	0.00	500.00	-500.00	1,000.00
Newsletter	707.01	1,000.00	-292.99	1,000.00
Monthly Programs	2,461.01	3,200.00	-738.99	3,275.00
Junior Program	945.08	1,000.00	-54.92	1,000.00
May Plant Sale	2,493.94	3,000.00	-506.06	2,700.00
Equipment/Improvements	0.00	600.00	-600.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	50.00	400.00	-350.00	100.00
Total Expenses	11,274.08	18,075.00	-6,800.92	17,125.00

The Revenue and Expense figures are current as of September 27, 2015. A finalized report will be presented at the AGM on December 14th 2015. At this time we have

- \$7,606.56 in our chequing account
- \$43,950.90 in reserves
- \$3.09 in petty cash
- \$ 51,560.55 total assets

News from our friends in other clubs.

From the Ancaster Horticultural Society
Newsletter with thanks to Christine Says

Spring Bulbs: ‘Little is Lovely’ ‘Miniature is Me’ by Christine Says, Halton Master Gardeners

Fall is an opportune time to clean up your garden, move some things around, incorporate organic matter into the soil and plant spring bulbs. Think about planting the little ones—miniature daffodils—they’re deer proof and don’t fill your spring garden with those floppy large daffodil leaves that hang around forever. Narcissus Minimus is the earliest bloomer of the trumpet variety.



Narcissus Thalia is white with several blooms on each stem.



‘Peeping Tom’



and ‘Jack Snipe’ (who wouldn’t want to plant these with names like that!) have turned back petals and last for up to 3 weeks.



Quite a few years ago I planted N. ‘bulbocodium’ (commonly called Hoop petticoat). Just 6 in. tall they have an unusual shaped trumpet. These little darlings have been coming up for years.

I hope you’ll consider buying some the ‘little gems’. Tuck some of the wee ones in the ground. You’ll be glad you did.

The Ancaster Horticultural Society meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month from January to June and September to November. Meetings are held in the Ancaster Old Town Hall beginning with a Social Half Hour at 7:30 pm. Meeting at 8:00

Softening the edges

In the first installment of this series we had laid out the shape of our garden bed and removed the grass in preparation of planting



Now it was ready to bring in the foundation design elements. We did not want the eye to stay too low and be bored. We also needed some height to lead the eye up to the house, but, without blocking the view hence the Tree. We then incorporated Rocks to provide a connection with the earth and a feeling of permanence to our garden. So in our last installment our garden looked like this.



It was time to place a few plants to soften the look and fill in the empty space.

In this particular garden the owner had some plant material he was fond of. By reusing this it helps to keep costs down. It also helped decide what other plant elements would work in harmony with them.

With garden design the rule of thumb is "Groupings should generally be an odd number." This lends an aura of strength and is esthetically pleasing to the eye. To be honest I do not know why this is so, but it is. That does not mean they always have to be clumped together. A little space does no harm.

You need to consider how big the plants are going to get at maturity so they do not get too crowded. It is important not to lose the visual interest of the rock feature. Just as the rocks provide flow so must plants provide both flow and elevation. Remember that in winter the snow covered garden will retain interest if there are topographical features to give it shape. Finally, you need to bring in plants that please you. All the rules in the world mean nothing if you do not like the plants that are there.



It may look sparse now but in a year it will be full and flush. The rocks will be partially hidden with a natural feel by the growth of the plants. The colours of both the flowers and foliage will give it a subtle interest.