



## Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter June 2016

### Speaker's Corner

### Nancy Lee-Colibaba People and Plant Connection



Nancy is a Horticultural Therapy Coordinator/Horticultural Technician and has been with the Royal Botanical Gardens for over 30 years. Along with providing training sessions in horticultural therapy and working directly with special needs populations, she coordinates the children's gardening programs and the public educational programs at the

Royal Botanical Gardens.

Horticultural Therapy programs use plants and gardening to enhance emotional, physical and mental well-being. It is part of the therapeutic repertoire used by hospitals, nursing homes, and community, rehabilitative and mental health centres. The RBG has been offering training in horticultural therapy techniques since 1970, and also offers outreach programs to institutions around the greater Golden Horseshoe area.

Nancy has said in an interview "Horticulture is therapeutic for anyone, regardless of abilities or walks of life or ethnic background. Gardening and tending to plants can help to reduce stress and anxiety, alleviate depression, increase sense of pride and accomplishment and feelings of calm and relaxation, improve concentration, self-esteem, sense of well-being, mood, sense of personal worth, personal satisfaction and immune response and promote physical health, among other things"

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 13, 2016**

7:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

MacMillan Meeting Hall (Knox Presbyterian Church),

89 Dunn St., Oakville.  
(Parking on Robinson.)

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### June

Flower Show Clerks: Nino Zaino and Jean Latham

Hospitality Volunteers: John Raynor, Stuart Gough, Judy Bridges, Christel Mahncke

Set-up Volunteers: John Raynor, Marion Campbell, Margaret Found, and Ted Bateman

At long last, our trees have greened and June flowers are coming forth in perfusion. The unpredictable weather of May has passed and now we can hope for a mild and mellow June. I was away the last week in May at a conference in Florida. I left when temperatures were cool and many trees were still without leaves. I was amazed to hear that temperatures in Oakville were higher than those in Orlando. Now I am back to a full flush of green and an overgrown lawn. I was sad to see that the magnolias have bloomed and already cast their petals without my gaze.

However, I was fortunate to see a few statuesque southern magnolias displaying their bold white flowers juxtaposed against their deep green glossy yet leathery leaves. They were among the many intoxicating plants that made my trip to Leu Gardens and Bok Tower Gardens so memorable. I have to say that I was delighted that both of these botanical gardens recognized my membership with our Royal Botanical Gardens and they extended me every courtesy. Supporting botanical gardens is so important as they do tremendous work for plant and species conservation.

I left on my travels, on the day of our plant sale. Leaving the task of managing the day in the very capable hands of Sonja Tessari, I knew all would go well. And go well it did. Our treasurer, Larry Urbanoski, has made his preliminary report. The results are great. Our net revenue exceeded \$7,000. After expenses, we will have raised over \$5,000. The success of this year's sale is due to our tremendous volunteer team, great weather, a great location, a new vivacious poster designed by Jana Schilder, some new advertising strategies thanks to Diana Wright, and the generosity of so many.

In particular, we need to thank John Piper, the manager of the MacDonald's at Iroquois Shore who donated \$80 of coffee for volunteers. Nadine McKinnon, the General Manager of U-Haul Moving & Storage on 478 Woody Road, kindly gave us the not-for-profit discount on mileage and a reduced truck rental fee. Several members made donations - like Veronica Heiderich who donated the fuel cost for the Uhaul truck. This year, we were given access to a beautiful garden belonging to Anne and Roland Jones. Volunteers worked hard to dig hundreds of beautiful plants that were available for sale. In addition, a mystery donor appeared with wonderful plant material. Most important was all of you who came out to work on the morning of the sale and from the photos I have seen, you had a great time. THANK YOU to all!

With the plant sale behind us, we have a several important dates coming up. First, on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, we need you to help with our Buckthorn removal project along Glen Oaks Trail. This is a continuation of work we began last fall. In May, Larry Urbanoski and myself met with representatives from Conservation Halton, Oakvillegreen, Burlington Horticultural Society and POWER. We walked the trail and reviewed the flora of the site. Before the buckthorn invasion, this wood was predominantly a sugar maple forest and there remains a healthy stand of maples. Intermixed with the maples are elm, white pine, basswood, hemlock, ironwood, chokecherry, hawthorns and remnant apples from an old orchard. The forest floor is covered with such things as dog-toothed violets, jewelweed, and sensitive ferns (where garlic mustard has not taken hold). With a little help from our members, we can work to ensure these native species can once again thrive. Oakvillegreen is providing a variety of native shrubs to replace some of the invasive ones. OHS should provide funds to purchase more material. Plants like grey and alternate leaf dogwood and serviceberry can be used to replace vacancies left by the buckthorn and will help restore the woodlands to health.

Also coming up in June, we all have the opportunity to visit some beautiful Secret Gardens of Oakville. Paula Clayton and her team have put together a fabulous tour for 2016. June 26<sup>th</sup> is your day to enjoy the beauty and creativity of gardeners in our community. Come to our June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and get your tickets. If you are volunteering, no need for a ticket, you will get to enjoy the gardens for free. It is always a terrific event.

We don't hold meetings in July or August, but you can continue the learning and socialize with fellow gardeners and floral arrangers at the 110<sup>th</sup> Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) Convention. This year District 19 will host the convention in Kitchener on July 29-31, 2016. For more information and to register, go to [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org).

Our September 12<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting will be held once again at Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre. If the weather is fine, come early to enjoy a stroll through the gardens and explore the maze. We will call members to remind you of the change in August.

Cheers to all Cathy!



# SECRET GARDENS OF OAKVILLE 2016

SUNDAY JUNE 26.

Back by popular demand, this self-guided tour of some of Oakville's outstanding private gardens is sure to inspire and delight both new and experienced gardeners alike. If you do nothing else on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June take the garden tour. Observe the wonders of horticultural excellence, and discover how landscape can form an integral part of your home environment year-round through the magic of garden design and architecture.

We have 9 unique gardens for you to explore with an impressive range of trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, and alpiners. New and old cultivars, native, and some not-so-hardy plants to inspire you. Creative examples of formal, arid, woodland, and cottage style from the serene to the dramatic await your discovery.



Tickets are \$15.00 each or two for \$25.00 and will be available from May 5. You can purchase your tickets from the following locations:

Agram Garden Centre: 2018 Dundas Street East

Ann's Flower Boutique: 1500 Upper Middle Road West, Unit 5a

Bulow Garden Centre: 370 South Service Road West, Oakville

Bulow Garden Centre: 2667 Lakeshore Road West, Mississauga

Cudmore's Garden Centre: 3171 Lakeshore Road West

Heaven Scent Flowers: 2501 Third Line (Fox Creek Plaza)

Sage Gardening: 148 Kerr Street



*"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece" Claude Monet*



Secret Gardens of Oakville



# The Plant Sale of Oakville



*The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team. Phil Jackson*







Hello everyone!!

Thank you for all your hard work in making this year's plant sale the **Best Plant Sale Ever**. I believe we truly achieved a very successful Plant Sale!!!

Cathy Kavassalis will prepare a report highlighting our successes.

**Note:** Please remember to calculate your **volunteer hours**. This includes all the variety of tasks such as digging & dividing plants, potting, placement of advertising signs etc. and on the actual plant sale day all duties that were assigned. If we have missed some jobs, please ensure that you include them on your Volunteer Hours Report and anything else you did.

Please send **your volunteer hours** to **Cathy Kavassalis** at **c.kavassalis@gmail.com**



*"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." - Marcel Proust*







## The Bressingham Gardens

We often get inspiration for our own gardens from visiting the gardens of others. Bessingham Garden, located near Diss in Norfolk (England), was the inspiration for one of the gardens on our Secret Garden Tour. Can you guess which garden is based on the Blessingham Garden?

Located near Diss in Norfolk (England), The Bressingham Gardens are a world famous venue that showcases Alan Bloom's and Adrian Bloom's outstanding design work through the decades. These gardens have been used as a testing ground for Blooms of Bressingham varieties, many of which are currently to be seen here .

The Bressingham Gardens are open to the public and encompass 17 acres of ornamental gardens plus Alan Bloom's Steam Museum. Features include

### Alan Bloom's 'Dell Garden'

Alan Bloom, founder of the Blooms nursery business, created the Dell Garden and its famous 'Island Beds' from 1955-1962. This unique garden is now world renowned for its collection of nearly 5,000 species and varieties of hardy perennials set in a park-like meadow.

The wonderful rural setting of the Dell Garden has color and interest from spring to autumn and is a mecca for perennial lovers from all over the world. The 47 Island Beds, designed and introduced by Alan, show off his wide and varied collection of plants, including many Bressingham-raised varieties. Alan was one of the most respected plantsman of the twentieth century, and was often found talking with visitors outside his home, Bressingham Hall. Jaime Blake, his son-in-law, carries on the family tradition as Curator of this historic garden, maintaining and developing it and the collection of plants.

### Adrian Bloom's 'Foggy Bottom' Garden

Equally famous, yet totally different from his father's Dell Garden, Adrian has created a garden for all seasons at 'Foggy Bottom'. Situated only a few hundred yards from the Dell Garden and Bressingham Steam Experience, Foggy Bottom has been developed to create a garden for year-round interest. Planting began in 1966 and today trees, conifers and shrubs provide a continuous backdrop of shape and seasonal foliage, enhanced by plantings of perennials and ornamental grasses. Broad grass meandering pathways lead to changing vistas at every corner, with many plant associations and ideas that can easily be adapted for the smaller garden.

### Adrian's Wood

This 'new' Bressingham garden lies between the Dell and Foggy Bottom gardens. It was first started in 1963 when Adrian planted many trees, including five Giant Redwoods, which he had brought back as seed from California. Thirty-five years went by as it became a forest, largely untouched until 2001 when much of it was cleared to create a new pathway linking the two now famous gardens for the first time.

The focus of the garden is North American native plants. Adrian hopes this garden will act as a focus and tribute to the invaluable North American horticultural heritage, which has contributed to the vast range of trees, shrubs and perennials that have become part of the British gardening heritage.



## The Buckthorn Removal Project



On June 9th, OHS volunteers will join Oakvillegreen, POWER and Town staff to remove buckthorn from [Glen Oak Creek Trail](#) - a tract of land south of Upper Middle Road, North of the QEW, west of Dorval and just East of Nottinghill Gate (Fourth Line). We will meet at the trail head on Nottinghill Gate across from Chapelton Place at 9 a.m. Parking is available on Nottinghill Gate at this location as well as side streets such as Birchcliff Drive.

Wear appropriate footwear, bring gloves and a light shovel if you have one. Volunteers will be assigned a group

with one individual able to identify buckthorn and one extractor - a specialized tool that can aid in unrooting these invasive trees. Contact Cathy [c.kavassalis@gmail.com](mailto:c.kavassalis@gmail.com) (905-849-7581) if you plan on coming. We will work in the area from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Any time you can provide would be great.



Did You Know?

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. ~Margaret Meade*

### For your Information.....

Ramsha Ahmed who manages the Greening Sacred Spaces initiative in Halton [haltonpeel@faithcommonsgood.org](mailto:haltonpeel@faithcommonsgood.org) is trying to organize a tour of faith gardens (church, synagogue, mosque, etc.) for July. She approached our organization seeking a list of gardens that would meet such criteria. wondered if I could give her a list of such gardens.

I am aware some of you care for such gardens and may know of others. Please let me know if you have any recommendations.

Ramsha may join us at our June meeting and I said she could inquire with the membership if she did.



# Calendar of Events

May—September	<b>Royal Botanical Garden Experiences</b>
	Course calendar — May to September, 2016. Royal Botanical Gardens is dedicated to offering lifelong learning opportunities that relate to our mandate, including programs that help people move towards a greener lifestyle. Please refer to their website for courses being offered. <a href="https://www.rbg.ca/">https://www.rbg.ca/</a>
Thursday, June 9	<b>Buckthorn Removal and Native Species Restoration</b>
	Buckthorn Removal and Native Species Restoration from Glen Oaks Trail. 9 to 1pm. Help OHS with this woodland restoration initiative. Contact Larry Urbanoski if you are available to help - <a href="mailto:info.ohs@oakvillehort.org">info.ohs@oakvillehort.org</a> .
June 15 –16	<b>Garden Clubs of Ontario Triennial Flower Show</b>
	Considered the best floral design exhibition in Canada, the Triennial Flower Show, hosted by Garden Clubs of Ontario and this year titled, "Art Through the Ages: a Floral Journey", must not be missed...
Sunday, June 26	<b>Through the Garden Gate – OHS Garden Tour</b>
	Please refer to the article in the April Newsletter
July 2 9 – 3 1	<b>O H A C O N V E N T I O N 1 1 0</b>
	Kitchener, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 105 King Street East. Some Convention Speakers : Lester Fretz, Thelma Beaubien, Kelly Sherman, The Ontario Invasive Plant Council of Ontario, Plenary Speakers : Del Gingrich - The Mennonite Story, Lisa Stockwell - Grand River Conservation Authority , Pat Rettinger - K.C.I. Green Industries Banquet Speaker : Dr. Ken Shonk. Please refer to their website for more information: <a href="http://www.gardenontario.org/">http://www.gardenontario.org/</a>
July 30 – 3 1	<b>Garden Walk Buffalo</b>
	<b>Garden Walk Buffalo</b> is a free, self-guided tour of 416 Buffalo gardens, the largest garden tour in America. Held annually on the last weekend of July, in 2016 it will be Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, September 12	<b>Monthly Meeting at Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre</b>
	Monthly meeting will be held once again at Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre.
Saturday, September 24	<b>2016 District 6 Fall Breakfast Meeting</b>
	8:30am-3 pm Meeting starts 9:30am; Royal Canadian Legion, 223 Nichol Street, Waterford; Hosted by Horticultural Societies of Norfolk, Delhi, Port Dover & Woodhouse, Simcoe, & Waterford. Info: <a href="mailto:husseyde@sympatico.ca">husseyde@sympatico.ca</a> or 519-582-4523

