



Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter May 2016

Speaker's Corner

Catherine Ann Marshall is a well-known Canadian consultant working in global real estate investment management on behalf of large institutional investors. Her client list reads like a who's who of the North American investment business, including Sun Life and Manulife.

Prior to becoming a consultant, Catherine was the head of the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board's real estate investment strategy group.

In addition to her consulting work, Catherine is the Chair, of the CFA Society Toronto's Risk Management and Alternative Investments Committee.

However, Catherine has a secret life, and that is as the co-owner of Greenbilt Homes, a hand-crafted sustainable home-building business. Although her husband Mike Manning does the day-to-day management, Catherine is heavily involved in the business and it is perhaps her greatest passion. She says perhaps, because it's possible that her greatest passion now is her garden

Catherine's talk today is *A Secret in a Garden*. When you look at her Garden you may think it is unusual, and then not give it another thought. Today she will try to describe the messages in the garden, not just for her little plot of land, but for all cultivated land everywhere.



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<http://www.oakvillehort.org>

Next Meeting: Monday, May 9, 2016

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

MacMillan Meeting Hall (Knox Presbyterian Church),

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

May

Flower Show Clerks: Nino Zaino and Jean Latham

Hospitality Volunteers: John Raynor,
Marion Campbell, Margaret Found

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



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What is a gardener? What do we **really** do when we garden? Gardening is spiritual, provides beauty and fragrance to soothe the soul and mind, provides food for us, shelter and food for the birds, butterflies, bees and fauna, protects and rehabilitates natural spaces and gives us an opportunity to re-cycle, re-use and re-purpose. But more than all these, gardening provides fun and whimsy. If you would like to have some fun and add whimsy to your garden this year.... read on. Jeans are not passé, especially if you fill them out well.



Need more seating? Be unique - try this!



Do you have old boots around? Give them a second life.

They would make dry, warm birds nests or a boot planter. The planter can even be painted to match your colour décor.



We all have old plastic bottles - give them a new lease on life and keep them out of land-fill. They also make a perfect nursery for hatching out Monarch butterflies. Ask Margaret Larson for more information. You'll never find

these flower vases in the store!!

And finally, who needs an expensive water-feature when you can create your own gorgeous "attention-getter" for far less money. All your neighbours and friends will be envious and amazed at your ingenuity.

So this year - go ahead and do something whimsical that adds your very own special touch to your garden and have fun while you work and play in the garden!





Garden Tour update

Secret Gardens of Oakville 2016 is set to occur on **Sunday June 26.**

Tickets for the Garden Tour will be on sale at our May meeting, so come prepared to buy yours! They are \$15.00 each or 2 for \$25. Why not treat a friend or neighbour to this exciting event?

We have almost all the volunteers we need (thanks to everyone who has signed up) but we could use a few more hosts for the afternoon. Remember, as a volunteer host, you will be issued a free ticket, and access to the gardens for a preview on Saturday June 25.

Fingers crossed for a nice spring with many early opportunities to get the gardens looking their best!

Now, our thoughts are turning to 2017, and the challenge of discovering another group of lovely gardens for the tour next spring. The organizing committee welcomes your suggestions, and your involvement in future activities.



What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it.

Charles Dudley Warner



PRESENTING: David Marshall's exclusive Plant Sale on Monday, May 9, 2016 during the Meeting!!!!

A good selection of annuals and perennials will be available.

Cash only!

He hopes to have some premium annuals in 4 1/2 inch pots, but that depends on availability.

Prices: Annuals will be \$1.50 each

Perennials will be in 3 1/2 inch and 5 1/2 inch square pots at \$2 and \$4 or \$5 each

The perennials will be as follows, (again depending on availability)

Anemone 'Honorine Jobert'; Asclepias tuberosa 'butterfly mix.'; Asclepias incarnata (for the monarchs); Aster 'Purple Dome'; Campanula 'Blue Waterfall'; Delphinium Pacific Giants; Echinacea 'Pow Wow Wild Berry'; Helianthus 'Mardi Gras'; Lobelia 'Queen Victoria'; Peony 'Bowl of Beauty'; Sedum 'Cherry Ruffles'; Cyperus 'Baby tut'; Phlox 'Forever Pink'



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ALL HANDS ARE NEEDED

PLANT SALE: May 21 - 8:30-11:30 AM

LOCATION: Munn's United Church at HWY 5 at Dundas St. E.



Your perennial plants are needed now! Our Plant Sale Day is fast approaching - Saturday, May 21. Munn's United Church, 5 Dundas St E., Oakville.

What can YOU do?

Renovate your Gardens!

So renovate your beds and share your favourite plants. When dividing perennials, please use a light soil mix to save the backs of volunteers moving plants from depots to sale site. Soil is available at our depots. Please deliver your labeled potted plants to our Plant Depots before May 16. Use waterproof markers.

Need Help!

If you need help digging, dividing and potting, please call Cathy 905-849-7581. If you haven't volunteered to help on plant sale day, it's not too late. Let Cathy know c.kavassalis@gmail.com.

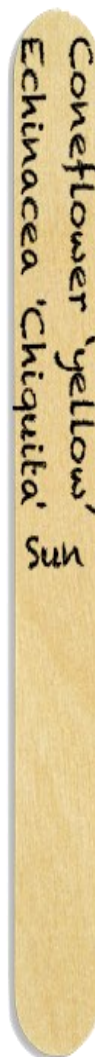
Help us advertise!

Tell your friends and neighbours. Give out bookmarks. Put up posters. Put up a sign in your yard or neighbourhood. We will tell you where and when you can get these at our April meeting or contact

North	Marie & Bob Decker 1285 Gloaming Court 905-844-1837
South East	Sonja Tessari & Stuart Gough 1311 Avon Cres. 905-845-9474
South West	David Marshall 2039 Rebecca St. 905-827-2564

All non-invasive perennials are good sellers but some of our best sellers are: Ajuga, Aquatic plants, Artemisia, Aster, Astilbe, Bellflower, Black Eyed Susan, Border Pinks, Catmint, Coral Bells, Corydalis, Chrysanthemum, Daylilies, Delphinium, Fall Anemone, Fall Aster, Ferns, Hens & Chicks, Herbs, Hosta, Ivy, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Japanese Spurge (Pachysandra), Lady's Mantle, Lamb's Ear, Lavender, Meadow Rue, Monkshood, Ornamental Grass (clumping, no Ribbon Grass), Periwinkle, Phlox, Primula, Purple Coneflower, Rhubarb, Sedum (Autumn Joy), Shasta Daisy, Siberian Iris, Solomon's Seal, Trillium, Sweet Woodruff, Yarrow, Yucca, Shrubs and Trees from your own garden.

Let's all work together to have FUN and make this plant sale a BIG success!





HIGHWAY OF HEROES PROJECT

INTRODUCTION OF HIGHWAY OF HEROES PROJECT: Ontario's Macdonald-Cartier Freeway, better known as Highway 401, is the main transportation corridor linking Windsor with Quebec City, and crosses through some of the most densely populated areas in Canada. In 2007, a 170 kilometre portion of the highway stretching from CFB Trenton to the Don Valley Parkway (and later Keele Street) in Toronto was designated the Highway of Heroes, reflecting its use as the route for funeral convoys carrying fallen Canadian Forces service men and women from CFB Trenton to the coroner's office in Toronto.

This designation honours those men and women who have made such a vital contribution to our way of life, and offers a wonderful opportunity to tell the story of Canadian Veterans. Our goal is to implement a large-scale planting program (117,000 trees) and create a series of elements along the roadway that will remind those who pass by of the great debt we owe these courageous Canadians.

All money raised goes directly to tree planting, as all administrative costs have been covered by a private donor. All trees to be planted are native species.

For more information about this program, please visit: www.hohtribute.ca

DEADLINE TO PARTICIPATE: The deadline is June 30, 2016 for final donations to be sent to the OHA Treasurer.

For more information, please contact Marie Decker mardecker12@gmail.com

HIGHWAY OF HEROES PROJECT DONATION FORM

Do you require a charitable donation receipt? (Minimum \$50 donation required for receipt) YES NO

Donor's Name:

Address: -----

City: ----- Postal Code:

Please mail your donation form and cheque to:

Ontario Horticultural Association

Mary Donnelly-OHA Treasurer

c/o Highway of Heroes

246 Allen Street

Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0

Hot Off the Press!



We will be putting in an order for permanent engraved name badges with a magnetic back. If you are interested please visit the membership desk at the next meeting and fill in the order form. The cost of the name tag will be \$10.50.



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HOW DID YOU ENJOY OUR EXPERIMENT AT THE ART CENTRE? Should we go back in June?

Joshua Creek Heritage Art Center

We had an opportunity to use the lovely Joshua Creek Heritage Art Center for our April meeting. With 75 members and guests in attendance it was cozy. Many appreciated the beautiful artwork on the walls and the setting. Having a separate space for our flower show was great, but it was a bit cramped to get refreshments. On a warmer day, we could expand on to the covered patio.

From the feedback we received, it is not a clear improvement over our current meeting place at Knox. Here are the pros and cons that we heard.

Pros:

The padded chairs were comfortable. (With 80 chairs plus benches, there is seating for just over 100. The

There is a separate space for flower shows.

There is a large parking area with some lighting.

The distance was closer for some.

There is a kitchen for access to water and preparation of refreshments

Most appreciated the artwork on display.

There are chairs and tables available for our needs.

We are being offered the space for our current rate at Knox of \$170.

Lighting is better for slides

Good Acoustics (a sound system is available)

Covered patio could be used in nice weather

Beautiful setting

JCHAC community garden initiative, and tree walks are projects consistent with the OHS mandate

The site is wheelchair accessible and washrooms are available.

It is a secular meeting space.

Cons

The main hall could not accommodate full membership. (We typically get from 45 to 70

The show space was cramped.

Lighting was limited in the back parking area and uneven ground, muddy or icy conditions a

The distance was farther for some.

The refreshment area was crowded making it difficult to socialize and view the show.

Some found the artwork in the show area detracted from floral designs.

Table sizes are not ideal. We must put away tables and chairs at the end of the meeting.

We have a long history at Knox and a great relationship with staff.



The Board discussed the pros and cons and thought it might be nice to use the facility when the weather and lighting was optimal, as in June and September. This would give us an opportunity to view the JCHAC gardens, walk the maze and continue our congenial relationship with the Art Centre. We will ask your opinion at our May meeting, or email Cathy at c.kavassalis@gmail.com and share your thoughts.

Please note that over the past decade we have scoped out many alternative venues. Cost is generally the biggest issue and most venues in Oakville are asking at least double what we are currently paying. If you are affiliated or know of a venue that would meet our needs and not cost significantly more than we are currently paying, let us know.



Saturday, May 21: Plant Sale: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Sunday June 26: Secret Gardens of Oakville: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm



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Protecting Biodiversity – Combating Invasive Alien Species

(IAS) - An update by Larry Urbanoski



Last year Oakville Horticultural Society participated in a number of new activities to combat non-native invasive species in our community. As an example, OHS members attended workshops related to the EDRR ([Early Detection & Rapid Response](#)) program - a proactive approach to stop the establishment of invasive plant populations in Ontario. Through these workshops, OHS members connected with other like-minded organizations based in Halton and Peel. We shared information and expertise about the species of most concern in our area like garlic mustard, common reed grass and buckthorn.

While OHS has previously championed garlic mustard removal in Oakville, this past year, buckthorn has been our target. Buckthorn has become a prominent part of Oakville's urban forest. Like garlic mustard, its ability to out-compete native species and degrade wildlife habitat has moved it on to the top ten list of invasive species of concern within Ontario. Not only does it threaten native biodiversity, but it also poses a threat to agriculture as it can serve as a host for crown rust of oats as well as soybean aphids. European buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) is now listed as a noxious weed under Ontario's Weed Control Act.

In November 2015, OHS participated in an event to remove buckthorn from a nature trail in the Glen Abbey area. This event was a collaborative effort with the organization POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) and the Town of Oakville. While progress was made, there is still a significant infestation of buckthorn along the Glen Oak Creek Trail and further work is needed to halt its growth.

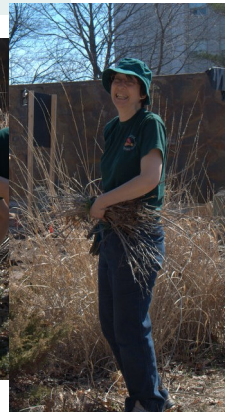
Thus OHS is joining forces with POWER, the Town of Oakville and a new partner, Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, to eradicate buckthorn from this valley. The activity is scheduled for the morning of Thursday, June 9th. We will meet at the [Glen Oak Creek Trail](#) head on Nottingham Gate at 9 a.m. and divide up into teams. You will learn how to identify two species of buckthorn and how to use an extractigator ... lots of fun. **Please, join the volunteers from these other organizations in our effort to promote biodiversity and improve our local environment.**

Email info.ohs@oakvillehort.org for details and to let us know you are coming.

Please watch for further details on the OHS website and OHS announcements.

Did You Know?

The Anderson Parkette—a Garden of Love



Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"

~Robin Williams



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Calendar of Events

May 9 to May 15	Halton Compost Giveaway
	Please refer to the article in the April Newsletter
Saturday, May 21	OHS Plant Sale
	OHS Plant Sale Munn's United Church (Dundas St & 6th Line)
May 15	Grand Opening Celebration of the David Braley and Nancy Gordon Rock Garden at the RGB.
	Family Event Tickets: \$25 (Children 3 and under are free); available online April 1st. Stay up past your bedtime and spend the night in the Land of Luna! Put on your most magical outfit and celebrate spring's return to the new David Braley and Nancy Gordon Rock Garden. A fun-filled, fairy-tale evening awaits!
Thursday, June 9	Buckthorn Removal and Native Species Restoration
	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 - info.ohs@oakvillehort.org .
June 15 –16	Garden Clubs of Ontario Triennial Flower Show
	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	Through the Garden Gate – OHS Garden Tour
	Please refer to the article in the April Newsletter
July 29 – 31	OHA CONVENTION 110
	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. In addition, if you are interested in participating in the Photography Competition, the deadline is May 1 to submit your entries. Please refer to their website for more information: http://www.gardenontario.org/
July 30 – 31	Garden Walk Buffalo
	Garden Walk Buffalo 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.
Saturday, September 24	2016 District 6 Fall Breakfast Meeting
	8:30am-3 pm Meeting starts 9:30am; Royal Canadian Legion, 223 Nichol Street, Watwerford; Hosted by Horticultural Societies of Norfolk, Delhi, Port Dover & Woodhouse, Simcoe, & Waterford. Info: husseyde@sympatico.ca or 519-582-4523