

Oakville Horticultural Society December 2019

December Monthly Meeting

Date: December 9, 2019

Location: Knox Presbyterian Church, 89 Dunn Street

Set-up Volunteers:

Hospitality Volunteers:

Flower Show Clerks:



Annual General Meeting Potluck Dinner

Penny Auction

Monday, December 9, 2019

Doors open 6:00 pm Cocktails 6:30 pm Please bring a plate, utensils, a cup and your food item



Mailing Address:

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

General Information:

info.ohs@oakvillehort.org

President:

Paula Clayton
Wendy Funk-Death
president.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Vice-President:

Secretary:

Florenda Tingle secretary.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Treasurer:

Larry Urbanoski treasurer@oakvillehort.org Membership:

info.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Newsletter:

Myroslawa Lukiwsky editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Webmaster:

Wade Pitman info.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Plant Sale:

Sheelagh Rowland and Trish Bolton plantsale.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Garden Tour:

Paula Clayton gardentour.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Junior Garden:

Helen Stephenson juniors.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Website:

http://www.oakvillehort.org

Hello December, and where has the year gone? Well now that everyone

has put their gardens to bed for the winter, it is time to rest and plan for next year. This is also a great time to pick up a book to help you with next year's plans. If you are looking for a book Halton Master Gardeners have a list of books in their newsletter Cross Pollination. It has been a busy year. We have had so many successes with the Fun with Flowers, Plant Sale and the Garden Tour to name a few. It amazes me as how much we do with our wonderful volunteers.



I would like to extend a great big Thank You to all that you do for us throughout the year.

I would also like to take the time to say thank you to the Executive and the Directors for the year. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. These people take great pride in making sure that the Society is making gains and preparing for the future. It will be a pleasure to continue to help them in my new role as a Director.

Wendy Funk-Death

Co-President

"One kind word can warm three winter months" Japanese Proverb

Enjoy Cross Pollination December 2019

https://haltonmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2019/11/cross-pollination-2019-12.pdf



SEEDY SATURDAYS AND EVENTS

Please visit for more information https://www.seeds.ca/



district news...





ENTER TO WIN!!!

5100

Membership Renewal Lottery!!!

Renew your membership in December for a chance to win \$100.

at a local garden supply store!!!

Winning ticket to be drawn at the Pot Luck Dinner on December 9th!

Don't miss out!!!



Oakville Horticultural Society Where Gardeners come to flourish						
Membership F Renewing Membership or New Membership	Orm Name: Email:	Membership Number I agree to receive OHS email				
Single Membership or Family Membership Family Members (if applicable):	Street Address: Postal Co Telephone:					
•	Email:					
Oakville Horticultural Society Box 69605, 109 Thomas St., Oakville, ON L6J 7R4 info.ohs@oakvillehort.org	Office use only Single (\$20) Paid by: Cash Cheque Family (\$30) Received by: Date	Online				
into.ons@oakvillenort.org	keceivea oy: Data	e:				





Make A Difference



OHS Slate of Nominees for 2020

President - Paula Clayton

Treasurer - Larry Urbanoski

Secretary - Florenda Tingle

Directors: Wendy Funk-Death

Wade Pitman

Sheelagh Rowland

Myroslawa Lukiwsky

Rob Welsh

Vacant

Committees and Leads:

Plant Sale – Sheelagh Rowland and Trish Bolton

Garden Tour – Paula Clayton, Florenda Tingle and Sheelagh Rowland

Junior Gardeners – Helen Stephenson and Nino Zaino

Fun with Flowers – Florenda Tingle

Membership – Judy Bridges, Christel Mahncke and Wade Pitman

Newsletter - Myroslawa Lukiwsky

Programs – Myroslawa Lukiwsky and Heather Reccord

Website - Wade Pitman

Anderson Parkette – Florenda Tingle

Facebook – Veronica Heiderich

Hospitality – Valerie Rughi

Design/Horticulture - Marie Decker

Draw Table - Florenda Tingle







Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

2019 Annual General Meeting

Agenda item

December 9, 2019

Proposed Amendment for consideration and vote by the membership, to the Oakville Horticultural Society Constitution and by-laws document.

Whereas, at an Ontario Horticultural Association Board Meeting in the fall of 2016, it was suggested that every horticultural society have an indemnification section it its constitution and/or by-laws, and

Whereas, this suggestion was made in consultation with the Cooperators Insurance Company representative, and

Whereas, for the security of all of the officers and executive members, this should be included in the appropriate section of the society's constitution and/or by-laws.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Oakville Horticultural Society's Constitution and Bylaws be amended to include the following new Section 5 inserted under Article 3: Officers, Directors and the Executive Committee.

"Section 5 - INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Every Director and Officer of the Society and his or her heirs, executors and administrators respectively shall from time to time and at all times be indemnified and found saved harmless out of the funds of the Society only from and against:

- a) all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever such Director or Officer sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit, or proceeding that is brought, commenced or prosecuted against him or her for or in respect to any deed, act, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or committed by him or her, in or about the execution of the duties of his or her office; and
- b) all other costs, charges and expenses he or she sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs of the Society, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by his or her own negligence or default or failure to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Society. The Ontario Horticultural Association may provide insurance to cover this liability of the Society."

Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends this constitutional amendment be approved.





society news (cont'd)...

Oakville Horticultural Society: Proposed Budget 2019-2020

Description	Actual	Budget	Variance	Proposed
	2019 YTD	2019	2019	2020 Budget
Bulbs, Plants & Seeds	340.00	300.00	40.00	300.00
Draw Table	997.35	800.00	197.35	800.00
May Plant Sale	5,777.95	6,000.00	-222.05	6000.00
Membership	1,824.00	2,000.00	-176.00	1800.00
Interest	350.79	800.00	-449.21	850.00
Donations	227.45	0.00	227.45	0.00
Garden Tour	2,440.00	2,500.00	-60.00	2500.00
Ontario Grant	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1000.00
Miscellaneous	589.49	0.00	589.49	0.00
Community Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Workshops	0.00	200.00	-200.00	200.00
Junior Program Registrations	55.00	60.00	-5.00	60.00
Special Events	75.85	400.00	-324.15	0.00
Total Revenue	13,677.88	14,060.00	-382.12	13,510.00

Ε
X
P
Ε
N
S
Ε
S

R E

E N

U

E S

Description	Actual	Budget	Variance	Proposed
	2019 YTD	2019	2019	2020 Budget
Publicity	437.53	400.00	37.53	400.00
Social Convenor	371.59	300.00	71.59	400.00
Bulbs, Plants & Seeds	421.65	400.00	21.65	400.00
Public Planting	107.78	1,000.00	-892.22	600.00
Community Programs	1,068.65	1,750.00	-681.35	1,500.00
OHS Memberships	547.64	700.00	-152.36	700.00
Executive	1,141.96	1,250.00	-108.04	1,350.00
Draw Table Convenor	305.88	350.00	-44.12	350.00
Monthly Shows	1,094.75	1,330.00	-235.25	1,330.00
Garden Tour Convenor	513.74	650.00	-136.26	650.00
Newsletter	307.64	200.00	107.64	200.00
Monthly Programs	3,197.00	4,000.00	-803.00	3,700.00
Junior Program	445.26	1,000.00	-554.74	1,000.00
May Plant Sale	2,742.75	3,750.00	-1,007.25	3,750.00
Equipment/Improvements	2,204.29	3,800.00	-1,595.71	500.00
Special Events		400.00	-400.00	400.00
Miscellaneous	293.80	100.00	193.80	100.00
Contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	15,201.91	21,380.00	-6,178.09	17,330.00





Oakville Horticultural Society—a year to remember...





DON'T FORGET.

- Attend the AGM Potluck Dinner Monday, December 9, 2019.
 Doors open: 6:00 pm, cocktails 6:30 pm
- 2. Bring a dinner plate, cutlery, cup and the food item you agreed to bring.
- 3. Bring cash for the Penny Auction.
- 4. Bring a good appetite and a big smile.

See you at the Annual General Meeting!



Donations needed!

Wine, chocolate, unwanted gifts (if there is no emotional attachment to a gift that was given to you, and you have no use for it, would you consider donating the OHS auction?), anything new or slightly used. Please bring your item (s) to our December meeting. We thank you for your contribution!



Looking for a unique gift for your favourite OHS Fashionista?

We have green t-shirts with our OHS logo available.

We have 5 large and 5 medium at \$15 each. They will be available at our December meeting.





Girl Scouts Build Bee Homes

IN SEPTEMBER, MILLIONS OF YOUTH activists around the world took to the streets to fight for their right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and not have to suffer the wrath of the climate crisis. But that's not the only way kids are taking climate action into their own hands. In Colorado, the task of saving bees from the consequences of climate change has fallen to the girls who sell us the best cookies: Over the summer, at a Girl Scout day camp in Denver, Girl Scout troops fashioned tiny homes for wild bees called "bee hotels," to fight the depopulation of bees across the country.

Bee hotels are like birdhouses for wild bees. Since wild bees don't make honey, they don't live in hives, but they're always in need of a suitable habitat. Out in the wild, these bees often nest in holes in fallen logs, dead trees, and broken branches of bushes. But natural

habitats can be hard to come by in developed areas, which is where bee hotels come in.

The troops repurposed cardboard boxes, old paper straws, toilet paper rolls, and other materials to create homes for bees in their local community. The project is part of a new initiative called Think Like A Citizen Scientist

<u>Journey</u>, in which girls from grades six through 12 develop real-world sustainable projects to create change. After some brainstorming and research, the scouts at the day camp chose saving the bees.

"There were times it was hard because there were so many girls and lots of ideas, but we worked together, and it was fun," says 11-year-old Imani, one of the girls who participated in the project. "We found a way to come to a compromise and work together to make a fun bee hotel so the bees can fit their fuzzy little buns in."

Working with bees can be a daunting task for kids around Imani's age. Many children are afraid of bees, because they only know them from the



pain of their sting. But Girl Scouts learn to overcome their fears. "I'm afraid of bugs, so it was hard for me to go look at the bees and learn about them," says Imani. "I'm glad I did. I'm still scared, but I understand how we need bees for food and flowers and that they have a purpose." The U.S. has more than 4,000 wild bee species, and 40 percent of invertebrate pollinators are now facing extinction. The depopulation of bees





Girl Scouts Build Bee Homes con't....

to a number of factors including human activity, pesticide overuse, disease, and the changing climate.

Dennis vanEngelsdorp, an associate professor of entomology at the University of Maryland, College Park, says that bee hotels can play an important role in maintaining bee populations. They aren't only habitats, but also a safe haven for bees to lay eggs. If built correctly and well maintained, vanEngelsdorp says, bee hotels can attract new bee species to areas that need pollinators.

"We found a way to ... work together to make a fun bee hotel so the bees can fit their fuzzy little buns in."

"Bees, in general, not just honeybees, are keystone species," he says. "They're the ones that keep ecosystems together, they allow for trees to grow, and so, really, they're cornerstone species."

After building their bee hotels, the girls went out to install them in green pockets of their community, such as community gardens and the local botanical garden. They also donated one to a local beekeeper who spoke to the

troops. "The most interesting thing I learned is probably when you think of bees, you just think of honeybees, but there are so many different types out there," says Aimee, another 11-year-old Girl Scout.

In addition to helping maintain bee populations, the bee hotel project plays an important role in building a new generation of engaged citizens. "I want to show the girls that they have so many different opportunities to make the world a better place, and that they have many different assets already in their strengths that are all so viable," says Tiffany Stone, one of the troop leaders.

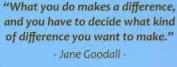
It's important for kids to learn that "every effort counts," vanEngelsdorp says. "What you're seeing is that you need bees to survive, and so who better to be concerned about that than the people who are going to inherit the next generation?" he says. "These efforts are really good because hopefully they set up a lifelong commitment to preserving biodiversity."

ATTRIBUTED TO ATLAS OBSCURA BY RACHEL RAMIREZ

This story was originally published by Grist and appears here as part of the Climate

Desk collaboration.













Feeding Birds

Not so long ago, feeding birds was a winter-only activity. The thinking was that during the coldest time of the year (in Snowbelt regions at least), we need to provide birds with extra energy in order for them to survive. While there is some truth to that, mostly we feed birds -- summer or winter -- because it's fun. Bird feeding of any kind is less an act of charity than a garden indulgence, like raising a particularly fine perennial flower.

Suet, in particular, has traditionally been a winter-only bird food. The use of suet -- the hard fat around the kidneys and loins of cattle and sheep -- was limited to cold weather because it quickly turned rancid at temperatures above 70 degrees. Enter the ready-to-use suet cake. The suet in suet cakes is rendered, or cooked, so it becomes less prone to melting and spoiling, and then is made into pressed cakes. They come shaped to fit most suet cages, in various "flavors" so you can determine which ones birds in your area prefer, and in ingenious packages that are not messy to handle.

Suet is a good addition to garden feeding stations because it attracts several bird species that rarely visit a seed feeder. For instance, most species of woodpeckers -- downy, hairy, red-bellied, even the occasional pileated, the largest of the North American woodpeckers -- rarely visit seed feeders but are regular suet diners. Lucky suet providers might also host creepers, kinglets, warblers, and wrens, none of which typically visit seed feeders. Some species -- including chickadees, jays, nuthatches, and titmice -- will take advantage of both kinds.

Wherever you live, late winter into early spring is a great time to try suet cakes in your garden. While you're enjoying the spring bulbs in bloom, add to the action in your garden by including a suet feeder. Many birds become very active at this time, establishing territories and building nests, and in many areas natural food supplies may still be low.

Animal fat is an important source of extra calories for the birds. It can be set out as is or rendered into cakes to include other goodies such as seeds and nuts. Though beef fat is most common, the term suet has come to mean any fat trimmings from livestock, including lard (rendered pig fat).

Homemade Suet Cakes

Prepared suet cakes are popular for their convenience, but if you make your own (see recipe below), you're not limited to a purchased feeder to dispense the food. For instance, you can smear a homemade mixture into the opened scales of a pinecone, then hang the cone from a tree branch. Or drill numerous 3/4-inch-wide, 1-inch-deep holes into a small log. Attach a screw-eye to one end of the log for hanging, and fill the holes with the suet mixture.

The basic ingredients will be familiar, though the specific proportions can vary. All suet feed for birds combines fats, flour, and usually a sweetener. Experiment by adding raisins, sunflower seeds, nuts, or other ingredients.

- 1 cup lard (no substitutions)
- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 2 cups quick-cooking oats
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup sugar







Feeding Birds cont.....

In a 2-quart pan, melt the lard and peanut butter over medium heat, then stir in the oats, cornmeal, flour, and sugar. Press the mixture into square freezer containers about 1-1/2 inches deep. Refrigerate until cool, then cut into cakes, seal in plastic wrap, and store in the freezer.

Ready-Made Suet Cakes

Many kinds of ready-made mixtures are available. One company, C&S Products of Dodge, lowa, markets 31 different kinds with names like Almond Treat and Woodpecker Delight; the "treats" include proportionately more suet and the "delights" more grain. But in either case, the suet cakes are safe to use in summer temperatures as high as 100° F. Because ingredients vary, prices span a range, but most cakes cost \$2 to \$3.

Don't confuse suet cakes with similarly shaped seed blocks. These are seed mixes in which the seed is essentially glued together with gelatin, rendering the seed somewhat less messy and, in some cases, more convenient to dispense than when loose. To provide easy access to protein, and to attract suet-loving birds, be sure the product you put out is in fact suet.

Suet Dispensers

A great variety of suet dispensers is available, not including the kinds like pinecones or logs you fashion yourself. Most common are simple wire cages sized and shaped to fit one commercial suet cake. But all types work well and discourage squirrels and what some people consider lessdesirable bird species (blackbirds, grackles, and starlings) from invading.

While you might place some seed feeders in full sun in an open location, suet dispensers are best in or near a tree and out of full sun to help prevent the suet from melting.

Accredited to: The National Gardening Association by Allison Childs Wells

Christmas Tree Drop-Off

December 27, 2019 to January 13, 2020

Below Laking Garden – 1200 Spring Garden Rd Burlington Princess Pt – 335 Longwood Rd, Hamilton

The Christmas tree barriers at the mouth of Grindstone creek are helping RBG to rebuild creek channels. Creek channels that have disappeared since the invasive non-native Common carp have been prevalent in Hamilton Harbour. Rebuilding the creek channel allows RBG to work towards restoring the floodplain ponds by protecting them from the destructive activity of carp. This facilitates the regrowth of marsh plants creating habitat for native fish and

wildlife. Old Christmas trees are an ideal building block for these areas with fluctuating water levels. They sit on top of the unconsolidated mud without sinking into it, however when they are packed down tight they create a barrier to fish. As the years go, the old Christmas trees break down and compress further. RBG adds new trees to the top to maintain berm heights

that will protect the floodplain ponds during high water levels. You can help by donating your Christmas tree. Just be sure to remove ALL of the decorations. Ornaments do not make good habitat features for fish! Trees will only be accepted at the following addresses: Below Laking Garden (1200 Spring Garden Rd Burlington),

or at Princess Point (335 Longwood Road, Hamilton). Trees will NOT be accepted at RBG Centre or any 6ther garden areas.



THE MILK BAG PROJECT

Growing up is busy. One would imagine that high schoolers are too preoccupied with studying, sports teams, clubs, and planning our futures to have much spare time. 40 hours of community service are mandatory to graduate from an Ontario high school, but despite packed schedules, many surpass the requirement not only in time, but in scale.

Environmental concerns have consumed the news for as long as I can remember. Current high school students will never live without the climate change debate or the endless information of the internet; worsening wildfires and hurricanes, vanishing coral reefs and nature are natural parts of our conversations. This is why students at St. Mildred's Lightbourn School are weaving milk bags into mats – to keep plastic out of our oceans, and to help families affected by the 2010 Haiti earthquake.



The loom used to create mats.

Plastic bags are some of the most damaging substances released into the environment. It is estimated that 500 million bags are used every minute, that 40% of our oceans are covered in plastic, and that it takes plastic 1000 years to biodegrade, devastating marine life and coral reefs. On the other hand, milk bags are made of thick, durable plastic with antibacterial properties, perfect for sleeping mats. SMLS, along with several other schools in the GTA, repurpose milk bags into mattresses for the 2.5 million Haitian families still displaced from the earthquake.

The Milk Bag Project allows students to benefit the environment and international communities from within our school walls. I, along with Frances Clark, have lead this

initiative at St. Mildred's for two years and seen dozens of middle and senior school students volunteer their time on a weekly basis. Whether it is through donating bags, weaving them together, or taking other steps to decrease environmental impact (for example, using metal straws instead of plastic straws), teenagers and adults everywhere are taking action to improve the future.

It is difficult to believe that small actions such as these lessen the daunting effects of climate change. But whether it is supporting those caught in any kind of environmental disaster, or saving wildlife from plastic, every little bit matters. I encourage everyone to research similar causes, and to feel free to donate their own milk bags.

- Alex Morrison, Grade 12 Student at St. Mildred's Lightbourn School





The 2020 Annual Orchid Show will take place on Saturday, February 29, 2020 (noon to 5 pm) and Sunday, March 1, 2020 (10 am to 5 pm) at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, Ontario. Admission to the Show is free with your RBG membership or daily admission. The coupon located at the RBG website provides a \$4.00 discount on the adult or senior admission. Information on RBG daily rates is found here:

<u>http://www.rbg.ca/visitus_and for RBG membership, see: http://www.rbg.ca/membership.</u>



December 9 Annual General Meeting and Potluck Dinner Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting commences at 7:30 pm **December 10** HOLIDAY MAGIC TABLE DESIGN or 11 Tuesday, December 10; 1 to 3 p.m. OR 7 to 9 p.m. at RBG Centre. FESTIVE DOOR DESIGN: Wednesday, December 11; 1 to 3 p.m. OR 7 to 9 p.m. at RBG Centre Use fresh evergreens to create your very own stunning table or door design. When registering for the table design you are asked to choose your accent colour — red or white. The vase, balls, birdhouse and evergreens are included in the price. Ribbons, picks and other accessories are available for purchase. Please bring your floral scissors or secateurs, a small towel and a green garbage bag to take your design home. There are refreshments to purchase. No refunds available for this program. Fee: \$50/class (M 10% off) MAXIMUM 55. PRE-REGISTER BY DECEMBER 1. January 12 RBG Speaker Series: Peter Thoem Expedition into the Tien Shan Mountains 2 to 3 p.m.; RBG Centre Peter Thoem, RBG volunteer, has been on another wonderful adventure. Hear about his volunteer participation in an expedition into the Tien Shan Mountains of Kyrgyzstan to look for evidence of Snow Leopards, followed by a journey into south-west Kyrgyzstan to visit a remote valley town surrounded by a forest of Walnut trees. Don't miss this fascinating account of Peter's adventures. \$12 (RBG Members 10% off) - pre-registration required. January 13 Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting commences at 7:30 pm January 20 Monthly Executive Meeting at Palermo Room, Town Hall January 26 RBG Speaker Series: Dr. David Galbraith Landscape, Nature, and History: Exploring Cootes **Paradise Marsh Through Art** 2 to 3 p.m.; RBG Centre Cootes Paradise Marsh has been portrayed by artists in many ways since Elizabeth Simcoe made the first known painting of the area in 1796. More than decorative art, the paintings of Cootes Paradise made by subsequent generations are valuable historical documents showing us changes in the landscape. Artists today continue to interpret the area in many media, from paintings and photographs to sculpture and literature. Join Dr. David A. Galbraith and look back through time to find how landscapes have changed or no longer exist, and consider how art and nature intersect at RBG's largest nature sanctuary. \$12 (RBG Members 10% off) - pre-registration required. February 10 Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street. Doors

open at 6:30 pm, meeting commences at 7:30 pm

February 18 Monthly Executive Meeting at Bronte Room, Town Hall

March 9 Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street

> Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting commences at 7:30 pm



Bring your own mug and get one free draw ticket at the door!!!!





Galt Horticultural Society 29th Annual Dream Garden Conference Sunday, January 26th, 2020

Doors open at 9am Conference 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Beehive Hall - Hespeler Memorial Arena

640 Ellis Road W, Cambridge, ON N3C 4N1

Featuring

David Hobson
Master of Ceremonies

Paul Zammit

Director Toronto Botanical Gardens

The Soul of the Garden

Dugald Cameron

Author – Artist – Gardener

The Fragrant Garden

Ben Cullen

Consultant

Pollinators and Herbs

Ticket price includes Continental Breakfast, Hot Lunch, Door Prizes, on site Vendors and Membership to Galt Horticultural Society

Tickets are: \$55.00

Purchase your tickets online via our website www.galthort.com, or by mailing your cheque (payable to G.H.S) to

608 Langlaw Drive, Cambridge, ON N1P 1H4.

To receive confirmation, please put your email address on the back of the cheque.

For more details, please email lynne@galthort.com
Or call Lynne at 519-841-3325

Collect your tickets at the door on January 26, 2020.









