

Oakville Horticultural Society February 2020

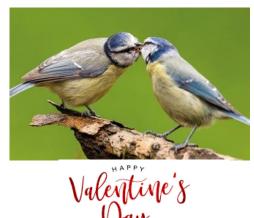
CULTURAL SOC	February Monthly Meeting
Date:	February 10, 2020
Location:	Knox Presbyterian Church, 89 Dunn Street
Set-up Volunteers:	Cathy Kavassalis and Larry Urbanoski
Hospitality Volunteers:	Patty O'Connor and Mary Cameron
Flower Show Clerks:	



Steve Wiersma, a graduate of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, has been employed with the Town of Oakville for 16 years as a Supervisor of Horticulture. His favourite tree is: Liriodendron tulipifera, Tulip Tree. He is a family man who enjoys coaching his boy's baseball, hockey and other sports. He himself enjoys running, staying fit and being active.

Tonight, Steve 's topic is:

"Behind the scenes of the Town of Oakville Horticulture".



Mailing Address:

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

General Information:

info.ohs@oakvillehort.org

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Secretary:

Florenda Tingle <u>secretary.ohs@oakvillehort.org</u> **Treasurer:**

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Garden Tour:

Paula Clayton <u>gardentour.ohs@oakvillehort.org</u> Junior Garden:

Helen Stephenson juniors.ohs@oakvillehort.org Website:____

http://www.oakvillehort.org

Past President's Report

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is in good health and enjoying the quiet time that winter brings. It is great to see the days getting longer; definitely a positive sign. Paula and her husband Charles are currently enjoying themselves in Spain. Safe travels to both! February is a busy month for the society. Fun with Flowers is on Family Day; February 17, 2020. If you are looking for a fun way of volunteering your time,

Florenda and Sheelagh would certainly like the support. It is a great time and the families have had nothing but positive feedback about this program that the Society runs.

We are no sooner finished with Fun with Flowers and then we are participating in Seedy Sunday. It is on Sunday, February 23, 2020. A clipboard will be circulated at February's meeting looking for volunteers to be at the Society's table handing out information about us. Also, if you have any seeds to donate to the table, please bring them to the meeting - it would be greatly appreciated.

And as if that was not enough, the Bronte Horticultural Society has the honour of hosting the Saturday, February 22nd District 6 Spring Breakfast Meeting at Colborne Lodge on Lakeshore Road West (see poster in Newsletter for directions) in Oakville. We encourage as many members as possible to attend. They have engaged an excellent speaker – Dan Werner, Kayanase Greenhouse, who will speak about Ecological Restoration, including Phragmites removal, Native Wildflowers for District 6 and the 50 million Tree Program.

A quote from Barbara Winkler:

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

Wendy Funk-Death



Cross Pollination February 2020 Issue

https://haltonmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2020/01/cross-pollination-2020-02-.pdf



Check it out! Lots of interesting news and information!



Make A Difference





Come and Join us on

Monday, February 17, 2020

Family Day - Fun With Flowers

This will be the Oakville Horticultural Society's ninth year, celebrating Family Day by hosting "Fun With Flowers". Many of the same families participate every February - last year we had about 150 people! that's a lot fish tins! Participants and volunteers alike are delighted by the abundance and variety of beautiful flowers generously donated by local businesses. Incredibly, many original designs evolve in a very limited time frame. "The Experienced" are also extremely clever at packing as

many flowers as possible into a tiny can. This feat takes years of experience!

If you've never attended this event, please sign-up at Monday's meeting or contact Florenda by email at florendatingle1@gmail.com.

We hope you can join us on Family Day at the Iroquois Ridge Community Centre, 1051 Glenashton Drive at 7:45 am for set up. The fun starts with the first session scheduled for 10:15 am. Please bring along your secateurs !





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Oakville's 2nd Annual Seedy Sunday!

Join us Sunday February 23, 2020 from 10am to 3pm for a gardening event inspired by Seeds of Diversity Canada. Hosted by Halton Environmental Network, Greening Sacred Spaces, Halton Food Council and Oakvillegreen.

This event will celebrate gardening in Oakville with a public event focused on sustainable, local

practices and products including:

- *Huge seed swap all day
- *Heirloom and heritage seed producers and vendors
- *Speakers, garden tool swap and gardening book swap
- *Seedy Cafe
- *Kids Activity Centre
- *Opportunities for meeting and networking with other gardeners and experts

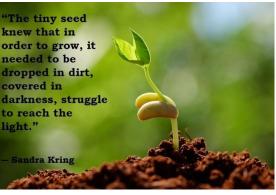
A wealth of information, lots of like minded folks and good vibes!

Free entrance; donations of non-perishable food items for our local food banks gratefully accepted.

For more information about volunteering at our event, please check out our Seedy Sunday page at:

https://haltonfoodcouncil.ca/oakvilleseedysunday/







Memories of that beautiful <u>warm</u> afternoon where members were appreciated for their dedication and hard work.....



The Bronte Horticultural Society

Presents ~ The District 6 Spring Breakfast Sat. Feb. 22nd, 2020 Sir John Colborne Recreational Centre, Oakville, 1565 Old Lakeshore Rd

(Lakeshore & 3rd Line)









Directions - From the QEW/403 take exit 113/Third Line and proceed south 3 km to Lakeshore Rd. Go through the intersection at 3rd Line and Lakeshore then take the next left onto Old Lakeshore Road. Parking is available in both the East and West lots.

Speaker: Dan Werner, Kayanase Greenhouse Topic: Ecological Restoration, including Phragmites removal, Native wildflowers for District 6 and the 50 Million Tree program.

Doors open at 8:15 am, meeting starts at 9:00 am. Coffee, tea, and light snacks will be served. In an effort to minimize waste, *lease Bring your own Mug.*









We all know how important the world's tropical rain forests are in the fight against global warming, by absorbing carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen, (although I am not sure how much the balance is tilted back when the trees die and decay, emitting carbon dioxide.) But although the rate is decreasing, the forests are still being clear cut at a rate far faster than they can regenerate. They are being cut for timber, mining, crops such as soya beans, sugar cane and corn, and to create grazing land for cattle, (themselves massive emitters of methane, a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.)

Fewer people, however, know just how important the rain forests are in the search for new medicinal products to cure a wide variety of illnesses, and in recent years researchers (and big pharma) have realized that we have only scratched the surface in discovering pharmaceutical plants which indigenous tribes have known about for thousands of years. They have used the roots, bark, sap, leaves, flowers, fruit, and seeds of forest plants to cure their ailments.

This knowledge resides with the tribe's shaman, or medicine man, and has been passed down through the generations, orally and by example, to chosen successors. As the tribes are exposed to civilization, they start to abandon their traditional ways. The shamans are not being replaced by the next generation and as they die, the old knowledge is being lost.

The tropical rain forests of South America, Africa and the Far East cover only 7% of the

earth's surface, but they contain half of all the varieties of its flora, and it is estimated that only 1% to 5% of them have been investigated for their therapeutic value. Even so, 25% of the western world's medicines originate from rain forest plants.

Brazil 1.3M Democratic Republic of the Congo 481.2K Indonesia 339.9K 177.0K Colombia 154**.**5K Bolivia 144.6K Malaysia Peru 140.2K Madagascar 94.8K Papua New Guinea 77.3K Cameroon 57.9K

More primary rainforest was lost in Brazil last year than anywhere else

Source: Global Forest Watch, University of Maryland

Bloomberg



IT IS OUR COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY... TO PRESERVE AND TEND TO THE WORLD IN WHICH WE ALL LIVE Dalai Lama



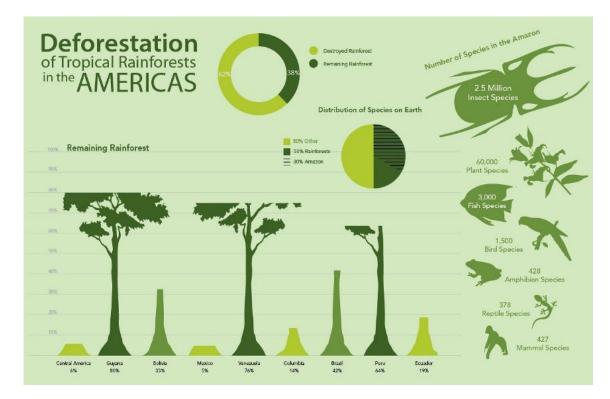
Biggest Loss

There is some good news. A great effort is now being made to record the oral history of the shamans before they are no more. A report in The Guardian newspaper says that one tribe, the Matses, are taking steps to safeguard the tribal knowledge for the future. They have started growing "agriforest" plots containing over 3000 plants in 100 different species used for their medicinal properties, and compiling their accumulated knowledge into a two volume 1000 page encyclopedia, the first ever record of indigenous knowledge of the shamans.

More good news is that the rate of destruction of the rain forest is slowing down considerably as public pressure pushes governments to enact legislation to control the cutting, and more efficient use is made of the areas which have already been clear cut.

We have all heard of the superbugs which are appearing in hospitals and are becoming resistant to all known antibiotics, most of which are derived from a bacterium called actinomyces. Efforts to create effective new antibiotics in the laboratory have been largely unsuccessful, however the search for new antibiotics from the rain forest is showing some signs of success. It is a slow process though. For every 10,000 components screened for medicinal properties, only 250 make it to clinical trials. Of these, ten will proceed to more rigorous trials, and one will become an approved drug.

In light of all this, doesn't it make sense to put a massive effort into documenting the knowledge of previous generations?



Happy gardening! It won't be long now! David Marshall





Make It Sow Fundraiser

All seeds are Canadian sourced. Chef's Herb garden plot - may contain 5 of the following varieties: sage, thyme, chives, cilantro, dill, sweet basil, Genovese basil, summer savoury, or curly parsley.

Sales of seeds would be split 50% to the seed company, 25% to the OHA, and 25% to the Society Seed package choices include - vegetables, cut flowers, perennials, children's garden, butterfly and bird garden, herbs, salad garden, fall garden, strange and fun garden, English garden, and salsa garden. Availability 3-5 days after order. Allow time to write order from society and send to Cat who will forward the order to the OHA.

DEADLINE - MARCH – all orders must be received from the societies in February. More information will be available at our next meeting.

Royal Botanical Orchid Society 39th Annual Spring Orchid Show & Sale

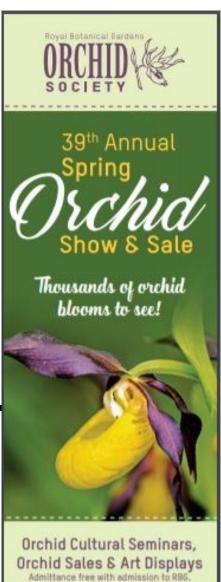
The 2020 Annual Show will take place on Saturday, February 29, 2020 (noon to 5 pm) and Sunday, March 1, 2020 (10 am to 5 pm) at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, Ontario. Admission to the Show is free with your RBG membership or daily admission. Information on RBG daily rates is found here: <u>http://www.rbg.ca/visitus</u> and for RBG membership, see: <u>http://www.rbg.ca/wisitus</u>.For information about awards and trophies, see <u>http://osrbg.ca/wp/?p=572</u>

Inquiries regarding the 2020 Show may be addressed to the Show Director, Ben Boers (<u>bmboers@hotmail.com</u>) or by using the contact form on this website.

Denim 'n Lace, Russian Sage Perovskia atriplicifolia PW Proven Plant of the Year 2020







Royal Botanical Gardens 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington, ON

Saturday, February 29th, 2020 Noon - 5pm Sunday, March 1st, 2020 10am - 5pm

> Photographers Sunday 8am - 10am

Visit our website for additional information WWW.OSrbg.ca

Receive \$4 OFF an adult or senior admission to the RBG.* Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers or discourts. No cash where Limit one 5% discourt per coopen. Valid ONLY February 20th E. March 1st, 2020.





Conservation Authorities tackle a number of invasive species which pose a growing threat to Ontario's economy and native biodiversity. Invasive species damage important natural ecosystems such as wetlands, forest, lakes, rivers and streams, and threaten agricultural practices, infrastructure, tourism, fisheries, and water quality and quantity.

Purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, buckthorns, emerald ash borer, zebra mussels, dog strangling vine, reed canary grass (*Phragmites*), and round goby are a few of the invasive species that Conservation Authorities target with various local programs and initiatives across Ontario. Monitoring the distribution of invasive species is important for controlling their spread and identifying areas of concern. Fifteen Conservation Authorities are members of the Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program. Some Conservation Authorities provide website resources aimed at specific invasive species found in their watersheds and provide actions that people can take. Please contact your local <u>Conservation Authority</u> to learn more.

What is Phragmites?

Phragmites australis subspecies *australis* (also known as the European common reed) is an invasive perennial grass that has caused severe damage to wetlands and beaches in Ontario for several decades. It is unclear exactly how invasive Phragmites (pronounced "frag-my-teez") was transported to North America from its native home in Eurasia. In 2005, it was identified as the nation's "worst" invasive plant species by researchers at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. Despite this designation, invasive Phragmites is still sold as an ornamental plant in some garden centres.

Invasive Phragmites is a very aggressive plant that spreads rapidly and out-competes native species for water and nutrients. This invasive species thrives in disturbed habitats and is often among the first species to colonize these areas. Invasive Phragmites has an intricate system of specialized roots that secrete toxins into the soil to impede the growth of and kill neighbouring plants. While invasive Phragmites prefers areas of standing water, its roots can grow to extreme lengths. These roots can also extend deep into the soil to find and access moisture, allowing the plant to survive in relatively dry areas.

Stands of invasive Phragmites reproduce primarily through the extension of runners or through the dispersal of root fragments that readily grow into new plants. Root fragments can be transported by flowing water or winds or moved around by animals. Human actions, such as the horticultural and agricultural trades or the movement of boats, trailers, and ATVs, can also disperse root fragments. Once it is established, a new invasive Phragmites plant can grow several metres in height and produce up to 2000 seeds every year.

Invasive Phragmites is closely related to the native subspecies Phragmites australis subspecies americanus. Generally, native Phragmites does not grow as tall or as densely as the invasive subspecies and does not out-compete other native species. Invasive Phragmites





World Environment Day is held on June 5th every year. It isn't a public holiday, it is an environmental awareness day, run by the United Nations. It is sometimes also unofficially called to raise awareness of the environment and specific environmental issues.

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Invasive Species Continued.....

stands are extremely dense, with up to 200 stems per square metre, and individual plants can grow up to five metres tall. Stands of invasive Phragmites can grow so densely that they crowd out other species whereas native Phragmites grows mixed with other plants. (Figure 1).

An invasive Phragmites stand has stems that are tan or beige in colour with blue-green leaves and large, dense seedheads. Native Phragmites has reddish-brown stems, yellow-green leaves, and smaller, sparser seedheads (Figures 2, 3, and 4). A number of characteristics should be looked at to decide if the species is a native variety. In some cases, genetic analysis may be necessary to determine if the invasive subspecies of Phragmites is present.



Figure 1. a native Phragmites stand (left) and an invasive Phragmites stand (right). Note the varied vegetation and lower density of native Phragmites stems on the left, and the taller, higher density of invasive Phragmites stems on the right. Photo: Erin Sanders and J.M. Gilbertal Conservation Authority to learn more.

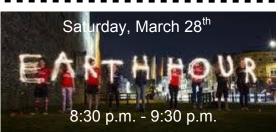


Figure 2. A native Phragmites stem (left) and an invasive Phragmites stem (right). Note the reddish-brown native stem on the left and the tan/beige invasive stem on the right. Photo: Erin Sanders and J.M. Gilbert



Figure 3. A native Phragmites leaf (bottom) and an invasive Phragmites leaf (top). Note the yellow-green colour of the native Phragmites leaf compared to the blue-green colour of the invasive Phragmites leaf. Photo: Erin Sanders.







Invasive Species Continued.....

What you can do to help control invasive Phragmites

1. Learn how to identify invasive Phragmites and how to avoid accidental distribution of root fragments and seeds.

2. Don't plant invasive Phragmites. Gardeners should use only native plants in their water gardens.

3. Avoid leaving designated trails or entering areas containing invasive Phragmites.

Disturbance to natural areas can encourage the spread of this plant. When leaving an area containing invasive Phragmites, brush off clothing and clean equipment on-site to avoid the transfer of seeds to new areas. Remove all visible portions of plants and dispose of them in the garbage.

4.Don't attempt to compost invasive Phragmites. Seeds and rhizomes can survive and grow in a compost heap. Dispose of invasive Phragmites in the garbage or at a landfill, or by drying and burning the removed stems.

5. Check out the <u>Invasive Phragmites - Best management Practices</u> to learn more about how to control this invasive plant.

For more information, please visit the following site: conservationontario.ca

Attributed to: Ontario Government https://www.ontario.ca/page/phragmites

Attributed to: conservationontario.ca

Attributed to: Atlas Obscura



Craggy Gardens is an exquisite stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway, high up in the Great Craggy Mountains. Its mile-high peaks are located to the north of Asheville, North Carolina, climbing over 3,500 feet in elevation. The Craggies are known for the exposed surfaces, or "balds," found at this high altitude. What makes Craggy Gardens extra special, though, is the source of the second part of its name: the show-stopping display of colorful wildflowers that bloom along these high slopes. The star of this floral landscape is the native Catawba rhododendron. In the

springtime, the large pink and purple blossoms blanket the green mountain with color. A gnarled



thicket of tall rhododendron bushes twist and bend into natural tunnels that arch over the winding trails leading to the summit. The effect is like something out of a fairytale. These floral canopies dot the popular Craggy Pinnacle Trail along its short path to the summit, where the scenery only gets more spectacular. The high peaks offer 360-degree



vistas over the Southern Appalachians.



Tree of the Year

WHAT IS AN ANCIENT TREE?

Gnarly. Bent. Ridged. Hollow. Ancient trees are a spectacular sight and the perfect example of living archaeology. They have passed maturity, are very old in comparison to other trees of the same species and are actually in the third and final stage of their life.

IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF ANCIENT TREES

A Small Canopy

The canopy of the tree will have reduced in size over time through a process known as retrenchment, or growing downwards. This is a natural process in which the crown of the tree and the root system are rebalanced with each other.

A Wide Trunk

The trunk will be wide in comparison with other trees of the same species. Its size can be greatly affected by factors such as species, soil, climate or growing conditions. The girth could be 1.5 metres for trees such as hawthorn, or five metres for trees like sweet chestnut. With a smaller crown and a wide trunk, the tree is improving its chances of withstanding high winds.

Hollowing

you know

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Most ancient trees usually have a hollow trunk, although this isn't always the case. It can be difficult to identify hollowing unless there is a cavity to look into.



HOW OLD IS AN ANCIENT TREE?

Ancient trees are defined by their age, particularly when compared to other trees of the same species. There is no set age for a tree to be considered ancient, as different species age at different rates. Birch trees, for example, are fast-growing, and could be classed as ancient at 150 years old, while a yew tree might receive the same accolade at 800 years of age.

The Fortingall Yew in Perthshire, Scotland, could be considered the oldest tree in the UK. Modern experts estimate it to be between 2,000 and 3,000 years old, although some think it could be far older – maybe even 5,000 years old.

WHAT LIVES IN AN ANCIENT TREE?

Ancient trees are often impressive and complex structures, with plenty of nooks and crannies to harbour rare and specialist wildlife.

Some of the wildlife found living in ancient trees includes:

Fungi: Fungi can live on any part of a tree, from the leaves to the roots. They are important as they decompose plant material, releasing the minerals and nutrients, which can then be used by plants and



trees. The hollowing of trees occurs when heartwood decay fungi break down the wood that the tree no longer needs, releasing the minerals for the tree to re-use. The fruiting bodies of fungi also provide food for red squirrels, badgers, wood mice, and some beetles and slugs.





Tree of the Year

WHAT LIVES IN AN ANCIENT TREE?

Some of the wildlife found living in ancient trees includes:

Invertebrates

There are at least 2,000 species of invertebrates in Britain, all of which rely on dead and decaying wood. As the dead wood habitats in ancient trees change over time, so do the range of invertebrates found in those trees. Saproxylic invertebrates rely on dead or decaying wood for some of their life cycle. Many of these invertebrate species are in decline because of the shortage of deadwood habitat in the UK.

Lichens

Lichens grow extremely slowly, and ancient trees offer good continuity of environment where they can thrive. Loss of ancient trees can have serious negative consequences for these lichen communities, some of which only grow 1-2mm a year.

WHERE CAN WE FIND ANCIENT TREES IN DISTRICT 6?

The UK is home to an exceptional number of ancient trees, particularly when compared to elsewhere in the world. Ancient trees can be spotted in a multitude of habitats, including hedgerows, deer parks and even urban areas. Do you know of any ancient trees in the District 6 area with a history? If so, can you photograph the tree and include its history and forward such to the Oakville Horticultural Society editor at: editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org

The results of Tree of the Year 2019 have been announced.

The national Tree of the Year contest celebrates special trees across the United Kingdom, and the stories behind them.

THE WINNERS OF TREE OF THE YEAR 2019 ARE:

England – The Allerton Oak, Liverpool

Northern Ireland – The Invisible Tree, Rostrevor

Scotland - The Last Ent of Affric, Glen Affric

Wales – The Old Sweet Chestnut of Pontypool, Pontypool Park.

A panel of experts has also selected England's Allerton Oak to go forward to represent the UK

in the European Tree of the Year competition in February 2020.

For more information about these wonderful winners, please visit:

https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/ tree-of-the-year/





SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY ORCHID SHOW & SALE Toronto Botanical Garden FEBRUARY 8 & 9, 2020 • SAT & SUN 11-5

General Admission:

\$12.00 cash only Supervised children under 12 are free NO large backpacks or tripods permitted Hand-held cameras only

For photographers only:

Limited admission: \$20 Sunday 9:00 - 11:00 am Tripods permitted

Over 30,000 EXOTIC ORCHIDS on display and for sale! Guided Tours Growing Supplies Art and Photography Seminars by Orchid Experts

Toronto Botanical Garden 777 Lawrence Avenue East Toronto, Ontario M3C 1P2

(905) 640-5643

SOOS is a not-for-profit organization; proceeds support conservation

Follow us on social media...





Showy Lady Slipper by Bea Paterson



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See attached poster for details.February 10Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn StreetMonthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting commences at 7:30 pmFebruary 17Family Day - Fun With Flowers See attached poster for details.February 18Monthly Executive Meeting at Bronte Room, Town HallFebruary 20RBG Speaker Series: Toronto Wildlife Center Wildlife Rescue
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February 20 RBG Speaker Series: Toronto Wildlife Center Wildlife Rescue
7 to 8:30 p.m.; <u>RBG Centre</u> Learn about Toronto Wildlife Centre, a wildlife rehabilitation charity, and what happens to sick, injured and orphaned wildlife once they arrive. Common threats to wildlife are discussed, such as window strikes for birds, free-roaming cats, roads and other infrastructure, disease, garbage and water pollution. Find out what you can do to take action to help. Come with questions and stories. \$18 (\$6 for RBG Members) - pre-registration required.
February 22 TORONTO-NORTH SEEDY SATURDAY
Time: 10 to 3 Location: Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto-North, ON Seedy Saturday is combined with our Annual Get the Jump on Spring event. The dual events typically bring in well over 1000 people each year. In addition to Seedy Saturday vendors, exhibitors and seed exchange, there will be workshops and demonstrations, horticultural groups and vendors, draw prizes, a silent auction, a used gardening book sale, and food options.
February 22 District 6 Breakfast Hosted by the Bronte Horticultural Society
See attached poster for details.
February 23 Oakville Seedy Sunday
Halton Food Council together with Halton Environmental Network is hosting the second annual Seedy Sunday February 23, 10am-3pm at Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre. See attached poster for details.
February 23 RBG Speaker Series: Dr. David Galbraith Dreamers, Schemers, and Builders History of RBG
2 to 3 p.m.; <u>RBG Centre</u> Royal Botanical Gardens is Canada's largest botanical garden, a national historic site, a significant natural area, and many other things. The gardens, nature sanctuaries, parklands, and programs at RBG all have fascinating stories to tell of people who had different ideas about what to do on the land: from naturalists and community leaders to landscape architects and horticulturists. Join RBG's Dr. David A. Galbraith for a stroll through the past century and more of RBG's history, its antecedents both locally and further afield, and its landscape that bears witness to dramatic changes, cultural influences, and history itself. \$12 (RBG Members 10% off) - pre-registration required.
February 29 RBG Orchid Sale
See attached poster for details.
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!!!!





Calendar of Events