

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Spring 2021



Winner Class C 19+ Valentines Contest: Tiiu Van Winkle, Galt Horticultural Society



To "My Special Someone"

Congratulations to the winners of the Valentines Contest who beautifully coloured lovely artwork by artist Ruth Bullas.



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Editor's Message



A year ago, when we were checking the Spring 2020 issue of the OHA Trillium so that it could be printed and put online, the Covid-19 lockdown hit. Suddenly, there were emails cancelling upcoming events that were in several places in the Trillium document. Realizing that this may soon happen to other events, *"Please check the date and place of events as some have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus"* was added here and there throughout the publication. Little did we know that the notice should actually have said *"all have been cancelled"* and been closer to the truth. Since then, the events and meetings that did actually happen, were in a very different format. Each Garden Club/ Horticultural Society found new and innovative ways to continue their objective and share their ideas with others. Kudos to clubs/societies that actually increased their membership numbers.

When receiving submissions, checking the articles and photographs is the first thing done. Once the documents are opened and checked, an email is sent to the contributor to say thanks and everything was received successfully. If there is a question or something missing, then it will be asked at that time. Depending on the number of emails and documents to check, it may take a day or two. For example, to help understand why a larger photo may be required, I have written a few words: "High Res/Low Res Photographs" to explain why.

A giant thank you to many of the OHA Officers, Board Members, District Directors, Garden Club/ Horticultural Society Executives and members who help make this and every issue possible.

Laura Masterson
editor@gardenontario.org

The Trillium is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA, (Ontario Horticultural Association).

This is *your* newsletter. It is for all members of all Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario in every district. If you want to know what is going on in gardening, it is in this newsletter. If your club/society has a special project and you would like to share the news, please send in a story and photographs.

What you need to know to send articles and photographs:

Submission dates for 2021:

- June 1 – Summer issue
- Sept. 1 – Autumn issue
- Dec. 1 – Winter issue

The deadline for the next issue of the Trillium is **June 1**, but submissions can be sent anytime.

Articles should be emailed in Word format or plain text. Photos and other graphics should be sent as separate files (i.e., not as part of a Word file), with a resolution of at least 1000 by 800 pixels whenever possible. Full-sized original files will be happily accepted. These requests make it easier to work with whatever is submitted.

Articles can be emailed to:

editor@gardenontario.org

Laura Masterson, OHA Trillium Editor

Please note that, for photographs that include minors, signed parental permission must be given. You don't need to send the signed papers, but we do need to know that they exist.

When submitting articles and photos, please mention who wrote the article and who took the pictures so that a credit can be included. To avoid illegal copyright issues, please do not submit articles, artwork and photographs copied from the internet or elsewhere unless permission from the writer, artist or photographer has been given.

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The Trillium is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA, bringing you the latest news of what's going on in gardening in Ontario.

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<https://gardenontario.org/2021-spring-trillium/>





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President's Message

Happy March OHA members, Spring is just around the corner! The sun is shining; the birds are singing. Snowdrops are blooming outside while primroses and amaryllis are blooming inside. Those who plant seeds now for planting outside later are busy nurturing and watching. It is a promising time of year.

We are still in a pandemic but numbers are going down and the vaccine is available. As a retired medical laboratory technologist, as a scientist, I hope everyone will consider getting the vaccine. In my lifetime, I have seen smallpox and polio eradicated because of vaccines. There is great literature on the effectiveness of the vaccines available and hope you will check it out so you will feel comfortable getting it. The sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner we can meet in person, have those wonderful society meetings with great speakers and socialize after the meeting with like-minded gardeners.

Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Webex have become the norm for our Officers, our Board and a lot of our members. However, please remember the members who do not have a computer, who cannot attend the Zoom meetings, but still want to be a member of your Society/Club. Phone calls and newsletters in print should still be used to keep in touch with those members. Please have a board member designated to oversee the completion of this task. Communication is especially important to keep our Societies/Clubs alive and well.

There are a few thank yous I would like to give out. Thank you to Charles Freeman, OHA First Vice-President, for all the many hours in the past three months spent working with Societies/Clubs and OMAFRA. Thank you to Second Vice-President and Awards Coordinator Sharlene Desjardins, for handling all the award and grant nominations sent in this year. The many grant applications exceeded our expectations and some filled up immediately to the dismay of many Societies/Clubs. Announcements of the winners will be in the next issue of the Trillium. Thank you to Trillium Editor Laura Masterson, for putting together an informative newsletter. And thank you to the many Societies/Clubs who are sending in articles on your Societies/Clubs. The willingness to share what is being done in your Society/Club helps all of us.

We will be celebrating our 115th anniversary as the Ontario Horticultural Association this year. The Officers, in collaboration with District 10, have decided that we will hold the convention virtually this year. It will be held July 16-18, 2021, the same weekend as was planned for the in-person convention. Details will follow as they are finalized.



Katharine Smyth

I have been reading the history of the Ontario Horticultural Association. If you can get one of the two editions of "The Story of the Ontario Horticultural Societies", it is an interesting read. Denis Flanagan from Landscape Ontario wrote the introduction for both books. He tells of his first experience as a speaker at a horticultural society and how he overcame adversity with the help of the members present.

The Toronto Horticultural Society, organized in 1834 and founded by the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, was the first such society established in Ontario. An oval of five acres was donated to the Society by George W. Allan in 1860. The city added more land for a botanical garden and ten acres was later turned over to the City of Toronto. It was named Allan Gardens in 1901 and still exists today.

The first societies were mainly made up of men of distinguished character who were also part of the agricultural societies of the times. I bring this up to draw attention to how times have changed. As I travel (used to) or now attend virtual meetings, I have seen the shift to mostly female members. The ratio of male to female in most societies is predominantly female, showing a gender shift from historical trends. We should be inviting everyone to our societies regardless of sexual orientation to encourage diversity and inclusion.

I have also noticed that we are mainly a white Anglo-Saxon association. I watch cooking shows that are showing Jamaican, Indian, African, Aboriginal, Chinese and Japanese cuisine, among others. The cooks talk about growing their own food. Where are

these cultures in our Societies/Clubs? Gardening is not unique to one culture. It is world-wide.

Gardening has become the number one past-time in this pandemic. We must encourage all cultures to join and learn from the knowledgeable in our Societies/Clubs. Let us build a more diverse, inclusive association where we welcome individuals to learn and grow from each other.

I am a first generation Canadian, born to immigrants who came from the Ukraine in 1929 to Canada. My parents could not speak English but learned the language so they could become part of their new country. My mom and dad had lived on small farms in the Ukraine and eventually made enough money to buy a farm in Southwestern Ontario and also eventually three more, one for each of their sons. My dad sponsored many immigrant families from Belgium and Holland to work on the farms, who eventually moved on to farms of their own. My mom worked in the fields, but also loved flowers and always grew her own fruits and vegetables. She eventually had two acres dedicated for her garden. She would awake with the birds, do her gardening, then the farm's chores and then garden after supper and go to bed with the birds. This love was passed onto all five of her children.

I do not have a degree in horticulture or a Master Gardener Certificate. I just love planting trees (deciduous, conifer and fruit) and floral and vegetable gardens. I have a God-given talent for organization, administration and hospitality. My parents taught me to give back to this great country where they came

to start a new life. Therefore, I have volunteered with different organizations most of my life; first with Junior Farmers of Ontario, then Explorers, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, Women's Institute, Christian Women's, etc.

I am telling this story, because you do not have to have a degree or extra knowledge to become the President or Chair of an organization. Your talents and your determination to give what is best and fair to all will get you there. Many societies are telling us that no one will step up to be a Secretary, Treasurer or President of a Society/Club. Why?? What is holding members back from taking on these positions? You do not have to do it alone. There is a team right beside you. The first time I held the Secretary's position, I did not know what I had to do, but the previous secretary mentored me and gave me the courage to carry on. It only takes a little time to do these jobs if everyone works together and if the communication is open and encouraging. So, I encourage you to ask yourself "why not" instead of "what for" and take on whatever position is asked of you or you could volunteer for it and do not be afraid to ask for help.

Take care and stay safe and we will be in the gardens soon.

Katharine Smyth

Katharine Smyth, President
Ontario Horticultural Association
Keeping Ontario Beautiful™



Ancaster Horticultural Society

By Betty Howitt, Program and Publicity Director



Logo created by Donna Parker

Spring is just around the corner and the Ancaster Horticultural Society aka Ancaster Gardeners is excited to be celebrating 60 years of beautifying Ancaster. We held our first Board of Directors' meeting back in early February via Zoom. It was wonderful to see everyone and the planning began for the 60th Anniversary celebration on the beautiful grounds of Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum on the evening of June 15, 2021.

The Society was established in 1961 after a petition was made and granted by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Alvin Hamilton. A local group of gardeners then formed the Ancaster Horticultural Society. At the time, its members were mostly men and very few women. We are happy to say that the Society has one original member from 1961, Pearl Wade. Pearl continues to be an active member in the Society. Today, we are still going strong with over 170 enthusiastic gardeners whose mission it is to beautify Ancaster.

We are kicking off spring with our very popular plant sale. Our annual plant sale is going to be different this year! In place of our usual sale at Food Basics Plaza, we are holding a pre-order and curbside pickup of Heirloom tomato plants. These Heirloom tomato seedlings are grown in Wellandport at Tree and Twig Farm owned by Linda Crago. Linda has supplied our plants for the past 10 years and they are always of the highest quality. Pre-ordering is open February 14 – April 15. How to order? All the information on tomato varieties and how to place your order by email or mail is on our

website, www.ancasterhort.org. The annual plant sale helps support our community activities.

We will be very busy in the Ancaster community, planting and maintaining three large municipal garden beds. Thank you to our Society volunteers who work to keep Brandon Park, Millennium Park and Ancaster Square beautiful during the gardening season and help to achieve our mission. We also help plant and maintain the amazing grounds at Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum. This spring, rain or shine, the annual cleanup day at Fieldcote will be a go and we are always looking for volunteers.

The Ancaster Horticultural Society will be holding its annual Trillium Awards Program in the summer, using the same format as last year. It was a huge success in 2020 recording the highest cut-off mark of 95/100. This is one of the main functions of the Society with the aim of the program being to beautify Ancaster.

Starting in March 2021 and for the remainder of the year, our monthly general meetings with guest speakers will be happening via Zoom. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook or our website www.ancasterhort.org. Feel free to contact us at ancasterhort.socy@gmail.com.



Annual Plant Sale 2019

Photo by Mike Pearson, Ancaster News



Pearl Wade sitting on the bench at Fieldcote

Photo by Bob Wilt



Group shot on the grounds of Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum at the thank you luncheon for all the garden helpers at the end of the season

Photo by Daryl MacTavish



The crew gardening at Fieldcote

Photo by Bob Wilt

OHA Trillium - Spring 2021

Trenton Horticultural Society Celebrates their 40th Anniversary

Judy Muldoon, President

Photo by Will Grainger



The Trenton Horticultural Society celebrates their 40th Anniversary this year from September 2020 to August 2021. We are excited to announce that Will Grainger, the master of hybridizing pelargoniums, has named a pelargonium after our club to celebrate our anniversary. It will be named "Trenton Hero" with reference to the Highway of Heroes that starts in Trenton as well as CFB Trenton (Canadian Forces Base) and the many heroes throughout the community. It is a white blooming (which is rare) pelargonium within the 'poinsettia' or 'cactus' blooming category. It can develop a slight pink hue under some situations. The petals 'flow' like water, so Will immediately thought of Trenton when the first flower opened! This is a very unique pelargonium and we hope to acquire as many as we can for our members and possibly also for our plant sale in May this year.

What Does a Gardener Do?

By Rodger Dean Duncan, Submitted by Catherine McGill

A gardener creates an environment that encourages growth. An environment full of light and nourishment. An environment with sufficient space for stretching and expanding.

Leadership – and gardening – are all about creating positive change.

Great leaders – and great gardeners – resist the temptation to micromanage. They know that flowers cannot grow if you keep jerking them out of the ground to check the roots.

Great leaders don't get hung up on position or titles. Like British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said: "Being a leader is like being a lady. If you have to remind people you are, you aren't."

Great leaders invest their energy in creating devotion to a worthy cause. They are more interested in getting a job done than in who gets the credit.

Let me illustrate: I worked with a CEO of an organization that had lost \$156 million the previous year. He was brought in from the outside to turn the company around.

On his third day on the job he went out into the employee parking lot behind the headquarters building. There was a row of "privileged" parking spots closest to the building. In front of each parking space was a sign with the name of a senior executive. The CEO took a can of spray paint and sprayed over each name. He knew that many employees were looking out their office windows, likely wondering what the CEO was up to.

After spray-painting over all the signs, the CEO went inside and got on the building intercom. He said he felt like the high school principal making morning announcements. He began with something like this:

"Some of you saw me spray over the names of our executives in the parking lot. You may be wondering, 'Is he firing the executives?' No, I'm not firing the executives. We need 'em. We need everybody. We're all in this boat together and we need to row together. Last year this company lost \$156 million. We can do better. We must do better.

"Beginning today we're going to break down all these artificial barriers... we're going to be less concerned about what title you have and what parking place you have. Beginning tomorrow, if you get here late and it's raining, you'll get wet. If you get to work early, you can park anywhere you want. All that matters is what will each of us do to make our team stronger and build our business." Then he said: "Thanks a lot. Have a great day."

This CEO was demonstrating what it means to be a gardener and not a mechanic.

He did dozens of things like that. The cumulative effect was that he created an environment where his people

felt involved and obligated regarding the needs of each other and the needs of the organization.

He helped his people see themselves in a fresh light. He helped them see each other in a fresh light. He helped them see their marketplace potential in a fresh light.

Rather than smother his people with constraining rules and policies, he gave them elbowroom to try new things and experiment in new directions.

Rather than cut his people down for past poor performance, this great leader chose to lift them up toward future great performance.

He created an atmosphere that had absolutely no tolerance for blaming or any kind of "victim-talk."

He created an environment full of encouragement, collaboration, and personal accountability.

So what was the result? In only 12 months that company harvested a \$207 million improvement in profits. It's now a case study at the Harvard Business School.

Now, was this guy some sort of flower child? Did he sing "Kumbya" and other camp songs in the employee cafeteria?

No. He's actually one of the toughest-minded business people I've ever known. And he's one of the most effective leaders I've ever had the privilege of working with.

Great leaders know that you can rent a person's back and hands. But you must earn a person's head and heart.

Great leaders know that organizations are living organisms with many interrelated elements, capable of extinction or growth.

Great leaders invest energy in growing rather than fixing.

They are gardeners. They create a nurturing environment – or culture – and they cultivate with care.

Be a gardener, not a mechanic. Don't try to "fix" people. Create an environment that affirms and encourages people. An environment that places a premium on solving problems and getting results. An environment where blame is weeded out and people feel free to stretch and grow and produce.

Is this just warm and fuzzy, touchy-feely stuff for "soft" people? Not at all.

It's the key to the hard realities of high performance in a tough and fast-moving world.

Believe it. Practice it. It makes all the difference.

Rodger Dean Duncan is the author of [CHANGE-friendly LEADERSHIP: How to Transform Good Intentions into Great Performance](#)



Valentines Contest Winners

To "My Special Someone"

Members of OHA Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies were eligible to enter from February 12 - 27, 2021. Entrants were required to print off an artwork sheet, complete "by using a Medium of Your Choice" and send it in. Thank you to artist Ruth Bullas for the Contest artwork and the OHA Officers for the Contest prize money.

Each Class (A: 6-11 Years, B: 12-18 Years, C: 19 Years & Up) received the same prize allotments:

1st Prize: Winning art is featured on gardenontario.org website, GardenOntario Facebook page and in the Spring 2021 Trillium. Prize is \$10.00

2nd Prize: Art is shown on [gardenontario.org](https://www.gardenontario.org) website and GardenOntario Facebook page. Prize is \$6.00

3rd Prize: Art is shown on [gardenontario.org](https://www.gardenontario.org) website and GardenOntario Facebook page. Prize is \$4.00

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OntarioHorticulturalAssociation/>

<https://gardenontario.org/winners-of-our-2021-facebook-valentines-colouring-contest/>



Featured on Front Cover:

Class C 19+

1st: Tiiu Van Winkle

Galt Horticultural Society

2nd: Margit Fritsch

Wellesley Township Horticultural Society

3rd: Linda Wallis

Brighton Horticultural Society/Brighton Garden Club



- Class A 6-11
- 1st: Tegvir Singh age 10
Milton District Horticultural Society
 - 2nd: Elise Thomas age 6
Lake Simcoe Gardeners
 - 3rd: Eva Bennett age 6
Winona Horticultural Society



- Class B 12-18
- 1st: Natalie Newman age 12
Ripley and District Horticultural Society
 - 2nd: Ryan Taylor age 18
London Fanshawe Horticultural Society
 - 3rd: Jaclyne Newman age 12
Ripley and District Horticultural Society

Bracebridge Horticultural Society

Life Membership for Piret Hurrell

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Thompson, President

Photo by Nancy Thompson



Piret Hurrell (left) accepts a Life Membership from Bracebridge Hort Society President, Nancy Thompson. Ain't lock down fun. Stay healthy.

Bracebridge Horticultural Society has just presented Piret Hurrell with a Life Membership ~ and may it be a long and fruitful one (life).

Piret, husband Ken, with children Liia and Eric, moved to Bracebridge from southern Alberta in 1997. Come spring in their new home, Piret noticed all sorts of strange and wonderful plants coming up in her new flower beds. Which were weeds, which were invasive, which were destined to be wonderful flowers? Help!

Lucky for Piret and our Society, a neighbour happened to be a Master Gardener and a Society member. Piret joined and signed on as a Director the next year. For 15 years from 1999 to 2013, she served as a director, quietly contributing to all aspects of the club such as public garden upkeep, plant sales, garden judging, attending conventions, et al. In 2014, she took on the position of Treasurer which she capably performed for 3 years. In 2017, she stepped up to be one of three Co-Presidents who made a great team splitting duties equitably. Piret was Co-President for the next two years, handling the bulk of presidential responsibility with different Co-Presidents.

When District 18 hosted the OHA Convention in 2005, Liia and Erik attended the first-ever youth section of a Convention, started by Ted Reed.

Even during that nasty locked down summer of

2020, Piret carried on selling a few plants at a time over Facebook and other local internet sites. If something needed moving in her garden, she would pot it up, write up a wee description and sell it. It was a pleasant surprise to the Society when she donated all her plant sale money.

Years have passed and now Piret has more garden and fewer trees in her yard. Some raised beds are used for vegetables. She says, "The easiest and quickest way to learn something is to learn from others – learn by doing." – helping in community gardens or just at a neighbour's pulling weeds.

Piret says, "Start young! Get children interested in their own gardens of such tasty things as snap peas and carrots."

Still keeping an active role, this year (2021) she is holding the Past President position and has become our liaison with the Muskoka Watershed Council with a project of Invasive Plant Species.

It gives the Bracebridge Horticultural Society great pleasure to present a Life Membership Award to Piret Hurrell for her many years of cheerful service to our club.

Is there life for Horticultural Societies, in fact any volunteer groups, after "lock down"? Of course, there is! Just learn to use the methods available like Zoom meetings and internet sales.

Galt Horticultural Society

Lynne Goulet-Smith, 1st VP & Membership Committee Chair

Photo by Lynne Goulet-Smith

The Galt Horticultural Society (GHS) is extremely fortunate to have Ferguson Cottage as our 'home base' where we are the caretakers of the cottage gardens and where we hold many of our activities on this historic property.

The Ferguson Cottage's location and orientation to the Grand River and to Grand Avenue creates a picturesque view contributing to the property's significance. The property was purchased in 1836 by William Ferguson, a blacksmith and farmer at the time. The property remains under the Ferguson name. The cottage is all that is left of the William Ferguson farm and is credited as one of the earliest surviving Scottish stone cottages in the city of Cambridge. The cottage is constructed of local limestone cut into large pieces. The one-story limestone cottage was constructed circa 1838 and designed in the early Scottish architectural style. The property was designated as a heritage building by the City of Cambridge in 1981 for its architectural and historic value.



Galt Horticultural Society is staying connected with our membership...



We continue to send out updated membership emails, monthly newsletters and keep up with our virtual monthly membership meetings with interesting informative speakers. Our 2021 program is published on our website – www.galthort.com.

On Jan 24th, the GHS held our virtual Dream Garden Conference featuring Paul Zammit as our speaker. We had nearly 100 members join in who enjoyed Paul's informative and engaging presentation.

We held our virtual 'Seedy Weekend' on Feb. 20th & 21st, with pre-ordering via email, as we had large quantities of various seed packages that we made available for free to our membership. Everyone picked up their seeds at Ferguson Cottage following social distancing protocols.

On Feb. 22nd, we held our virtual AGM where our newly elected Board was sworn in. Voting took place prior to the AGM via email and we had 23% of our membership cast their ballots.

As well, we continue with our monthly photo contests. Each month we have a different theme. The membership votes on their favourite photo and the winner receives their prize via door-drop-off or by mail.

We continue to ask members to submit their delicious recipes and we share these in our monthly newsletter. The GHS started holding online auctions on our Facebook page. We are grateful to the local retailers who generously donated many fabulous items. Our membership and the public place their bids in the hope of winning a treasure for their gardens.

Our GHS Garden Committee continues to meet virtually and is planning to continue the refurbishing and beautification of our Ferguson Cottage gardens in 2021.

Despite these challenging times, our society has managed to stay in touch... keeping our membership engaged... having fun... and staying safe.

Haldimand Horticultural Society

Looking Forward to 2021

By Elsie Eubank, January 14, 2021

Photos by Elsie Eubank

Haldimand Horticultural Society (HHS) would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year.

As we put away our Christmas decorations and move forward into the New Year, we are happy to leave 2020 behind us and hope that 2021 is a much better year ahead.

Gardeners are enjoying the view of their winter gardens covered in snow. Picturesque pure clean white snow is on the trees and shrubs and blanketing our precious gardens that are in hibernation mode at present. The wonderful, colourful birds are visiting our birdfeeders: cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, etc. Some species seem to be a bit late leaving this year as I have seen Canada Geese still hanging around when normally they would be long gone before January.

The squirrels are still scampering about trying desperately to get the feed from the birdfeeders, so we put out a tray with fruit and nut feed for them as well. After all, like my grandson says, "They are all just living their lives."

As we peer out at our gardens, seeing them in a peaceful restful mode, we know that just under that blanket of snow lie our precious plants just waiting to once again emerge through the soil and put on a beautiful show of colourful blooms and peaceful, wonderful greenery coming to life, renewing the

landscape for all wildlife, birds, plants, insects and mammals alike.

Since we find ourselves in lockdown once again, we have plenty of time to get out the precious 2021 seed catalogues. We can spend hours peering through them dreaming and planning what we will plant when spring comes just a few months from now. We start ordering and stocking up on our favorite bulbs and seeds so we will be ready. We don't know where we will plant them all but we will find a spot; there is always room for more bulbs, seeds, and plants.

We are also thinking about getting our starter trays ready for those seeds we want to start indoors. We are planning our vegetable gardens. We can see them growing now with beans, lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, etc. For now, we get our gardening fix by caring for the plants we have and watching them grow. Soon our gardens will be teeming with life once again.

If you love gardening and nature, follow HHS on Facebook and Twitter. If you are interested in becoming a member or want to know more about what we do in our communities or any other questions, email haldimandhorticulture@gmail.com.

Haldimand Horticultural Society is a club for all gardeners. We grow friendships and gardens helping to beautify our communities.



The winter photos are from some of Elsie's gardens.



Activities of Haldimand Horticultural Society

By Elsie Eubank, Feb. 3, 2021

Photos by Elsie Eubank

Well it's that time of year again when we put down the Old Farmer's Almanac and turn to the groundhogs.

The Groundhog Folklore continues: The word among the Canadian Groundhogs is that we will have an early spring. The official word came first from Nova Scotia's Shubenacadie Sam with Ontario's Warton Willie and Quebec's Fred La Marmotte in full agreement.

So now that the groundhogs have officially spoken, we are springing into action planning our spring and summer activities that our members, fellow gardeners and community enjoy and look forward to.

Our **Annual Seedy Saturday** will be the first on our list. This will be a virtual event this year thanks to Covid-19. Nonetheless, it will still be a spectacular event. So be sure to save March 20, 2021 on your calendar. More details will follow as we get our Seedy Saturday website up and running. During our Seedy Saturday, we will be having a virtual seed swap or seed exchange. This is something that has been very popular at our in-person event so we are going to make it work at our virtual event too. Start saving your seeds now. All seeds should be labelled clearly and with as much information as possible including: common name, variety, year the seeds were collected, where the seeds were collected, who grew them, any extra information you wish to include about what makes the variety unique and tips for growing.

If you have some saved seeds that you would like to swap, email me elsie.eubank@sympatico.ca and I will let you know how and where you can do a contactless drop off. Then we can get them categorized, catalogued and put on our seedy Saturday website.

There you will be able to get a form to order a number (to be determined, depending on what is available) of packages of seeds in exchange. Our website <https://seedysaturdayhaldimand.com/> is a work in progress at present and will soon be updated with all activities.

Another event to watch for will be our Annual Plant Sale in May which will be virtual again this year. We will have a variety of plants that have been grown by our own members, so we know they are great plants. There will be order forms online and a drive-through pick-up. More details to come.

We will also be looking forward to hosting a Garden Tour in July this summer. It may be in-person or virtual depending on the situation at the time.

We are planning several workshops; they are only in the planning stages at present.

We are a very active Society so we will be having many events coming up in the future that we will keep you posted on.

So watch for these events and many more coming up on our facebook page and email haldimandhorticulture@gmail.com for any details or information.



Waterloo Horticultural Society (Waterloo Gardeners)

By Sandye Moores



These photos were submitted to our online newsletter in advance of our virtual meeting on February 26th with Spencer Hauck on Indoor Plants. Photo credit goes to our members – L: Brian & Linda (Orchid), C and R: Yvonne (Hoya)

Oh What a Difference a Year Makes!

It's hard to believe that it has been over a year since Covid-19 invaded our lives. This time last year, we were preparing to attend a monthly meeting with a great speaker followed by socializing with coffee, tea, and cookies. This month we're looking forward to a Zoom meeting – still a great speaker but we're having the snacks at home.

We began holding virtual monthly Zoom meetings in September. Luckily, we have technologically-minded folks on our board so they were able to help us navigate our way through it. In preparation for the meetings, we invited our members to take part in several tutorials and offered assistance at meetings as well. We will continue to hold meetings for members via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Despite all of these changes (and challenges) during the past year, Waterloo Gardeners has continued to provide speakers, presentations and newsletters to interest and engage the membership. Upcoming speakers will include talks on a variety of topics including caring for indoor plants, invasive species and growing cannabis.

In January, we held our Annual General Meeting and welcomed new Board members. In addition, we awarded a Lifetime Membership Award to outgoing treasurer Charlie Ellis and a 45-Year Volunteer Award to long-time member Wayne Weiberg. We also shared several videos including "Wear a Mask" and "20 Good News Stories You Didn't Know About." The evening wrapped up with New Year's Resolutions being shared by both the Board and our members.

Our weekly newsletter, Waterloo Gardeners Weekly Greetings, changed to a bi-weekly publication in the fall, providing photographs, meeting information, gardening tips and contests.

In these trying times, social media has been very helpful in engaging our current members and attracting new ones. We have continued to use our website: <https://www.waterloohort.org/>, Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/Waterloohort>, YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC41-uozeX7bAch5c4Gu4AIA>, and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/waterloogardeners1895/> accounts, and we recently set up a Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/Waterloogarden1>.

The Region of Waterloo's Seedy Saturday was held virtually this year; several Board members participated in a video, sharing how gardening is meaningful to them. A set of slides was used to complete the project. Our video was shared online on the day of the event. It will also be posted to our website and on YouTube.

While this has been a challenging year, our Society has continued to grow and change in order to meet the needs of our members and attract new members. Undoubtedly, we are all looking forward to the day when we can meet in person again. Until then, stay safe and well.



Tips from the OHA Treasurer

By *Marian Heil*



Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer

1. Sending Parcels through Canada Post

The OHA is registered as a commercial account with Canada Post. This doesn't give us any discounts on mailing letters or buying stamps but it does provide a small discount for mailing parcels or large envelopes like a printed version of the Trillium. Societies and Districts can take advantage of that small discount by providing the OHA business number of 4013611 at the post office when sending parcels.

2. Incorporation number

Societies are sometimes asked to provide an incorporation number when opening a bank account or applying for certain things through their municipality.

The Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act replaced the Horticultural Societies Act and the Agricultural Associations Act in 1988. Most societies were incorporated under the earlier Acts as a Not for Profit entity without share capital and without an incorporation number. The Act is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

If a Society needs something to prove their incorporation, they can ask OMAFRA for a "letter of good standing". The Society's annual filings to OMAFRA must be up to date in order to receive the letter. Phone number is 1-888-466-2372 or check for your local office on <http://omafra.gov.on.ca>

As an FYI, OMAFRA has provided a deadline of December 6, 2021 for the 2020 annual filing. Reporting is to be done on their new TPON reporting site. But, the good news is that Societies/Clubs have already received their 2021 grant from OMAFRA late last year.

3. Discount on Seeds

If you are ordering seeds this spring, you can receive a 10% discount on seed orders placed with W.H.Perron. Visit <https://www.dominion-seed-house.com/en/> to view the online catalogue or to order a catalogue. Due to the overwhelming number of orders and of course, Covid-19 restrictions, at Feb. 28th, they were not accepting new orders. Check the status before you place your order.

However, when ordering resumes, members of Societies that are part of OHA, can receive a 10% discount on orders by quoting membership number 4633 on the order form.



Oshawa Garden Club

Community Partnership With Parkwood Estate

Merle Cole, Past President and Robin Burns

History of the Parkwood Estate

This was the home of Colonel R. S. McLaughlin, the founder of General Motors of Canada, and was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1989. Sam and Adelaide McLaughlin appreciated beautiful gardens and their plans for their new home in 1917 was influenced by ideas collected from gardens around the world. In 1917, they hired landscape architects Harries and Hall, followed by Lorrie Dunnington, Howard Grubb (founders of Sheridan Nurseries) in the 1920's, and John Lyle in 1935.

Partnerships

In the spring of 2019, Oshawa Garden Club joined a 5-year partnership venture with Parkwood and the Durham Master Gardeners to restore and refurbish the historic Tennis Court Border Gardens. Historical records were researched, design plans made, and volunteers started removing goutweed! The OGC and DMG are contributing \$500 per year and Parkwood \$1,000 per year to the costs. Annual Parkwood Plant Sales of culled plants also raises funds for this \$10K project. While Covid-19 has presented challenges, safety measures were soon put in place to keep all of our volunteers safe. Students from the Durham College Horticultural Program also benefit from hands-on learning experiences through the project.

Tennis Court Border Gardens

These gardens were designed in 1928 but by the late 1940's, the tennis court was grassed over to form a croquet lawn. Most recently this area has been used for special events and receptions. Our first job was to remove shrubs and overgrown perennials, and add compost to amend the soil. Our volunteers could then add plants in keeping with the original design. A grand project like this is only successful because of many volunteer hours and our OGC volunteers logged 468 hours last year alone.



When travel restrictions are lifted, plan a trip to Oshawa with your Garden Club and visit this magnificent estate and its gardens. If you have more time, be sure to include the [Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens](#) that are nearby. Wikipedia Photo



Left-right: Robin Burns, Nancy Lawrence, Ingrid Jansen and Merle Cole. Photo by Chris Jones from the Oshawa Express

Visit the Parkwood National Historic Site Online

For a full history of the grounds and gardens, their designs and attributes as well as videos of them in use at the time, follow the link:

<https://www.parkwoodestate.com/our-history/#garden>

See a Video of Our Volunteers in Action:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsgkTeRo3pc&feature=youtu.be>

Port Colborne Garden Club

Article written by Maggie Corner, Director

Photos courtesy of the NPCA

On a cold rainy day in October, 2020, members of the Executive Committee of the Port Colborne Garden Club donned boots, raincoats and gloves and set out to help create a native pollinator garden.

This garden in Port Colborne at H.H. Knoll Park was the brainchild of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) who, with the help of volunteers, has established a number of native pollinator gardens in the Niagara Region to honour Mickey DiFruscio. Mickey was a former citizen appointee on the NPCA Board of Directors representing the Municipality of Thorold for 25 years from 1993 to 2019.



H.H. Knoll Park



Mickey is a strong advocate for the protection and restoration of habitat for the Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. The plants serve as either host or nectar sources for native pollinator species. Pollinator habitat in urban spaces can have large environmental benefits including increased biodiversity, wildlife viewing opportunities, education and water quality improvement.

The City of Port Colborne donated the site and prepared the garden. Our Club, along with other organizations, set about planting 1440 plugs of native pollinator plants purchased from a local grower of native plants. The garden was then mulched by the volunteers for the winter.

This garden is one of several pollinator gardens in Mickey's honour that have been installed by the NPCA in collaboration with community partners and volunteers across the watershed.

Brockville & District Horticultural Society Membership Renewal – Pandemic Style!

By Danielle Laurier, Trisha Blasko and Mary Ann Van Berlo

While an outdoor drive-thru during the winter months isn't typical, the Brockville & District Horticultural Society hosted such an event on Saturday, February 6. Given that indoor distribution during pandemic restrictions just wasn't possible, we had to rethink of a way of safely getting members to renew membership and pick up their 2021 yearbooks and membership cards. So instead of our usual church hall meeting venue, we organized a drive-thru in the church parking lot.

We limited the number of cars permitted into the parking lot at any one time to ensure physical distancing requirements. Guest flow in and out of the parking lot was managed by BDHS volunteers wearing fluorescent safety vests. Everyone stayed in their vehicles wearing masks. We had 'runners' go to the cars to collect data for the team at the registration table. Once registration was processed, the volunteers delivered the yearbook and membership card back to the vehicle. Everyone wore face masks during the 2-hour event.

The drive-thru event was successful and, because we posted the event on Facebook, we even had some new members sign up.

Tips and Tricks

from

Bobcaygeon & District Horticultural Society

By Linda Friend, Member

Submitted by Carol Peters, Secretary

February 4th – enjoyed lunch on my warm and sunny deck! Is this REALLY February! This exceptionally warm weather will certainly encourage gardeners to think of the season ahead. With this in mind, here are a few tips submitted by members of the Bobcaygeon Horticultural Society.

Dahlias:

Check your stored dahlia bulbs. If too dry, sprinkle with a bit of water. If they are already sprouting, move to a cooler location. If too moist, expose to air circulation before returning to storage containers.

Seed Starting:

It is too early to start annuals and vegetables inside. The general rule is to wait until 6 weeks before the last frost before starting these plants. Too early seeding will result in weak and leggy plants.

Tent Worms:

In early spring, check tree branches for a small silver band which resembles foil. These are the eggs of the nasty tent worm, especially damaging to fruit trees. With a gloved hand, simply wipe them from the branches and, like magic, problem solved.

Tomatoes:

Remove the lower leaves. Plant by laying 2/3 of the stem in a shallow, slanted trench, gently bending the top 1/3 upwards above the soil line. Fibers all along the stem will become roots. Add powdered milk to the soil to prevent blossom-end rot.

Morning Glories:

Do not cut off vines in the fall. In the spring, shake them well to release the seeds for an early start on a bright new growing season.

Carrots:

Plant in raised beds in a different spot each year. Sprinkle sand lightly over seeds to maintain consistent moisture essential to germination. Thin seedlings regularly as they grow. Store indoors by layering in Styrofoam coolers and away from apples or pears.

Raised Beds:

Before adding soil to the raised bed, line the bottom with wire mesh. Voles LOVE digging tunnels. They also love carrots and beets. Remember Mr. McGregor and the carrot patch? Fences will keep out the bunnies but NOT voles and moles.

Fall Clean Up:

Rather than cutting your perennials completely to soil level in the fall, leave a few inches to gather snow/leaf cover and to help you locate the "late comers" in the spring.

Feel Good Tip:

Top up your grocery cart with a bouquet of fresh-cut flowers. Bought on a whim of self-indulgence, my current arrangement of mums, carnations and ferns have enlivened our home for 2 weeks and counting!



For information on awards and grants, manuals and guides, printed certificates, waivers and release forms, details of insurance coverage, supplies, OHA service pins and a lot of gardening information, please check the OHA website: <https://gardenontario.org>

What is New in LaSalle?

By the LaSalle Horticultural Society

Photo by Peter Redfern

Submitted by Jan Dugdale, President & Public Relations Officer

Covid-19 has sure brought challenges to our societies but we can overcome them with some initiative and brainstorming:

- Online plant sales with curbside pickup with the use of Square as payment have worked well for our club.
- Meetings, AGM and speakers online via Zoom are working great also. Our club held its elections, finances, and AGM by Zoom last year. Zoom is simple and not as scary as some believe.
- Possible garden tours with social distancing with the help of our garden marshals at each property could also work this summer.

We are thankful to the Agricultural and Horticultural Support and Recovery Funding Initiative that will

be sending \$1140 to societies to help keep up their important work as we begin on a road to economic recovery. As Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs states; "I want to express my appreciation for the value you bring to the very fabric of rural Ontario, your traditions, in many cases, date back over 100 years. That is 100 years of education, entertaining and enlightening your communities and indeed the public of their proud heritage". This funding will be put to good use for the upcoming naturalize gardens project with the town of LaSalle in their 60-million-dollar LaSalle Small Coast Waterfront Experience Project over the coming years.

This year we have tried again for a grant from our local Rotary Club. It holds a Big Hat's High Tea Social each year with the profits going towards supporting the areas of health, education, literature and economic development. We are happy to say that our submission was the winning one and we will be accepting a cheque for \$3000 issued to our society in March to help with our community gardens.

As part of a growing group of Canadians that is transforming neighborhoods and communities one wildflower bed at a time, our President Jan Dugdale became a Butterfly Ranger with the David Suzuki Foundation. The Butterfly Ranger Program is a volunteer-based movement, growing highways of habitat for bees and butterflies across Canada. The program started in 2017 with Rangers helping their communities get greener and healthier one planting project or community event at a time. They are the public face of the project in their communities. The Foundation's and Rangers' goal in this is to establish habitat for local butterflies and bees throughout the country. Each ranger is tasked to organize teams to help them plant at least a dozen pollinator patches.

One last note: horticultural members get a 10% discount on orders with W.H. Perron (formerly Dominion Seed House) if they use code 4633 in the discount area of the order form.

Happy Planting Everyone.



One use for used masks: to hold up your melons.



Greetings from your OHA Past President

By Rose Odell, Past President, Ontario Horticultural Association

SPRING. This lovely word brings all kinds of thoughts to our minds. But it can mean many things:

Verb 1. move or jump suddenly or rapidly upward or forward: "I sprang out of bed" OR the leaves appeared suddenly, overnight and before the week was over flower buds were springing up...

Similar: Leap, jump, bound, vault, hop, appear suddenly, appear unexpectedly, materialize, pop up

2. originate or arise from: "madness and creativity could spring from the same source" OR It is amazing to watch something spring from the seeds we have planted.

Similar: originate from, have its origins in, derive from, arise from, stem from, emanate from, proceed from, start from, issue from, evolve from, come from

Noun 1. the season after winter and before summer, in which vegetation begins to appear, in the northern hemisphere from March to May and in the southern hemisphere from September to November: "in spring the garden is a feast of blossom"

Similar: springtime, Eastertide, springtide, Maytime

2. a resilient device, typically a helical metal coil, that can be pressed or pulled but returns to its former shape when released, used chiefly to exert constant tension or absorb movement

In this coming year, I wish all of you *Spring* in your step, *Spring* in your gardens and *Spring* in the hearts around this world we live in with the hope that soon we will be able to visit each other again. We are resilient.

You have all found many ways to still make things happen and it has been a pleasure to see the ingenuity and imagination of all of you at work in your communities around the province. Keep on being the *SPRING* to make things happen. I thank you.

I would like to remind you that I am available as your OHA *Supplies* person through the regular mail or by email at supplies@gardenontario.org to fill any of your orders for service pins, certificates, notecards (did you know you can mix and match any of the cards available for a price of 5/\$20.00 – they don't need to be



Rose Odell
Past President, OHA

all of the same kind). And I still have many of the Beeswax Wraps both in pattern \$25.00/3, or with the GardenOntario logo \$27.00/3 and also Carebags to take shopping with you instead of using plastic \$20.00/4. I would be very pleased to hear from you. Check out the Supplies list at <https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/supplies-list.pdf>. There are many items for you to help recognize your valuable members or to help promoting your group. We have added colour photos of many of the items, so you have a better idea of what you are

ordering. Please check it out. Thank you.

I would also be happy to add any of the Speakers your group has enjoyed to our Speakers' List. We asked everyone who is currently on the list if they were doing virtual presentations and their files have been updated accordingly. This is a great time, because of the limitations, to access these speakers on Zoom or whatever platform they are using. <https://gardenontario.org/speakers-listing/>

I have also been working with my co-coordinator Dorelene Anderson to continue with the District 19 Judging School Courses, at least for Course 3. Courses 1 and 2 were completed in 2019 and then Covid-19 happened. We have been innovative as the whole of the Course is being done by email. If you would like to join for a Judges' Update, the exam is March 14th, 2021. I would be glad to share the agenda with you in advance of the exam. We are focusing on Miniature & Small Designs, Houseplants and Contrived Flowers. pastpresoha@gmail.com

Your Officers and District Directors have been working very hard on your behalf this past year with all the problems that Covid-19 has caused. We would be glad to hear from you about any of your concerns.

With warm regards and *SPRING* in my heart I wish all of you happy planting and planning.

Rose Odell

OHA Past President/Supplies/Speakers



Schomberg Horticultural Society
Society helps 'Grow Kindness'

Eleonora Schmied, Public Relations Photo by Eleonora Schmied



Volunteers from the Schomberg Horticultural Society re-purposed the display at the Centennial Garden in Schomberg, at the corner of Main Street and Hwy 27, and turned it into a Valentine's display. It is intended to cheer up the community during the pandemic and to welcome guests to Schomberg. Under the leadership of executive member Janice Crone, and in keeping with their commitment to sustainability, Volunteer Valentines created hearts out of recycled and natural materials. The Society wishes everyone a Happy Valentine's month, with many blessings, and most of all, best of health during these difficult times.

The World's Largest (and Smelliest) Flower

Sandra Cruz, Board Member, Pelham Garden Club

Photos by Sandra Cruz

It was Friday, and a great sunny day to go for a drive. Hamilton Gage Park Greenhouse (1000 Main Street, East Hamilton, 10-4 pm) is open for guests on Fridays to Sundays and the admission price is free. Following all Covid-19 protocols, it was a pleasant break from the house. The attraction was to view the Corpse Flower... doesn't sound appealing but we are so happy we went.

FACTS: Scientific Name: *Amorphophallus Titanum*, also called death flower or Titan Arum

DESCRIPTION: Blooms average 6 to 8 feet tall with a green exterior, deep red interior and smells of rotting flesh

NATIVE: Sumatra, Indonesia

CONSERVATION STATUS: Endangered

INTERESTING FACTS: They bloom on an average of 7 to 10 years, they have a life span of 30 to 40 years and they are related to several houseplants such as philodendrons, calla lilies and peace lilies.

Discovered by an Italian botanist (Odoardo Beccari) who collected seeds in the late 1870's and shipped them to Kew Botanic Gardens in the U.K. This was the first Titan to bloom outside of its native environment.

WHAT IT SMELLS LIKE: The main odorant was identified as dimethyl trisulfide (a sulfury odour that is emitted from some vegetables, microorganisms and cancerous wounds. Other notes are garlic, sour sweat and cheese. All this just to attract the flies and beetles necessary for pollination.

Having the chance to view this flower remains incredibly rare, primarily because after waiting nearly a decade to emerge, the bloom withers and dies after 24-48 hours.

Gage Park has named this beauty "Kramer" and even if it is not in bloom, to visit the greenhouse is a little oasis away from home.



We were a little late to see the magnificent bloom of the Corpse Flower... but considering that this plant is classified as "vulnerable" as Sumatran rainforests are under major threat of deforestation it is still a wonder to see.

Leaside Garden Society Close Encounters

Nora Campbell



"Who on earth would have thought they'd see a fox on top of a garage? Believe it or not, I captured this beauty one day when I looked out of the second storey of my house. I was at my desk and watched this female fox climb up and in between two trees in my backyard. She then went on top of my neighbours' garage and nestled in for her photo op!"

Photo by Sheila Brazys

Inspired by a presentation on urban wildlife, members of the Leaside Garden Society were invited to submit photos of their personal encounters with the increasingly familiar wildlife, right in the heart of the city! The pandemic has certainly tamed our streets and backyards.



"Daycare Redefined in Leaside"

Photo by Leonore Pawziuk



"I thought I smelled
breakfast."

A back door visitor!

Photo by Chris Halpern



A familiar Toronto resident seen discussing the merits of bird feeders.

Photo by Joanna Blanchard



Are you looking for an exciting opportunity?

Grow your future with the Ontario Horticultural Association!

Our work has a direct impact on our members and Societies/Clubs across Ontario! When you work with the Ontario Horticultural Association, you'll know you're doing work that matters.

Help us to continue our efforts to increase our web presence for the OHA and its Societies and Clubs. As a part of our team, you'll have opportunities to bring forward proposals, stretch your skills, develop yourself and create a lasting impression.

The position of Webmaster is an important strategic role, helping to maintain and boost satisfaction levels among current users and new prospects. The Webmaster enhances the online experience by creating and/or maintaining valuable content and ensuring secure access and optimal availability for users.

If you are up to the challenge, this position is fun and extremely rewarding and it would be an excellent way to accrue some valuable job experience and/or give back to the Ontario Horticultural Association.

We encourage applications from all qualified individuals.

CURRENT OPENINGS

OHA Webmaster

Please find the job description on the next page for this exciting position.

The OHA invites letters of interest, including resume, from qualified individuals until April 6, 2021.

Please forward your letter of interest and resume to:
Kelly Taylor, OHA Secretary at ohasecretary@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!!





OHA Webmaster

Date:	March 19, 2021
Job Title:	OHA Webmaster
Location:	Province of Ontario
Honorarium:	\$6,000/yearly

Summary of Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA): The Ontario Horticultural Association is Keeping Ontario Beautiful™

- VISION:** Inspire Ontarians to promote and share gardening.
- MISSION:** The OHA is a volunteer charitable organization that encourages interest in gardening and related environmental issues with horticultural societies/clubs and like-minded organizations by providing leadership and education.
- GOAL:** Provide recognition, awards and grants throughout Ontario.
- GOAL:** Develop and support programs for all ages encouraging gardening, community beautification, environmental enhancement and conservation.
- GOAL:** Provide resources for horticultural societies.
- GOAL:** Encourage the development of new horticultural societies and clubs.

The Ontario Horticultural Association depends on the support of its members and charitable donations to carry out its work. You are encouraged to support the OHA as a volunteer with a horticultural society/club or with a charitable donation.

Societies Are Keeping Ontario Beautiful™

There are 272 Horticultural Societies/Clubs in Ontario working on projects to Keep Ontario Beautiful™. The projects include a wide variety of activities such as beautifying local parks, planting boxes in downtown areas as well as creating and maintaining public gardens around government buildings, hospitals, health and hospice centres.

Target Audience:

- Our membership age range is typically 50+ years of age; however, we have a full range of technical abilities within our member societies.
- Our goal is to market ourselves in such a way that younger individuals will also be interested in our site and in becoming members.
- There are at least two main target audiences: those who are already members of one of our societies/clubs and those who we're hoping will join. Each one likely has a different understanding of the organization and each one can have different informational needs.
- It is imperative that our website(s) must be user friendly and easy to navigate.

Introduction to the Role:

The OHA Webmaster is responsible for managing and maintaining the primary website(s) of the Ontario Horticultural Association. The Webmaster must be willing to work with committees, as required. This position is considered to be partially volunteer and includes an honorarium.

The position of Webmaster is an important strategic role, helping to maintain and boost satisfaction levels among current users and new prospects. The Webmaster has a demonstrated expertise in web development, including but not restricted to, content, usability, management, interpreting analytics, website maintenance, security and system backups. The Webmaster enhances the online experience by creating and/or maintaining valuable content and ensuring secure access and optimal availability for users.

Responsibilities:

- Ensure that the website(s) are kept in working order, fixing broken links and other errors as required.
- Ensure the hosting environment, domain and other subscription-based items are kept up to date and efficient.
- Manage email forwards and mailboxes and make necessary adjustments.
- Manage user passwords and access rights for all members.
- Provide website training and support to all OHA Members.
- Monitor each site regularly and track any adjustments required for security, content, backups and performance to protect the website(s) against viruses and other threats with the aim to balance high levels of protection with ease of access for authorized users and occasional visitors.
- Guarantee that there are provisions to safeguard user data that may be kept within the website's pages, databases or hosting platform.
- As a risk management protocol, supply the President and the Association Secretary with all current access codes and passwords.
- Work with the Officers to develop a disaster recovery plan.
- Monitor the site layouts and structures, HTML coding, navigation systems, etc., to optimize the content with a view to increase search engine rankings and traffic.
- Keep abreast with new technologies and software to develop the online presence and success of the sites.

Working with the OHA Board of Directors, Officers and the Web Committee, the Webmaster brings forward proposals in relation to:

1. the ongoing strategy and functions of the website(s),
2. effective policies and procedures for managing content to ensure that it complies with business and technical requirements,
3. the procurement of specialized talent when required to complete complex web-related development for projects previously approved by the Board,
4. hiring freelance development specialists or working with third-party agencies approved by the Board,
5. provide detailed reports and information on a monthly basis to the Officers,
6. work with OHA committees to determine system enhancements required to meet their needs.
 - ensure yearly license renewals are completed on a timely basis.
 - obtain pre-approval by the Officers for all purchases and expenses.

Experience/Education:

- 5+ years' experience with Web teams/projects, website development or a related discipline, or equivalent work experience.
- Demonstrated experience in reviewing and trouble-shooting complex code designs written by multiple developers, reverse engineering, identifying incompatibilities and providing alternatives for improved design and performance.
- Skill in working with a variety of web browsers, image-manipulation and databases and other web-related software tools.
- Ability to implement web-tracking software and to interpret results for tracking site usage.
- Knowledge of security applications, using robust authentication, access control, encryption and other technologies as appropriate to ensure the integrity and security of sensitive information.
- Thorough understanding of relational database design and customer relationship management environments, preferably in the not for profit or fundraising environment.
- Ability to initiate and maintain cooperative relationships with OHA Board of Directors and Officers, customers/clients and members of the public.
- Ability to take direction, accept criticism constructively and to be diplomatic when reviewing work of others.

Skills:

Preferred knowledge of the following:

- Ability to manage several different projects with attention to detail in a fast-paced environment.
- Technical knowledge about the latest technology developments and internet features.
- Excellent communication skills and experience interacting with web suppliers and internal teams.
- Proven ability to manage and maintain a website.
- Proficiency in WordPress.
- Content updates including formatting and inputting content to ensure functionality.
- Overall understanding of HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, SEO/SEM, Safety and Security protocols and measures.
- Other internet and design software experience is an asset.

Prepared March 19, 2021

Cheers to April Davies!

April is the exceptional outgoing webmaster for the OHA website <https://gardenontario.org>. Despite the Covid-19 challenges, the site has thrived under her direction and hard work. She knows the answers when we don't even know how to ask the questions. Best wishes for the future to April.

 Cheers!

Dryden & District Horticultural Society

By Alison Robinson

Like most every other society during Covid-19, the Dryden & District Horticultural Society hasn't been able to meet for a year – but don't think we haven't been active...

- In November 2020, when we realized that our annual Christmas potluck and fun program wasn't going to be happening, the Board voted unanimously to give out gift packages to all of our 76 members in early December. Two board members put together a delightful gift package AND hand delivered them. More than "Three Cheers" go to LeeAnn and Kathy! Each gift contained: a letter from our President Len Blagdon, a 'Make It Sow' pamphlet, a fridge magnet, and a coaster that says:

'Old gardeners never die. They just go to seed.'

Just think – this gift could have been yours if you belonged to the Dryden & District Horticultural Society!

- The 'Make It Sow' project was a great success as well. Many orders were placed and the seeds were received in a timely fashion. All we need now is patience for the snow to disappear – but, alas, there was no place on the 'Make It Sow' order form for patience...
- Our sights are now set on our annual May Plant Sale. Many volunteers start seeds and donate the seedlings, bring in their divided perennials or donate garden paraphernalia. This has always been two days' worth of a fun fund-raiser. And we are always thankful for our many volunteers. "Many hands make light work" said my own sweet mother.

Knock, knock!

Who's there?

Lettuce!

Lettuce who?

Lettuce in – it's cold out here!

Oops...

In the Fall 2020 edition of the OHA Trillium where Beth Powell's gardens are featured on page 54, some of the information was incorrect. She is actually on 50 acres near Canfield, Ontario.



Beth Powell's Garden Tour 2018

Photos by Marian Heil, Stoney Creek Garden Club

Stoney Creek Garden Club and Horticultural Society

Submitted by Marian Heil, Secretary

Over the past few months, Stoney Creek has experienced similar problems to probably all other Societies in Ontario – how do we keep our members engaged without meeting in person?

The Club has been successful at holding membership meetings over Zoom and has found speakers who were willing to do their presentations to the audience virtually. Participation at these meetings has steadily increased as people became more familiar with attending meetings in this way. During the last three meetings, a draw was held amongst all the attendees and floral arrangements were given to each winner. In November, a lovely Christmas centrepiece of fresh flowers; in January, a lovely potted snake plant (*Sansevieria Trifasciata*) and in February, a beautiful arrangement of potted plants were the prizes. Pictured are the winners with their prizes – they have big smiles under those masks!

The club has been so fortunate that a local florist – Dutchman Florist – on Queenston Road in Stoney Creek, has donated these prizes.

In March, the Club is planning to hold its AGM and will be giving 2 gift cards to be used at a local nursery – one as an “On Time” Draw at the beginning of the meeting and another one after the speaker has finished her presentation.

The Club wants to extend thanks to Dutchman Florist for their continued support during these trying times and ask members to remember to support our sponsors.



Winner of the Floral Arrangement, Nov. – Diane



Winner of Potted Plants, Feb.. – Kenny



Winner of Snake Plant, Jan. – Rejeanne

Bath Gardening Club

What's Happening in Bath!

Submitted by Pat Chown

Photography by Don Taylor

In spite of the pandemic and the necessary observance of health protocols, Bath Gardening Club is growing with a current total of 99 members! We have become comfortable meeting monthly on Zoom and as a result, we are beginning to appreciate that Zooming can open many doors to meet, learn and grow from gardeners world-wide. Yes, we look forward to spring and opportunities for outdoor Face to Face interaction with masks and social distancing but we may also occasionally incorporate Zoom technology into our meetings once we "get back to normal". Stay tuned!



The pictures taken of the Bath Sunday Market are specifically from Linda Jameson's stall. Linda was our January presenter.

As a Club, we are always looking to improve. Communication is one area that we focused on this year, with two initiatives that we are proud to announce. Our website has been beautifully reconstructed to improve our ability to keep people informed. In addition, we intend to publish a quarterly newsletter that will be posted on our website. The second edition of the newsletter will focus on "indoor planting" and how the Bath community is "quick starting" the growing season. This edition will be available in early April.

We began our 2021 year of learning in January with a Zoom presentation by Linda Jameson, owner and operator of Frog Pond Farms situated in Odessa. Linda inspired all of us with her extensive knowledge

of organic farming and provided us with many ideas for our own gardens as we plant species to attract beneficial insects (e.g. alyssum) and to deter problem bugs (e.g. marigolds, chrysanthemums and many herbs). We are hopeful that the Bath Sunday Market will resume this summer so that Linda is able to provide us with her wide range of delicious vegetables and, of course, her accompanying recipes!

In February, we 'Zoomed' to New York City for a presentation by Courtney Stewart, a researcher in Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Courtney took us on a world-wide tour of Islamic gardens in Syria, Spain, Morocco, India, Abu Dhabi, Turkey, and India, and to the most northern Islamic

garden, the Aga Khan Garden at the University of Alberta in Edmonton! From Courtney's presentation, we learned that gardens are mentioned in the Qur'an to represent a "vision of paradise". Flowers are also reflected in porcelain, architecture (e.g. The Taj Mahal),



Three pictures from Taj Mahal that show the building itself, the gardens and a close up of the flowers that are embedded in the marble exterior. These three pictures are samples of Islamic gardens and art that was the topic presented by Courtney Stewart this past month.

clothing and even carpets. Two interesting facts: oranges that grow in abundance in Spain originally came from Syria and tulips in the Netherlands came originally from Turkey. Yes, Istanbul has an annual tulip festival!

The Bath Gardening Club has activities planned well into June, 2021. We welcome all Trillium readers to join our Zoom meetings free of charge. Check out the Meeting Schedule on the home page of our website for details: <http://www.bathgardeningclub.ca/>

In March, Peter Fuller, who has owned and operated

Fuller Native and Rare Plants in Belleville for 10 years, will join us. Due to his lifelong interest in horticulture and his fascination with the natural world, Peter opened his nursery where he propagates (from seed) perennials, grasses, ferns, shrubs and trees native to the Great Lakes region. He enjoys promoting the benefits of propagating and incorporating native plants into the garden as well as promoting biologically diverse and sustainable landscapes. Peter is also a member of the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, where he volunteers during the spring and fall bird banding seasons.

In April, we will be transported by Zoom to Britain for a presentation of the Royal Horticultural Society's 2020 Chelsea Garden Show.

In May, we will delve into the topic of Eastern Ontario's Most Unwanted – Eradicating Weeds and Invasive Plants. What can we do as gardeners to manage the spread of invasive species through our practice? Our host for this meeting will be Astrid Muschalla, a Certified Organic Land Care Professional, whose passion is ecological landscape design. Astrid has over 20 years of experience working on private and public lands. She is the part-time coordinator of Seneca College's Organic Land Care. Her work has been nominated twice for the Urban Habitat Stewardship Award from Evergreen Canada. Astrid's gardens have also been featured on Doors Open, various community garden tours, and CTV's Garden of the Month.

Also in May, we will be very busy with two annual activities. The first involves combining our "secret" ingredients to produce hundreds of bags of fertilizer, a major fundraiser for our Club. The second initiative is Village planting and the maintenance of our Bugtel (insect hotel and pollinator garden). This year 358 flowers will be planted in barrels, planters and gardens along Bath's Main Street. With love and care, members of the Club maintain these flowers and the Bugtel all summer. We hope that Covid-19 travel restrictions are lifted so you have a chance to visit us and enjoy the beauty of our Village.

In June, we bring it all home! Pat Haslett, our very own expert gardener, will lead a discussion and address members' worries and concerns about their gardens. This promises to be a lively discussion focused on local issues, in other words: what's working, what is not in your garden.

Stay tuned for our 2021 summer events: Outings? Garden Tours? And, with luck, the Amherstview Saturday Market and the Bath Sunday Market, of which we are proud sponsors, will reopen for business.

We invite you to keep in touch through our website <http://www.bathgardeningclub.ca/>

Ennismore Garden Club

Written by Gail Murray

Photos by Gail Murray

Well, here we are still in this pandemic. I have to admit it has been a long winter for everyone in Ennismore: no Christmas gatherings, no grandkids for the weekend, no social get-togethers at all. But we have learned all about Zoom and Google Meet, ordering seeds online and going for trail walks with our friends. We have been kind to the environment by not driving our cars very much, we have not suffered from colds or flu bugs thanks to all the sanitizing and we all have a new realization of just how special our friendships and family gatherings are to us.

Ennismore has continued to have directors' meeting via Zoom, planning for 2021. We are happy to let our members know we have great speakers and activities planned.

A special activity we are planning for May is a dahlia, potato and herb growing competition. We have local fabulous gardeners who will be giving us tips and tricks for a bountiful harvest. We are giving out all the supplies and started dahlia plants for our members to take home, love and care for over the summer and then a show-and-tell at our September meeting with the results and prizes.

Our meetings are going to be either by Zoom or outdoors until October when we are (fingers crossed) meeting in the large auditorium at the arena where we can social distance.

Lots of our members are getting their seeds started indoors, planning their garden strategies for the year and just hoping garden centres will be open for our spring "fix". I can already smell the greenhouses and see all those baby plants that just seem to jump into your cart. Two hardy roses I am definitely going to buy more of this year are Oscar Peterson and Chinook Sunrise. They were absolutely lovely and I smelled them literally every time I went out. Hardy to Zone 3 and the bees had a blast with them as well.

We want to thank all our members and the community for supporting us while we re-organized, Susan Newton one of our directors for being the lead on our learning curve with Zoom and Ethel Shackleton, our President for keeping all the members involved with newsletters.

So here is to all of you: Spring, your gardens, the outdoors, the sunshine, longer days and fresh air. Enjoy them all from the Ennismore Garden Club.



These are the plants I started for our plant sale and a couple of seed trays I started for petunias.



Say “Thanks But No Thanks” to Invasive Plant Species

By Julianne Labreche, Board member

Who doesn't love a good plant sale? They're fun, friendly and an easy, low-cost way to add plants to any garden. Plant sales also bring gardeners together as a community, sharing and selling their plants. They provide great opportunities to learn and exchange information about plants. Of course, plant sales also generate some necessary revenue. Even during these Covid-19 times, horticultural societies are finding innovative ways to sell plants online.

But is there any downside to plant sales?

Potentially, there could be one big one. What happens if some of those plants offered for sale during a fundraising event turn out to be an invasive plant species? What happens then if those same plants are transported up to the family cottage?

That's why plant organizers involved with this spring's Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS) plant sale decided to launch their “Thanks But No Thanks” campaign. It is intended to educate donors, volunteers and members not to donate invasive plants. The campaign also encourages sellers and plant organizers to say politely and respectfully “thanks but no thanks” to any donated invasive plants offered up for the sale.

The “Thanks But No Thanks” campaign comes at just the right time. In Ottawa, volunteers already are planting seeds and deciding what plants to dig up from their gardens for the much-anticipated OHS plant sale.

Currently, there are about 486 invasive or ‘weedy’ species in Canada. Compared to other provinces, Ontario does not have a good track record. Some 441 invasive species – about 91 percent of these plants – are present in the province. When these aggressive non-native plants spread into natural spaces – forests, meadows and waterways, for instance – they quickly squeeze out native plants and create ecological harm.

These days, most gardeners want to be ecologically responsible. Sometimes, though, invasive plants are

sold unknowingly. Or perhaps a gardener wants to donate a plant simply because it is already growing out of control in a home garden? There are all kinds of reasons why invasive plant species creep into plant sales and many reasons to say “thanks but no thanks” to them.

Last summer, even though I have been a gardener for over three decades, I pulled out periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolan*), goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) and creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) – all listed as invasive plants and recommended as ones that gardeners should avoid by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC). It's helpful every so often for every gardener to take a close look to see what's popping up in their garden, identify plants and get rid of any that are listed as invasive.

There's a very useful, free online resource available to gardeners called “Grow Me Instead”. It's published by the OIPC and is available in both English and French. There are two versions, one for southern Ontario and another for northern Ontario. The plants listed in the “Thanks But No Thanks” campaign came from the southern Ontario booklet as well as recommendations from the City of Ottawa. Fortunately, there are native plant alternatives available. Some of these are listed in the “Grow Me Instead” booklet.

It would be interesting to learn more about how other horticultural groups across the province are dealing with the sale of any invasive plant species, some of which are illegal for sale in Ontario. Meanwhile, attached is a new handout created by the OHS, part of our “Thanks But No Thanks” campaign. We think it's a simple, polite and respectful way to plan a plant sale that will hopefully make a few profits and be ecologically responsible too.

Julianne Labreche recently joined the Board of the Ottawa Horticultural Society and has volunteered as a master gardener for over a decade.

For further information on invasive plant species in Ontario or for information on the “Grow Me Instead” booklet, check out the OIPC website at www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca

"Thanks But No Thanks" Plants

Julianne Labreche, Board member



Non-Native Invasive Plants

Invasive non-native plants constitute a significant threat to natural spaces, including forests, meadows and waterways. The following popular garden plants are considered non-native invasive plants by the **City of Ottawa**. They should not be planted near natural areas. To protect natural spaces, the Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS) therefore requests these plants NOT be donated or sold at our plant sales.

- Amur maple – *Acer ginnala*
- Black locust – *Robinia pseudoacacia*
- Bugleweed – *Ajuga reptans*
- Creeping Jenny (moneywort) – *Lysimachia nummularia*
- Common and Japanese barberry – *Berberis vulgaris* and *B. thunbergii*
- Dame's rocket – *Hesperis matronalis*
- Daylily 'fulva' – *Hemerocallis fulva*
- English ivy – *Hedera helix*
- European linden – *Tilia cordata*
- European mountain-ash – *Sorbus aucuparia*
- Goutweed – *Aegopodium podagraria*
- Honeysuckle, including Amur's, Bell's, European fly, Morrow and Tatarian (or Tartarian) – *Lonicera maackii*, *L. X bella*, *L. xylosteum*, *L. morrowii* and *L. tatarica*
- Japanese Knotweed – *Fallopia japonica*
- Lily of the valley – *Convallaria majalis**
- Oriental bittersweet – *Celastrus orbiculatus*
- Miscanthus grasses – *Miscanthus sinensis* and *Miscanthus sacchariflorus*
- Norway maple (including red-leaved varieties) – *Acer platanoides*
- Periwinkle – *Vinca minor*
- Spotted deadnettle – *Lamium maculatum*

(*OHS will accept variegated, named varieties of Lily of the valley e.g. 'Albostrata', 'Variegata', 'Striata')

In addition, the **Ontario Native Plant Council** lists these plants, also outside their natural range, whose presence poses environmental and other threats: autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), black locust (see above), buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), dog-strangling vine (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*), European black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), invasive honeysuckles (see above), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), phragmites (*Phragmites australis subsp. australis*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea subsp. arundinacea*), scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), sweet white clover (*Melilotus albus*) and wild parsnip (*Pastinacea sativa*).

Finally, to protect natural spaces, native plants should not be dug up from the wild. Native plants for sale should be propagated from seeds or divisions from garden plants.

Legally, trademarked or patented varieties of plants cannot be sold. A trademarked variety may have text such as "Richters introduction of Sorrel 'Profusion' is a registered trademark of Richters; all rights reserved. RICHTERS EXCLUSIVE. Profusion is a registered trademark of Richters; all rights reserved" on the label or website description.

For further information, please check out these websites:

City of Ottawa Invasive Species – <https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/wildlife-and-plants/plants/invasive-species>

Ontario Invasive Plant Council – <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca>

For plant alternatives, you can download a free, online brochure published by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council called 'Grow Me Instead'. It is available in French and English at: <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/>

High Res/Low Res Photographs

By Laura Masterson, OHA Trillium Editor

For best results when submitting photographs for the Trillium, the *minimum* size we are asking for is:
1000 by 800 pixels at 300 dpi (dots per inch) = 3.33" x 2.667" = 643KB, photo on left
1000 by 800 pixels = 72 dpi (dots per inch) = 13.889" x 11.111" = 643KB, also photo on left



Left: The photo meets the requirements and pixelation/blurriness is avoided. Full-size larger images are welcome.



Right: The photo does not meet the requirements. When the jpeg is revised to the proper resolution, it would be the size of this small picture.

Insurance Queries?

Contact:

Shawn LaPalm

Non-Profit & Charity Insurance

The Co-operators

1-888-712-2667

shawn_lapalm@cooperators.ca

Additional information regarding the OHA insurance plan
can be found at:

<https://gardenontario.org/resources/#insurance>



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Complete our online donor form: <https://gardenontario.org/donation-form/> or complete this form and mail to: Ontario Horticultural Association, 56 Glen Cannon Drive, Stoney Creek, ON L8G 4E1

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- Support grants, awards, convention, community initiatives, website and the general operations of the association
- Donate to the OHA In Memoriam Fund (supporting Tree Grants). For more information about In Memoriam donations, email inmemoriam@gardenontario.org or phone 905-476-3000

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Do you wish to have the deceased person's name acknowledged at the OHA convention? Yes No

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What Little Seeds Can Do

By Heather Carter, Pelham Garden Club

Photos and captions by Laura Masterson

Last year was the first year that I grew tomato plants from seeds. I got hooked on the magic of seeing a tiny seed grow into a huge plant that produced delightful sweet fruit all summer long! I am back at it again this year, waiting for my first luscious tomato. I have two people to thank for my addiction: the late Brian Calvert of the Pelham Garden Club and my late mother-in-law, Madeleine.

I joined the Pelham Garden Club in 2016. At about my second meeting, there was a large table set up with packages of seeds, free for the taking. Brian hung around the table, sharing information about the seeds that he had grown, saved, labelled, and then packaged into double-sealed bags. He was friendly and encouraging and told corny jokes like: "What did the father tomato say to the baby tomato whilst on a family walk?" "Ketchup!" Beyond the endless jokes, Brian had serious knowledge of all kinds of gardening subjects. But I think he was really proud of his seeds. Upon Brian's urging, I took home six little bags of seeds, thinking that one day I would start my own plants from seed.

I was no stranger to knowing how hooked gardeners could get, growing their own produce from seed. I saw my mother-in-law, Madeleine, transform every spring. During our visits in the early days of March, we could hear new optimism in her voice, observe a little more activity around her house, and notice the little pepper and tomato plants taking root in her sunny window. It happened every spring like clockwork: a definite rising state of happiness and well-being in Madeleine with the planting and growing of her tomato and pepper seeds.

Last year, I decided it was time to try my hand at growing the seeds. Since I was not sure that each seed would 'take,' I decided that I should plant a few extra, just in case my little seed-growing experiment failed. I set up a lighted growing station in my basement and spent every evening planting and tending. In no time at all (it really is remarkable how quickly the sprouts appear!), I had little tomato plants. With tender loving care AND great seeds from Brian, I had lots of tomato plants. I gave some to my neighbours. I gave some to our Club to sell at our Annual Plant Sale. And I still had some left to give as door prizes at our meetings! Later in the year, many members thanked me because the Pear Tomato plants, (from Brian's seeds) were real producers!

This year in the early days of March, I thought of Brian and Madeleine and knew that it was once again time for magic. I never eat a tomato now without thinking that each of those little seeds has everything



Some of the more than 100 tomatoes picked from one pear tomato plant that Heather started from seed.



Not the least bit shy, one yellow pear tomato plant took over the other tomato cages in the garden and spread 6' in both directions. There were tomatoes hiding underneath, behind and near the ground.

in them to grow another plant! I know that I was late in discovering this fact and in finding such joy in the smallest of things – seeds. This year, I am growing a few more tomato varieties. I have more confidence in my growing abilities so I grew fewer plants. I was pretty sure my experiment would work.

As I tend my garden, I am grateful that I joined the Pelham Garden Club. I enjoy many wonderful friendships and have learned so much. My fortunate meeting with Brian Calvert before his passing gave me a gift I will always treasure. He encouraged me with his humour, knowledge and generous offer of seeds. My green-thumbed mother-in-law, Madeleine, is always with me (in spirit) in the garden. She showed me by example how gardening can change your attitude towards life. It really is amazing what little seeds can do.

Reprinted from "The Garden View", newsletter of Pelham Garden Club, Summer, 2020