
Peterborough Horticultural Society Newsletter

February, 2011

Volume 150

Number 2



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150 years



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Last meeting

On a cold January evening, our members enjoyed a pictorial visit to eight gardens thanks to Dianne and Gary Westlake. Perhaps you were inspired to visit a beautiful garden in the future. It does not have to be far away, it could be right around the corner.

50/50

The 50/50 draw for January was \$113.00, won by our new member, Marion Payne. This was Marion's first visit to PHS, so congratulations and welcome! Other prizes included two framed photos from Gary Westlake, plus a number of items purchased from the Avant Garden Shop and our local Home Depot store. Home Depot also donated several items. Our thanks go to them for their generosity and my thanks to all who play. Remember that the other half of each month's prize money is used to purchase prizes for the next month. Dawna Rhodenhizer

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on February 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Peterborough Public Library on Aylmer Street. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. The coffee pot will be ready and the library will be open. Please wear your lanyard with your name tag/membership card and don't forget to buy your 50/50 tickets. Our speaker for the evening will be Denis Flanagan who will be sharing some Tales of a TV Gardener. His Bio: After graduating from Horticulture in Surrey, England Denis was involved in many projects including work for the Royal Family and achieved a Gold Medal at The Chelsea Flower Show. Following a successful transplant to Canada, Denis continued designing award winning gardens including many for Canada Blooms, he has taught at several community colleges including Humber and Seneca. Denis is well known for his Gardening shows on HGTV and continues

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AMELIA GIBSON,
TAMMY GIBSON, JANE GRAHAM, MARION PAYNE,
AND KIRSTEN SMITH**



Denis Flanagan is always informative and entertaining. Get away from the cold and enjoy an evening of tales of his adventures as well as a look at some of the new plants for 2011.

to promote the joys and benefits of horticulture through the 'Green for Life' programme at Landscape Ontario. Visit landscapeontario.com Denis is one speaker you won't want to miss.

YEARBOOK

Our 150th Anniversary edition of the PHS yearbook is available and what a delight it is! Take a few minutes to read about the history of our society and enjoy the articles written by our members. There is also lots of information about upcoming events, the flower competitions, year end reports from committee chairs and more. Chris Freeburn pulled out all stops and has produced an amazing book. It is filled with information and beautiful pictures. Thank you Chris for all your hard work!

When you receive your yearbook, you will also be given a card which lists all of the speakers and other information. Post it in a convenient place to remind you about the meetings. Many thanks to Pauline Drake and Gary Westlake for their efforts.



WEBSITE

Some of you may have noticed that the peterboroughgardens.ca was down for a few days. The Nexicom site was 'hacked' and consequently our site was out of commission. Nexicom responded quickly by restoring our site and within a few days had moved it to a new server.

OHA DISTRICT 4 EVENT

On Saturday, March 19th from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., OHA District 4 will hold the Spring Get Together at the Peterborough Public Library. The topic for the meeting is Volunteerism. Everyone is welcome so just show up and enjoy the company of other gardeners.

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER

In the event we are forced to cancel a meeting, an announcement will be made on the radio and an email will be sent to all members who have email. It is imperative that you check your mail box before venturing out in bad weather to be sure that the meeting was not cancelled. Please feel free to call any member of the board (phone numbers are in your yearbook) if you have a concern about a meeting cancellation.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Over the past 5 months, there have been many 'thank you' notes from community organizations who received financial support from our society. They are Riverview Park and Zoo, Peterborough and Kawartha Visitor Information Centre, Cordova Mines Recreation Association, Sadleir House Community and Student Facility, Barnardo Community Garden, St. Joseph's at Fleming and the Peterborough Agricultural Society. Camp Kawartha and St. Matthew's United Church thanked us in their newsletters and Keith Wightman school made note of our grant in the local newspaper.

All of these beautification projects were worthwhile and I am sure will be appreciated by many in our community! Remember the grant money comes from all of our hard work that we, as volunteers put into one of the greatest 'Garden Shows'. Pat Lounsbury (chair)

OUR GARDENS IN PICTURES

You suggested and we listened! At the January meeting, a member suggested that we should show pictures of our gardens – a great idea! If you have some digital photographs of your garden that you would like to share with the membership, please send them to Gary Westlake gary.westlake@gmail.com. If you have them in hard

copy form, bring them to the next meeting and they will be scanned to share. The quality may not be as good as digital but Gary will do his best. We will show them at the April meeting, the same evening we celebrate by enjoying birthday cake. This might become a regular feature at our meetings so take lots of photos throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP

At this time, your membership fee for 2011 is due. You may renew by sending your contact information and a cheque by mail to the Society's mailbox or sign up at the membership table at the next meeting. At that time, you will be asked to take a moment to review your contact information. If you wish to speed up the process, you can complete the registration form that was sent with the November newsletter or can be found on the website and have the correct change or cheque completed. If there are any changes during the year, be sure to give the information to Dianne Westlake. Having this updated information is necessary in order to ensure that you receive your newsletter.

CANADA BLOOMS

There are still a few seats available for the St. Patrick's Day bus trip to Canada Blooms which, for the second time, is being held at the Direct Energy Center this year at Exhibition Place. Join us on Thursday, March 17th and wear your best green outfit. The bus leaves from the Coach Canada yard on Webber Ave. at 8:00 a.m. and we will be back in Peterborough at approximately 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$45.00 which due at our next meeting and includes the bus, entry into the show and the show magazine. Call or email Sally Rye at 749-6135 or krye2@cogeco.ca for more information or to reserve a space.

PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW

The 2011 Peterborough Garden Show is April 8th, 9th and 10th. It is close to full and we are creating a waiting list for vendors. Check out the show information at www.peterboroughgardens.ca for a complete listing of vendors, with their websites when available, speakers, demonstrations and the information to enter the flower competition. Why not flex your creative talents and enter? The show will be advertised using a number of different avenues. Look for our road signs, print advertisements in newspapers and magazines and our commercials on CHEX-TV. The show will also be promoted in February at Get a Jump on Spring at the Toronto Botanical Gardens and at Canada Blooms in

March. But remember that word of mouth is still the best form of advertising. So talk about the show to everyone you know and meet. Flyers and posters will be available at the February meeting.

VOLUNTEER AT THE SHOW

At the January meeting, we had 45 members sign up to volunteer their time at the garden show but we need more help and there is a job perfect for you! Shifts usually last two or three hours and as an added bonus you do not pay for your entry on the day you are volunteering. For insurance purposes, you must be a current member. If you are a new member or have never done this before, don't hesitate, come out and see what great fun it is. Our volunteers are the main reason for the great success of our show. So, please sign up at the February general meeting or call Etela Vojnic (749 0730), Pat deVilliers (741-1101).

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Anniversary Celebration Committee has planned some activities to commemorate this very special year. On Sunday, June 12th we will have a members only garden tour. We hope to have a number of gardens open that afternoon so that members will have the opportunity to choose from a wide range of options: small or large, shady or sunny, flowers, vegetables, perennials, water gardens in a variety of locations in and around the city. Every garden has something special that we all can enjoy. Don't be shy. If you would like to open your garden on June 12th, please contact Chris Freeburn.

BLOEMEN

At the OHA Board meeting in October it was decided that a beautiful book called Bloemen would be sold as a fundraiser for the OHA 2011 Convention. It is a lovely, colourful book of recipes to create floral designs. On one page there is a beautiful design; on the facing page is the list of what to buy to make it, and how to make it. The book is being sold for \$20.00 while the bookstores are selling them for \$25.00. The books will be available for sale at the membership table.

PHS Trivia

The recorded membership for PHS peaked in 1947 with 596 members; 162 in 1970. In 2010, we had 234 members. We are hoping to increase that number for 2011 so bring a friend and show what a great organization PHS is.

**DON'T
FORGET TO
LUG-A-MUG
TO HAVE A
CHANCE TO
WIN A PRIZE.**



COMING EVENTS

LAKEFIELD

Tuesday, March 8th at 7:30 p.m. at Lakefield Marshland Centre – Paul and Beverley Williams – Ponds and Water Features

NORWOOD

Monday, February 21st at 7:30 p.m. at the Norwood Legion – Muriel Godden – workshop - Creating a 'Line' Type Floral Design.

OMEMEE

Monday, February 21st at Trinity United Church, fellowship time from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available at 7:15. Meeting begins at 7:30. Speaker – Joe Cook – Caring and Maintaining Your Garden Tools

MILLBROOK

Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church Hall, Centre St, Millbrook – \$2 Admission at the door Master Gardener Laura Stockdale speaking on "Growing Vegetables" Contact Wendy 944-8912 or Joan 799-5378 for more information

February 12 and 13 from 11 a.m. – 5 p. m. – Southern Ontario Orchid Society – **Orchid Show** at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave East at Leslie Street. Go to <http://soos.ca/> to print a coupon for \$2.00 of admission price of \$12.00 (includes HST)

February 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – **Get the Jump on Spring** at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave East at Leslie Street – Free Admission – Displays, Marketplace, Speakers and more. A \$2.00 donation gives hourly chances to win great prizes!

March 3 – 6 – **The Stratford Garden Festival** – Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford. <http://www.stratfordgardenfestival.com/>



March 4, 5, 6 – **The Kingston Gardening Festival** – Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, Yonge Street, Kingston. For more information <http://kingstongardeningexpo.com/>

Seedy Saturday will actually be **Seedy Sunday** this year. It will be held is on Sunday, March 13 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at St. James United Church, 221 Romaine Street. For more information contact urbantomato@gmail.com

March 15-20 – **Canada Blooms** at the Direct Energy Centre Exhibition Park, Toronto. For more information go to <http://www.canadablooms.com/>

March 19, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., **OHA District 4 Spring Get Together** at the Peterborough Public Library.

March 31 – April 3 – **Successful Gardening Show** at The Toronto International Centre, 6900 Airport Road – Toronto. For more information <http://www.home-show.net/successfulgardening/swg4show.htm>

April 15 – 17 – **Green Living Show** at the Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Park, Toronto <http://www.greenlivingonline.com>

April 30, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Green Expo** at the Evinrude Centre for more information www.greenexpo.ca

FOR THE BIRDS

Something to think about. In the near future, our feather friends will be starting to build nests and we can assist by providing some materials. Scraps of yarn or string cut into random lengths up to approximately six inches can be made available to be used for nests. Just put them into an onion bag, a suet holder or any other item that has openings and hang it out in the garden in early March. The birds will thank you!

THE WINTER GARDENER

Snow! I know, it is the gardener's friend. It protects our plants and at the beginning of the season it does look beautiful. But enough! I feel like it has snowed every day for ever. As you can tell I am not a 'winter' person and as we pass the days of February I look forward to spring days and the growing season to come.

Today I have decided that I will spend my time looking at the garden (from a window) and think about what I would like to change this year. This is not something new. Gardens change in some way every year. Trees have grown and shade affects plantings; trees die or need to be removed because of potential danger, plants do not perform as expected, and, as we age, we are looking for easier to maintain solutions. Sometimes the

decision is made to incorporate a favoured grouping of plants or just to try something different. One of the areas that we have decided to tackle this year was originally planted with perennials and annuals. It is in a protected area that has good drainage and is sunny. It is on the south side of a black walnut tree which can be a problem because black walnut trees emit a substance called juglone which inhibits the growth of some other plants. Consequently, care must be taken when choosing plants that will be placed near the root zone. When we moved here, we were told that nothing would grow there but we have found that there is a long list of things that thrive including some varieties of hosta, clematis, bee balm, crocus, daylily, ferns, grape hyacinth, impatiens, Jack-in-the-pulpit, phlox, Siberian iris, sweet woodruff, trillium, forsythia, euonymus,, pachysandra, Rose-of-Sharon, sumac, and many more.

This area has a bench with a leaf stepping stone patio under the shelter of the walnut and these features will not be changed. The original perennials have grown well but we now see the value of replacing some of them with shrubs and small trees to reduce the amount of maintenance. The important first task is to come up with a plan. Careful research is necessary to ensure that the conditions are favourable and that each plant has enough space to achieve its ultimate size. This is important because we do not wish to spend our time trying to keep a very large shrub pruned to fit in a small space - an impossible task! They also need to be resistant to disease and pests. The native, pagoda dogwood, would be a first choice because it is an understory tree and tolerates shade very well. The eastern redbud would be another possibility. The early spring blossoms are spectacular and would add some much needed colour as well as an early source of food for bees. We have several native dogwoods but the eastern redbud would be a new one for us. Time to branch out? Yes, I think so! These are choices make sense to us and will add to the overall look of the area. The other positive is that they should be readily available. Lots of mulch will be used to reduce weeding. Our personal choice is city compost because it feeds the soil, is weed free and acts as a barrier to the light which is necessary for most weed seeds to germinate but more about this later in the season. Now is the time for planning and dreaming. Spring will be here soon and I want to be ready. Here are some links that might offer some ideas for updating an existing garden or planning a new one. Go to www.youtube.com and then type garden design in the search engine that appears or try these websites: Landscape Ontario <http://www.landscapontario.com/>; Canadian Gardener <http://www.canadiangardening.com/>; Fine Gardening <http://www.finegardening.com/>