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# Peterborough Horticultural Society Newsletter

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## LAST MEETING

Roger Hill shared his enthusiasm and many ideas to make our homes beautiful for Christmas. What a great introduction to new member, Donald White, who shared his own unique talents.

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Join us on Wednesday, January 27 for our first meeting of 2010 and will include the induction of officers. Of course, we will have our 50/50 draw and the library will be open. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30.

### Speaker

Our speaker for this meeting is Kyle Griffin and he will speak about Photographing Your Garden. He is very knowledgeable and brings ten years' experience working as the staff photographer at Peterborough This Week. Kyle is now at Griffins Greenhouses where he manages the growing of thousands of retail plants while helping to maintain their two-acre award-winning garden surrounding the irrigation ponds. He also makes some amazing wreaths and other garden accents. While photographing these gardens and their flowers, he says that he has learned that it is the details that make a photo truly great. We are fortunate to have him share his expertise as he helps us to understand the intricacies of taking good pictures.

Please be considerate of others during the meeting and restrict your 'visiting' during the meeting itself.

Begin the New Year on a positive note and Lug-a-mug

Welcome new members

Kathy Dracup-Harris, Alan Sippel, Margo Tant, Phyllis Watson, Donald White

## 50/50

The 50/50 draw for our November meeting was won by Lynne Bowes – \$129.00. Congratulations, Lynne! Other prizes included various sizes of poinsettias, amaryllis,



*Roger Hill and his able assistant, Donald White tackle Christmas.*

and cyclamen from Hotner's, a potting mat and some little clippers donated by members, two pairs of tickets to the Festival of Trees donated by Rachel Burrows, and some canna tubers donated by Steve McCullough. We also had 4 items – a wreath, a bonsai tree, a poinsettia, and an orchid donated by the evening's speaker, Roger Hill. As a little variation on a theme, everyone admitting to a birthday that week received a 4 1/2-inch potted poinsettia. Many thanks to all those who provided items for the draw. Your thoughtfulness and generosity adds greatly to event.

## LIBRARY

Some new additions for the Library.

Garden Plants and Flowers, A-Z Guide to the best Plants for your Garden (Canadian edition) by Lorraine Johnson

What Grows Where In Canadian Gardens by Trevor Cole

The Rock Garden Plant Primer: Easy, Small Plants for Containers, Patios, and the Open Garden by Christopher Grey-Wilson

For a complete listing of our library books, please go to

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<http://www.librarything.com/catalog/phsbooks>

## IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER

Last January, Peterborough experienced a particularly nasty winter storm on the day of our meeting. Our speaker was unable to attend and we arranged for another presentation at the last minute. It was decided at that time, that we need to have a process in place in case this sort of extreme circumstance happens again. If you have an email address, we will endeavour to contact you using this mode of communication. It is imperative that you check your mail box before venturing out in bad weather to ensure that the meeting was not cancelled. However, if you do not have email, you will be telephoned by a member of the phone committee. Joan Clairmont is the member of the board who is responsible for this committee and her number is 745-8268.

## WORKSHOPS

We are finalizing dates for the workshops for this spring and will begin in late February. On Sunday, February 28th from 1:00 p.m., we will hold a "Houseplant Workshop" at Marg Hundt's home. Learn how to grow and care for beautiful plants in your home. Marg will also show us how to divide and propagate. Later on this spring, we will hold a workshop on "How to Show" to help us learn what a judge is looking for in a floral arrangement. We also hope to have a "Pruning Workshop" this spring. Dates and signup sheets will be available at the general meetings. Chris Freeburn

## BOARD NEWS



*Congratulation to our 2009 Scholarship recipients Lindsey Hawke, Tamara Little, Daniel Weihing, Mike Arnold, Laura Crowe with presenter Pat de Villiers at the November meeting.*

Welcome to Shaun Pyper who has joined the board as a director.

## MEMBERSHIP

It is time to renew your Peterborough Horticultural Society membership, which provides great speakers, workshops, bus trips, use of our extensive library and much more. For 2010, the cost will remain the same as last year thanks to the success of our Peterborough Garden Show. A Single Membership is \$15.00 and Family Membership is \$20.00. At this time, you will be asked to verify your contact information. Please check this information carefully. For those members who have already renewed, your yearbook and new membership card will be available at the registration desk at our January meeting.

### By Mail

If you wish to mail your membership fee, please complete the form that was included in November newsletter or download the form from the website at [www.peterboroughgardens.ca/about\\_society.html](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca/about_society.html) Please pay by cheque made payable to Peterborough Horticultural Society. Do not send cash by the mail.

## 2010 PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW

Mark Friday, April 9, Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11 on your calendars and bring your friends to the 2010 Show. We have some new features this year. Besides a great lineup of speakers, there will be ongoing demonstrations in the vendor area. Learn how to cane a chair, build a small pond, and put together a flower arrangement and more. The schedule and rules for the ever popular flower competition will be available at [www.peterboroughgardens.ca](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca) in the near future. Why not try an arrangement or two and share your creativity with the world or bring your favourite houseplant to show off your green thumb.

For the first time this year, the Peterborough Rotary Club will be assisting us with parking. It has always been difficult getting our volunteers to man the parking lot. The weather can be unpredictable as can the patrons. For the past few years we have hired private security personnel to take care of this but the cost has been increasing. The Rotary Club will be asking for a donation (a toonie) with the proceeds being used to fund local activities. They have also organized a raffle with tickets being sold at the show. The grand prize is a trip for two to a garden destination.

There are a few spaces available in the vendor area so if you know of a company or service that would be



suitable and might be interested in coming into the show as a potential vendor, please contact Niki at 705-295-4953 or [showcontact@peterboroughgardens.ca](mailto:showcontact@peterboroughgardens.ca)

### Come and Volunteer

PHS enjoys the benefits of the profits from this successful show and we are able to continue to support local beautification projects and provide scholarships to deserving students. Our volunteers have a great time at the show but, for insurance purposes, you must be a member of the horticultural society in order to volunteer. Remember that the show only works if we have volunteers to help, so make sure you are on the list. Please see Anne Milne, Etela Vojnic or Pat deVilliers if you are able to spend some time helping out.

## NEWSLETTER

Based on current levels, one issue of the newsletter sent via Canada Post costs approximately \$1.50. This includes the cost of postage, envelopes and printing. As of November, 120 newsletters were delivered electronically each month and the society saved approximately \$1620.00 in 2009. This money has been put towards some of the other expenses of the society.

Effective January 11th, the cost of stamps increased by approximately 6% and this will have a definite impact the cost of sending our newsletters via Canada Post.

If you have internet access, we strongly encourage you to receive your newsletter electronically. Send an email to [editor@peterboroughgardens.ca](mailto:editor@peterboroughgardens.ca) to get on the list.

## CANADA BLOOMS

Once again, PHS is sending a bus to Canada Blooms on Thursday, March 18th. The venue has changed to the Direct Energy Centre at Exhibition Park in Toronto. Other details have not been finalized at publication time but will be available at the general meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, contact Sally Rye at 749-6135.

## DONATION COMMITTEE

We have received a number of reports and thank yous for the grants that we gave out for beautification projects last year. Thanks to the proceeds of our garden show in the spring, we were able to donate nearly \$5000 last year. Kawartha Tourism thanks us for our contributions to the gardens around the Visitor Information Centre. Now with the new Tim Horton's next door, they are getting more traffic so more people will see the gardens as they develop. We have encouraged them to plant more perennials and Dawn Tack of Gardens Plus has been

assisting them with their choices. The Riverdale Park and Zoo has installed a new walkway near the entrance and have thanked us for the perennial beds that were planted next to the walkway. We have also received a thank you from the people of Westmount Public School who have installed some wonderful gardens around the school. Our grant along with contributions from others has helped make this possible. The Canoe Museum thanks us for our contribution as an appreciation for allowing us to use their parking lot during the show last year.

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

This is the time of year when we are making resolutions regarding changes in our lives. As gardeners, we can do many things to protect the environment. With that in mind, here are some potential goals for 2010.

### Install a rain barrel!

This is a great way to water your garden and save on your water bill. Hook it up to your downspout and direct all that water to your garden instead of letting it run into the sewer system.

### Recycle and Reuse!

Turn those stacks of newspapers into seedling pots that can be planted directly into your garden. Use layers of newspaper under mulches to maintain moisture in the soil and reduce the number of weeds. Check your blue box and use your imagination. The possibilities are endless.

### Free compost!

Make it yourself. Build or purchase a composter and turn all those food scraps and garden debris like fall leaves into black gold.

### Plant a tree!

Trees improve air quality by filtering out pollution and boosting oxygen; shade our houses, reduce the need for AC; act as wind breaks; prevent soil erosion and flooding and improve the appearance of your property.

### Goodbye Chemical Insecticides!

There is a ban on many products that can seep into the ground and damage the environment. Find new strategies and weapons to fight against garden-munching bad bugs. Try a simple remedy such as a mixture of dish detergent and water. The soap coats the bugs, suffocating them.

### Go Native!

Try planting native species to help support the ecosystem by providing a food source for our native insects. There are many different varieties to suit every condition. Keeping native plants in your garden can



help keep native species thriving.

#### Invasive plant alert!

Be aware of the plants that can take over your garden. We have all seen purple loosestrife but there are many more that have the potential to destroy your efforts. Dog Strangling Vine, Garlic Mustard and European Buckthorn are in the area and have the potential of taking over.

#### For the birds!

Invite birds into your garden. Set up bird feeders, birdbaths and even birdhouses. They will reward you with their song and entertaining antics and all birds eat insects at some time during their life cycle.

#### Exterminate mosquitoes!

Reduce the amount of standing water in your yard but do not be afraid of birdbaths. Regular cleaning and disturbance of the surface will control these pests. Why not try having a bat house in your yard?

#### Control those Weeds!

Weeds are the freeloaders of the garden world, taking nutrients and water from those plants that you really want to grow. Start early in the season, pulling unwanted plants before they take over. Disturb the soil a little as possible to reduce the amount of light that gets to those ungerminated weed seeds.

#### Cover up!

Applying a layer of mulch to keeps weed seeds from germinating, moderates the soil temperature and retains moisture in the soil.

#### Protect yourself!

Wear a hat, gloves and sunscreen to protect your skin from the sun and stay out of the direct rays between

11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Long sleeves will help as well.

Try a push mower!

Reduce the amount of pollutants released into the atmosphere or electricity usage and get some exercise.

### COMING EVENTS

#### Norwood

Monday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norwood Legion – Joyce Higgs, of Portage Perennials in Hastings will be speaking on "Square Foot Gardening"

#### Lakefield

Tuesday, February 10th at 7:30 p.m. at Lakefield Marshland Centre – Margaret Carson, Wildsome Seeds

#### 30th Annual Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show

February 13 & 14, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. East at Leslie Street, Toronto. Over 30,000 orchid blooms, Orchid Plants For Sale, Gift Items, Art and Photography Displays, Guided Tours and Free Seminars [www.soos.ca/index.htm](http://www.soos.ca/index.htm)

#### Get the Jump on Spring

Saturday, February 20 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at



*Fern Rahmel  
Sadly that we  
announce the  
passing of Life  
Member Fern  
Rahmel on  
November 28, 2009  
(shown with Mary  
Pratte, Canadian  
Peony Society)*

### ***THIS MONTH IN THE GARDEN – JANUARY***

#### ***PETERBOROUGH & AREA MASTER GARDENERS***

- Inspect stored bulbs and discard the bad ones.
- Clean, repair and sharpen garden tools. Wipe them with oil.
- Plan gardens for this year. Look at ways to add more winter interest and improve habitat for the birds.
- Order vegetable and flower seeds.
- Start slow germinating seeds, e.g. geranium and begonia.
- Inspect and treat houseplants for white fly, spider mites, and aphids.

Have your gardening questions answered – The Master Gardener hotline is now open throughout the entire year.