



## Message from the President

Greetings during this extended challenging time. I'm hoping and praying for health and safety for our PHS community, and look forward to the day that we can meet again. Please read this newsletter carefully. We are making difficult decisions as necessary, but they are definitely not as difficult as the decisions that some people are making. Inside you'll find news and reports from each board member as a way of sharing with our amazing community.

We are saddened to report that we have made the difficult decision to cancel our September, October and November 2020 meetings. The Lions Centre could accept 50 attendees, but given that our board is already at 10+ and many of us have jobs at the meeting, that would leave only 40 spots. We recognize that many/most of our members are in the high-risk group and our survey told us loud and clear that we're not ready to meet in person indoors yet at this point. Many in the survey asked for Zoom, but I have to report that our speakers are not as keen on this technology. Zoom is great for meetings where there are multiple participants, but isn't the best as a spectator tool. I've included some links to some incredibly well done lectures on items that may be of interest to you if you just need a speaker fix!

As I type this, fall is definitely in the air. There are already a few red trees in my area, and the noisy Canada geese have let us know quite vocally that they'll be leaving us soon. The grass is again green, and the clover I've recently planted in my lawn has sprouted and is thriving. It's an unsung time of beauty in the garden!

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter as much as we've enjoyed putting it together for you. Contributions to future newsletters are most welcome! Send us your pics. 😊

♦ **MJ Pilgrim, President**

## Board Secretary Welcome, Donna-Marie Fennell

We'd like to thank **Jen Bird** for several years of creative service in this capacity!

Donna-Marie brings organizational and creativity skills to the position of board secretary. This is an appointed position and carries with it an annual stipend. Welcome, Donna-Marie!

## Reserved for When We Can Again Meet!

- Celebration of Claire Sullivan's many, many years as treasurer
- Celebration of Jen Bird's years as board secretary

## Fleming Park

Flower and vegetable gardens at everyone's home must look spectacular this season! With all the restrictions brought about by Covid-19, we have had lots of extra time to devote to one of our favourite pasttimes... Gardening.

The great dedicated team at Fleming Park have been busy all summer keeping it in tip-top shape. We brought plants from our gardens, kept it relatively weed-free, watered, and the past two weeks we trimmed the bushes. We had a glorious burst of color from red poppies along the sidewalk of Aylmer Street...the best we have seen in years. The second week in October, we will all take a break when we put the Park "to sleep". I want to say a great big "thank you" to the tremendous team of **Susan Leask, Pat Lounsbury, Fred Doris, and Lois Scott** for another successful season.

❖ **Annie English, Fleming Park & Hospitality**

## Claire's Favourite Quotes

"A bit of ground to call your own, however small it is on the surface, is four thousand miles deep and THAT is a very handsome property." *Charles Dudley Warner 1829-1900*

"There is no 'The End' to be written, neither can you, like an architect, engrave in stone the day the garden was finished; a painter can frame his picture, a composer notate his coda, but a garden is always on the move." *Mirabel Osler*

❖ **Claire Sullivan, PHS Treasurer 2011-2020**

## The Infamous "To Do" List

Wow – what a spring we have had, and it continued through summer and now into fall! I'm sure many of us found a lot of time on our hands as a direct result of our beloved Garden Show being cancelled.

What to do in place of all those hours we spent volunteering before, during and after the show? After the initial shock and sadness wore down a bit, a burst of energy and sense of "git r done" hit me – a "to do" list went up on the fridge with chores running the gamut from clean out closets, clean behind fridge/stove to identify plants in garden, design a new bed and everything in between. I'm proud to say that 90% of the list is done (plant identification will always be on going ☺). How have you spent your time? Read any good books, watched great movies? What has been your proudest accomplishment during COVID-19? Looking forward to the day when we can be back together again, missing all my gardening friends. Take care and stay safe.

THINGS TO DO:



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❖ **Donna O'Brien, Vice President & Garden Show Volunteer Coordinator**

## Bringing Plants in for the Winter

Thinking about moving some plants into the house for the winter? Some tips to consider:

- Don't drown them. Roots need air as well as water. Keeping the soil soaked at all times means certain death for some plants. Learn how to water the particular plant you have by researching their needs online.
- Give them a rest. Nearly all plants need a rest in winter, which also means less water, less feeding and less heat than in the active growing period.
- Give them extra humidity. Our centrally heated rooms in the winter can be as dry as desert air. Consider getting a mister bottle to spritz your plants occasionally and keeping them free of dust.
- Treat trouble makers promptly! One or two scale insects or mealy bugs are easily picked off; an infestation may be incurable. Keep a safe pest killer on hand.
- After a year or two most plants begin to look sad – in most cases the plant just needs repotting into a 'one size' larger container.
- Choose wisely. The plant must be able to flourish in the home you provide for it. Even the expert can't make a shade-lover survive in a sunny window.

## Board Treasurer Welcome, Mary-Rose Daigle

We'd like to thank Claire Sullivan for many years of dedicated service in this capacity!

Mary-Rose brings a wealth of knowledge to the position of board treasurer. This is an appointed position and carries with it an annual stipend. Welcome, Mary-Rose!

Information adapted from "The House Plant Expert" Dr. D.G. Hessayon

❖ **Laura Jack, Memberships**

## My Favourite Hosta

This beauty is called Forbidden Fruit and I bought it from Dawn Golloher at Gardens Plus with a gift certificate recognizing my contribution as Chair of the Garden Show. I have it planted with lime green Japanese Forest Grasses and variegated pale green and yellow Sedums. The abundance of yellow in this hosta draws the eye and provides a punch of colour. It is a season- long focal point of this garden area.

❖ **Pat de Villiers, Past President & Bus Trips**



## Scholarships and Community Grants

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Peterborough Garden Show, both our 2020 Spring Community Grants and our fall student scholarships have been postponed until 2021.

❖ **Elane Kalavrias (Grants) & Donna O'Brien (Scholarships)**



## For the Birds

All summer I've enjoyed the colour and abundance of echinacea in my side garden by the driveway. However, the last weeks they have been looking scruffier and I've considered a dead-heading clean up. Until ... I drove in one afternoon and watched a very determined goldfinch perched on a stem and eating one seed at a time from a withered head. Since then I've been watching and have noticed the return feeding trips of these goldfinches. Conclusion - the scruffy dead-heads stay!

❖ **Pat de Villiers, Past President & Bus Trips**

## In Praise of Zinnias

Did you Know that zinnias are the 4th last flower in the alphabet and are named after German botanist, Johann Gottfried **Zinn**? It is known as the "cut and come again" flower because of their ability to produce new flower buds shortly after cutting the flowering stem above the leaves. They are a symbol of endurance, blooming from mid-summer all the way until frost. They symbolize lasting friendship, goodness and remembrance and are no relation to marigolds despite their resemblance. The petals are edible when cooked, though bitter and are not toxic if your dog decides to have a snack while in your garden! It is recommended to plant zinnias near cauliflower to attract ladybugs, which eat many of the insects that attack cauliflower. Zinnias also lure predatory bugs into a fall garden where they eat destructive pests. You might say zinnias have you covered, A to Z! I planted them for the first time in my life this year, in planters facing north. They were such a wonderful addition to my garden that I will plant them every year now. 😊



❖ **Donna-Marie Fennell, Board Associate**

## Lilac Gardens in Lindsay

The long awaited Lilac Gardens Park is ready to be opened! At last, we have been informed that there will be an **official opening ceremony for dignitaries at Logie Park in Lindsay**. Due to Covid-19 attendance is limited. On Monday, September 21, the gates will be removed and the park will be open to the public. Hope you will be able to visit, masked and social distanced.

❖ **Marie Doyle, Past Treasurer**





## Frogs that Come and Go

Every year we get frogs visiting our SMALL backyard pond. My husband and I find these yearly visitations quite amazing. They come in every size and shade of green. This year we had 2 latecomers. We were beginning to think that this year would be frogless. The first arrival was a mid-size Leopard frog but we think he was chased off by a large dark green one that arrived a few days later. This one likes to sit atop a partially submerged pot and hide

in the grass. Early in October the pond will be drained. It's too shallow for overwintering frogs. I will catch the big fellow and we will drive him to a large, marshy pond off Fisher Drive. There he can spend the winter buried in mud. Where do our visitors come from and how do they find our little pond? It's a mystery.

❖ **Shaun Pyper, Flower Show Chair**

## Fall Abundance

Fall is my favourite time of the year, the bounty of the harvest, fruits, garden veggies and overgrown herbs. I love to find a way to can, preserve, and ferment. After harvesting your bounty of herbs, here are a few ways of preserving.

1. Air Drying – a great way to store herbs from the summer for your culinary creations. To do this, simply snip the herbs at the stems and tie them with a small piece of twine. My favourite herbs to dry this way are oregano, thyme, rosemary. Hang the bundle upside down and once dried remove the leaves from the stems and store in an air-tight container. Preserving herbs this way will keep for about a year.
2. Freezing – I love having fresh herbs on hand, but I don't have the house space to bring in all the herb pots that I would like, so freezing is the next best way of preserving things like chives and dill and tarragon. I will chop the herbs up and fill an ice cube tray with water, after they have frozen, I will label a bag and keep in my freezer for future use, like in a pasta or a dish where I can just throw in the cube.
3. Herb Butter – preserving herbs in butter is a lot of fun and allows for heaps of creativity. You can use it for a base for a soup, or a stew. To make use softened butter, combine herbs, butter, fruit, or berries of choice and mix together, once blended to the



consistency you wish I will put it in saran wrap and form it into a log, and freeze it for future use, a favourite way I enjoy herb butter is on fresh bread!

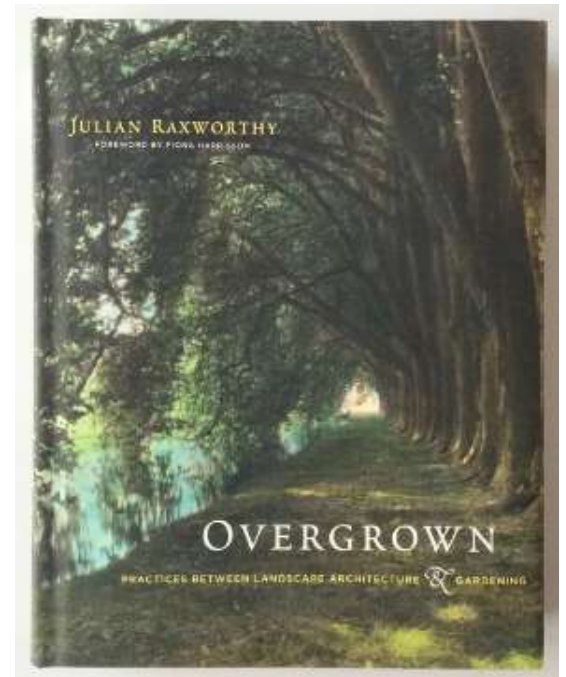
Don't let these 3 methods stop you from investigating other ways of preserving, like infusing into vinegar for salad dressings, or dehydrating in your oven, or even using a fancy dehydrator. Happy preserving everyone!

❖ **Elane Kalavrias, Community Grants & Social Media**

## **Book Review: Overgrown**

"OVERGROWN: Practices Between Landscape Architecture and Gardening" - by Julian Raxworthy-Pub: MIT Press ISBN: 026203856

Using examples from famous gardens, their designers and gardeners around the world, Professor Raxworthy compares Landscape Architecture and Gardening. Landscape Architecture has distanced itself from gardening: the designer imagines a garden from an office: a bird's eye view of a garden using symbols of mature plants, while gardening is working in the dirt, in real time, with real plants; pruning and maintaining because growth is organic, not simulated. Gardening is getting one's hands dirty, based on conditions, not drawings. LA creates works of art from an office: gardening is the process - from the ground up. LA works with plans for mature plants while gardeners work with form, texture and colour that are not static but actually register passing time, seasons or habit. The intention of LA (and client's expectation) relies on the gardener to keep the original design, maintaining its spatial effect over time without becoming overgrown (pun intended), with judicious pruning and careful observation of plants' needs and habit. At the end of 364 pages of exquisite examples of what works or doesn't, the author summarizes with his own "Viridic Manifesto" (Viridic = action rather than representation). He makes a solid case for designers and gardeners to work together so design and maintenance are not separate and where maintenance does exist, its goal must commit to the original intent from the start of the design process. He insists gardening is the best tool for ongoing feedback between the design on paper, the implementation and the resulting changes as plants grow and mature, because gardeners often make decisions with secateurs in hand. He wants design (theoretical) and gardening (practical) to work together hoping that will reinvigorate the profession of LA and elevate gardening to more than "getting one's hands dirty" - because when the designer leaves, the garden usually becomes someone else's problem. A thought-provoking read for long winter afternoons when we miss our gardens.



❖ **Cauleen Viscoff, Garden Show Chair & Fun Table**

## Memberships

Great news! Anyone who paid for a 2020 membership automatically has a 2021 membership as well. We appreciate your support and hope that next year is NOT as challenging as this one has been!

❖ **Laura Jack and Susan Gomez-Duran, Memberships**

2020 Membership  
=  
2021 Membership

## Virtual Speakers on YouTube

### September Gardening Checklist – Fall Gardening Tips with Jim Putnam

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4i5tiitP64> (zone 7, but has some interesting tips and a LOT of similarities to our region) 23 minutes

There have been a lot of queries about pruning hydrangeas lately – and it's not now.

**Hydrangea Pruning: Don't sweat it:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5LHyYtdddU>  
9 minutes. From Wisconsin, zone 5

**How to Layer Spring Flowering Bulbs in a Pot (Lasagna Planting): Spring Garden Guide** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQKFrIXS-jk> 5.5 minutes

**How to prep and Plant Garlic /// Ontario ,Canada**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=690gffOdxyM> 9 minutes

**Top 5 Picks for Fall Colour (from the northern US, similar zone to ours)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKesejvI2ng> 13 minutes

## PHS Sunshine Committee

Just a quick reminder that the PHS does have a Sunshine Committee for any of our members that are sick, hospitalized or bereaved – but we often don't hear about them. If you know of any members that you'd like to see encouraged, please do let us know.



**“Autumn carries more gold  
in its pocket than all the other  
seasons.”**

~Jim Bishop