

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 161

September 2022

Number 7

Wednesday September 28 @ 7pm @ Peterborough Lions Centre!

Kerry Hackett, Medicinal Herbalist, “Endangered Herbs and Ethical Wildcrafting”

Kerry has been a Medical Herbalist for more than two decades and holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Central Lancashire (UK). She is a professional member of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists (UK), the American Herbalists Guild, the Ontario Herbalists Association (Past-President) and the Veterinary Botanical Medicine Association. From an early age, plants and cultural history have fascinated Kerry. She frequently lectures on these topics in both Canada and the US and is currently writing a doctoral dissertation on botanical medicines in the nineteenth century. Kerry also gardens extensively and grows a wide variety of organic fruits, vegetables and herbs.



President’s Message:

Welcome back from your amazing summer activities. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer filled with flowers. We’ve got a great lineup of speakers for the fall, and interesting topics that we think will suit everyone.

I’m looking forward to a September meeting filled with flowers – read below for information on how you can become involved. Come early if you wish to have a good look at them all – even wildflowers!

Fleming Park is looking amazing! Our committed team of volunteers has been working wonders all summer. If you haven't already, be sure to drive past or better yet, walk through and enjoy the gardens. Congratulations to Annie English, Susan Leask, Pat Lounsbury. Fred Doris, Lois Scott and Rose Addison for a continued job well done. Hope to see you all again in a few weeks. ☺

♦ **MJ Pilgrim**

Kathy Green, Boulevard Garden Talk

We have a special guest for our September meeting. Our own Kathy Green will be talking to us about a boulevard garden initiative she has been involved with with her neighbours. I’m looking forward to hearing about it. Thank you, Kathy!



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Bring a Bouquet to our September Meeting (Free draw ticket)

In lieu of an official September flower show, we'd LOVE it if everyone would bring in a small vase filled with whatever is **blooming in your garden** on the day of the meeting. Bring a folded card with your name on it if you like. If you don't have a garden, we'd love it if you'd create a bouquet of **wildflowers** for everyone to share. It doesn't have to be large or elaborate – and it doesn't matter if the plant has been



supporting the ecosystem either. Let's just celebrate all flowers for the sake of being beautiful.



Everyone who brings in a bouquet of flowers will be granted one free door prize draw ticket, and the draw pot contains over \$200 in prizes this month. 😊

♦ The Flower Show Committee

OHA Fall Celebration, Saturday October 22, 10am in Dunsford

The PHS will sponsor the first 6 members who express an interest in attending this seminar. Please contact us via ptbohortsoc@gmail.com to let us know that you'd like to attend.

O.H.A. DISTRICT 4

FALL SEMINAR

Saturday, OCTOBER 22, 2022

Theme: "It's Great to
BEE 100 Years &
Growing"

A.M.: tba

P.M. SPEAKER: **Jerry Jerrard**, Kawartha Lakes Honey

TOPIC:  **Bees - What's the Buzz?**

9:00 a.m. - check in, refreshments, set up displays &
place competition entries
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. meeting

Cost: \$25.00 - includes room rental, morning refreshments,
lunch, speaker fee & other related expenses

PRE-REGISTRATION

By Email shortly:
Registration Form
Map
Competition Schedule
Other Requests & Information



Membership Renewals:

Soon it will be time to renew your PHS membership for 2023 which are not due until January, but we'll be happy to start accepting them in OCTOBER of this year – we'll remind you in the October newsletter!

Membership does have its privileges:

- 9 general meetings with amazing speakers on timely, interesting and applicable topics
- Library lending collection
- Door prizes and flower shows
- 9 newsletters full of gardening info
- PHS plant sale in late May
- Local vendor discounts to members
- Volunteer opportunities at Fleming Park!

Water is Very Powerful

The elixir of life, a soft quiet rainfall or a torrent of destruction.

We have been experiencing all of the above in the last few years. Dry hot summers, soggy wet days on end, and floods around the world. We can have extreme weather here in Ontario, but in general, we have been lucky and I am thankful. Lately, however, I have been dealing with water in my basement and recently we decided to do something about the drainage in our back yard.



Landscapers have been digging and unearthing all manner of drain pipes, going in all kinds of directions, a crude version of a French drain and even an underground small, submerged pond! Needless to say, the previous owners had all kinds of ideas to try and deal with this power of water. The thing about water is that it will always flow down to the lowest elevation on the ground (or in the ground like a basement). Efforts to contain it are not often wise unless you know what you are doing! Our case in point was a retaining wall at the bottom of a hill, which was bulging forward and wanted to burst!



So, we have had it pulled down and replaced with Very heavy rocks. We had the grading of our yard measured and carefully sloped to the lower front of the yard, a proper base of gravel underneath the rocks and gravel piled up behind the rocks in order to let water percolate down into a drainage pipe laid behind the rocks to carry water to the front. Water will always push down and forward to get its way!

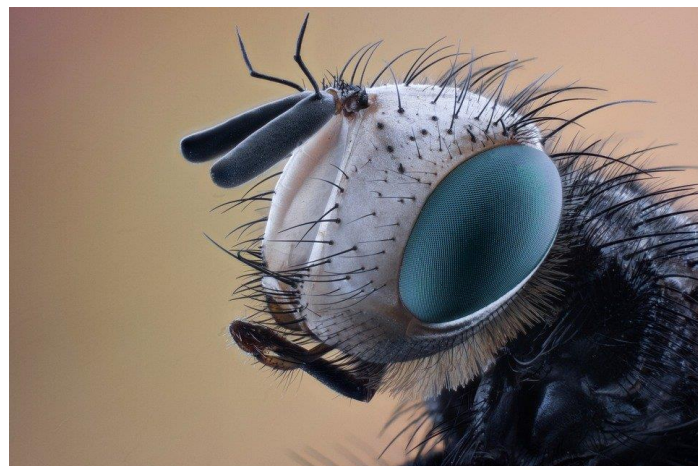
So, consider giving it direction and a safe channel to follow that everyone can live with and it can eventually return to the earth. And, hire landscapers that respect and understand this power of water and its determination to travel across our lands!

❖ **Laura Jack**

Don't be (Too) Bugged by the Bugs in Your Garden

They may be creepy or crawly or burrowing or whizzing around your head while you garden, but you want as many good bugs on your side as you can attract when the bad bugs start to eat their way through your plants. But here's the thing, for a healthy garden, you need bad bugs as much as you need good bugs.

Beneficial insects (for the entomologists out there, I'm using 'bugs' and 'insects' interchangeably because the differences aren't super important in the garden) include lady bugs, lacewings, parasitic and predatory wasps, praying mantids, ground and rove beetles and many more. They will eat the aphids and mites that are creating lace with your leaves, or their larvae will make short shrift of the hornworms chowing down on your tomatoes and peppers. Beetles enjoy a feast of slugs and squash borers, while mantids will eat grasshoppers and caterpillars.



What I try to keep in mind is that those good bugs are dealing with the bad bugs for their own survival, either as food or as a good place to leave their larvae. In other words, bad bugs are part of what attracts good bugs to your garden. Gardening to me is not about wiping out populations of bad bugs; it's about supporting a balance between the good and the bad insects.

I support that balance by attracting more beneficial insects to the garden. How? First and foremost, I throw out the chemicals. Trying to kill a bug doing damage in the garden with an insecticide or pesticide will no doubt wipe out the beneficial insects that are there to help. If I spot an aphid infestation, I try waiting a week or two for the troops of lady bugs to arrive for the aphid chow down. I try to have a variety of plants in bloom from spring to fall to house and feed beneficial insects. And I minimize tilling - there's a world of insect and microbial life just below the surface doing great work in the garden, I leave them be.

Bugs, love 'em or hate 'em, we definitely need them in the garden, both good and bad.

❖ **Sandra Caswell**

Your Board of Directors: It's not all work... and we're looking for a Board Secretary!

The Board of Directors for the PHS meets 9 times a year to plan and organize the society. The meeting in December is usually more "social" oriented. We will share a meal and some comradie. There will be much laughter, but also some good planning that evening. We need one more person...



The secretary of the board receives a \$250 honorarium – that can buy a LOT of plants at our plant sale!

The Secretary is responsible for keeping an accurate record of all decisions and proceedings of the Society. The Secretary: • Is appointed from the general membership to the Board and has all rights and privileges of Board membership. • Records Minutes of all Board Meetings of the Society and keeps these as permanent electronic records of the Society. • May pick up mail from the Society's post office box and distribute it accordingly. • Will keep an up-to-date list of members of the board, committee members and a record of attendance at Board meetings. • Must keep copies of Policies and Procedures for all committees. Is responsible for ensuring the Policies and Procedures are reviewed every three years, or sooner if required, and any amendments are approved by the Board.

We're looking for someone computer-savvy as a large part of the job is to help with the monthly newsletters and the yearbook. Let us know if you're interested in joining this great group. ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

Late Summer Stars

After the succession of colour and vibrancy of our spring and summer gardens with the spring bulbs, followed by irises, peonies, roses, clematis and daylilies, the late summer garden seems so flat and colourless. Even the leaves of the daylilies and irises look like past their expiry dates.

Fortunately, we have a few stars of the garden to bring it to life. Amongst these, the hydrangeas are truly outstanding. There is such a range available now, but my favourite is the Limelight Hydrangea. It has the height and size to truly have an impact. Looking out my kitchen window, I look into the fullness of a mass of white blooms which start out faintly lime greenish, then a full blown white and gradually get tinges of pale pink as the fall progresses. The strong heads stand upright with no drooping and even look great in a winter garden. Against the reddish brick of the house it has an impact like no other of my plants.

Another plant to come into its own at this time of year are the Karl Foerster grasses. Substantial clumps with significant height that have turned a golden wheat colour, they shine in the sunlight and move with the breezes bringing life to the garden.



More subdued than the other two, the sedums also come into their own. Turning colour, they peak with their blooms and foliage at this late stage of summer. Their blooms attract the bees and they hum with activity. Where would our gardens be without these stars of late summer?

♦ **Pat de Villiers**

Connections between the Queen and Lily of the Valley?

I am a royal, so with the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, I'm going to discuss the Queen's favourite flower, Lily of the Valley. It has been featured in many of the Queen's bouquets for special occasions.

Lily of the Valley is thought to symbolise motherhood, purity and good luck, and in the language of flowers it represents sweetness, tears of the Virgin Mary and humility. It's known to have a sweet jasmine smell, and the cups are known to be chalices for fairies.

Here are some interesting facts:

1. Its origins are biblical; legend has it that Lily of the valley sprang from Eve's tears when she was exiled from the Garden of Eden.
2. It's a favourite of Royal brides Queen Victoria, Princess Astrid of Sweden, Grace Kelly, and Kate Middleton. All used the white, bell-shaped buds in their wedding bouquets.
3. It's native to multiple continents including Asia, Europe, and North America, where it grows naturally in temperate forests.
4. It belongs to the asparagus family!



♦ **Elane Kalavrias**

Rhubarb Custard Pie. Mmmmmmm.

Many of us have rhubarb in the garden, and this is recipe I just love and it may be a new addition to your Thanksgiving Dinner.

3 cups rhubarb (cut in 1 inch pieces)

1 cup sugar, divided

2 Tbsp. flour

Take ½ cup of the sugar and mix with the flour and rhubarb.

Mix together the other ½ cup of sugar with ¼ Tsp. salt, ½ Cup light cream, 2 eggs beaten, and 1 Tsp. vanilla.

Place the rhubarb mixture in an unbaked pie shell, then pour the liquid mixture on top.

Preheat oven to 450F and bake 15 minutes , then reduce to 350F for 30 minutes.

❖ **Annie English** P.S. Next month a recipe that is 150 years old 😊



Garden Heroes All Over the City!



If you have a picture of the sign in front of YOUR house, can you send it to us? We'd like to feature the pictures at the September meeting.
ptbohortsoc@gmail.com



VOLUNTEER PINS:

Please consider returning your previous pin rather than have it collect dust in a drawer or saving it for your children to “inherit”. We can reuse them! We will continue to hand out these pins at the September meeting.

If you've been a member for 5+ years, and do not yet have a pin, please do contact us as mistakes are sometimes made. Email ptbohortsoc@gmail.com.

