

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Wednesday October 26 @ 7pm @ Peterborough Lions Centre

Emma Murphy, local Master Gardener, “Touring Some Special English Gardens”

In May 2022 Emma and her husband Grant travelled to southern England — not only to see many of the famous gardens (Sissinghurst, Great Dixter etc.) but also some lesser known beautiful private gardens. She'll share with us her experiences meeting the people behind these private gardens in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Sussex; some information about the UK's National Garden Scheme; and of course, lots of lovely photos!



Emma has been interested in nature and the environment all her life, completing her undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, and then a Master's degree in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario. Self taught, she began gardening in earnest once she had her first house, making many mistakes along the way. What she loves about gardening is that it's a never-ending process of experimentation and then reflection, and such a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and experiences back and forth with other gardeners. She specializes in perennials, shrubs and trees — her most recent interest is in native plants and creating an ecological sanctuary in her large perennial garden, which was featured on this year's Lakefield Horticultural Society's Garden Tour. Emma is also an avid photographer and writer, and dreams of leaving work and somehow combining all these passions into a new adventure.

President's Message:

Greetings! Fall is a very brilliant time on a grand colour scale in our province. As I drive around the county, I marvel again at the bright reds, oranges and yellows that I see. It's really short-lived though! It's raining as I type, and the rain does a quick job of helping the leaves to fall. Keep those leaves! A leaf pile today will result in black crumbly leaf mould next year — free and weed-free for mulching your gardens. Read on for more on trees from Mary Rose Daigle and Elane Kalavrias in this newsletter. 😊

♦ **MJ Pilgrim**

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Fall Shows: September's Bouquets and October's Photos

To all who took part in our Bring a Bouquet event at our September meeting, a big **Thank You**. We were thrilled to see the many beautiful flower bouquets that made such a lovely display for all members to see. We noted many names of long-standing members on the name cards but were so pleased to see just as many names were new to us! We are happy to see new and not-so-new members taking part in our activities.

At our October meeting we will have a photo activity for all who are interested. We would like members to bring in 4x6 photos. These will be displayed on large photo boards in 3 categories: **floral, animal life and insect life**. Please bring in only one photo for each category. Put your name on the back of the photos please. 😊

❖ **The Flower Show Committee**

Time to renew for 2023:

We like to welcome new members too! Here we are again, 161 great years later, still getting together for another year of learning, growing and laughing. Our membership fees are still a great deal \$20 for single and \$25 for a family. Your membership will give you access to our fun and informative newsletter and 9 meetings with guest speakers. If in-person meetings are not possible, we all 'Zoom' the meeting to you in the comfort of your own home! (Many of which are recorded for future reviewing). We will also be contacting local retailers for special discounts again for 2023.

Three easy ways to join for 2023:

· You can bring cash in an envelope with your name on it and any updates for your contact information.

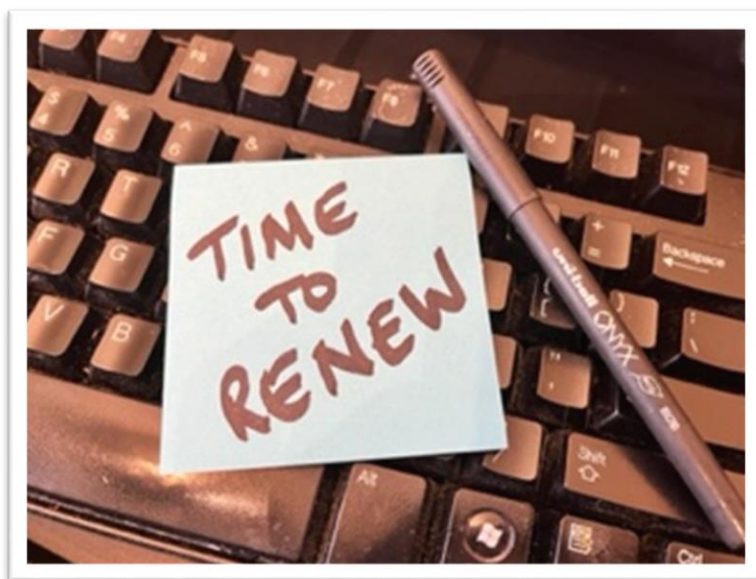
· We will have a 'Square' with us for debit payments

· Send e-transfer to ptbohortsoc@gmail.com Instructions for online and print/mail renewal can be found at peterboroughhort.com/about-the-society Let us know what you would be interested in learning this coming year. We can plant some new ideas together!

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!
- Local vendor discounts next spring/summer

❖ **Laura Jack**



Fall Colours

It's at this time of year that we look forward to many delights: Thanksgiving turkey enjoyed with family and friends, brightly coloured pumpkins and gourds of each shape and size, and of course, the fall colours. Having grown up in Ontario, I never quite realised that this display is not the same in every province and that in fact Ontario boasts some of the best fall scenery in the entire country.



This fact was brought to the forefront for me when some good friends made a special **pilgrimage** from Alberta to Ontario last year specifically to see the fall colours. Turns out that to get that special mix of red, orange and gold that we so enjoy, you need just the right mix of trees which it just so happens live here in Ontario. Our maple, oak, and sumacs give us those vibrant reds, our service berry and maple produce stunning oranges, and our birch and aspen (to name a few) produce the bright yellows. Together these native trees and shrubs put on quite a show that never disappoints, and I think I appreciate them more with every passing year.

In contrast, my friends pointed out that Alberta gets mostly golden leaves due to the predominance of larch and aspen and the absence of the hardwoods. Still beautiful they were quick to point out, but not quite the same. If you haven't yet taken the time for a leisurely drive – don't delay. The only sad thing about this autumn joy is that if you wait too long... you may just miss it! For the full fall leave progression report – check out this website [Ontario Fall Colours Progression Report](#).

❖ **Mary Rose Daigle**

Recipe Worth Trying!

Hi everyone. The following recipe is a Heritage Recipe that is well over a hundred years old, and I have made it several times. For those that are not fans of mincemeat during the Christmas celebrations, you just may become a fan of this pie. And the aroma of this cooking is so good.



WINTER PIE

In a bowl combine ½ cup of sugar, 1 Tbsp. cornstarch, ½ tsp. ground cloves, ¼ tsp. ground nutmeg, and ¼ tsp. salt. Then add 1 cup of seedless raisins and ½ cup of grated carrot and coat with the dry ingredients. Transfer to a saucepan and add ½ cup water. Bring to a boil and let simmer about 5 minutes. Take off the heat and add 1 cup of coarsely chopped apple. When cool place on pastry in a 9 inch pan. Add your top pastry or your favorite crumble topping and bake at 375 degrees for 25 – 30 minutes. Enjoy!

❖ **Annie English**

Are My Evergreens Dying when the Needles Turn Yellow and Fall Off?

If the older needles on your evergreens are turning yellow and dropping, don't worry. Nothing's wrong, and they're not dying! Although we call them "evergreens," pine, cedar, spruce, and juniper trees shed their old

needles in late summer and fall. For those new to gardening with conifers, this natural cycle can be alarming. At this time of year, our driveway, lined with white pines, is “paved with gold”. 😊

The fall losses will be from the inside out, not at the branch tips. Inner needles are the oldest, and as they age, they photosynthesize less effectively and eventually are shed, as the newer needles farther out on the branches take over. Evergreens are smart; they shed these older needles to reduce possible winter snow loads that can gather on the new, longer branches that grew out in spring. The extra needles could quickly load up with too much snow, causing torn and broken limbs.

This yellowing occurrence should not be confused with browning at the tips or overall yellowing/browning that can happen at other times of the year. When needles drop from the branch tips, the tree is almost certainly dying or dead and will not likely recover. Causes of abnormal needle drop include roadside salt, pests, disease and drought.

❖ **MJ Pilgrim**

Did you know....

That as trees become dormant, a compound called abscisic acid triggers a seal to develop at the base of the leaves before they fall off? This weekend I enjoyed a lot of walks in the crisp air with my 4-legged bestie, Wilson, and took in the splendour that Ontario offers Thanksgiving weekend.

Leaves are coloured by molecules called pigments, yellow, orange, red, and green. In the summer a pigment called chlorophyll causes the leaves to be green. Chlorophyll is important for plants to make food during sunlight, and while in the summer with the long days there is plenty of sunlight, so the trees are making an abundance of chlorophyll. At this time of year, the days shorten, colder mornings, and the chlorophyll stops being made by the tree so the other pigments have their opportunity to shine, and that’s how we get brilliant yellows, reds, oranges, almost iridescent.

Here are a few places to add to your list to enjoy the fall colours:

1. Dundas Peak in Hamilton
2. Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park
3. Algonquin Park
4. Norfolk County
5. Muskoka
6. Ojibway Park Windsor
7. Agawa Canyon
8. Rattlesnake Point, Milton
9. Thousand Islands Tower
10. Tobermory Lookout
11. Balls Falls Conservation Area

❖ **Elane Kalavrias**



Burlap: To Wrap or Not to Wrap?

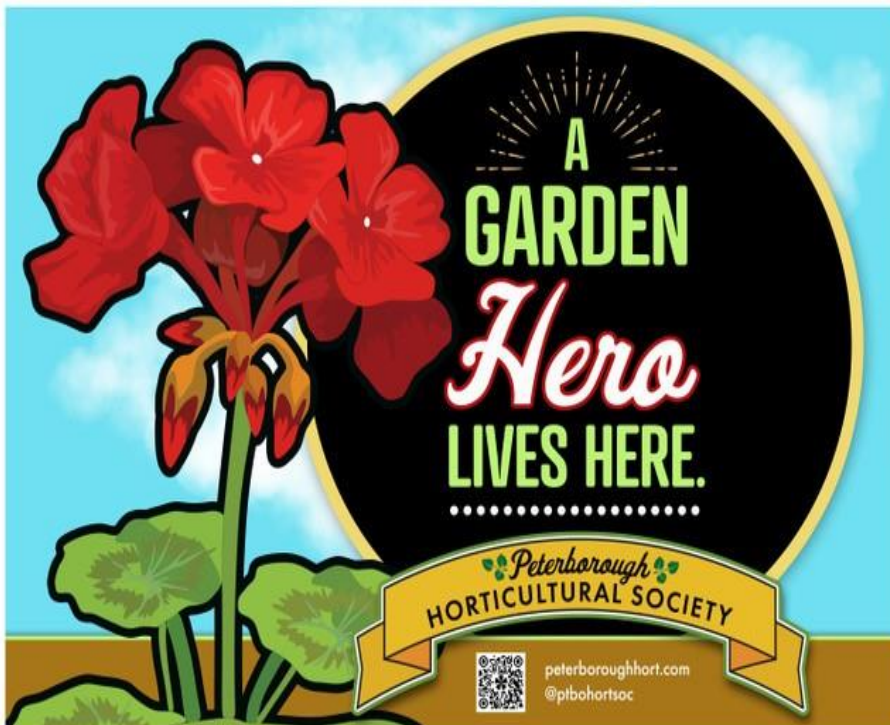
Many gardeners try to protect shrubs in the fall by wrapping them in burlap. But is that the best thing? Burlap is great for screening vulnerable plants like boxwoods from sidewalk salt, or salt spray from roadways. Salt has the effect of drying out the plant's leaves and needles, and a combination of salt and harsh winds can spell death for borderline hardy shrubs. It can also protect small shrubs like burning bush from bunnies who often strip the bark throughout the winter, causing certain shrub death. However, burlap that swaddles a shrub can collect snow that weighs down the branches and may break them or stress them. An enclosed system can also encourage the growth of fungal diseases.

Better than swaddling shrubs is to create a barrier on the north/west sides using two or three wooden stakes pounded into the ground. In our area, the winter winds generally come from the northwest. Staple the burlap to the stakes, creating a vertical screen. Keep the screen a few inches away from the shrubs. These screens will allow air to circulate freely around the shrub, yet still protect them from the harsh winds.



One of the better things that you can do for shrubs in the fall is to make sure that they get adequate moisture. Once the ground freezes, they have no way of replenishing their fluid supply and their needles can dry out.

Garden Heroes Still All Over the City!



Please bring any signs you may still have to our October meeting, or let us know and we'll pick it up!

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

