

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established in 1861, a proud supporter of our community.

A Message from the President

MARY-JANE PILGRIM

You wouldn't know it from the "significant weather event" we all experienced on Friday/Saturday past, but the sun is getting stronger and winter is slowly receding. There is light at the end of the winter tunnel (but don't get too excited because it's still quite a few weeks away).

As members peruse seed catalogues and contemplate the first few early-early spring bulbs appearing, your board continues to work behind the scenes to bring you educational, entertaining and engaging meetings each month. We'll be meeting in-person at the Lions Centre for March, April, May and June before our summer break. We are still actively trying to reduce our library collection, so please consider picking up a few books at the meetings, offered to members on a donation basis.

Seedy Sunday is this weekend (Sunday March 12, 11am - 3pm) and the PHS will have a booth at the new location: Peterborough Square in the area where the Peterborough Regional Farmer's Market is held each week. (For people that have been around a while, it's where "Eaton's" used to be). Admission is free to this event. You can bring seeds to swap or share. Remember that TIME leaps FORWARD this Sunday!

Looking forward to being together with you all in a few weeks. Hang in there!

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Contact Us:

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FACEBOOK: [Peterborough
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TWITTER: [PtboHortSoc](https://twitter.com/PtboHortSoc)

MAIL: P.O. Box 1372
[Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Peterborough,+ON+K9J+7H6)



PHS Meeting: Wednesday, March 22 @ 7:00 pm @ the Lions Community Centre

LIZ CASE "GROWING YOUR OWN VEGETABLES FROM SEED"

Liz moved with her husband Nick to the Haliburton area from Toronto in 1995. Then in 2000 they bought a Farm near Kinmount. It was in need of a lot of attention and they were determined to make it pay for itself and so started a Certified Organic Vegetable and Herb Farm - from scratch.

There was a lot of ground to be broken and much weeding to be done and the learning began.

- In 2001, they joined the new Certified Organic Farmers' Market in Cameron.
- In 2002, with 4 other like-minded people they started the Minden Farmers' Market which was the forerunner of the Farmers' Markets in the surrounding area.
- In 2003 the Farmers' Market moved from Minden to Kinmount.
- In 2010 they "Retired" properly - to an off-grid home in the woods near Gooderham where they grew some of their own food.
- In 2021 they downsized considerably a couple of times and are now in Fenelon Falls.

Fortunately, they both come from gardening families but in general Liz is the gardener and Nick did the "grunt work".





How to Make Recycled Newspaper Pots for Seed Starting

LAURA JACK

Instructions:

1. Grab two pages of newspapers (so you have a four-sheet stack). Cut them into thirds lengthwise, giving you three long strips with four layers.
2. On the end closest to you, lay the can on its side across the strips of newspaper. Leave about 1 inch hanging off the end of the can.
3. Roll the can along the newspaper until it's loosely wrapped all the way around. (Loose being key for easy removal of the can later.)
4. Fold the 1- inch edges of the newspaper down over the bottom of the can, and work your way around in a circle until all the edges are folded over firmly. They don't have to be perfect; you can just push the folded edge of papers down with your fingers. It's also fine if there is a small hole where the folds meet in the middle — that just provides extra drainage.
5. Flip the can over so the folded edges are now on the bottom. I like to press the can down on the folds to really crease the edges against the bottom of the can.
6. Slide the can out. You now have a thrifty and biodegradable seedling pot!
7. Repeat Steps 1 through 6 to make additional pots.

More Information: <https://www.gardenbetty.com/>



Materials:

- Stack of old newspapers
- scissors
- 1-(6 ounce) can or a small jar, like a 250ml canning jar

Note: These pots are actually quite sturdy. Once you fill with seed starting mix and moistened, the pot is quite sturdy and holds its shape. Line them up on a waterproof tray, be careful not to soak them in too much water. Time your seed planting in these 'pots' so your seedlings will only live in them for three to four weeks. When it comes time to transplant them you can put them right in the ground, paper and all, the newspaper will decompose naturally and you won't disturb the young roots. If you want to 'unwrap' them, just toss the damp newspaper into your compost pile, or use as mulch on beds with cedar mulch on top.





Ode to Snow

MARY-JANE PILGRIM

Love it or hate it, snowfall in winter is a reality for most of Canada. It's actually a great thing in our area, and here's why: A blanket of snow acts as a natural blanket of insulation for your garden. Freshly-fallen, deep, fluffy snow is ideal for plant protection.

Because of the insulation factor, snow helps to moderate temperature changes underground. If there is no snow, the winter freeze and thaw cycles can wreak havoc on plant roots and bulbs. When those odd warm days occur in the middle of winter you may cheer, but when another freeze follows, your plants can suffer without the benefit of snow cover. If you have an area, usually on the south side, that triggers spring bulbs to pop up waaaaayyyy too early, you may consider shovelling some of the snow from other areas to discourage those bulbs from thinking that it's time to grow. So I say "Yay to snow now, but not for much longer"!

Testing Your Seeds Before You Plant

SANDRA CASWELL

If you're like me, you probably have a bunch of seed packages in a file bin, perhaps grouped by type (tomatoes, greens, herbs, annuals etc.) or, for those who are super organized, perhaps you've placed them in order of the date you plan to sow them. I know I have packets that are getting to be 3 or 4 years old and I'm wondering about viability.

Here's a really quick test I plan to do with a few of them:

- Spread 10 of the same seeds on a paper towel.
- Dampen the paper towel with a water spray bottle.
- Fold the paper towel over to cover the seeds and place it in a plastic bag.
- Seal the bag and place it in a warm place.
- Check daily for germination. Germination will depend on the type of seed you're testing.
- If, after a few days, only 2 or 3 have germinated, that means only about 20-30% of your seed packet remain viable. You can still use up those seeds but you should plan to overseed thickly when you plant. Alternatively, if 8 or 9 seeds have sprouted, you have 80-90% viability and therefore plant lightly.

Do you have stories to share? We love getting stories from members!
Email them to
ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

"Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know it."

RUMI





Mother Nature Knows

SU MUSCLOW

Many years ago my sister-in-law gave me an oleander cutting which I've put outside each summer. About 10 years ago, I planted a single maroon shamrock (False Shamrock/Oxalis Triangularis as I've come to know) which was a spontaneous Garden Shop purchase, along with other annuals around my oleander. In early October I lugged the big pot in, and as I expected, all the plants around the oleander died back.

However, in mid February I got a wonderful surprise! Small shoots of the maroon shamrock came up and indeed even bloomed. Since then, I endure the often gloomy days of January, but look forward to the fact that "just like clock work" by early February my maroon shamrock comes back to life. It is now the only plant around the base of the oleander as it has taken over. I just love the tiny pink bell shaped flowers which are a sharp contrast to the deep rich maroon leaves. For sure Mother Nature knows just what to do and when to do it!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2023

- E-transfer \$20 single/\$25 family to ptbohortsoc@gmail.com
- Debit payment at membership desk using Square
- Cheque made out to PHS
- Cash in envelope with your name on it, unsealed





What's Bugging You Recap

MARY-ROSE DAIGLE

For those who missed our February talk or for those who didn't have pen and paper handy to take notes, Nancy has kindly share a few hits and tips below from her presentation. We want to note that we 'edited out' a few of the recipes that Nancy was advocating that contain soaps like Murphy's Oil soap and dish soap. MJ shares that the soaps of today are great for dishes, but not for plants! If you want more info, you're going to have to wait for her upcoming presentation at the Master Gardeners "Day for Gardeners" - now postponed to April 29!

Some tips and hints from "What's bugging you"
by Nancy Abra

Homemade Pest Control Recipes: ***Caution should be taken when you are making your own remedies to deter pests and garden diseases. Always label your containers/bottles and store them properly.

For Snails & Slugs: 10 parts water & 1 part household ammonia. Spray around hostas or gardens in early spring before the new growth appears.

Garlic Spray to deter rabbits: Crush 4 to 5 garlic cloves in 2 c of water. Boil for 10 min; remove from stove and steep until cooled. Strain the bits through cheesecloth, add 1 tbsp of vegetable oil. Store in the fridge. Use ½ c of this mixture in 1 litre of water in spray bottle.

Tips & Hints

- When pruning out diseased stems/branches, wipe pruners or shears with hand sanitizer or milk which has germicidal properties after each cut, so you are not spreading that infection.
- Hanging a Japanese Beetle trap in your garden will draw all the beetles to your trap and garden. The easiest way to reduce Japanese Beetles is to hand pick them and drop them into a dish or pail of soapy water. You want to get rid of as many beetles before they lay their eggs in the turf areas.
- Plant disorders attributed by environmental factors such as erratic watering, lighting, fluctuating temperatures and nutritional deficiencies.
- Plants require good balance of nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) & other minerals to grow properly & have good health to help ward off diseases. The key is to have the right plant for the right place. Plants under stress are a target for pests & diseases.

Handy Resources:

- Good Bug Bad Bug by Jessica Walliser
- Good Weed Bad Weed by Nancy Gift

On Companion Planting:

- Carrots Love Tomatoes by Louise Riotte
- Roses Love Garlic by Louise Riotte

Walnut Toxicity Information:

1. www.ontario.ca/page/walnut-toxicity
2. <https://extension.psu.edu/landscaping-and-gardening-around-walnuts-and-other-juglone-producing-plants>





ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY DONATES \$5,000 TO CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM

The Peterborough Horticultural Society has presented The Canadian Canoe Museum with a cheque for \$5,000 to assist with the landscaping of their new building now under construction. Building completion is expected later this summer, with the museum opening late summer or early fall.



The funds will be used to upgrade the size of maple and serviceberry trees to be planted near the entrance of the new facility. All trees, bushes and plants used in the landscaping of The Canadian Canoe Museum will be native species. A shoreline restoration and rehabilitation project will also be undertaken.

The funds were raised via the Peterborough Garden Show which was held annually until 2019. All proceeds from that show (over \$200,000) were donated back to the community.

PHS Bus Trip - Save the Date

We are planning a Bus Trip to the Oshawa area for Wednesday, June 14th. Plans are not yet finalized, but the bus is booked and we have several things already arranged. In the morning, we will go to the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens where their large Peony collection will be in bloom. Afterwards, we will visit Parkwood Estate for a 90 minute guided tour of their historic gardens. In the afternoon, we will visit 2 private gardens before returning to Peterborough. At next month's meeting and in the next Newsletter, there will be full details with cost and times and an opportunity to sign up for the Bus Trip. So in this final month of winter, something green and summery to look forward to!

- Pat de Villiers





ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

PLANT SALE 2023

Even though we all have large amounts of snow in our gardens, it will be melting soon! Just a kind reminder to keep in mind that we are preparing for our annual Plant Sale. If you have perennials that need dividing or any garden decor that you could share we would very much appreciate the donations. The plant sale this year will be held on Friday, May 26, 7:00 p.m. at Westdale United church. We will be setting up in the afternoon and the sale will be held in the evening. If you can volunteer some time that day or evening you can get in touch with Anita Clifford by phone: 705-748-0267 or email: anitaclifford@bell.net.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO
VOLUNTEER AT THE
PLANT SALE? GET IN
TOUCH WITH ANITA
CLIFFORD BY PHONE:
705-748-0267
OR EMAIL:
anitaclifford@bell.net





ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

FLOWER SHOW - MAY 24, 2023

THE SCHEDULE:

Must be in place with completed entry cards at 6:45 pm. Judging begins at 7:00 pm.

Prize money: 1st place - \$3.00, 2nd place - \$2.00, 3rd place - \$1.00 (to be presented night of show).

Best in Show – Prize \$5.00.

Judge's Choice - Prize \$5.00. First time exhibitors are not limited to Class "1" only.

SECTION A: SPECIMEN (Cut Flower)

CLASS A

- 1 For 1st time exhibitors – "Bring your best bloom", one stem
- 2 Ferns – 3 stems
- 3 Heuchera – 3 leaves, 2 or 3 cultivars
- 4 Pansies – 3 blooms
- 5 Iris - 1 spike, any type or colour
- 6 Tulip – single, 1 bloom, any cultivar
- 7 Tulip – double, 1 bloom, any cultivar
- 8 Bulb collection – 3 stems, 2 or 3 cultivars
- 9 Spring Flower Collection – 3 perennial, 2 bulb
- 10 Hosta – 3 small leaves, same cultivar
- 11 Hosta – 3 medium leaves, same cultivar
- 12 Hosta – 3 large leaves, same cultivar
- 13 Allium – 1 stem
- 14 Columbine – 1 stem
- 15 Bleeding Heart – 1 stem
- 16 Solomon's Seal – 1 stem
- 17 Any other Spring flowering branch – NAMED, max. length 30"
- 18 Any other Spring bulb, corm or rhizome – one bloom or stem, NAMED, multiple entries will be allowed provided they are different cultivars.
- 19 Any other perennial – NAMED, multiple entries will be allowed provided they are different cultivars.

SECTION B: DESIGN

- 20 "For the 1st time exhibitors" – "Heralding Spring" design to include Spring Flowers – any size in container
- 21 "Heralding Spring" design to include Spring Flowers – any size in container
- 22 "Shades of Pink & Purple" in your Favorite Wine Glass
- 23 "A Mini Design"- 5in. x 5in. (not to exceed)

FLOWER SHOW - May 24, 2023

The Flower show will be held on May 24, at our general meeting. New for the Flower Show this year is that there will be a separate room where all entries will be displayed and judged. The schedule on the left-side is what members need to follow for entries of their flowers. The Flower Show committee is looking forward to seeing many entries for our first show since the pandemic. If you need further information you can contact Shaun Pyper or Anita Clifford (Flower Show Committee).



ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

PETERBOROUGH AND AREA MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT:

A DAY FOR GARDENERS 2023

We are thrilled to be back and hope you can join us!!

Saturday April 29, 2023

- ❖ Activity Haven, 9:30am to 3pm
- ❖ 180 Barnardo Avenue, Peterborough, ON



RESCHEDULED

A DAY FOR GARDENERS - RESCHEDULED

Due to the winter storm on March 4, our event was postponed to April 29. There are a few registration spots left. Please contact Lois 705 957 1295 or email peterboroughmastergardeners@gmail.com for availability.

PETERBOROUGH SEEDY SUNDAY



**MARCH 12TH
11AM-3PM**

PTBO SQUARE MALL

Downstairs - Farmers' Market location!



Seedy Sunday
Peterborough



#PtboSeedySunday

Blue Frog Water Gardens

**Plants
Equipment
Maintenance/ Repairs
Aeration Systems
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Fountains**

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Garden Ontario®



Check Out the

OHA'S

50/50 DRAW

Next Draw:

March 16, 2023



<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

**50% of all proceeds go towards
Keeping Ontario Beautiful!**