

# PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established in 1861, a proud supporter of our community.

## A Message from the President

MARY-JANE PILGRIM

And so it begins. Nature is finally cooperating with gardeners! 'Tis the time to get out into the dirt and go to bed very sore and tired. There is so much beauty out there already.

Like many of you, SPRING is my absolute favourite time of year. I wander my gardens daily, getting reacquainted with amazing plants that are emerging quickly -- literally sometimes overnight. I would encourage each of you to try some new plants this spring -- by buying new, trading with a friend or hitting a plant sale. There are several plant sales advertised in this newsletter.

Make it a good day/week/month, and I hope to see you at the next meeting on May 24. NOTE that due to space restrictions, this month's meeting is for MEMBERS ONLY. We also hope to live stream it, and record it for future playback but make no promises!

MJ

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## Contact Us:

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FACEBOOK: [Peterborough  
Horticultural Society](https://www.facebook.com/PeterboroughHorticulturalSociety)

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

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



## PHS Meeting: Wednesday, May 24 @ 7:00 pm @ the Lions Community Centre

### SEAN JAMES “FUSION GARDENING”

Sean James has been gardening professionally since age sixteen. He owns and operates ‘Sean James Consulting & Design’.

Named by Landscape Ontario as 2020 and 2021’s Garden Communicator of the Year, gardening has been Sean James’ passion and profession for almost 40 years. A graduate of Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, a Master Gardener, writer, and teacher, Sean focuses on eco-gardening techniques. Sean had the honour of being part of creating the new Ontario Landscape Tree Planting Guide, the Grow-Me-Instead guide, the Ontario Horticultural Apprenticeship Curriculum, the national Red Seal Occupational Standard, and the Master Gardeners Reference Manual.

Sean will be speaking to us about “Fusion Gardening”. Encouraged by many municipalities and regions, Fusion Gardening® blends LID (rainwater handling) with xeriscaping (drought-tolerant gardening) and enfolds plantings to enhance biodiversity. One of the main foci of this style is to engage the public with beauty. Since it’s so important that property owners take up this gauntlet, we’ll address the backbone of each of these disciplines, and discuss how to do each artfully. With climate change, storms are becoming stronger and less predictable. Droughts are getting longer. Many of us seek to use our gardens to do ‘Good’ for biodiversity. Fusion Gardening™ does all these things by minimizing water use, keeping the water that falls on our property ON our property, and, through the favouring of native and wildlife-supporting plant choices, support the life that visits our yards.

Note that due to space restrictions, this meeting will be for MEMBERS ONLY. Membership does have its privileges!





## THE USE OF COFFEE GROUNDS WITH PLANTS

ANNIE ENGLISH

So many of us throw out our used coffee grounds, but did you know they can be used with gardens and houseplants. Coffee is rich in Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphorus therefore containing many essential ingredients for plant survival. Coffee grounds can be raked into the substrate or be added to your outside composter, including vermi-compost (worms). Coffee will increase soil porosity and lower pH levels. The roots of some acid-sensitive plants like lavender, tomatoes, and rosemary may not tolerate exposure to coffee.

In soils that are already rich on Nitrogen, the added nitrogen may stunt the growth of plants, so best used in poor soils. Some people say it can repel cats, kills slugs and keeps weeds at bay. It also beckons earthworms, thus breaking down the soils even more.

Roses, azaleas, lilies, blueberries, and gooseberries are acid-loving plants. Your coffee grounds can be added to houseplants as well, and the added source of nitrogen will be great for plants such as African Violet and Cyclamen.

Adding a cup of coffee grounds to your outside composter once a week, which encourages the earthworms will breakdown the compost even faster !!! So just enjoy your morning coffee everyone before you head out to your gardens for the day.

Do you have stories to share? We love getting stories from members!

Email them to  
[ptbohortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ptbohortsoc@gmail.com)

"The only lasting  
beauty is the beauty  
of the heart."

RUMI







# CLOVER LOVER

STEVEN RIDDELL

For the last 3 years I have been seeding my lawn with White Dutch Clover and my lawn is now a healthy mix of approximately 50% clover and 50% grass. I love the look and my lawn is much easier to maintain. White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) is a legume, the same family as peas and beans. This means that it fixes atmospheric nitrogen to fertilize itself. Clover's nitrogen-fixing capabilities allow it to tolerate poor soil conditions better than grasses and, it can fertilize other plants. It is also cold tolerant, can stand the odd heatwave and spreads once established (this can make it tough to keep out of garden beds).

White Dutch Clover has the following advantages:

- It is green with a white flower and looks great, it greens up in spring before the grass does!
- It self-fertilizes by fixing nitrogen which also benefits the turf grass or other plants around it.
- Because it is drought tolerant it requires less watering and since it is a small plant, less mowing.
- Its tough roots break up compact soil, self aerating, but holding the soil together to reduce erosion.
- It helps reduce weeds (dense growth prevents weeds from thriving).
- Attracts pollinators and beneficial insects that help control pests.
- It's cheap and easy to sow – I've spent about \$40.00 on seed over the last 3 years and have a big lawn.

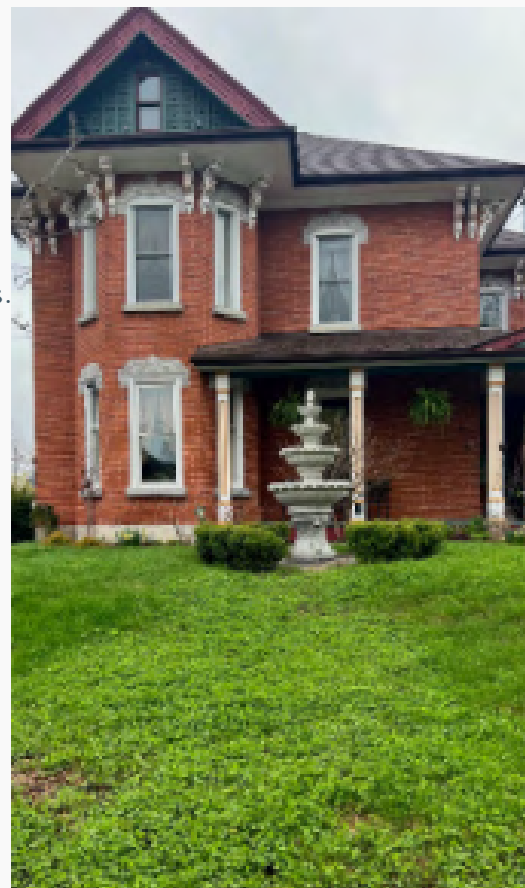
There are a few disadvantages as well:

- It is not as tolerant to foot traffic but does quite well when mixed with turf grasses.
- It attracts bees – a problem if you are allergic.
- It is susceptible to some diseases and pests, but this is usually controlled by mowing to 3-4 inches.
- It is an aggressive grower which can be a problem around garden beds.
- Some people think it looks 'messy' on a lawn, I in fact love the look.

I simply hand sew the clover wherever I have a grassy area and only use about a pound a year. I've been very pleased with the difference Clover has made to my lawn, the next step is to get a pair of hungry goats to keep it under control.

NOTE: Finding a 4-leaf clover is really lucky as there is only one occurrence in about 10,000 clover plants.

Here is how my clover lawn looks at the end of April – it will continue to green and fill in over the next few weeks.





## Why #NoMowMay May Not be Great for your Lawn

MARY-JANE PILGRIM

While the #nomowmay movement has good intentions of reducing carbon emissions from lawn mowers, it may not be the best thing to do for your lawn in our region. Letting your lawn grow too long can lead to increased pest activity (like ticks) and the growth of weeds, which can weaken the overall health of your lawn. With the amount of rainfall that we usually get this month, I think you'd have a lot of trouble finally mowing it once June 1st arrives.

#NoMowMay was created in the UK to assist with pollinators by providing early food for them in the form of dandelions. While dandelions are often viewed as a beneficial food source for bees and other pollinators, they are not actually the best choice. Dandelions have a low nutritional value and can cause digestive issues for some pollinators, such as butterflies and moths. When dandelions are allowed to take over a lawn, they can outcompete other plants that may provide more diverse and nutritious food sources for pollinators.

Therefore, it's important to strike a balance between promoting pollinator-friendliness and maintaining a healthy lawn. This can be achieved by incorporating pollinator-friendly and native flowers into your lawn or garden, and by regularly mowing your lawn to a healthy length. By taking these steps, you can create a safe and healthy outdoor space for yourself and for the pollinators that help keep our ecosystems thriving.

### SAVE THE DATE!

May 24: PHS Spring Flower Show at General Meeting

May 26: 1pm-6pm - drop-off plants for PHS Plant Sale, Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke Street

May 26: 7pm - PHS Plant Sale, Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke Street

May 27: Fleming Park Cleanup, 9:00am-10:30am. Corner of Brock and Aylmer. Bring your gloves, pruners, rakes, tarps and shovels for moving mulch.

June 3: Peterborough Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale, 9:00am-Noon, Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke Street

June 14: PHS Bus Trip to Oshawa including the Peony garden, Parkwood Estate, catered lunch at Durham College and tours of 2 private gardens

June 28: Bring a Bouquet to the PHS General Meeting!



## PETERBOROUGH'S HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### CELEBRATES GARDENERS ACROSS THE CITY

The Peterborough Horticultural Society wants your help recognizing home gardeners who transform their front and/or back yards, or porches or balconies, into something eye-catching. There are stunning home gardens all around the city. This spring and summer, let's recognize home gardeners across the city who create these special places and make the city that much more beautiful. We are looking for this year's GARDEN HERO recipients.

Is there a beautiful garden in your neighbourhood? If so, you can nominate the gardener to be a GARDEN HERO. The Peterborough Horticultural Society will give you a GARDEN HERO sign that you can use to recognize the contribution that gardener makes to horticulture and the happiness gardens bring to us all. Whether it's big or small, traditional or wild, doesn't matter so long as it brings you joy.

If you have a neighbour who loves to garden and you'd like to recognize them as a GARDEN HERO, please email us at [ptbohortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ptbohortsoc@gmail.com) for a sign. Supplies are limited, so email us early in the season. If you are a member of the Peterborough Horticultural Society, you can pick up a GARDEN HERO sign at the May 24th members' meeting. And if you see a GARDEN HERO sign in someone's garden this summer, please post a picture to social media [@ptbohortsoc](https://www.instagram.com/ptbohortsoc). Happy gardening everyone!



**"It was a fun program and I enjoyed moving the sign to a good friend who was very deserving of being a Garden Hero. It promoted the Peterborough Horticultural Society and was instrumental in creating conversation amongst the neighbours about the therapeutic and environmental benefits of gardening."**

**Sharlene Pratt, 2022 Garden Hero sign program**







## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PLANT SALE 2023

Our annual Plant Sale will be held Friday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Westdale United Church.

The doors will be open Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. so all donations can be dropped off that afternoon.

We are in need of volunteers, plant and garden related items. Please no aggressive or invasive perennials. Plants should be potted in pots so they could be sold for \$5.00, \$10.00, \$15.00, etc.

You can get in touch with Anita Clifford, [anitaclifford@bell.net](mailto:anitaclifford@bell.net) or by phone 705.748.0267 to let me know if you can volunteer.

Please hang on to your divisions of perennials for donations!

**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](mailto:anitaclifford@bell.net)**

# PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## Spring Plant Sale

### FRIDAY, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 7pm

Westdale United Church

1509 Sherbrooke Street (West of Woodglade)

[peterboroughhort.com](http://peterboroughhort.com)



Peterborough Horticultural Society

2022



@PtboHortSoc



peterborough  
horticultural  
society



## 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)

FOR RULES & REGULATIONS, PLEASE VISIT: <https://peterboroughhort.com/flower-shows/>



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS



### PMG ADVICE TABLE!

The Peterborough and Area Master Gardener's Advice Table will be at the PHS general meetings most of the year: Please bring your questions, and keep those MGs busy!

### Blue Frog Water Gardens

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

bluefrogwatergardens@gmail.com tel: 905-373-5103 bluefrogwatergardens.ca

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

# Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association Spring 2023

Photo by Mary Lou Young, Ennismore Garden Club

**Secret Garden**

During the spring and summer of 2022, Ennismore Garden Club volunteers worked tirelessly to create their worst-kept secret.

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
ESTABLISHED 1949

Here is the Spring Edition of the Trillium 2023:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Spring-Trillium.pdf>

### Peterborough Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale



**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

**9am-Noon RAIN OR SHINE**

perennials, annuals, veggies, herbs, books, garden decor  
**Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St.**  
[contact@peterboroughmastergardeners.com](mailto:contact@peterboroughmastergardeners.com)