



VOLUME 166 -- ISSUE 6 -- JUNE 2023

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established in 1861, a proud supporter of our community.

A Message from the President

MARY-JANE PILGRIM

June 28th will be our last General Meeting of the Peterborough Horticultural Society before we break for the summer and get a chance to focus on our own gardens and summer activities. Victor Freiberg will be explaining all things fertilizer to us -- a topic request from one of our members. We do not meet in July or August: it's a well-deserved couple of months for your board of directors after six great meetings, six board meetings, a flower show, six amazing newsletters, a bus trip and a plant sale! We're a busy group.

If you're unable to make it to the June meeting, I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you again when we resume at the September 27th meeting. At that meeting, Dan Cooper will be explaining what "Gardening From a Hammock" is all about.

Please remember to bring along a loonie or a toonie for the hospitality table if you use it, and lug your own mug so that we don't add more cups to the landfill.

Lastly, if you have any suggestions for making the PHS better, please don't hesitate to send them along: ptbohortsoc@gmail.com.

MJ

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Contact Us:

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PHS Meeting: Wednesday, June 28 @ 7:00 pm @ the Lions Community Centre

VICTOR FREIBERG - FERTILIZING 101

Join us on June 28 th , 2023 to learn all about fertilizing your lawns and gardens, with Victor Freiberg, Master Gardener.

Victor has been a territory manager for Ontario Seed Company Ltd. since 2001.

He has been part of the team specializing in sales of grass seed, fertilizer and control products to golf courses.

He became a Master Gardener in 2021 and has established gardens in Haliburton County as well as in places further south experimenting with various fertilizers and plant material.



PLANT SALES 2023 - RECAP

ANITA CLIFFORD

To all the volunteers and to all the members donating plants and garden decor to our annual Plant Sale a huge thank you! None of this could happen without all your help, time and donations! Our profit this year was a total of \$951.22 and the number of plants donated was 406.





THE HISTORY OF FLEMING PARK

ANNIE ENGLISH

James Hall (1806-1882) was a well respected politician and businessman in the Peterborough Region. Fleming Park is situated on land of his estate. He lived in a large brick home, one of the first brick homes in Peterborough. His large home was on the corner of Hunter and Aylmer streets, and his estate spanned the city block of Hunter, Aylmer, Brock and Bethune Streets. There was a large garden, tennis court and vegetable garden on the property.

James Hall was instrumental in organizing the Peterborough Horticultural Society in 1862. He had strong connections to Sandford Fleming, a neighbour who lived at Hutchison House with his cousin Dr. Hutchison. Early in his career Fleming worked at Halls Peterborough store where he met Hall's daughter and later the two married. Oh, true romance!!

Fleming gained fame in the late 1870's as the discoverer of "Standard Time". His standard time zones were adopted for use Nationally and Internationally.

After Halls death, his son and son-in-law (Fleming) were named executors of his estate. They made significant changes to his property. The brick home was demolished and had Fleming Place constructed about 1900, consisting of a group of homes styled like a Villa. The Villa was designed to block the view of train lines. A large garden was created in front of the Villa.....now Fleming Park.

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





THE WONDERFUL HISTORY OF VOLUNTEERISM AT PHS

MARY-ROSE DAIGLE & STEVE RIDDELL

Alongside my interest in gardening and the outdoors, my husband and I have a love for historical buildings and architecture. We are members of the Trent Valley Archives (TVA) and have taken time to research the history of our home and property. Last week TVA presented a fascinating history of Victoria Park which sits in front of the Court House in downtown Peterborough. The presentation was prompted by the sale of this property to a developer who intends to build a massive 30 story development behind the Court House ... for those who haven't heard about this, more information here [Current Development Applications - City of Peterborough](#). But I digress....

As the presentation progressed on the history of Victoria Park, I was surprised and delighted to learn about the significant role the Peterborough Horticultural Society (PHS) played in the development of this park. The history of community volunteerism in PHS goes back to the early 1880s, where according to the May 1885 Examiner, the PHS “earned the gratitude of the public of Peterborough... in the persistent, energetic and successful efforts it has made to secure the opening of the Court House Park (now Victoria Park) for public use”.¹ Who knew??

Today the PHS maintains this proud tradition through the maintenance and upkeep of Fleming Park at the corner of Aylmer and Brock streets. At our recent board meeting the future of our involvement at Fleming Park was discussed, as only a handful of volunteers showed up for the Annual Clean up on May 27 and it is only through the efforts of a few volunteers that we can maintain the park. The team is badly in need of some fresh blood to help out, so I wanted to end this note with a huge SHOUT OUT to the Fleming Park team lead by Fred Doris, and a BIG ASK to any of our members who might have a couple of hours on Thursday mornings to lend a hand! If you can help, PLEASE reach out to Fred for more information at freddoris17@msn.com.

¹ Bailey, S., & Society, P. H. (1998). “For the Love of Flowers”: the History of the Peterborough Horticultural Society, 1861-1996. Peterborough, Ont.: The Society.

² With thanks to Dennis Carter-Edwards for his research and presentation of “Victoria Park: The Jewel in the Crown”, Trent Valley Archives, Jun 7, 2023



The Court House Park, circa 1890

Anne Heideman



Why is that we can send a rocket ship into space but we cannot keep chipmunks out of our planters?

LAURA JACK

I use the prickly old stems from my rose bushes to try to stop the digging debacle of chipmunks! I have found that a top dressing of some blood meal also helps to slow them down. If the weather had been warmer, my plants would have been bigger. Leaving large expanses of dirt just seems to be too enticing for their instinct to dig and bury seeds. They will be back to dig up the sprouts.

Whatever gave them the idea to become farmers? Nature is full of inexplicable mysteries. In the words of Luis Barragan: “A garden must combine the poetic and the mysterious with a feeling of serenity and joy” I will try to remain joyful as I tuck plants back in and pull out the “barf balls” of seeds that the chipmunks have left behind!

BEES DRUNK WITH POLLEN!

MAURA HOLEK

We bought this teeny tiny Honeysuckle plant from Joe and Hazel Cook about 7-8 years ago... It has never produced so many flowers before. The bees are drunk with pollen.

We had one on our house on Scollard Dr and when we moved Joe and Hazel Cook were kind enough to provide another one. We built a structure that you cannot see now to support it. Love it totally and so do the bees.





JUNE IS FOR THE SMART GARDENER

MARY-JANE PILGRIM

June is a quiet month, said no gardener ever. I don't know about you, but after splitting a lot of plants in May, some of my gardens look like minefields, and not in a good way. Also, I'm only halfway finished with compost at this point, and there are quite a few new additions patiently waiting on the back patio for their forever home. I'd gladly trade some of the hours in the day in March or April for a few more in May and June. It is an encouragement to me that so many of my favourites are blooming now, though! Here is some additional encouragement to keep you on the right gardening track for this month.

1. Stay ahead of the weeds. As soon as you see them popping up, start a regular routine of weeding. The job is easiest when the sprouts are small, or after a good rain has fallen. If you're unsure if a seedling is a weed or an expensive plant, give it another week or so to develop true leaves before yanking it out.
2. Use mulch. Leaving soil bare is just asking for trouble -- weed seeds are spread by the wind and are often just lying dormant in your soil. Mulch suffocates them and helps to retain moisture from spring/summer rains when they occur.
3. Water new seeds and transplants well and often. These plants don't have deep roots yet and can dry out easily. When the weather gets warm, the soil at the surface gets hot and dries out very quickly, often frying those babies. When I buy new plants at this time of year, each one gets a personal waterer -- an upside down pop bottle funnel with a drip spike on the cap end. Now if I could only remember to water them regularly?
4. Start the pest watch early, but not all bugs are pests. Often a spray from the water hose is enough to dislodge pests, or dropping them into a jar of soapy water for larger harmful creatures like potato beetles, red lily beetles and spongy moth caterpillars can work. Do your research before resorting to sprays that kill harmful bugs and beneficial insects at once.
5. Attract the good guys. Bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, lady bugs, dragonflies and spiders eat bad bugs. Reduce pesticide use and increase the number of native plants in your garden to create an attractive habitat for these good ones!





OSHAWA BUS TRIP

PAT DE VILLIERS

Under uncertain skies, the PHS bus trip set out on Wednesday June 14 for our Oshawa excursion day. The bus was full -- not a seat to spare. Our first stop was the Oshawa valley botanical gardens to view the peony beds. Most were in full bloom and despite Monday's punishing rain, were in good shape. There was a fascinating variety of colours and types.

Next was the tour of Parkwood Estate gardens. Established in the 1920s-30s by leading designers on acres of land, hedges created sections of various gardens, formal gardens in a European style with a water feature, paths, statues, structures and vast lawns with old trees. The Oshawa Garden Club and Master Gardeners have recreated the white garden and two 100-foot stretches of perennial gardens. Lunch was at Durham college's Bistro 67, a lovely venue overlooking their farm to table gardens below.

Our afternoon was spent visiting 2 private gardens. Both were city backyard oases! Only established 8 years ago, the first featured many interesting trees, especially specialty conifers. A garden train ran through the areas of hostas, trees and perennials. Tucked in a back shaded corner was a tiny cottage and patio. Interesting plants nestled in very mulched nook and cranny. An absolute delight!

The second garden was larger in scale. Beautiful beds led to the back which sloped down to a valley lined on both sides with beds overflowing with in-bloom peonies, clematis and other perennials to a creek crossed by a little bridge. On the other side were shaded paths lined with hostas and shade-loving plants. A lovely pond was tucked in behind the patio. The beauty and bounty of this garden was incredible.

The rain was minimal and the sun managed to come out a few times. It was a fascinating day exploring so many garden treasures so close to home.





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.

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 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 June 28th 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





ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

FLOWER SHOW RESULTS - 2023

Best in show - Anita Clifford - Heralding Spring
 Judge's choice - Anita Clifford - Mini Design

	CATEGORY	1ST	2ND	3RD	HM
	Section A – Specimen				
1	Bring your best bloom(1st time exb)	Marilyn Homewood			
2	Ferns	Shaun Pyper			
3	Heuchera	Anita Clifford	Ruth Hillman	Shaun Pyper	
4	Pansies	Anita Clifford			
5	Iris	Shaun Pyper			
6	Tulip-single	Ruth Hillman	Anita Clifford	Shaun Pyper	
7	Tulip-double	Anita Clifford	Ruth Hillman		
8	Bulb Collection	Shaun Pyper	Marilyn Homewood	Anita Clifford	Ruth Hillman
9	Spring Flower Collection	Anita Clifford	Shaun Pyper		
10	Hosta – Small	Ruth Hillman	Anita Clifford	Anne Craig	
11	Hosta – Medium	Anita Clifford	Anne Craig	Shaun Pyper	Ruth Hillman
12	Hosta- Large	Anita Clifford	Anne Craig	Ruth Hillman	Shaun Pyper



ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

FLOWER SHOW RESULTS - 2023 - CONTINUED

	CATEGORY	1ST	2ND	3RD	HM
	Section A – Specimen				
13	Allium	Ruth Hillman	Shaun Pyper	Anita Clifford	
14	Columbine	Anita Clifford	Shaun Pyper		
15	Bleeding Heart	Anita Clifford	Ruth Hillman	Sally Rye	
16	Solomons Seal	Anita Clifford			
17	Spring Flowering Branch	Shaun Pyper	Anita Clifford		
18	Any other Bulb, Corm, Rhzm	Marilyn Homewood	Sally Rye	Ruth Hillman	
19	Any other Perennial	Anita Clifford	Anita Clifford	Shaun Pyper	
	Section B – Design Category				
20	Heralding Spring (1st time exb)	Marilyn Homewood	Diane Canalla		
21	Heralding Spring	Anita Clifford	Shaun Pyper		
22	Shades of Pink & Purple	Anita Clifford	Shaun Pyper	Ruth Hillman	
23	A Mini Design	Anita Clifford	Shaun Pyper		



ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

FLOWER SHOW - SEPTEMBER 27, 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. Aster or Chrysanthemum – 1 spray
3. Marigold – 3 stems – medium or large blooms
4. Marigold – 1 spray
5. Collection of Herbs - 3 stems, 3 different cultivars
6. Dahlia – 1 stem, 4” and under
7. Dahlia – 1 stem, 6” and over
8. Dahlia – 1 stem, under 6”
9. Zinnia – 3 stems, same cultivar or 3 different cultivars
10. Hydrangea – 1 bloom
11. Ornamental Grass Collection – 3 stems, same cultivar, max. 36” high
12. Ornamental Grass – 3 stems, different cultivars
13. Rose – 1 spray, any cultivar, named if possible
14. Rose – 1 bloom, any cultivar, named if possible
15. Anemone – 1 stem
16. Any other annual – 1 stem, NAMED, multiple entries will be allowed provided they are different cultivars
17. Any other bi-annual/perennial – 1 stem, NAMED, multiple entries will be allowed provided they are different cultivars
18. Sedum – 1 stem
19. Stem with seeds/berries – 1 stem, NAMED, max. length 18”
20. Assorted cut flowers – same cultivar or different cultivars, 5 stems
21. One bloom – small, floating in water
22. One bloom – large, floating in water



SECTION B: DESIGN

23. For the 1st time exhibitors – “A Design Inspired by Fall Colours”- in container
24. “A Design Inspired by Fall Colours” – in container
25. “Season of Gold” – Vertical design (pg. 25) – in container
26. “Halloween” – a design with flowers in a seasonal container