

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Wednesday November 22 @ 7pm, Lions Centre: Ethan Benson, Elevated Arboriculture, "Common Tree Problems"

PHS Member Ethan Benson is an ISA certified arborist, and a planting agent for the Forest's Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program. In addition to owning and operating a local tree-care company, he also teaches tree health sciences within the Arboriculture and Urban Forestry Programs at Sir Sandford Fleming College. Ethan will be discussing:



- The value of a tree
- Common concerns and the diagnostic process
- Soil Characteristics and related root disorders
- Structural concerns and the role of pruning
 - Included unions
 - Compartmentalization of disease in trees (CODIT)
 - Topping and Tipping

President's Message

As November arrives, it brings with it a reminder that our gardens benefit from moments of rest and rejuvenation. November begins the natural opportunity for our plants to rest and recharge, essential for their well-being in our region. The slowing pace of growth and the shedding of leaves are not signs of decline but rather nature's way of conserving energy for the seasons ahead.

During this time, I encourage each of you to take a step back and appreciate the elegance of your gardens at this time of year. Notice the silhouettes of bare branches, the contrast of the evergreens, and the way the world seems to hush in anticipation of the rebirth that spring will bring. Just as our plants prepare for the future, we too can take this time to reflect, plan, and replenish our own reserves with much cleaner fingernails than usual. 😊

We hope that you will join us for Ethan's talk and our Annual General Meeting on November 22nd. We will be installing a new President and some new faces on our Board of Directors. We will be revisiting and hopefully approving our work for the past year. If you are interested in getting a copy of the financial statements ahead of time, please do let me know.

Make it a great month!

♦ MJ Pilgrim

Slate of Nominations for AGM November 22:

Executive: President: Anne Trudel-Inglis, Treasurer: Mary-Rose Daigle, Secretary: Maura Holek, Past President: MJ Pilgrim

Directors: Anita Clifford, Annie English, Laura Jack, Sandra Caswell

Associates: Marjorie Vendrig, Jennifer Shaw

Board positions: Being on the Board does entail taking on greater responsibilities with 8 board meetings each year (first Wednesday of the month). While we don't have any current vacancies, if you are interested please email ptbohortsoc@gmail.com.

web: peterboroughhort.com newsletter submissions: ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

mail: P.O. Box 1372 Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6 instagram: [ptbohortsoc](https://www.instagram.com/ptbohortsoc)

facebook: [Peterborough Horticultural Society](https://www.facebook.com/PeterboroughHorticulturalSociety) twitter: [@PtboHortSoc](https://twitter.com/PtboHortSoc)

Summary of Gary Westlake's talk from our October Meeting

For those who were unable to attend our October meeting, Gary Westlake, PHS member and Ptbo MG, spoke to us about soil. Members received our email message with the link so they can listen to Gary's talk until the next general meeting.

Last month's speaker stated, "start with good soil and a good layer of mulch (2-3 inches)": what an excellent segue for this month's topic... "What Plants Eat: Soil"

Highlights from Gary's talk:

Plants and animals co-existed long before we walked on the earth, then along we came working the land/soil to grow fields of various cash crops: corn, wheat, soy etc... creating a monoculture.

In the 19th Century a chemist named Justus von Liebig expanded traditional thinking by explaining the importance of nutrients for plants. Plants need nutrients to survive: N(nitrogen) P(Phosphorus) K(Potassium). Plants receive N-P-K from the soil with the help of micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungi, they break down the nutrients and transports them into the plants root system. Bacteria forms two functions, fixing the nitrogen and removing the phosphorous from the soil.

Things to remember:

- High levels of oxygen impede bacteria from performing their functions.
- Adding chemical fertilizers to the soil kills bacteria, when the bacteria is reduced or eliminated plants are desperately trying to survive.
- Nitrogen fixing and phosphorous-solubilizing (removing (P) from the soil) are compromised when chemical fertilizers are added and oxygen levels are high.

Gabe Brown (rancher in the Mid-West USA) principles of regeneration of our land:

- No till, soil benefits from not being disturbed (chemically or mechanically), it also reduces weed seeds from being turned up to the surface
- Mulch, armour the soil to reduce dehydration thus maintaining nutrients
- Cover-crops, have living matter on the soil throughout the year, soil recovers by building diversity
- Animal-plant alliances, manage the herd in pens, ensuring the vegetation is not depleted, therefore both co-existing
- Rhizophagy – the process of bacteria surrounding roots and transporting nutrients into plant cells. Bacteria is then released back into the soil and the process repeats.
- Seeds are covered with bacteria that pass microbes to the next plant. Do not sterilize seeds, this removes the bacteria and microbes.

Conclusion:

- Plants do not need humans to thrive
- Plants ranch soil bacteria for their nutrients and other substance that the plants need
- Bacteria require low oxygen to function
- Chemical fertilizers inhibit bacteria
- Animal fertilizers are good
- Plants can fix nitrogen even in their leaves
- Add (natural fertilizers, organic matter) to the surface of the soil, do not dig it in. Leave it there for the bacteria and micro-organisms to work it in.

Special Raffle Opportunity

This fall, we have a special raffle opportunity for you all. Maura Holek, our PHS Secretary and accomplished artist, has painted the PHS Geranium as a fundraiser. It has been professionally mounted and is frame ready.

We will be selling raffle tickets \$5 each at the meeting and the draw will be held **AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING!**

2024 Membership Renewal

- Etransfer \$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

Advanced Notice of a Motion to Increase the PHS Membership rate by \$5 to \$25 individual/\$30 family at the November 2023 AGM effective for 2025 Memberships (one year from now)

Rationale:

- Our meeting room costs have increased.
- We'd like to bring in more professional speakers like Sean James and Dan Cooper.
- We'd like to increase our high school scholarships from one school at \$100 per scholarship (current) to 6 interested local high schools at \$150-\$250 per scholarship (proposed).
- The rate hasn't increased since 2015.

Our Annual Christmas Giving Tables

Christmas is coming, a time when the amazing and generous members of PHS give to those less fortunate. We ask our members to bring in mittens, gloves, hats, socks and scarves for men, women, and children. We deliver to Cameron House Shelters for Women and Children and the men's items are delivered to the Brock Mission.

For our non-perishable Food Table, you can donate food or you can give a monetary donation. Each dollar donated can purchase \$4 of food. In our January newsletter we will let you know the totals of your generosity. The Refreshment Table is always complimentary on this special evening, with members bringing in a small sample of their favourite Christmas baking. Anything left over is packed up and delivered to Brock Mission. They are always so appreciative and thankful for the delicious treats.

♦ **Annie English, Anita Clifford and Shaun Pyper**



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**Peterborough Horticultural Society
Annual General Meeting Minutes, Nov.23,2022**

1. Call to Order:

2. Approvals:

Motion (1): To approve the **Minutes of the PHS AGM of January 14, 2021**
Approved by **Jennifer Shaw and Sally Rye**

Motion (2): To approve the **Treasurer's Report** .
Approved by **Gladys Fowler and Pauline Drake**

Motion (3): That **Claire Sullivan and Calvin Stillman** be appointed to perform a **financial review audit** as of August 31,2022
Approved by **Anita Clifford and Dayle Findley**

Motion (4): To approve the **actions and decisions of the Executive** for the past year.
Approved by **Diane Wolf and Judy Bernard**

Motion (5): To approve the **actions and decisions of the Board of Directors** for the past year. Approved by **Steven Riddle and Sharlene Pratt**

Motion (6): To accept the **President's Report as written** by MJ Pilgrim.
Accepted by **Diane Raper and Annette Thomson**

3. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members and Incoming Board Nominations:

4. Presentation of Officers of the Peterborough Horticultural Society 2022-2023 Board:

PRESIDENT – MJ Pilgrim
VICE-PRESIDENT – Carlotta James
SECRETARY* – Maura Holek
TREASURER* – Mary-Rose Daigle
PAST PRESIDENT – Pat DeVilliers

DIRECTORS Sandra Caswell
Anita Clifford
Annie English
Laura Jack
Elaine Kalavrias
Shaun Pyper

**The Secretary and Treasurer positions are appointed positions.

The meeting adjourned on November 23, 2022



Please join us for our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday November 22 at 7pm at the Peterborough Lions Centre.

