

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Volume 164

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Number 2

Wednesday February 28, 2024 @ 7pm, ZOOM only: Paul Gellatly, The Tattooed Gardener

(a link will be shared with members closer to the meeting date)

Join us in welcoming The Tattooed Gardener, Paul Gellatly, to our stage. Paul will speak to us about **TROPICAL TREASURES**. Here's how Paul describes the talk: *What is the most you've spent on a tropical plant? \$50...\$100...\$250... How about \$12000? Previously the Curatorial Gardener for one of Canada's largest Tropical Plant Collections, and the former Director of Horticulture for the Toronto Botanical Garden; Paul has a personal collection of 800+ tropical plants, including many rare and unusual specimens sourced from collectors worldwide. He has followed the recent surge of Tropical Plant Collectors, from imports to auctions, and will share with you the history, the trends, the opportunities, and a glimpse into his personal plant collection.*



With over 30 years in the Horticulture Industry, The Tattooed Gardener is inspiring people from every generation and sharing his love and passion for all things plants. He is currently the Vice-President for the Etobicoke Horticultural Society; has experience as the Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden, and Curatorial Gardener at the Toronto Zoo; Paul has industry experience in every corner of the industry and has also been featured on Visionary Gardeners Season 1. From Hybridizing to Garden Design, he has a passion for rare and unusual plants. Join him as he walks down this winding road of Horticulture.

Join us for another great presentation offered to our membership. And we're staying on Zoom for this meeting so that none of us need worry about unpredictable February weather! We're planning to be back in person in March.

President's Message

This February has brought thoughts of Spring with our sunny days and warmer temperatures. I find myself walking around my gardens eagerly awaiting the arrival of Spring bulbs peeking through the snow. Talk of seed catalogues, seed exchanges or looking for the first sign of germination in the winter sowing containers is all so exciting.



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)



I encourage each of you to use this time to plan and prepare for the bountiful season ahead.

Whether it's sketching out garden designs, poring over seed catalogs, or attending informative workshops, let us seize every opportunity to deepen our knowledge and enrich our green spaces.

A warm WELCOME to our new members and those reconnecting with us, we hope you find our meetings informative, interesting and FUN!

And hey, if you've got any ideas or suggestions for the society, don't hesitate to reach out! We're always open to new ideas and ways to make our society even more awesome. Feel free to email us at ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

Wishing you all a fantastic February filled with green dreams and gardening joys!

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**

***Hellaborus "Ivory Prince"
(Christmas Rose)***

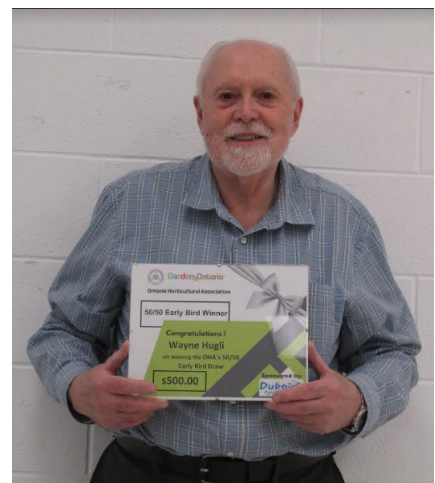


50/50 Early Bird Winner January 27th is:

Wayne Hugli

Member of District 12 and the Sudbury Horticultural Society

Early Bird Draw Prize Sponsored by: Dubois Agrinovation



Time to renew for 2024
We like to welcome new members too!



Our membership fees are still a great deal
\$20 for single and \$25 for a family
(Guests for our great speakers are welcome for \$5.00 a visit)

Your membership will give you access to our fun and informative newsletter and in person meetings with guest speakers. If in person meetings are not possible, we 'Zoom' the meeting to you in the comfort of your own home! (Many of which are recorded for future reviewing).

February meeting will be Zoom meeting but you can still renew and join us!

- Send e-transfer to ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

Instructions for online and print/mail renewal and new memberships can be found at:
peterboroughhort.com/about-the-society

Let us know what you would be interested in learning this year. We can plant some new ideas together!

Ordering Seeds for Spring Planting?

Think Ahead to Seed Saving this Fall!

As I placed this year's order for seeds, a favourite January past-time, I decided that this is the year I'll start saving seeds from my favourite vegetables and annuals to plant again the following year. But what does ordering this Spring's seeds have to do with saving seeds this Fall? Everything!

The easiest seeds to save are those that are self-pollinating, which means that the plant contains both the male and female parts necessary to produce offspring seeds. Genetically, the seeds will be very close to the original plant. Examples are peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers, sunflowers, zinnias, and marigolds. I can plant the seeds of these self-pollinating plants a year later and feel pretty confident that what will grow will be very close to the original.

Cross-pollinating plants need another of the same species to complete the pollination process. An example is squash. These seeds can be saved too, however, the combined genetics from the two original squash plants could yield a seed that, when planted the following year, produces a squash plant unlike the original plant you were trying to reproduce. My husband, perfect in so many ways, hates squash. I've learned to live with this one fault by not bothering to grow squash. But if you do, consider planting only one variety to reduce the risk of varieties cross-pollinating.

Lastly, I'll avoid investing in hybrid seeds for plants I plan to harvest for seed this Fall. Hybrid seeds are the product of crossing two varieties of the same species, usually purposefully to introduce improved production or increased disease resistance and other tolerances. Hybrid seeds are great if you need to work around those types of issues (and who doesn't!) but the seeds of those plants shouldn't be harvested as they will not produce similar plants next year. This is where 'heirloom'

seeds come in: these are seeds that have been time-tested, sometimes decades back, to produce the same plant year over year.

I'm hopeful this little bit of research at seed ordering time now will pay off when I harvest seeds this Fall for planting next year.

◆ **Sandra Caswell**

Fisherman's Forest

I live in the north end of East City. One day it dawned on me that I live on an island! The canal is on one side and the Otonabee River is on the other. We also have creeks that run through our neighborhoods. All the rain and melting snow has resulted in a lot of run-off, and wondered what all of this water has been carrying out to the canal and river.

It reminded me of an interesting documentary about a Japanese oyster fisherman's concern for the old growth forests lining the coastlines of his bay where he fished. He began planting more trees along the coastline and further inshore and studying how the forests filtered the water draining into the sea as well as providing habitat in estuaries and marshlands and nutrients for the fish and oysters.

Fishermen on our own Pacific coast are worried about industrialization on the shorelines and whether forests are being properly managed with thoughtful forestry practices upstream. Many nearshore fisheries (like Salmon) depend on conditions which can be drastically affected by what happens on inland forests.

Our own Otonabee Conservation works closely with Parks Canada to protect the shorelines and watersheds all around us as well as mitigate the possibility of flooding. They are just one of the 36 Conservation Authorities throughout Ontario. We need to be mindful when planning any project near watersheds or shorelines around any of the many lakes and rivers that surround us. Fishing is also a big activity in our region in the lakes and streams. We need to remember that fish, turtles and wildlife require a clean, environmentally safe habitat in order to survive. Our wetlands are their "nurseries" and they are fed in turn, from their neighbouring forests.

I was exploring Otonabee Conservation website and see that they are offering trees and shrubs again this year. There is a wide selection to choose from- but there is a catch. You need to buy 25 seedlings at a time. If you or anyone you know needs to reforest a large area it is worth checking out. Maybe you have a cottage with an association that would be interested?

<https://shop.otonabeeconservation.com/product-category/tree-seedlings/>

I am going to watch and see if the city offers one tree again for free in the Spring.



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In the meantime, I often spot little seedlings that Birds have 'planted' on my hill. I pot them up and then sink the pot in the ground and gradually give them a bigger pot and then I take them down to Ecology Park for their plant sales when they are a little older. They carry a wide variety of trees as well. <https://greenup.on.ca/ecology-park/about/>

Consider planting one or two or more native trees in the corner of your property. We need to keep planting trees to replace what is being lost through logging, fires, storms and old age!

As an old saying goes: We can plant trees, knowing we will never sit under their shade, but future generations of people and wildlife will appreciate our efforts.

❖ **Laura Jack**

Upcoming Events and Activities.....

Free Gardening Webinars

Blooming Boulevards (Mississauga, ON)

All webinars are held on Saturdays at 10:00am – 11:00am

Click the link below to register, space is still available!

<https://www.bloomingboulevards.org/book-online>

March 9th – Design Your Own Pollinator Garden

March 23rd – Goodbye Lawn!

April 6th – Wildflower All-Stars for Sun or Shade

April 20th – Native Plants for Tough Sites

May 4th – Native Trees and Shrubs for Small Spaces

May 11th – Create a Native Woodland Garden

June 8th – Pollinator-friendly Container Gardens

August 24th – Understanding Your Soil

September 7th – Four-Season Beauty & Biodiversity

September 14th – It's Easy! Seed Saving 101

September 21st – Growing Native Plants From Seed



Next Draw **March 16, 2024**

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

50% of all proceeds go towards
Keeping Ontario Beautiful® by way of
grants, bursaries and education.

Check us out at gardenontario.org



Early Bird Prize
Sponsored By:



Workshops

University of Guelph – ARBORETUM 2024 Workshops

Register on-line at: <https://arboretum.uoguelph.ca/educationandevents/workshops>

prices do not include taxes

Virtual Gardening Fundamentals – Mondays, Feb 5 – March 25, 7 – 8 pm (\$10/session)

Owl Program Family Day Weekend – Saturday, Feb 17 (\$12)

Conifer Workshop – Thursday Feb 22, 9 am to 3 pm (\$80)

Animal Tracking – Saturday, Feb 24, 9 am to 4 pm (\$97)

Virtual Travels with a Nature Geek – Feb 26, 28, March 1, 4, 6 & 8, noon – 1 pm (\$10 each or \$55 for all 6)

The Art and Practice of Pruning – Monday, March 18, 1 – 4:30 pm (\$65)

For more information and other programs: arbworks@uoguelph.ca 519-824-4120 ext. 52113

Facebook Live events

Wildflowers from Seed

For anyone interested in learning how to grow wildflowers from seed: there will be a Facebook live event by Miriam Goldberger of Wildflower Farm on Tuesday February 27 at 2:00 p.m. Visit

<https://www.facebook.com/wildflrfarm/>

Fundraisers (Zoom)

The Joy of Growing Your Own Food!

Presenter: Paul Zammit

Monday, February 26, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. EST

This event is a fundraiser for Village of Love Canada

"All proceeds will help feed the families of big-hearted Kenyan women in the slum community of Kibera who take in orphaned children to love and raise as their own."

See www.villageoflovecanada.org

Registration is by donation (pay what you can) and a tax receipt will be provided.



**PETERBOROUGH AND AREA
MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT:**

A DAY FOR GARDENERS 2024



Saturday May 4, 2024

Westdale United Church

1509 Sherbrooke St, Peterborough, ON
9:30am to 3pm (estimate)

Seminars, lunch & door prizes

Save the Date!

Come join us for a fun day of learning, lunch and friendship



Gardening Help and Gardens that need help

If you have gardens you need help with or would like to volunteer some time to help out a garden in need of TLC contact us via ptbohortsoc@gmail.com and we will help you find a match!

