

# Peterborough Horticultural Society

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## **Wednesday March 27, 2024 @ 7pm, at the Lions Centre** **Anna Mizyn from Anna's Perennials** **(yes, we will be meeting in person!)**

Join us in welcoming the one and only Anna Mizyn from Anna's Perennials back to our stage. Anna will tell us everything she knows about ornamental grasses.

Join us – it promises to be very informative.

For those who don't know Anna or Anna's Perennials, you soon will. Anna is a self-described mad gardener: she is always looking for a new plant, collecting seeds and trying to grow plants that others say aren't possible in our area.

Anna's Perennials (per the website) *includes several acres of gardens that include mostly full sun – low maintenance mixed beds, a shade garden that is the start of a 2-acre woodland garden, several large, well-drained, raised beds containing mostly sempervivums, jovibarbas and other drought tolerant plants as well as a large sand bed containing cacti and yuccas.*



It's definitely worth the drive to Pigeon Lake to check out what's new at Anna's this spring.

Join us for another great presentation offered to our membership. And this time we're back in person at the Lions Center. We're looking forward to seeing you again!



## **President's Message**

As March ushers in the promise of spring, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all our members. We will be meeting in-person at the Lions Centre for March, April, May and June before our summer break.

March is a pivotal month in the gardening calendar, signaling the beginning of a new growing season filled with endless possibilities. As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of another fruitful garden season, it's important to remember that while our enthusiasm may be blooming, the time for vigorous garden work has not yet arrived.

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

With the days growing longer and the earth awakening from its winter slumber, it's time to dust off our gardening gloves, clean and sharpen our gardening tools to prepare for the approaching gardening season. While we yearn to dig our hands into the soil and breathe in the fresh scent of new growth, it's crucial to exercise patience and restraint during this delicate transition period. The ground may still be thawing, and the plants are not quite ready for our attention.

We must try to resist the temptation to prematurely tidy up our gardens, allowing fallen leaves to remain undisturbed for now as they provide essential nutrients and protection to the soil and its inhabitants, laying the foundation for a thriving garden in the months to come.

If you have 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](mailto:ptbohortsoc@gmail.com)

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**



If you are interested in attending our District 4 Spring AGM on April 6th, we currently have four spots available, Peterborough Horticultural Society will cover the cost.

Please email us [ptbohortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ptbohortsoc@gmail.com) before March 20th if you would like to attend, please see the poster for details.

## When Spring comes too early!

We are all rejoicing when temperatures in March climb above 10 degrees, tempting us to believe that spring has arrived. However, this deceptive warmth can also mislead plants, with flowering trees, magnolias, bulbs, and perennials starting to awaken prematurely.

How do we manage these eager plants? In some cases, it's best to hope for a return of snow or freezing weather to lull them back into dormancy, especially for fruit tree buds. Hardy bulbs, just showing leaves and with flower buds underground, tolerate freezing temperatures and will resume growth after genuine winter has passed. For those that are calendar watching, that's still at least a month away in our area!

Starting spring cleanup during warm winter days is not a good idea. Last year's foliage and leaves shield plant roots, insulating them from temperature changes. Compacting wet soil by walking on it now can impact root growth, so you should just stay out of the garden at this time.

Mulch spread in fall stabilizes ground temperatures during brief warm spells in late winter. Additional shredded leaves can prevent premature growth of perennials. Gently press any exposed plants back into the soil if frost has pushed them out.

Avoid pruning trees and shrubs to prevent inducing new growth vulnerable to late winter freezes.

To protect prematurely leafed-out plants like hydrangeas and Japanese maples from frost, cover them with old blankets on cold nights. However, there's little recourse if temperatures plummet after buds have opened.

The bottom line: Nature can usually take care of itself, but offering a helping hand once in a while can't hurt.

❖ **MJ Pilgrim**

## 2024 Membership Renewal – hurry the name tags are coming!

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





## Peterborough Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale – May 24

This has been a very unusual winter with not much snow cover for our gardens. Hopefully our plants have survived well!

Just a reminder to keep in mind that we are preparing of our annual Plant Sale and we would appreciate help from our volunteers and donations for plants and garden decor.

The sale will be held on Friday, May 24, at Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke Street. Plants can be dropped off at 12:00, sale will start at 5:00.

**A wide variety of plants will contribute to the success of our sale. We are setting a limit of 5 for donations of identical plants. Plants that are donated should be identified by their bloom colour.**

We would appreciate that aggressive or invasive species are not to be donated. Plants could be potted into containers that will be sold for \$5.00, \$10.00, \$15.00, etc.

New this year, the Master Gardeners will be part of our sale and will be selling their seedlings.

You will be able to sign up to volunteer at the March and April meeting. If you need more information you can get in touch with Anita Clifford, [anitacifford@bell.net](mailto:anitacifford@bell.net) or by phone 705.748.0267.

❖ **Anita Clifford**

## Wondering What (NOT) to donate to the plant sale?

**We love to get plant donations BUT.....**

There are many plants out there that are invasive and some that don't turn out to be what we thought they would when we dig them out to donate. Please check the list below before you decide what to donate to the Plant Sale and if you have questions, please contact Anita.

### **No-Thanks List (2024)**

- Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*)
- Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)
- **Creeping Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*): all species excluding *Campanula carpatica* (blue clips)**
- Chameleon plant (*Houttuynia cordata*)



- Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*)
- Ditch lilies (*Heemerocallis fulva*)
- English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Gooseneck loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*)
- Goutweed/Bishop's weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)
- **Heemerocallis (Daylilies) that are not flowering or not labelled for colour**
- **Iris that are not flowering or not labelled for colour**
- Japanese knotweed/American bamboo/Mexican bamboo (*Reynoutria japonica*, formerly *Polygonum cuspidatum* or *Fallopia japonica*)
- Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*)
- Miscanthus: non-clumping varieties such as *M. sacchariflorus*/Amur Silver Grass
- Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)
- Periwinkle (*Vinca*)
- Plume poppy (*Macleaya cordata*)
- Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- Ribbon grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
- Rudbeckia species: *R. laciniata* (outhouse plant) but named cultivars are okay
- Sweet violets (*Viola odorata*)
- Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)

## Special Raffle at the March meeting!

Beautiful Watercolour Paintings by our very own member and Artist - Robert Moreton. Tickets are 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10 on sale at the March 27<sup>th</sup>, meeting.



## Bus Trip 2024 Tuesday June 11, 8am - 5pm, \$95

Depart from Hamilton Bus Lines, Lakefield where we have permission to park.

Our first stop will be at Anna's Perennials. Anna is a mad gardener and grows so many unique plants! Tour her gardens which will look amazing. Purchase plants if you decide. **Bring CASH for this stop.**

Next, we drive to Hosta Hideaway and Out of the Barn, Leaksdale (hostas, daylilies, antiques and collectibles).

Lunch at 12:30pm will be at the Lucy Maud Montgomery Manse which includes commemorative gardens. The cost of lunch is included in this trip.

After lunch we will be getting a private tour of Neil and Carolyn Turnbull's farm and will be able to pick our own bouquets from their extensive gardens.

From there, we head back to Lakefield and should arrive about 5 pm.

The total cost of the trip including tours and lunch is \$95. This trip is a fundraiser for the 6 high school scholarships that we are offering to our local high schools of \$150 each school. Thank you for your help!

Last year this trip sold out in April, so don't delay, avoid disappointment.

<https://peterboroughhort.com/bus-trip-2024/>



### Bus Trip 2024

Tuesday June 11, 2024: 44-person activity bus from Hamilton Bus lines — \$95 includes lunch Sign Up for this Trip! 8am depart Hamilton Bus Lines, Lakefield, 33-minute drive 8:35am Arrival Anna'...  
[peterboroughhort.com](https://peterboroughhort.com)

## Lichen on Trees??

I have noticed the growth of Lichen on two of my Service Berry trees over the last few years, but it seemed to be more prolific this past year. It has also been more prevalent on my Honey Locust as well. I began to wonder if this was a good thing or bad- should I lichen them hanging around?

You will often see it on rough surfaces like rocks, the ground and tombstones. "It is estimated that 6% of the earth's surface is covered by Lichens and they are found on every continent, from humid forests to frozen areas and desert sands." They can convert carbon dioxide to oxygen and they only do well when the air quality is good around them since they absorb everything in the environment around them- including pollutants!



I remembered people telling me that if you got turned around when walking in the woods you could tell which direction was north by looking for which side of the tree had lichen growing on its bark.



They like moisture and light but not direct sunlight.

Lichen are not moss or plants. "Lichens are a complex life form that is a symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms, a fungus and alga., The fungus provides a structure for the alga to live in, while the alga provide food for the fungus. It is a symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms." (Wikipedia)

Some animals, deer and caribou, use it as a food source. Birds like hummingbirds, use it in their nests and frogs like it as a snack! Lichen can survive in some of the most barren and severe regions of the world and it is usually the first type of organism to show up after fires.

For many civilizations, lichens are primarily used as a source of food. They have also been utilized as traditional medicine for a long time.

Lichens can be used as an indicator of air quality from an environmental point of view.

It is not a good idea to try pulling it off the bark of trees as you can cause damage to the bark and leave the tree open to infestation or diseases. Lichen does not damage the tree; it gets all of the nutrients it needs from rain and surrounding air. But it can sometimes indicate that your tree might be stressed and need some fertilization, soil mediation and better, regular watering or maybe some pruning.

So -I will be Feeding my trees some manure, and compost tea this summer and maybe a light dressing of fresh soil. I lichen the look of them! 🌱

❖ **Laura Jack**

Sources: Independent Tree, Wikipedia, National Park Service.

*"Gardening is an exercise in optimism. Sometimes it is a triumph of hope over experience."*  
Marina Schinz



Or to put it more simply  
This will become that,



Regardless of our plans



# 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 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Goodbye Lawn!

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** – Wildflower All-Stars for Sun or Shade

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** – Native Plants for Tough Sites

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** – Native Trees and Shrubs for Small Spaces

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** – Create a Native Woodland Garden

**June 8<sup>th</sup>** – Pollinator-friendly Container Gardens

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** – Understanding Your Soil

**September 7<sup>th</sup>** – Four-Season Beauty & Biodiversity

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** – It's Easy! Seed Saving 101

**September 21<sup>st</sup>** – Growing Native Plants From Seed

### OMEMEE BLOOMS GARDEN CLUB

INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR THEIR

### 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Celebration

**When:** March 18 at 6:30pm

**Where:** Omemee Legion

**Guest Speaker:** Paul Heydon, Owner of Grow Wild

“Why Garden with Native Plants”

An enthusiastic, entertaining speaker from Omemee who talks about the current, important trends in gardening.



Join us for some ‘Remember Whens’, Fellowship and Cake as we celebrate this Milestone! All Welcome!

## A Day for Gardeners May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – registration is open

Register now as this event always sells out. Choose 3 seminars from 6 concurrent presentations by Peterborough Master Gardeners on current garden topics. New this year, participate in the plenary wrap-up session where the Future of Gardening will be explored.

Register at <https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/register-for-the-day-for-gardeners-2024/>

Questions? **Call Lois 705 957 1295** or email [pmgcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:pmgcoordinator@gmail.com)

Four Seminars,  
lunch & door prizes

Cost: \$60 early bird  
\$75 after Apr 15

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

All seminars are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners.

#### Session 1:

- ❖ Creating a Garden Sanctuary **OR**
- ❖ Sustainable Gardening and Xeriscaping

#### Session 2:

- ❖ Container Gardening (Hands-On) **OR**
- ❖ Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden

#### Session 3:

- ❖ Winter Sowing (Hands-On) **OR**
- ❖ Grow Me Instead: Replacing Invasives with Natives

**Plenary: Explore the Future of Gardening**

