

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Volume 164

May 2025

Number 5

Wednesday May 28th, 2025 @ 7pm, at the Lion's Centre: Lorraine Johnson – Edible City: Adventures in Urban Food Production & Edible Native Plants

Join us in welcoming Lorraine Johnson to our stage on May 28th, Lorraine will be speaking to us about "Edible City – Adventures in Urban Food Production and Edible Native Plants".

Lorraine is a writer, editor and community advocate who, when pressed to describe what unifies her work, has settled on the term cultivation activist.

The author of numerous books on growing native plants, gardening for pollinators, restoring habitat, and producing food in cities, Lorraine's work focuses on people and communities growing plants, ecological health, and connection to nature and to each other.

Through her books, articles and community projects, she strives to advance the understanding that everything and everyone is connected and that, through our actions, we all have a role to play in making this world a better place for all life.

She's a little bit earnest, but, she hopes, in a good way.

Lorraine will be speaking to us on edible native plants, with lots of information and tips on how to transform our gardens and approaches to gardening into bountiful, healthy spaces.



Special Treat! Lorraine will be bringing some of the books to sell (cash, cheque or e-transfer)

Remember – you can bring a friend to the meeting for only \$5

President's Message – May 2025

My thoughts are with everyone as we find ourselves clearing away the tree limbs, large branches and twigs scattered around our homes as a result of the April ice storm. Not to mention those who survived without power for days/weeks, we have had our challenges this spring.

This is the month when all our planning and preparation start to come to life. Whether you're sowing seeds, transplanting perennials, or simply enjoying the first flush of colour in your beds, I hope you're finding joy in every moment spent outdoors. Gardening teaches us patience, care, and resilience, lessons that resonate far beyond the soil.

May is finally here, and with it comes the promise of a season bursting with life, colour, and activity. After a long winter and a slow-to-start spring, it's a joy to see gardens awakening all around us, buds unfurling, bees returning, and the first early blooms reminding us why we love to dig in the dirt.

This month marks a special time in our gardening calendar. The soil is warming, nurseries are buzzing, and the planting window is officially open. Whether you're experimenting with new cultivars or tending to your tried-and-true favourites, I encourage you to take time to simply enjoy the beauty of the process.

As a society, May is one of our busiest and most exciting months. Our Flower Show is just around the corner don't miss this opportunity to share your own propagated treasures.

I also want to extend a warm welcome to our new members. We're so glad you've joined us, and we look forward to learning from and growing with you in the months ahead. Please don't hesitate to reach out, get involved, and make the most of what our society offers.

Wishing you a joyful and productive May, filled with sunshine, blossoms, and good gardening company.

With warmest regards,

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**
PHS President



Meet the Team Behind the Green

Featuring our Board Members: This month we are introducing...

Anne Trudel-Inglis **President, Peterborough Horticultural Board**

Growing up in a quiet town outside the GTA, I followed my mother around as she worked in her gardens. That was when I learned the importance of turning the soil to prevent weeds from taking hold (we did that back then). My earliest and fondest memory was when I saw ants all over the peony buds and after alerting my mother, she explained their purpose, that's when my fascination in horticulture and ecosystems began.

To expand my learning, my sister would smuggle (all the way from Ireland), bulbs and bare root cuttings of various plants that would survive our harsh winters for my gardens. In 1995 she gave me my very first gardening book, *The Gardener's Encyclopedia of Plants & Flowers*, that book was my only gardening book for the longest time, it was well studied.



Once I had my own home, I set out to create flower beds turning lawn into a garden exploring with various colours, shapes, annuals, perennials and shrubs. My current home has many flower beds each with different micro-climates and soil types, a great place to try new plants, and transplant ones that don't thrive.

My passion for designing gardens sparked as I created my brother's front garden beds. That's when I felt I needed more so I began horticulture courses at the University of Guelph which led to the achievement of a Master Gardener designation. I went on to complete a Horticulturalist Diploma with Distinction focusing on landscape design, also from the University of Guelph.

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**
PHS President

PHS Flower Show and Tell – May 28th, 2025

How does your Garden Grow?

We'd love to see it. Why not share some of your favourites with fellow gardeners at our May meeting, at the Flower Show? This year, we are trying something new, hoping for lots of participation from all of you, whether it's a display, or a simple vase with a few specimens.



Please drop off your contributions in the back room of the Lion's Centre by 6:45 p.m. before the meeting on May 28. There will be a few tables set up where you will fill out your name and the appropriate class of your entry. Voting will take place during the break and all entries can be picked up after the meeting.

Everyone at the meeting will be involved in the judging. As judges, the criteria are very straightforward, we are simply picking our favourites, one in each of the five Specimen Classes, and one in each of the two Design Classes.

The voting process is straightforward as well. During the break after our speaker's presentation, everyone will be invited to review the entries in the back room. The entries will be grouped by section; the name of the person who submitted the entry will not be visible. As a judge, you will pick up a sheet of red dots, with one dot for each of your favourites in each of the five Specimen and two Design Classes. That means, you will place a red dot in your favourite entry for Tulips, another red dot for Solomon's Seal, another for Bleeding Hearts, and so on. Place a dot on the sheet associated with your favourite. The entry with the most dots in each section will be the winner. All winners will be announced at our next meeting.

The 'rules', such as they are, are simple, we are not looking for perfection, or 'best in class'. It doesn't matter if there are leaves or not, if the stems are short or long, if a petal is missing or imperfect. If it's your favourite, if it brings you joy or a smile, it's a winner and deserves a red dot!

Rules:

1. Exhibitors are members of the Peterborough Horticultural Society.
2. Only one entry per person per class.
3. Exhibits must be in place by 6:45 p.m.
4. In the specimen classes, plant materials must be grown by the exhibitor. Plant material is restricted to the named specimen, no other additions to be added.
5. Entries in the design class must be designed by the exhibitor; flowers, vegetables, foliage and other materials must be garden grown (from exhibitor's garden or foraged) but not commercially grown.
6. A label with the exhibitor's name and class must be submitted with each entry.

There are two classes: **Specimen Class and Design Class**

In both the specimen and design classes, exhibitors may use the vessel or container of their choice.

Specimen Class

Section 1 – Tulips, 3 – 5 tulips of the same or different cultivars.

Section 2 - Solomon's seal, 3 – 5 stems.

Section 3 – Bleeding heart, single or multiple (maximum of 5) stems of Bleeding Heart (same or different cultivars.)

Section 4 – Spring flowering branch, named, 2 - 3 branches of the same or different plant.

Section 5 – Any other perennial, single or multiple stems (of the same) species.



Design Class

1. **'Au Naturel'** – Free form design, using fresh spring blossoms, and materials from nature. The design should be suitable for a coffee or kitchen table – not exceeding 30" high and 30" across.
2. **'Good Enough to Eat'** – A display suitable for a kitchen or dining room, using spring edibles such as rhubarb, asparagus, lettuce, etc. and other spring plant materials from the garden or foraged. The display should not exceed 30" high x 30" across.



Invasive Species Awareness

Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*)



This is a classic case of gardening gone awry. Squill is a spring ephemeral, emerging early and blooming right after the snow melts. Siberian Squill was brought to this country as an ornamental and is still being sold, but it has also escaped into the wild and become invasive. It readily spreads itself and is difficult to get rid of, as broken roots often resprout. It is very hardy and cold tolerant and is left untouched by critters from voles to deer.

It's native to southwestern Russia, the Caucasus and Turkey. It can grow to be 10 to 20 centimeters tall and five centimeters wide. It is a perennial, with two to four strap-shaped leaves appearing in early spring, at the same time as the nodding, blue, bell-shaped flowers.



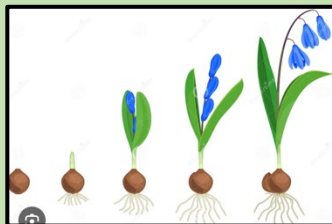
Flowers are single, or in a raceme of 2 or 3 flowers at the top of a slender naked stem. Each flower is about 1 inch across when fully open, has 6 flaring blue petals with a darker blue stripe down the center and 6 white stamens with dark blue tips. The flowers are somewhat bell-shaped when not fully open. Other cultivars of this species may have white, pink or blue-violet flowers.

Leaves are basal and grass-like, to 5 inches long and ¼ to ½ inch wide. Leaves and stems are hairless. A plant may have several flowering stems.



Seeds: Seed capsules are green and bumpy and turn brown as they mature and split to produce dark reddish-brown seeds.

Roots: Bulb



(life cycle of Siberian Squill)

Spread: Squill spreads easily and quickly by self-seeding and bulb offshoots.

Control method: Mow after bloom to remove seed heads and reduce spreading by seed. Thin out plants by digging after blooming, before seeds set and composting plants. Monitoring the area each spring is important for continued control.

❖ Anne Trudel-Inglis

Sources:

<https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/squill>

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/siberian-squill>



PLANT SALES!!!!

Lakefield Horticulture Society

Plant Sale

May 17th, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The annual plant sale is our society's main fundraiser. In the past it has raised enough money to pay for the plants that we use in Lakefield.

Anne Stone (705) 742-1202 coordinates this event and is always grateful for help and plants. Many have already contributed their plants and time at potting day. These plants will be delivered to the sale site at 7 a.m. on May 17th. If you have plants that you wish to donate, please bring them to the site by 9 a.m. on sale day (potted and labelled please). We invite you to participate and bring your friends and neighbours to the sale.



ENNISMORE
Garden Club

Fostering the love of gardening
while enhancing the natural beauty of Ennismore

Annual Plant & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 17, 2025
8:00am to 1:00pm

Location: 805 Tara Rd, Ennismore

Donations of Plants and Baked Goods Needed
Please drop off donations on
the Friday, between 4-6 pm
at 805 Tara Road, Ennismore



Ennismore Garden Club Major Fundraising Event

Plan to attend this annual, gigantic

Plant Sale

Presented by Omeme Blooms Garden Club

Rain or Shine!!!

Saturday May 17th, 2025

(The Long Weekend!!!) Time: 9 AM to 11 AM

Omeme Legion

(located on the main street of Omeme)

For more information: omemeblooms.ca



Annuals, perennials, houseplants, vegetables

Call Chris for further information: 705 799- 0237

May is the time for plant sales
Check out these events from local
societies

**FENELON FALLS
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Annual Plant Sale

SATURDAY MAY 24TH
8 AM TO 2 PM

THE MARYBORO LODGE MUSEUM
50 OAK STREET, FENELON FALLS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.BACKYARDBUZZ.CA
FFHORTICULTURAL@HOTMAIL.COM

LOCAL PLANTS, GARDEN THEMED ART,
CRAFTS & MORE!

CASH ONLY

**Peterborough Horticultural Society Plant Sale
is cancelled this year**

Peterborough Horticultural Society Membership

Spring has finally sprung, and we are well into flowers sprouting up with the sunny days and returning our gardens into a riot of colour again, buzzing bees and tasty veggies to enjoy.

Time to renew your membership for this year.

\$25 for singles and \$30 for a family (Guests fee \$5.00/meeting)

2025 Memberships cards are available now with local gardening vendor discounts on the back.

Join us at our meetings with your name tag on so we can all see and get to know everyone on a first name basis! Your membership will give you access to our fun and informative newsletters, in person meetings with guest speakers, fun bus trips and raffles.

If in person meetings are not possible, we 'Zoom' the meeting to you in the comfort of your own home!

Online: ** New: 2025 Easy Fill Online Membership Form for New members and for current members with change of contact information only.

Send e-transfer for \$25/single or \$30/family to ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

OR Print & Mail:

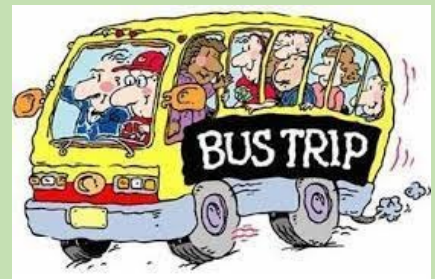
Send a cheque made out to the PHS for \$25 single/\$30 family to:

Mary-Rose Daigle
512 Dickson Street
Peterborough, ON K9H 3K1

PHS Bus Trip

**Wednesday June 11, 2025:
44-person activity bus from Hamilton Bus lines
\$100 (includes lunch)**

Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraiser for our horticultural scholarships at 7 local high schools.



**** Bus is Full ****

Note: While we appreciate that life is full of changes and unexpected events we have to pre-pay for all lunches and entrance fees. Last minute cancellations reduce available funds for the scholarships; we encourage people who are considering cancelling to look to see if they can give their seat to someone else or contact us to see if there is a waitlist – substitutions are always welcome.

Questions? Email ptbohortsoc@gmail.com.

From the Lakefield Horticulture Society

GardenOntario™ Scholarship

Each year, the Ontario Horticultural Association offers affiliated society members, their children and grandchildren the opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship in their pursuit of post-secondary education in a horticulture related field. Applications are accepted from March 1st to June 30th of every year.

Applications or questions should be sent to: Ontario Horticultural Association Awards Coordinator, Email: awards@gardenontario.org

The link below outlines the criteria for application and includes the application form.

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-SCHOLARSHIP-APPLICATION-FINAL-VERSION-Oct-27-2024-1.pdf>

Your ticket purchases for the OHA 50/50 Draw not only helps us keep Ontario Beautiful but it supports education for youth and adults. It also supports environmental programs, awards and grants assisting with pollinators, tree planting and community beautification.

OHA 50/50 DRAW

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer



Next 50/50 Draw: July 19, 2025

Tickets will be on sale until July 18 at midnight

Licence # RAF1449351

For your chance to win, visit

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

Upcoming Events and Activities

PHS Speakers for 2025

In Person meetings at the Peterborough Lions Centre

May 28: **Lorraine Johnson** "Edible City: Adventures in Urban Food Production & Edible Native Plants"

Jun. 25: **A Panel of Experts** "Ask me Anything"

Summer Break so no-one has to come in from the garden!

Sep. 24: **MJ Pilgrim** "Spring bulb planting and planning"
Oct. 22: **Suzanne Catty** "Potions & Lotions from the Garden"
Nov. 26: **Silvia Strobl** "Winter Tree Identification"

Events

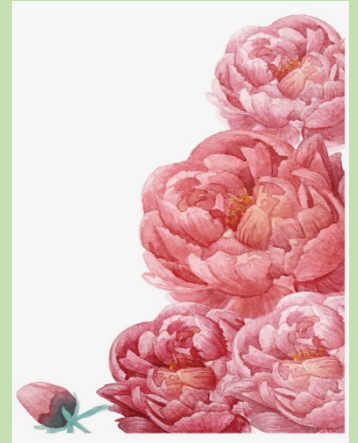
June 12, 2025 – Cobourg Garden Club tour

An exciting opportunity for gardening enthusiasts. Join us on Thursday, June 12, 2025 for a tour of Whistling Gardens, <https://whistlinggardens.ca>. Explore 22 acres of gardens, see the Musical Fountain Show and visit the bird aviary

Minimum seats left on a deluxe motorcoach. Deadline April 25, 2025

Payment/Registration: \$100.00

E-transfer to cobourghort@gmail.com Then send email confirming payment to judy.harris.3888@gmail.com. You will be sent detailed instructions, with bus pick-up location, start and end times and catered lunch options. Includes: deluxe motorcoach (with washroom), admission and catered lunch



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>

June 7th – Pollinator-friendly Container Gardens

August 23rd Understanding Your Soil

September 6th – Four-Season Beauty & Biodiversity

September 13th – It's Easy! Seed Saving 101

September 20th – Growing Native Plants From Seed


October 25th – Winter Sowing

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Webinars

Orchids of Ontario and the Oak Ridges Moraine

Did you know that about sixty species of orchid are found across the province? Learn about the life history of these plants, where you can find them, and what you can do to help conserve them.

 **Tuesday, May 20th**

 **7:00–8:00 PM**

- **Virtual**
🔗 [\[REGISTER HERE\]](#)

Chorus Frog Conservation

The Western Chorus Frog is experiencing dramatic population declines across much of Southern Ontario. Learn about this frog, the threats they're facing, and how you can help create habitat for them on your property.

- 📅 **Wednesday, May 28th**
- 🕒 **7:00–8:00 PM**
- **Virtual**
- 🔗 [\[REGISTER HERE\]](#)

Volunteer Event

Garlic Mustard Pull

Be a part of our annual Garlic Mustard pull and help manage the spread of this invasive plant. Protect biodiversity and be a part of our volunteer community.

- 📅 **Tuesday, May 27th**
- 🕒 **5:30–7:30 PM**
- 🌧️ **Rain Date: Sunday, April 27th, 9:00–11:00 AM**
- **StarCliff Nature Reserve, Schomberg, Ontario**
- 🔗 [\[REGISTER HERE\]](#)

Accessibility: please note that this site contains steep inclines and uneven terrain, and is not accessible for community members with limited mobility.

Gardening Resources

OHA Garden Ontario website <https://gardenontario.org> lots of downloadable resources and the new Autumn 2024 Trillium

Peterborough Master Gardeners website is <https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/> read the blog, ask questions, find events in Peterborough area.

Act Now to Keep Jumping Worms Out

<https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/2024/05/06/act-now-to-keep-jumping-wormsout/>

There are a lot of websites, books and groups that provide resources – if you have a favourite one, please let us know and we will share in the newsletter

