

# Peterborough Horticultural Society

Volume 164    **June 2025**    Number 6

## Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 7pm, at the Lion's Centre: "Ask Me Anything" – Panel of Experts

*This month's meeting invites full participation from our members. We have brought together a panel of experts - local experts - who will answer your gardening questions. Perennials, invasives and natives are the areas of expertise, each panel member will speak for ten minutes and then we will open the floor to your questions. Get your questions ready!!!*

**Please note: this month's meeting is in person only; no Zoom or live stream**

### Anne Craig, Our expert on invasives.



Anne Craig has been a member of Peterborough Master Gardeners for five years and has been gardening for a very long time. She is currently the President of the Master Gardeners of Ontario. She grows perennials, vegetables and annuals but is increasingly replacing plants with native selections and removing invasive plants.



Her educational background is in Environment Studies, and she worked for most of her career at Ontario Parks. She used to think of her work, career and her gardening hobby as separate things but more recently is seeing the intersection between the two.

### Green Up and Ecology Park, Our Expert on Natives

GreenUp has a well-developed and well established local urban forest program. The native plant and tree nursery in Ecology Park is second to none, a great source for healthy native plant material in a beautiful setting. Compost and wood chips are also available. The staff are there to provide practical, well-researched information. Plant propagation, composting, growing food, climate challenges, are some of the many areas of expertise. There are display areas and naturalized areas, and a wonderful chance for exploration for children.



GreenUp has been promoting environmental action and education for more than 25 years. It's a charitable organization, proceeds from the Nursery contribute to school programs, workshops and park maintenance.



## Dawn Golloher of Gardens Plus, Our Expert on Perennials

Dawn is a familiar face to area gardeners. 2025 is Season 28 for Gardens Plus where there is a huge selection of perennials. Dawn and Gardens Plus specialize in 'easy care' perennials, there are countless varieties of hostas, coral bells, coneflowers, hellebores, and day lilies. Dawn and Gardens Plus have evolved over the years offering the newest stars along with old standbys, always with lots of information and customer care.

It's a delight to walk through Gardens Plus and enjoy the display gardens and then browse through the selections in the greenhouses. Dawn is a wealth of information on what goes with what, plant care and conditions, and all the latest.



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

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## President's Message – June 2025

June 25<sup>th</sup> 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, plant shopping and summer activities.

We do not meet in July or August; it is a well-deserved couple of months for your board of directors after meeting monthly, working on newsletters, scholarships, a flower show, a plant sale, a bus trip and so much more.

Our new Board is a dynamic, fun and creative group of individuals that I have the privilege of working with. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for their hard work and dedication in making the Peterborough Horticultural a FUN, informative, community-oriented group.



"Ask me Anything" a panel of experts is coming to our stage this month, each "expert" with be sharing their knowledge on Invasives, Perennials and Natives. If you are unable to make it to the June meeting, on behalf of the Board I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you again when we resume at the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting where MJ Pilgrim will be speaking on "Spring Bulb Planting and Planning" which is sure to be a great presentation.

Feel free to send us photos of your garden so we can share the results of your hard work and passion for all things garden related.

Let's enjoy designing, planting, transplanting and even weeding in our gardens this season.

With warmest regards,

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**  
**PHS President**

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## **Meet the Team Behind the Green**

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

### **Mary-Rose Daigle** **Treasurer, Peterborough Horticultural Board**

My interest in gardening began when my husband and I purchased our first home in Toronto back in the 90s, where both inside and outside were somewhat of a project! I didn't really have a clue about gardening, so I went to a local garden shop who recommended a garden designer to help me figure out what to do. I remember the fellow well, a stodgy old British fellow who told me to take my garden hose, lay out some curved beds and gave me a basic layout of what to plant.



From there, it was a voyage of discovery and experimentation, figuring out what worked and what didn't, mostly through trial and error. It was a pretty small yard by Peterborough standards, but large for downtown Toronto and over time it became our urban oasis.

Six years ago, we made the move to Peterborough and within the first year, we met a couple of enthusiastic Master Gardeners who encouraged my husband and I to join the Peterborough Hort Society. Since then, I feel like I have learned everything that I was doing wrong (LOL) and have attempted to remove the many invasive plants that I inherited from our property (gout weed, garlic mustard, creeping bellflower, ditch lilies and LOTV to name a few!). Our new property is much larger than

our tiny yard in the big city, so it is a long slow project that continues to this day.

I still make plenty of mistakes, but I am slowly learning to read the labels, do some planning and look for Ontario native species. I still feel like a novice compared to many in the group, but I'm getting there!

❖ **Mary-Rose Daigle**  
**PHS Treasurer**

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# How to Keep Rabbits Out of Your Garden

If you live in Peterborough, you've probably seen cute little rabbits hopping around — but they're not so cute when they're eating your garden! Rabbits love fresh greens like lettuce, beans, and even flowers. The following are some ways to try to keep them out without hurting them.

- 1. Put up a fence/barrier:** A small wire fence around your garden is one of the best ways to stop rabbits. Make sure it's about 2 to 3 feet high and buried a few inches into the ground, so they can't dig underneath. If you're using raised beds, construct a hoop house on top of them with hula hoops and some sort of mesh.
- 2. Use smells they don't like:** Rabbits have strong noses. They don't like the smell of garlic or vinegar. You can sprinkle these around your plants; just be careful not to get it on anything you eat. Other scents that are not popular with cottontails are onions, oregano, and basil.
- 3. Clean up hiding spots:** Rabbits like to hide in tall grass or under bushes. If rabbits are a problem in your yard, keep it neat and trimmed so they don't feel safe hanging around.
- 4. Plant things they don't like:** Marigolds, catmint and lavender are pretty, and rabbits don't like them much. Mixing them into your garden can help protect other plants.
- 5. Dogs or Foxes:** This one is a little trickier but highly recommended by my friend Annette. She said that since a small fox moved into the neighbourhood, she's been able to enjoy flowers she hasn't seen bloom in years! If you own a dog, you already know about the benefits of a 4-legged predator on furry munchers.

Some people suggest that you consider planting several rows for rabbits and one for yourself. I'm not sure that I'm a fan of this one, as you're then providing not just for your rabbit, but all of their friends as well — and if you know anything about rabbits, that can be a LOT of friends.

Best of luck — just remember that rodent populations are cyclical and the large population we see this year won't necessarily be around next year. At least we can hope for that!

❖ MJ Pilgrim

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## Invasive Species Awareness

**Barberry – Japanese and Common (*Berberis thunbergia*, *B. vulgaris*)** is a deciduous, woody, invasive shrub in the barberry (Berberidaceae) family.



Japanese barberry is an invasive shrub that is native to Japan. In the 1870's, seeds of the Japanese barberry were introduced to North America at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston.



Since its initial introduction to North America, Japanese barberry has escaped cultivation and become a problematic invasive plant in many natural areas, particularly woodlands.

Japanese barberry is densely thorned with prolific seed production well into the fall. Birds spread the seed far and wide and branch fragments can readily root to form new shrubs, resulting in this invasive often forming dense thickets. It is also capable of becoming established in a variety of habitats, including areas with partial sunlight and deep shade. It alters soil chemistry and nutrient cycling, has a longer growing season compared to many native plants and is resistant to deer browsing. It is the alternate host of black stem rust disease (*Puccinia graminis*).

**Shrub** with rounded outline, usually 1 m (3.3 ft) tall, occasionally reaching up to 2 m (6.6 ft). Often one of the first to leaf out in spring, with sharp spines along its many branches.



**Leaves** are smooth-edged and ovate, clustering in tight bunches close to the branch. **Flowers** are yellow and bloom in May.



**Fruits** are bright red, found singly or in clusters. Fruit matures in mid-summer and remains through the winter. Japanese barberry tends to be a prolific seed producer, and depending on the cultivar, one plant can

produce up to 35,000 fruits per plant which can lead to the establishment of hundreds of seedlings each year (Brand et al. 2012).

Cultivars with green or purple foliage tend to have the highest number of fruits compared to cultivars with yellow foliage or those that are dwarf-sized



**Roots:** The roots are shallow, fibrous, with many rhizomes that can produce belowground and aboveground shoots, also called layering. These aboveground shoots arch away from the plant, and they can produce new roots when they contact the soil, allowing the plant to quickly spread into adjoining areas. On the inside of the rhizome's bark, the plant material is yellow.

**Spread:** Japanese barberry can also reproduce vegetatively through aboveground and belowground shoots. Aboveground shoots give the plant its arching form and can produce new roots when they contact the soil (Zouhar 2008), which is called layering.

- **Rodent Seed Dispersal:**

While birds and other animals are often highlighted as seed dispersers for barberry, small mammals like mice and rats also play a role. They may collect and store barberry berries (containing seeds) in caches, which can then germinate in new locations.

- **Barberry as a Habitat:**

Barberry, particularly Japanese barberry, can create dense stands that provide shelter and food sources for small rodents. This increased rodent population can further contribute to the spread of barberry seeds.

- **Barberry and Lyme Disease:**

Barberry stands are also linked to increased densities of deer ticks and white-footed mice, which are important vectors for Lyme disease.

**Control method:** Japanese barberry can be successfully controlled using a number of methods, such as mechanical treatments, herbicide applications, and directed heat.



Japanese barberry infestation in a forest.

Photo courtesy of: Leslie J. Merhoff, University of Connecticut,  
Available: <https://www.forestryimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5456952>

- Mechanical (cutting, digging, hand pulling) early season with chemical follow-up (foliar, cut stump, basal bark) in mid-to late season.
- Mechanical early season with directed flame follow-up in mid- to late season
- Mechanical early season with mechanical follow-up (repeated cutting throughout the season) in mid to late season.

These techniques can be used alone as a first step or in various combinations and will depend on the characteristics of the site. Be sure to bag and dispose of any berries that are present to prevent seed spread. Continue to monitor the site for seedlings and resprouts and perform additional treatments in subsequent seasons until the seed bank has been exhausted.

## ❖ Anne Trudel-Inglis

### Sources:

<https://www.invasivespecies.com/invasaders/plants/japanese-barberry-2/>

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/japanese-barberry/>

[file:///Users/annem.trudel-inglis/Downloads/OIPC Japanese Barberry BMP May 2024.pdf](file:///Users/annem.trudel-inglis/Downloads/OIPC%20Japanese%20Barberry%20BMP%20May%202024.pdf)

<https://www.google.com/search?q=rats+and+mice+spreading+barberry&og=rats+and+mice+spreading+barberry&ags=chrome..69i57j33i160.7692i0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

## Plants & Cats

Many common plants can pose serious health risks, even death to cats.

Recently I had a conversation with my niece who told me about her friend's cat. The cat chewed on her Easter Lily plant and ended up being taken to the vet for emergency care. Kitty was hooked up to intravenous for 2 days. Happily, the cat survived.

Easter Lilies and all Lilies are extremely toxic and can result in acute kidney failure and death. All parts of these plants are toxic including the leaves, petals and pollen. Any form of exposure can be dangerous to your pet:

- a cat rubbing against the plant and transferring pollen to its fur and then licking it off can be fatal
- Drinking water from a vase of lilies can cause severe kidney damage

Some plants are more toxic than others, some only cause stomach discomfort; it is important to know which plants may be harmful and what signs to look for if you think your cat might have been poisoned.

Toxic plants commonly found in homes and gardens include Lilies, Snake Plant, Hyacinth, Aloe Vera, Daffodils, Cut Leaf Philodendron, English Ivy, Tulips, Pothos, Lily of the Valley, Jade Plants, Yew and Poinsettia. There are many more toxic plants not listed here as well as pet friendly ones.

Early signs of trouble include vomiting, loss of appetite, drooling, muscle tremors, seizures, lethargy, skin rashes and swelling. If you have a toxic plant and notice any of these signs contact your vet.

Plants that are pet friendly include Spider Plant, Herbs, Cat Grass, African Violet, Ponytail Palm, Norfolk Pine, Burros Tail, Sedums, Prayer Plant and Christmas Cactus.

Being aware and checking out your plants is the best thing you can do to keep kitty safe and healthy.

❖ **Maura Holec**

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## PHS Flower Show and Tell

"In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous" Aristotle 322 B.C.

Way back in 2021 at one of our PHS meetings MJ had a quiz question- What is the purpose of a flower? Most of us got the answer right. Flowers pop up, unfurl their petals and entice all manner of bees, insects and birds to come and gather their pollen and nectar, and in doing so, help move the pollen from the anther to a stigma, so that pollination can occur and new seeds will form to carry on the species. But enough about sex!

Flowers through the ages have also brought people together to admire their beauty, scent, and even their taste. We grow all kinds of them. We cherish old favourites and cross pollinate them to create new varieties to amaze all kinds of Gardeners like us. Flowers bring us all together, milling and buzzing about, like bees, at meetings, flower shows and tours. We share our knowledge and experience like pollen. We exchange seeds and germinate ideas to inspire us. We create new friendships all along the way, as we cross paths with each other. Flowers offer so much more than a tryst in the garden!

❖ **Laura Jack**

### *And the winner is.....*

On May 28<sup>th</sup> we held our first ever "Flower Show and Tell" with new rules and voting by members instead of judges. In spite of the challenges Mother Nature has been throwing at gardeners in Peterborough there were a number of excellent entries, and the voting process was fun!

### **Specimen Class**

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

**No entries for Section 1 (due to the weather!)**

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

**Most popular entry:** Anne Trudel-Inglis

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

**Most popular entry:** Marjorie Vendrig

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

**No entries for Section 4**

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

**Most popular entry:** Amanda Barrett





### **Design Class**

**'Au Naturel'** – Free form design, using fresh spring blossoms, and materials from nature.

**Most popular entry:** Laura Jack

**'Good Enough to Eat'** – A display suitable for a kitchen or dining room, using spring edibles

**Most popular entry:** Marjorie Vendrig

The new format for the flower show was well received and the evening went well. We will be continuing with this style of flower show and the next one will be in September. The category information will be in the September newsletter and we will be having a design category again.

Start thinking now about what you want to bring to the show in September!

❖ **Marjorie Vendrig & Jennifer Shaw**



# INSECTS as well as flowers appear at this time of year!

## How can I Prevent Tick Bites?

The following strategies are strongly recommended to prevent tick bites:

- Wear *tucked in* long-sleeved clothing, and/or [chemically treated clothing](#)
- Avoid or reduce habitat areas – avoid brushing against tall grasses
- Check yourself and others – physically examine yourself or others for ticks when coming indoors, especially [hard to see areas](#) such as under arms and the back of legs. **A person may not realize that a tick is currently feeding on them.**
- Use insect repellent containing DEET (follow manufacturer's directions)
- Don't forget about your pets – if you take your dog for a walk, check your dog for ticks as well and consider discussing tick prevention with your veterinarian.



## How do I Remove a Tick?

If you find a tick actively feeding on you or another person, it is important to [safely remove it](#). This is done by firmly grasping its head, as close to the your skin as possible, with tweezers parallel to skin and pulling it out. If you are uncomfortable removing a tick, it is best to consult your primary care provider or seek medical attention. Be careful not to tear or otherwise damage the tick as infection may occur from the open wound site.



For more info:

<https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/your-health/insects-rodents-other-pests/ticks/?highlight=ticks>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/tick-borne-diseases>

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## Upcoming Events and Activities

### PHS Speakers for 2025

#### In Person meetings at the Peterborough Lions Centre

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"

**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-hal>

## Events

### Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Events

#### Guided Walk: Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies

Saturday, July 12th, 9:00-11:00 AM

Rain date: Sunday, July 13th, 9:00-11:00 AM

Location: MapleCross King Nature Reserve, Schomberg, Ontario

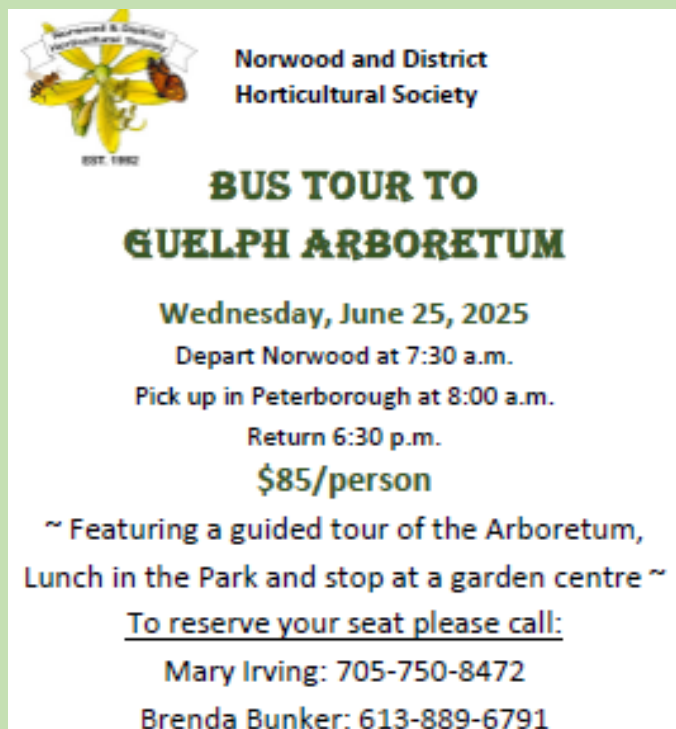
#### Moth Night 2025

Friday, July 25th, 8:00-11:00 PM

Rain date: Saturday, July 26th, 8:00-11:00 PM

Location: MapleCross King Nature Reserve, Schomberg, Ontario

Go to: <https://www.oakridgesmoraine.org/workshops-and-events> to register



## 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>

August 23<sup>rd</sup> Understanding Your Soil

September 6<sup>th</sup> – Four-Season Beauty & Biodiversity

September 13<sup>th</sup> – It's Easy! Seed Saving 101

September 20<sup>th</sup> – Growing Native Plants From Seed

October 25<sup>th</sup> – Winter Sowing



Credit: D.L. Rhodenhizer

## 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

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## A Summer Treat! Brown Sugar Rhubarb Cookies

### Ingredients:

1 cup light brown sugar  
½ cup butter, softened  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
1 large egg  
1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour  
1 tsp cinnamon  
½ tsp salt  
½ tsp baking soda  
½ tsp baking powder  
1 cup small, diced rhubarb

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
2. In a large bowl, beat sugar, butter, vanilla and egg together with an electric mixer.
3. Add the flour, cinnamon, salt baking soda, and baking powder. Beat well until dough forms. (It will seem like soft bread dough)
4. Add rhubarb and stir again- (the rhubarb moisture will make dough sticky)
5. Using a 1-inch cookie dough scoop, form balls of dough and place them on a parchment lined baking sheet.
6. Bake cookies for 12-14 minutes or until baked through.
7. Cool cookies on a baking sheet for 2 minutes, then remove from baking sheet and cool on a wire baking rack.

*Enjoy!*

