

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Volume 164 **September 2025** Number 7

Wednesday September 24th, 2025 @ 7pm, at the Lion's Centre: Fall is Bulb Planting Time

Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes & Tubers—how do these garden elements differ? When should you plant? Dealing with squirrels and other pests. Forcing bulbs for more petal power!

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



**Wednesday, September 24, @7 pm,
Peterborough Lion's Centre**

MJ Pilgrim
Fall is Bulb Planting Time





Mary-Jane Pilgrim (MJ) joined the Peterborough Hort Society and the Peterborough Master Gardeners over 10 years ago and loves getting out and meeting other gardeners to “talk plants”. The love of gardening is probably hereditary as she grew up in a large farm family with Dutch immigrant parents. She definitely was not a fan in those days of weeding rows and rows of vegetables but loves the colour and fragrance of her garden today. MJ was President of the society in Peterborough for the last 8 years and now serves as the Past President. She was also an assistant director for OHA District 4 in 2021-2023.

While not too applicable to this talk, MJ enjoys cycling, playing squash and making/fixing stained glass windows.

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

President's Message – September 2025

Welcome back from a HOT, dry summer what a contrast to summer 2024!

This meeting will be filled with flowers from our Flower Show – read below for information on how you can participate, we would love to see **your submissions**. Don't forget our members judge the entries.

As the vibrant days of summer begin to mellow into the golden tones of early autumn, I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the fruits, literally and figuratively, of your labor this growing season.

September is a month of transition. While some of our summer blooms are still hanging on, the cooler nights signal that it's time to begin preparing our gardens for fall and the approaching winter.

It's a great time to divide perennials, plant spring-flowering bulbs, and tidy up annuals that are past their peak. For those of you with vegetable gardens, the harvest continues, and there's still time to enjoy cool-season crops like kale, spinach, and radishes.

This month is also an opportunity to reflect on what worked well in your garden this year—and what didn't. Take notes, snap photos, and don't be afraid to experiment next season. Our gardens are constantly evolving, just like our understanding of them.

As always, I encourage you to share your experiences, questions, and tips with fellow members. Our society thrives on the exchange of knowledge, enthusiasm, and community spirit.

Your participation makes all the difference.

Enjoy Autumn!

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**
PHS President



Meet the Team Behind the Green

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

Amanda Barrett
Member, Peterborough Horticultural Board



As a kid I loved laying in the grass, getting my face close to the foliage, and imagining what it would be like to be the size of an insect. To have a magical garden jungle world to explore. Flowers and leaves to climb. I was entranced by these micro-ecosystems. But my parents were not gardeners, so I nurtured my passion for art instead.

It wasn't until my 20's, in my first apartment, downtown Toronto, that I reignited my interest in horticulture. A balcony full of planters, and the beginning of my houseplant collection. Nine years later I became a homeowner, and (aside from a big, beautiful rose bush) found myself with my very own blank slate of a yard – albeit a small one. Two pear trees went in immediately. And over the last four years: more garden beds, less lawn.

Goldenrod, milkweed, mullein, echinacea, salvia and sedum. Apples, pears, tomatoes, beans, berries and grapes. Bumblebees, praying mantids, fireflies, monarchs and swallowtails. Cardinals, chickadees, grosbeaks, finches and hummingbirds.

From the soil structure that feeds everyone and everything, to the creatures that merely pass through, I am entirely obsessed with my garden ecosystem. I am the caretaker of a little slice of this planet, and I relish nurturing it as much as it nourishes me. Nothing is more exciting than the prospect of growing and learning as a gardener – except, perhaps, moments spent laying in the grass, watching the flourishing magical world I have helped create.

❖ **Amanda Barrett**
PHS Board Member



September 16, 2025 – Bus Trip!!!

When? Tuesday September 16, 8am-5pm

What? Royal Botanical Gardens Burlington and Northland Nursery, north of Hamilton

Why? Botanical Magic and Retail Therapy!

Step into the world of *Downton Abbey* and be transported to early 20th-century England, where the aristocratic Crawley family and their devoted staff navigate a rapidly changing era. Marvel at a collection of Fleurs de Villes' signature fresh floral mannequins inspired by the series' unforgettable characters and iconic period fashion, from Lady Mary's sophisticated beaded gowns and statement hats to the impeccably tailored uniforms of the household staff.

Northland Nursery has over 150,000 flowering shrubs, perennials, daylilies, ornamental grasses, hostas, shrub roses, clematis, vines, hardy lilies and evergreens. All of the plants are ready for your garden in 1 gallon nursery containers and priced at \$9.99 each. Hydrangeas etc. for \$10? Sign me up!

See all of the details of what will be a fun day: <https://peterboroughhort.com/bus-trip-rbg-2025/>

❖ **MJ Pilgrim**

Invasive Species Awareness

Buckthorn – Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), also known as European Buckthorn is a small shrub or tree native to Eurasia. It was introduced to North America in the 1880s as an ornamental shrub and was widely planted for fencerows and windbreaks in agricultural fields.

In Canada, it is found from Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan. Common Buckthorn is of concern to the agricultural community because it can host oat crown rust and soybean aphid, both of which reduce crop yields.

Common buckthorn can thrive in a wide range of soil and light conditions, enabling it to invade a variety of habitats. It is most often found in woodlands and open fields, where it forms dense stands under which few other plants can grow

Stands of buckthorn can invade roadsides, riverbanks, mature forests, farm fields and hydro corridors.

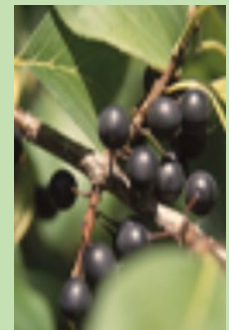
Common Buckthorn is listed as a **Noxious Weed under the Weed Control Act.**



Leaves:

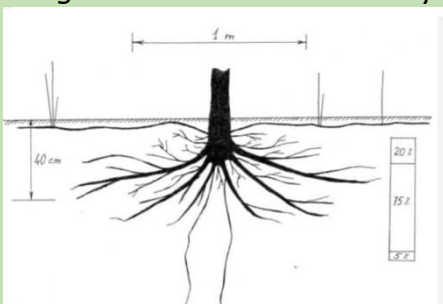
The leaves are sharp, pointed, curved, or folded and have somewhat finely rounded teeth.

Leaves have 3-5 strongly curvy veins per side, obvious and strong on the underside, arching towards the tip of the leaf.



Fruits: It produces large numbers of seeds that germinate quickly and prevent the natural growth of native trees and shrubs.

Roots: Common buckthorn roots are fibrous and shallow, but the plant can regenerate from the root system if it's not completely removed, making it



important to pull out the entire root during removal efforts. These roots also have a unique characteristic: they release chemicals that inhibit the growth of competing native plants, a trait known as allelopathy. The exposed roots are black, and the inner bark (cambium) has a distinctive bright yellow-orange color when scraped.

Spread: Buckthorn can spread widely with the help of birds and animals that eat its fruit, carry the seeds long distances and deposit them in their droppings.

- The shrub can host oat rust, a fungus that causes leaf and crown rust and affects the yield and quality of oats.



- The soybean aphid, an insect that damages soybean crops, can use buckthorn as a host plant to survive the winter. Because it can affect agricultural crops, common buckthorn is listed as a noxious weed under Ontario's Weed Control Act.



Common Buckthorn, showing deep green foliage in fall, dominates the lower layers of forests.

Photo: Wasyl Bakowsky, MNR

How to Identify

- Buckthorn is usually the first shrub to leaf out in the spring and the last to drop its leaves late in the fall.
- It often grows 2-3 m (6.6-9.8 ft) tall. Occasionally it reaches 6 m (19.7 ft), with a trunk up to 25 cm (9.8 in) in diameter.
- Smooth, dark green leaves are finely toothed, 2.5-6 cm (1-2.4 in) long, and arranged in opposing pairs along the stem.
- Most branches older than one year end in a short, sharp thorn.
- Flowers have two to six small yellowish-to-green petals.
- Common buckthorn produces clusters of berry-like black fruit in late summer and fall.

Common buckthorn resembles another invasive species, glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), and a much smaller native shrub, alder-leaved buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*). Check the chart below to identify common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn and alder-leaved buckthorn.

Control method: Dispose the invasive plants in a garbage bag. Do not put them in the compost or discard them in natural area. Discarded flowers may produce seeds.

INVASIVE

Glossy buckthorn
(*Frangula alnus*)

Details

- Grows in wet areas
- Often two to three metres tall; can reach six metres
- No sharp thorn on end of twig
- Alternate, shiny leaves with smooth, wavy edges

INVASIVE

Common buckthorn
(*Rhamnus cathartica*)

Details

- Grows in drier areas
- Often two to three metres tall; can reach six metres
- Twigs end in sharp thorn
- Usually opposite leaves with finely toothed edges

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**

Sources:

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

<https://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/plants/common-buckthorn-2/>

<https://docs.ontario.ca/documents/3192/stdprod-104385.pdf>

Peterborough Master Gardeners Launch Fall Fundraiser

Peterborough Master Gardeners (PMG) are launching their first ever bulb fundraiser to help the organization continue our important gardening work in our communities – live advice clinics, presentations to community and gardening organizations like yourselves, resource materials, gardening events (like Day for Gardeners), advocating with government officials, raising awareness of invasive plants etc.

We've carefully curated a group of 8 unusual bulbs from a reputable Dutch bulb supplier - most of these are not available at big box stores or at common online bulb suppliers.

We have limited supply, but prices include all taxes – what you see is what you pay. **Direct link to purchase is <https://forms.gle/5ixqpPLFucbMbYqo8>**

Pickup is expected to be the week after Thanksgiving in a downtown Peterborough location.

Each of these bulbs was specifically chosen by PMG because they rebloom each year (*Darwin and Fosteriana tulip selections*), are usually large (*Narcissus Pure White and Tulipa Orange Emperor*), are hard to find (*Leucojum, Iris reticulata*) or just super showy and prolific (*crocus and alliums*). Bulb profiles are attached (jpgs) and will also be available on the PMG home page as pdfs (<https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com>).

We hope this will become an annual fundraiser for us and that we can add quantities and other interesting selections in future years.

We are using the online service Square for bulb sales – payment likely by e-transfer or cash upon pickup in Peterborough. Pickup is anticipated the week following Thanksgiving at a downtown Peterborough location (TBD).

Quantities are limited so please encourage your members to put their orders in asap because once they are gone, they're gone!



Bulb Name	Number of bulbs per pack	Price per pack*
<i>Tulipa "Mandy's Choice"</i>	5	\$15.00
<i>Tulipa "Orange Emperor"</i>	5	\$15.00
<i>Narcissus Tarzetta "Geranium"</i>	5	\$25.00
<i>Narcissus "Pure White"</i>	5	\$35.00
<i>Crocus "Golden Yellow"</i>	10	\$20.00
<i>Allium Sphaerocephalon (Drumstick Allium)</i>	10	\$11.00
<i>Leucojum/Summer Snowflake 'Bridesmaid'</i>	5	\$15.00
<i>Iris reticulata "Blue Planet"</i>	5	\$ 5.00
*Price per pack includes all taxes; pickup in Peterborough		

PHS Scholarships - 2025

The Peterborough Horticultural Society fundraises throughout the year to provide scholarships to High School students who are interested in pursuing a career in horticulture. In 2025 we provided scholarships of \$150 each to five local high schools. Below are from thank you notes and updates received from the recipients of the awards.

Maia McLean, a recent graduate of Kenner Collegiate, will be studying Environmental Geoscience at Trent this fall. Maia was the 2025 recipient of an Award from the Peterborough Horticultural Society. The \$150.00 award is issued to each of the seven area high schools, to a student at each school who will be pursuing post-secondary studies in a field related to horticulture. In her thank you note to the Horticultural Society, Maia mentions that she caught the gardening bug from her neighbour in Millbrook and hopes to continue gardening in the future. She wants to volunteer at the Trent Vegetable gardens. Well done Maia!

Over the summer, we've heard from several of the Award Recipients, each expressing their thanks to the Horticultural Society. Ben Schmidt, the recipient from Holy Cross, will also be pursuing environmental studies. He's grateful for our help. The recipient from Crestwood Secondary School is Natalie Dunford.

Natalie is off to Guelph this fall where she is enrolled at Ridgetown College in the Horticulture Diploma Program. She has lots of experience growing vegetables as the fifth-generation farmer at her family farm.

These students have worked hard to put their plans in place and the Horticultural Society is pleased to be part of their story. We look forward to continuing this program and thank all our members for their active and generous participation in this important part of our program.

Best of luck to all the Award Winners! Congratulations.



1 Natalie Dunford at her corn stand

❖ **Marjorie Vendrig**

PHS Flower Show and Tell

The Flower Show at our May meeting was lots of fun. The same format will be used at our September meeting and we're hoping you will join in and bring along a few entries from your garden. We tried to make it as simple as possible with relaxed rules, fewer classes and no restrictions on vessels and containers. We're hoping for as many entries as possible, don't be shy, share some of the bounty of your garden with your gardening friends at our September meeting.



Everyone at the meeting will be doing the judging. As judges, the criteria are very straightforward, we are simply picking our favourites, one in each of the three 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 three Specimen and two Design Classes. That means you will place a red dot in your favourite entry for Dahlias, another red dot for perennials, and another for annuals. 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 the 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 section.
3. Exhibits must be in place by 6:45 pm.
4. In the specimen classes, plant materials must be grown by the exhibitor. Plant material is restricted to the named specimen(s), no other additions to be added.
5. Entries in the design classes 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 and names of plant material 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 – Dahlia, 3 – 5 dahlias of the same or different cultivars.

Section 2 – Mixed Perennials, Collection of any perennials.

Section 3 – Mixed Annuals, Collections of any annuals.



Design Class

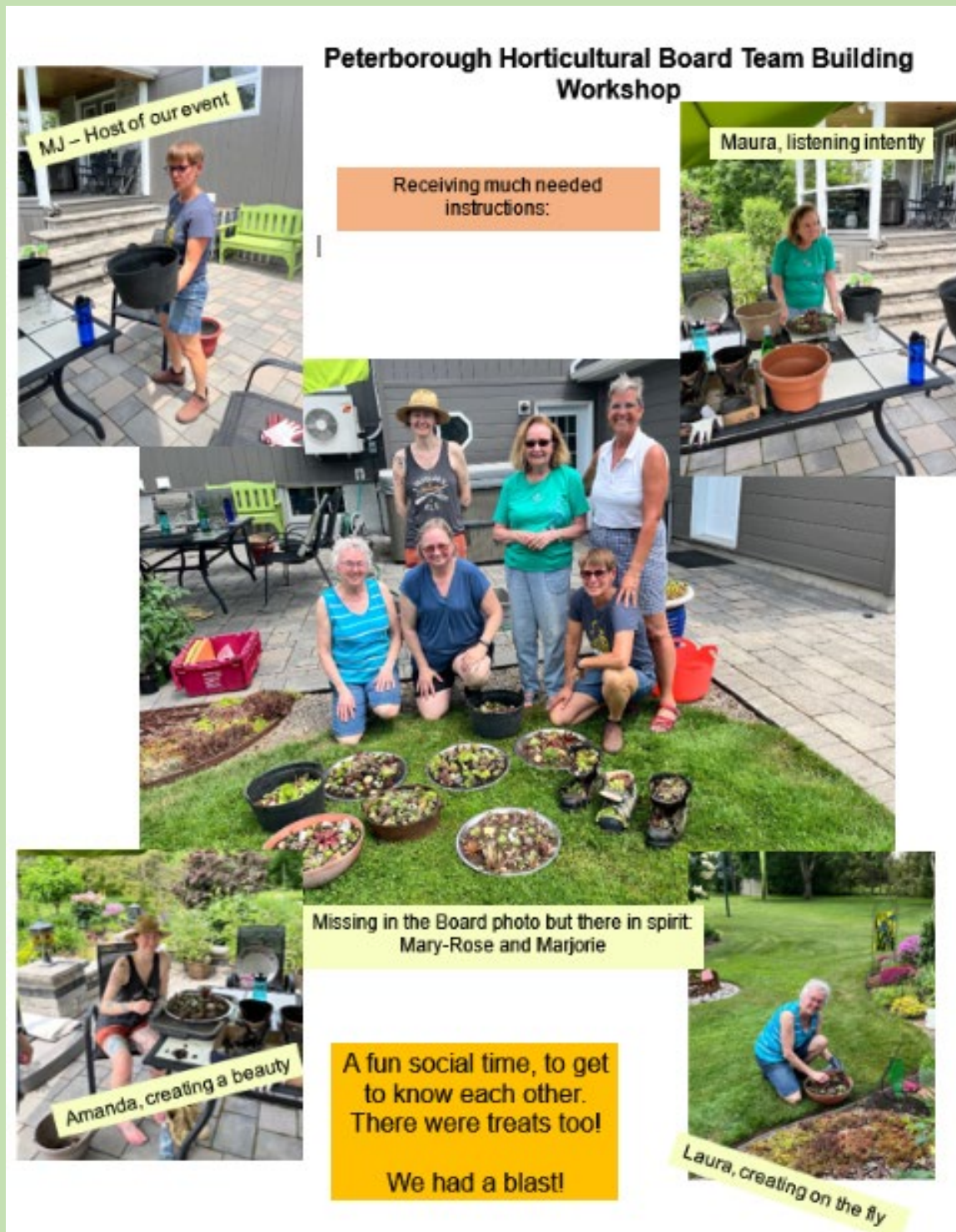
1. **'It Was a Very Good Year'** A design of late summer blooms, including blossoms or stems affected by pests or drought. The design should be suitable for a coffee or kitchen table – not exceeding 30" high and 30" across.

2. **'Good Enough to Eat'** – A display suitable for a kitchen or dining room, using primarily summer edibles such as tomatoes, peppers,



squash, etc. and other plant materials from the garden or foraged. The display should not exceed 30" high x 30' across.

❖ **Marjorie Vendrig**



PHS Speakers for 2025

In Person meetings at the Peterborough Lions Centre

- Sep. 24: **MJ Pilgrim** "Fall is Bulb Planting Time"
Oct. 22: **Suzanne Catty** "Potions & Lotions from the Garden"
Nov. 26: **Silvia Strobl** "Winter Tree Identification"
PHS AGM will take place after Silvia's talk

Membership reminder:

Memberships are annual, running from January to December. We will begin accepting membership payments for 2026 in January.

Also, Members should wear their nametags (or pick them up at a meeting). Anyone who is not wearing their membership tag may be asked to pay the \$5 per meeting fee.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Events

Port Hope Garden Club is selling a limited quantity of select major bulbs. Tulips and daffodils are being sold as lots of 10 bulbs. Alliums are being sold individually. These are good quality bulbs from the same Canadian importer that supplies Griffins Nursery. Tulips and Narcissus are 12+ size bulbs, and the Allium are 18/20+ size.

On offer are:

Narcissus

Rynveld Early Sensation - early yellow trumpet

10 bulbs for \$15.00

Tahiti - mid season yellow double

10 bulbs for \$15.00

Tulipa:

Chrysantha - botanical tulip, yellow inside/vermillion outside

10 bulbs for \$10

Spring Green - early white viridiflora

10 bulbs for \$12

Salmon Prince - early single salmon

10 bulbs for \$12

National Velvet - mid season deep red

10 bulbs for \$12

Foxy Foxtrot - early double, butter yellow/orange/peach

10 bulbs for \$15

Allium:

Mount Everest - white globes, 36" tall

\$6 per bulb

Pinball Wizard - purple globes, 24" tall

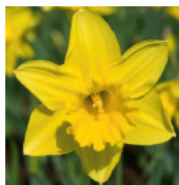
\$8 per bulb

To order, please email Bonnie Tuttle at bonnie@aprod.com

Bonnie will check availability and advise on e-transfer amount.



Narcissus
'Tahiti'



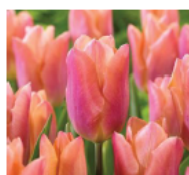
Narcissus
'Rynveld Early Sensation'



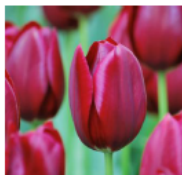
Tulipa
'Chrysantha'



Tulipa
'Spring Green'



Tulipa
'Salmon Prince'



Tulipa
'National Velvet'



Tulipa
'Foxy Foxtrot'



Allium
'Pinball Wizard'



Allium
'Mount Everest'

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Events

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>

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

September 20th – Growing Native Plants From Seed

October 25th – 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.

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

