

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Volume 165 **January 2026** Number 1

**Wednesday January 28th, 2026 @ 7pm, Zoom ONLY:
The Impact of Climate Change on Nature in the Kawarthas**

Please note: in person meetings will return in March!

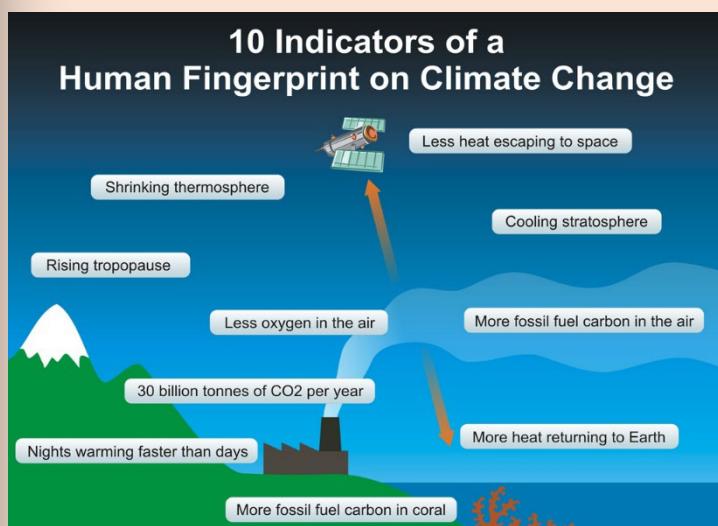
Drew Monkman
Climate Change in the Kawarthas

Wednesday, January 28, @7 pm, Zoom Meeting

CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURE

- Effect on biological health of soil
- Reduced soil organic matter and fertility status
- Increase weed growth and disease outbreak
- Increase moisture and drought stress
- Salinization and Alkalization
- Alteration in nutrient dynamics

Drew Monkman is a well-known teacher and naturalist in Peterborough; his column appears regularly in the Peterborough Examiner.



This presentation explains how climate change is already affecting wildlife in the Kawarthas and central Ontario. It covers themes such as population changes, arrival of new species, changes in the dates of events (e.g., flowering, bird arrival), extreme weather events as well as what changes we can expect in the future. He also touches on why climate change is so difficult for humans to react to.

A question and answer session follows the presentation.

President's Message – January 2026

As we welcome January and the beginning of a new year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to each of you for a healthy and inspiring year ahead.

Although our gardens are resting under snow, this is a season full of promise. January invites us to reflect on the past year's successes and challenges, to dream about new projects, and to plan for the growing season ahead. It is a perfect time to browse seed catalogues, sketch garden designs, and deepen our horticultural knowledge.

Our society has much to look forward to in the coming months. Thanks to the dedication of our board members, and engaged membership, we will continue to offer informative meetings, educational opportunities, and chances to connect with fellow garden enthusiasts. Your participation and enthusiasm are what make our community thrive.



Thank you for your continued support and for sharing your passion for horticulture. Together, we cultivate not only beautiful gardens, but also friendship, learning, and a strong sense of community.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and sharing another rewarding year of growth.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Reminder – January and February meetings occur on Zoom.

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**
PHS President

Membership Reminder

For membership renewals & forms, check out our [Membership page](#) (peterboroughhort.com- Printable membership form can be found there.)

For Renewals- if your contact information has not changed:

- Please send an **e-transfer** in the amount of \$25 (individual) or \$30 (family) to **ptbohortsoc@gmail.com** OR
- Print and fill out [form](#) and mail it to **M.R. Daigle 512 Dickson St Peterborough ON K9H-3K1** with a **Cheque** in the amount of \$25 (individual) or \$30 (family).

If your contact information has changed OR you are joining as a new member:

- complete this [online form](#)
- payment options are an e-transfer or cheque -see bullet points above

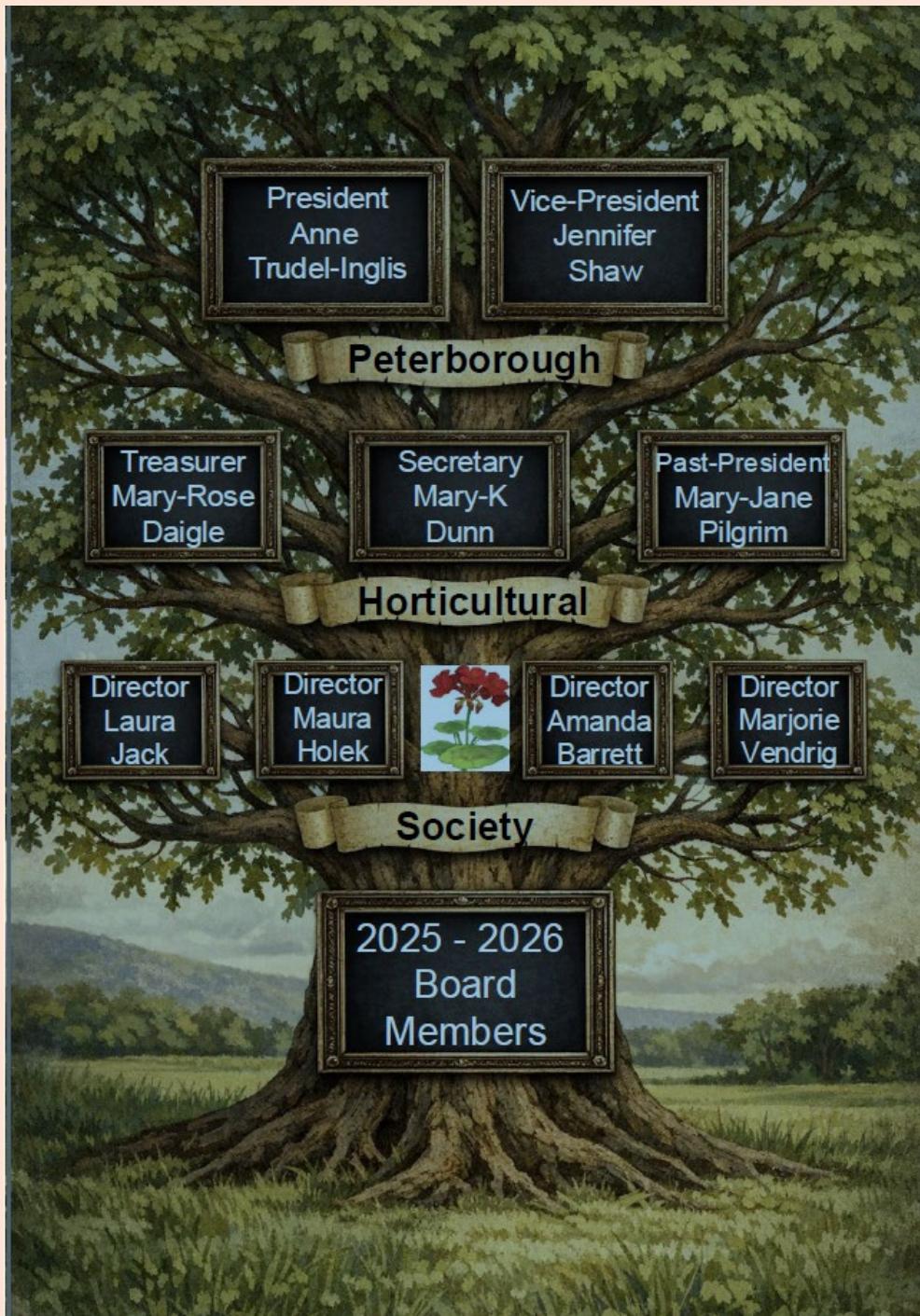
What do you get for your \$25 single or \$30 family membership?

- Nine of our amazing newsletters
- Nine general meetings, first two winter meetings on Zoom, all with great speakers.

- Prize table
- Opportunity to sign up for the PHS bus trip (cost & location to be announced)
- Discounts of 10% from local horticultural vendors

We have great speakers lined up this year and are looking forward to sharing our Horticultural interests and stories with you!

Meet the Team Behind the Green!



Raffle Table Exposé

Maura "tells all" about how those amazing prizes end up on the prize table monthly 😊

Since my university days I have enjoyed the hunt for useful, decorative pieces.

Back then, there were limited shopping choices, but there was always the Salvation Army and in Toronto the Army Supply Store. I had little money to spend, and these stores had magic in every aisle.

Today there has been an explosion of thrift shops, vintage shops and antique shops that offer so much beautiful China, Wedgwood, Waterford crystal, Limoge, Noritake, Hummel, Royal Doulton, Christmas ornaments, original art, silver, and my favorite... Books.

I have been an avid reader and collector of World War II books, and through the years have accumulated hundreds of them including all the written works of Winston Churchill. It was a special day when I found a rare copy he wrote and illustrated with his artwork.

Thrift stores are so unlike regular Mall shops. The items are re-cycled saving good and useful items from the dump. Every time I visit, I get to appreciate and admire things that were cherished by someone and often from decades ago. I can go home with an old cookbook and recreate a dish that was popular in the 70's and older.

I have found pieces that I gift as hostess gifts, wedding, anniversary and birthday presents, all unique. And they are always worth much than what I paid.

One great find for me being a quilter is getting a huge bag of vintage material, blocks that were completed and notes and names of the ladies that put them together but did not get them finished. I was able to do that and while I worked on them, I imagined the ladies who put together such beautiful blocks and hoped I did them justice in finishing the quilt.

So, at the end of the day, I get to go on a treasure hunt, save money, and remember things past. All good.

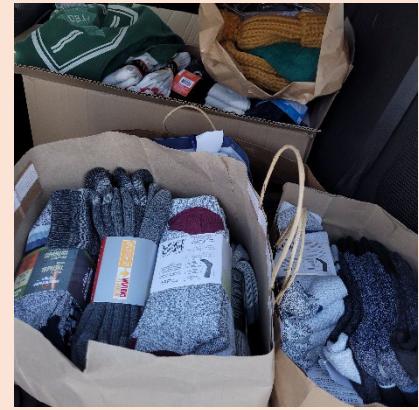
❖ Maura Holek

Quick note: all funds raised from prize table tickets are used to purchase next month's prize table items

Our Christmas Giving Tables – what happens to the donations

Those of you who attended December's meeting will likely recall our heaping piles of donations: a table positively stacked with socks, gloves, winter hats and the likes, a substantial collection of non-perishable food items, as well as the overflowing hospitality table - laden with leftovers at the end of the meeting. Although I did not count items, I can assure you that my car was packed to the brim with goods to be delivered.

My first stop was to the Brock Mission, where volunteers with genuinely big smiles accepted our baked goods and treats, and boxes of winter apparel, before sending me on my way to YES (youth emergency shelter) down the street.





YES was happy and grateful to accept the remaining boxes of winter apparel/accessories. I must say, at this point I was feeling more than a little bit like Santa Claus.

The final stop was Kawartha Food Share, where we donated \$255 in cash, and just shy of 80lbs in non-perishable food items.

After all of these deliveries what I can tell you with certainty is that our community was very grateful for the generosity of our members and, with that, we contributed to the spirit of camaraderie and compassion of the holiday season. I definitely felt it.

Many thanks,

◆ **Amanda Barrett**

BUG Club Corner

For 2026 (and possibly longer?) we will be posting articles on common bugs, helpful and unhelpful varieties. We welcome contributions from members, responses to articles and ideas/suggestions on dealing with the "bad guys" and helping the "good guys".

Spider Mites

It's cold and snowing outside, and you're watering your houseplants.

You notice that one of your favourite plant children isn't looking as perky as usual and has some tiny dots appearing on some leaves.

You might have two-spotted spider mites (*Tetranychus urticae*)! These tiny insects can cause leaf damage and build unsightly webs on both indoor and outdoor plants.

Two-spotted spider mites love a range of indoor host plants, especially:

- Palms (*Arecaceae sp.*)
- Philodendrons (*Philodendron*)
- Figs (*Ficus sp.*)
- Calathea (*Goeppertia*)
- English ivy (*Hedera helix*)



Mites on a Chrysanthemum



Tetranychus urticae

How to tell if you have two-spotted spider mites (signs and symptoms):

- The plant appears dull.
- You notice fine webbing under leaves or between leaf and stem.
- There's noticeable leaf damage (curling, stippling/tiny dots or speckles), silver or grey patches on leaves.
- The mites themselves! They're very tiny, so tap leaves over a piece of white paper and look for orange specks. Or use a loupe (small magnifying glass) to

examine your plants. The adult two-spotted spider mite has eight legs, are yellow-brown or greenish in colour, with two dark spots.

Life cycle:

Spider mites can be very prolific, with up to 10 generations being born each year.

1. Adults make delicate webs on the undersides of weeds and tree leaves. Within the webbing, the female lays up to 200 spherical, clear to pale green eggs, about 0.1 mm in diameter.
2. Within 3 to 10 days, eggs hatch into 6-legged larvae. Unfertilized eggs develop into males.
3. Larvae molt into 8-legged protonymph and deutonymph stages before becoming adults in 4 to 24 days.



How to get rid of spider mites:

1. Isolate the plant with the infestation to prevent the mites from spreading to your other plants.
2. Gently wash the mites off your plant! If it's small enough, you can do this in the sink or shower, using lukewarm water. Focus especially on the underside of leaves. For extra oomph, you can use insecticidal soap (following package directions).
3. Treat the leaves of your plants with neem oil (or another good horticultural oil) – this will suffocate any mites or eggs left.



Prevention:

- Check your plants once or twice a week (for mites or other issues).
- Two-spotted spider mites thrive in warm, dry conditions. Drop the temperature in the room and increase the humidity around your plants.
- Every so often wash your plants using lukewarm water.
- Select indoor plants that are less prone to spider mites (succulents and cacti, pothos, snake plant (*sansevieria*), hoyas and ferns).

❖ Mary-Kathleen Dunn

Sources

- University of Minnesota Extension. *Houseplant pests*. <https://extension.umn.edu/news/houseplant-pests>. November 5, 2024. Accessed January 10, 2026.
- Missouri Botanical Garden. *Spider mites*. <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/insects-pests-and-problems/insects/mites/spider-mites>. August 2024. Accessed January 11, 2026.
- Costa Farms. *Plant Pests 101: Spider Mites*. <https://costafarms.com/blogs/get-growing/plant-pests-101-spider-mites?srsltid=AfmBOoo2tL9QETSRP0A7p7X0mL1fHz72bcAVPyvhJZAVHNA6DtawesL>. Accessed January 10, 2026.
- Maund, Christopher. *New Brunswick Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries. Two-spotted Spider Mites*. https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/10/agriculture/content/crops/small_fruits/twospotted_spider_mite.html, 1999. Accessed January 11, 2026

2026 Theme of the Year



We are pleased to announce that the 2026 CiB theme will be **Therapeutic Gardening**. More than ever, we recognize the restorative power of green spaces—gardens that nurture the mind, body, and spirit. Whether through community gardens, sensory landscapes, or the simple joy of tending plants, therapeutic gardening fosters connection, resilience, and well-being.

PHS Speakers for 2026

Zoom Meetings

Jan. 28: **Drew Monkman** "The Impact of Climate Change on Nature in the Kawarthas"
Feb. 25: **Robert Pavlis** "Understanding Soil"

In Person meetings at the Peterborough Lion's Centre

Mar. 25: **Vern Bastable** - "Trees and Shrubs"
April 22: **Pam Clarke** - "Xeriscaping"
May 27: **Joey Azzarello** - "Pond Gardens"
June 24: **"Ask Me Anything"** – Perennials, Pests and Pollinators: Panel of Experts

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

Sept. 23: **Dave Ellis** – "Wildlife Photography"
Oct. 28: **Jessica York (Branch Ranch)** – Demonstration of Seasonal Decor
Nov. 25: **MJ Pilgrim** - "Christmas Trivia"
PHS AGM will take place after MJ'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

March 8th – Seedy Sunday 2026

March 28th – Garden Ontario 50/50 draw

April 25th – A Day for Gardeners



Gardening Resources

OHA Garden Ontario website <https://gardenontario.org> lots of downloadable resources and the Autumn 2025 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

