

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Volume 165 **March 2026** Number 3

Wednesday March 25th, 2026 @ 7pm, at the Lion's Centre
In Person: Trees and Shrubs by Vern Bastable

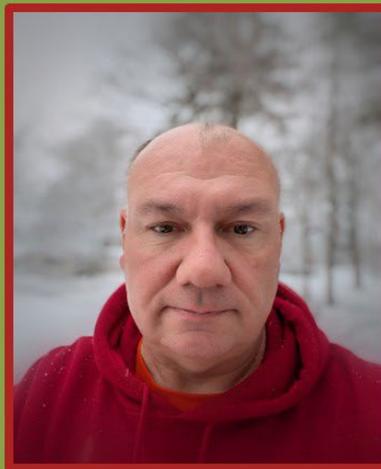
The Peterborough Horticultural Society
presents...

Vern Bastable:

Trees and Shrubs

**Climate, weather, pests and
pathogens**

- tree and shrub selection
- maintenance
- possibilities and problems



Wednesday, March 25,
2026
7:00 pm

Peterborough Lion's
Centre



Vern will be speaking to us on **Trees and Shrubs**, climate, weather, pests and pathogens: our forests are changing fast. Should we be changing what we plant and how we care for our trees and shrubs? What might tomorrow's forests and urban oases look like and what are the possibilities and problems for us planters?

Please note: This meeting will not be available on Zoom

President's Message – March 2026

As we welcome the month of March, there is a renewed sense of anticipation in the gardening world. The days are growing longer, the sun feels warmer, and although winter still lingers, we know that spring is just around the corner.

This is the time of year when many of us begin planning our gardens in earnest. Seed catalogues have been well-thumbed, planting lists are underway, and some early seeds may already be started indoors. March is a wonderful month to dream, design, and prepare for the season ahead.

While our outdoor gardens may still be resting under snow, there is plenty we can do now to ensure success in the months to come:

- Start cool-season vegetables and annuals indoors
- Check stored bulbs and tubers
- Clean and sharpen garden tools
- Plan new garden beds or make improvements to existing ones
- Support early wildlife by maintaining feeders and planning pollinator-friendly plantings

It is also an excellent time to reflect on how our gardens can support birds and beneficial insects throughout the growing season. Even small additions such as native plants can make a meaningful difference to the health of our local ecosystem.

Our upcoming meetings will provide opportunities to learn, share ideas, and connect with fellow gardeners who are just as eager for spring as you are. I encourage you to attend, participate, and bring your gardening questions and experiences.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued enthusiasm and support of our club. Here's to the promise of spring and another rewarding gardening season ahead!

Reminder – the March meeting will be in person only – no Zoom

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**
PHS President



Membership Reminder

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

Wait! What happens if I'm not sure if I renewed my membership?

If you aren't sure if you've renewed for 2026:

- DO NOT renew until you check. Double payments, late payments and missed payment can be very confusing for everyone.
- DO send us an email and ask us to check for you. The email address is:
ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

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!

Ready to renew or sign up for the first time?

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

Winter Flower Show

Deadline to submit is March 31st

It's easy, just take a picture of your favourite houseplant and send it to ptbohortsoc@gmail.com, the pictures will be posted on our website and on social media minus anything that identifies the plant-parent.

We will be voting as a group at the April general meeting and in keeping with our new Flower Show & Tell events everyone will be voting.

There are very few rules: the plant must 'live' in your house, it's not a seedling that's just germinated or a cutting you are hoping will root. We also need the name of the plant.

Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, so we have included two categories to meet all possibilities:

- **The House Special** – it’s alive, it thrives, and you love it.
- **The Nonconformist** – it’s alive – barely, not thriving, but still holds a place in your heart.



House Special



Nonconformist (but loved 😊)

BUG Club Corner

For 2026 (and possibly longer?) we will be posting articles on common bugs, both beneficial and non-beneficial species. We welcome responses to articles, ideas and/or suggestions.

Ode to a Mantis

You may have come across her lurking amongst the foliage of your daylilies or perched on the underside of a leaning branch. If you’re unlucky, you may not have noticed her camouflaged in the brush and were only made aware of her presence by a sharp pinch on the side of your hand, to then find her clinging to your skin with her tibial spines.

She is an ambush predator and voracious hunter, the apex of our garden bug kingdom: the praying mantis.

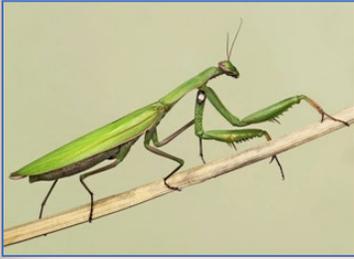


Ground Mantid

Amongst gardeners I have noticed a tendency to view insects through the lens of “pest” and focus on the problematic. Though her alien-like posture, her eerie stillness, and her spiny forelegs may look chilling and even threatening to us, I would urge you to look at the mantis as the gardener’s friend, not foe.

Of the three mantis varieties residing in Canada only one, the Ground Mantid, is a native species, and though the other two are introduced species, neither are considered invasive. The European Mantis was an accidental introduction in the late 1800’s, while the Chinese Mantis was introduced not long after, intentionally, as a means of pest control - they were well-known for eating insect pests, such as aphids. And although it would benefit my stance tremendously to paint them as heroes who only prey upon

problematic bugs, their appetite and prowess is indiscriminate, and they'll come for your butterflies and other pollinators just the same. Therefore, they are no longer considered to be an effective solution for insect pest infestations. But it's the bigger picture that we should focus on.



European Mantis

Our gardens are alive; they are curated pocket ecosystems within the larger landscapes. Healthy ecosystems thrive on diversity, and bugs make up a huge component of that range. In his presentation last month, Robert Pavlis talked to us about the rich and diverse ecosystem that is our soil - from tiny microbes to the comparably gigantic earthworms and beetles that create a healthy and balanced system capable of sustaining our plants.

Just as these invertebrates work below the ground in our gardens, insects above the ground, work on creating a thriving system as well. Pollination (primarily carried out by insects) being the foundation of plant reproduction, and the insect kingdom being the bottom of the food chain for most animals. So, like it or not, bugs are an integral part of a healthy ecosystem.

By encouraging a range of insects - through minimal soil disruption, avoiding chemicals and pesticides, and providing shelters and wild areas - in our gardens, we promote diversity, harmony and balance in the ecosystem.

She may not get the admiration or reverence of a lioness but, in our gardens, the praying mantis is just that. An apex predator. A sign of a healthy ecosystem. The next time you come across her amongst your plants, you should feel proud that you've fostered an environment rich enough to support her.



Chinese Mantis

Give her the space and respect she deserves but be sure to take a minute to observe just how formidable and impressive she is as well. If you're lucky, you may get to see her head swivel 180 degrees - extremely lucky, and you just may witness her ambush a smaller unsuspecting bug. But even in her stillness, I guarantee that you can appreciate just how cool and elegant she is.

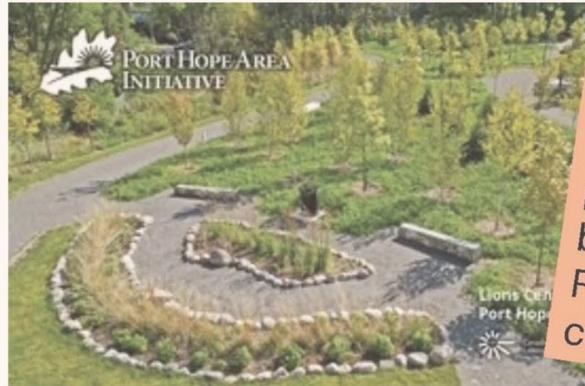
Don't let her appearance fool you, a mantis is a gardener's friend, not foe.

❖ **Amanda Barrett**

Port Hope Garden Club

Invites you to

OHA District 4 AGM 2026



PHS Members
If you are interested
in attending our
District 4 AGM
please email PHS
before **March 23rd**.
Registration fee is
covered by PHS.

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2026

9:00AM – 3:30PM

Town Park Recreation Centre

62 McCaul St., Port Hope

Guest Speaker: Bree Nixon,
Topic: PHAI (Port Hope Area Initiative)
“Port Hope’s Largest Gardener

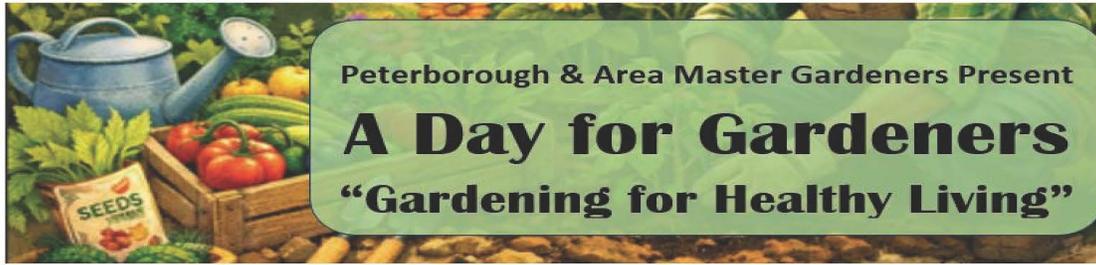
Morning Refreshments and Lunch

Remember – Lug-a-Mug and your Banner

Silent Auction

Registration Fee: \$30





Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners Present
A Day for Gardeners
“Gardening for Healthy Living”

Saturday April 25, 2026

Westdale United Church

1509 Sherbrooke St, Peterborough, ON

9:30am to 3pm (estimate)



Four Seminars,
 lunch & door
 prizes

Cost: \$60
 early bird
 \$75 after Apr1

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

Session 1:

- ❖ Healthy Gardens Healthy Gardeners **OR**
- ❖ Gardens that BUZZ: Designing with Native Plants for Beauty and Life

Session 2:

- ❖ Seasonal Gardening for Birds **OR**
- ❖ Rose Care: A Beginner’s Guide

Session 3:

- ❖ Resilient Landscaping for Community, Humans and Food Webs **OR**
- ❖ Two Mini sessions:
 - Unusual Culinary Herbs AND
 - Seeds: Heritage vs Heirloom vs GMO

**Plenary: “Growing Well: How Gardening Supports Longevity,
 Healthy, and Happiness”**

Info & Registration?

peterboroughmastergardeners.com





PHS Speakers for 2026

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

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

Upcoming Events and Activities

Events

March 28th – Garden Ontario 50/50 draw
- Minden Seedy Saturday

March 29th – Apsley Seedy Sunday

April 25th – A Day for Gardeners



Garden Ontario
50/50 Draw
Grow Your Luck This Spring!
Your Tickets Could Bloom Into Cash!
Draw: March 28, 2026 50% Goes To The Winner!!
GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
Proceeds will support Garden Grants and Education in Ontario
<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>
www.GardenOntario.org Licence # RAF1449351



North Kawartha Public Library
Save the Date!
APSLEY SEEDY SUNDAY
March 29
11am - 2pm
175 Burleigh St. Apsley



SEEDY SATURDAY
Visit our website for full details

Start the 2026 Garden season with a visit to the Minden Seedy Saturday.

- Visit local garden, ecological, and seed vendor booths
- Sit in on our demonstrations and information sessions
- Participate in the local seed exchange
- Get advice from Haliburton County Master Gardeners
- Participate on FEEL interactive activities and Childrens area

MARCH 28
10:00 – 2:00 PM

10:30 Cheryl Fraser The Bee Project: Discovering the Bees around you
11:30 Basic indoor seed sowing demonstration for beginners
12:30 Basil Conlin of Haliburton Micromeadows Seed Orchards- Preserving Genetic Diversity'



Minden Community Center, Upper Level 55 Parkside Street, Minden, ON

 **Minden & District Horticultural Society**
 <https://mindenhorticulturalsociety.ca>
 www.facebook.com/groups/mindenhorticulturalsociety/

