

# Peterborough Horticultural Society

Volume 165 April 2026 Number 4

Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 @ 7pm, at the Lion's Centre  
In Person: "Xeriscaping" by Pam Clarke



Pam has been an active member of Durham Master Gardeners for over 15 years and holds a Horticultural Certificate from the University of Guelph. A self-described "generalist" gardener, Pam gained hands-on experience running her gardening services business after retiring. She now focuses on sharing her knowledge with her family and educating her community. Pam enjoys creating a pollinator and bird-friendly backyard oasis while finding ways to include native trees and simplify garden maintenance.

Pam will be speaking to us on xeriscaping, a practical, sustainable approach to gardening that focuses on **reducing water use while maintaining attractive, healthy landscapes**. It is

about **working with nature**, choosing the right plants, improving soil, and managing water wisely so that gardens are **resilient, lower maintenance, and environmentally responsible**.

Key techniques that make xeriscaping successful:

- Planning and Design
- Soil Improvement
- Water Efficiency
- Use of Mulches
- Drought-Tolerant Turf
- Efficient Irrigation
- Drought-Tolerant Plants



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***Please note: This meeting will not be available on Zoom  
Guests are Welcome for \$5 per person***

## President's Message – April 2026

April has arrived, bringing with it the true beginning of the gardening season. The snow has finally receded, early bulbs are pushing through the soil, and the garden is slowly awakening after its winter rest. It's always exciting to see those first signs of life, whether it's tulips emerging, buds swelling on shrubs, or the return of birdsong in the mornings.

This is the month when preparation meets action. Compost can be turned, and cool season crops such as peas, lettuce, and spinach may be sown outdoors. Indoors, seedlings started in March are growing quickly and will soon be ready for transplanting when the risk of frost has passed.



April is also an important time to:

- Divide and transplant hardy perennials
- Prune shrubs that bloom on new wood
- Edge garden beds and refresh mulch
- Inspect tools and equipment for the busy season ahead
- Begin planning for pollinator-friendly and drought-tolerant plantings

As we prepare our own gardens, it's a great opportunity to think about incorporating native plants that support pollinators and local wildlife. Creating even a small habitat can make a meaningful impact in sustaining bees, butterflies, and birds throughout the season.

I hope you'll join us at our upcoming meetings as we continue to share knowledge, inspiration, and a love of gardening. Your participation is what makes our club such a vibrant and welcoming community.

Wishing you a joyful start to the gardening season and many happy hours spent outdoors!

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

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## Membership Reminder

### Welcome Back to our in-person meetings!

If you are coming to the general meeting on April 22 and want to renew, please put CASH payments in an envelope with your name on it and hand to Laura at the front door desk. We will have name tags that we can give you with vendor discounts on the back!

If you can e-transfer or mail your renewal that would be even better. Please see below for link and address:

#### 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](mailto:ptbohortsoc@gmail.com)  
or
- Print and fill out the **form** and mail it to:  
PHS P.O. Box 1372, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6 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: e-transfer or cheque (see bullet points above)

#### What do you get for your membership?

- Nine of our amazing newsletters
- Nine general meetings, first two winter meetings on Zoom, all with great speakers.
- Prize table
- A PHS bus trip (location to be announced)
- Discounts of 10% to 15% from local horticultural vendors

**We think it's a pretty good deal.**

For membership renewals & information, check out our **website**.

## Winter Flower Show

### Winter Houseplant Favourites - Voting at this month's meeting:

At this month's meeting we will be voting on entries for the House Plant favourites. All members in attendance at the meeting are eligible to vote on the photos submitted in the past few months.

There are two categories:

- 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.



Please take a few minutes to check out the entries on our [website](#) and Facebook page. Thank you to all who submitted photos, we look forward to choosing 'The Winner'

❖ **Marjorie Vendrig**

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## May Flower Show

This spring's Flower Show and Tell event will take place at our May meeting, Wednesday, May 27, 2026. We will follow the same format as last year: there is no formal judging - any Peterborough Horticultural Society member may enter and everyone attending may vote for their choice. There will be four categories (three specimen classes and one design class). You will be able to vote on your favourite in each category and the exhibit with the most votes in each category will be deemed the 'Winner'.

Even if you have never entered a flower show before, this is the time to take a chance and have some fun. It's fun and easy, we are not concerned with types and sizes of containers, or length and size of blossoms. Winners are picked by the membership, chosen for what appeals to them on a spontaneous and personal basis.

### 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 specified time (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 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.

### **Specimen Class:**

1. **Section 1** - Perennials - Any perennial(s), named, single or multiple (maximum 5) stems of the same or different species.
2. **Section 2** - Spring flowering bulbs – Any spring flowering bulbs (corms,) named, single or multiple (maximum 5) stems of the same or different species.
3. **Section 3** - Flowering branches - spring flowering branch(es), named, - 3 branches of the same or different plant.

### **Design Class:**

'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.

### ❖ **Marjorie Vendrig**

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## **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.*

Ladybugs (common name for species within the lady beetle family), along with being one of the most recognizable, are considered to be one of the most beneficial garden insects. There are hundreds of species within North America, all having distinctively round shells but visually ranging from solid red to red/orange with black spots, or even black with red spots.

For the gardener, it is their appetite for aphids that is most celebrated. A female ladybug will lay her eggs (hundreds at a time) amongst the colonies of aphids, and the voracious larvae will feast upon them throughout this stage of their development. Adult ladybugs will also consume aphids but require pollen in their diet as well. They prefer umbellifer flower heads (dill, yarrow) for pollen but are also partial to dandelions - so don't be so hasty to remove them in the spring.



**Ladybug larvae**

Another key to attracting these insects into your garden ecosystem is to avoid using pesticides. And because ladybugs overwinter in Canada (which is why we find so many in our windowsills in the fall/winter), it is important not to disturb garden beds too early in the season - a general rule of thumb is to wait until temperatures are steadily above 10 degrees Celsius before cleaning up.



Nine-spotted Lady Beetle  
*Coccinella novemnotata*

There is some hesitance or doubt around ladybugs, due to the prevalence of non-native species in Canada. The multi-coloured Asian ladybird beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*), also known as the harlequin ladybug, is an invasive species that was introduced as a form of pest control. Unfortunately, it has become the most common ladybug in Canada, outcompeting our native species. We have passed the point of controlling this species and it is not recommended that we kill them in an attempt to control their

numbers. Instead, we should enjoy their benefits in our gardens.

Furthermore, we can assist in conservation efforts of our native species by photographing and identifying them in apps such as "iNaturalist", or following projects aimed at cataloging their numbers, like "The Lost Ladybug Project", or Haliburton Highlands Land Trust's "Lost Ladybug" project (links to both provided in references).



Transverse lady beetle  
*Coccinella transversoguttata*

◆ **Amanda Barrett**

Canadian Wildlife Federation, <https://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/encyclopedias/fauna/insects/ladybug-101.html>

The Lost Ladybug Project, <http://www.lostladybug.org/identification-tools-1083.php>

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, <https://www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Lost-Ladybugs.pdf>

Government of Ontario, <https://cropipm.omafra.gov.on.ca/en-ca/crops/broccoli/beneficials/4ffe14c5-a4a3-49f0-96b5-1f7e473d516d#summary>

# TICKS & CLIMATE CHANGE

As the climate warms, Ticks are able to thrive farther north. Here's how to protect yourself (and your garden) from this dangerous pest



**Skip the Pesticides:** Instead of spraying chemicals, try a **mulch moat** - a three-foot barrier containing woodchips, which are typically too hot and dry for ticks to cross

**Rewild:** Short grass may prevent some ticks, but longer grass welcomes mammals like foxes and opossums, which make short work of ticks



**Plant Smart:** Choose plants that repel ticks such as rosemary, mint, lemongrass, sage, lavender, garlic, onions, marigold, petunias, and juniper

**And Finally, Fight Climate Change!** To slow our growing tick epidemic, we need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and the many products made with them



To Learn More, Visit [ClimateLegacy.ca](http://ClimateLegacy.ca)





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](http://peterboroughmastergardeners.com)



## Spring Gardening Tips:

After such a long, cold and snowy winter, gardeners are more than ready to get the gardening season started. Unfortunately, this year, spring is slow to come and any thoughts of spending time in the garden are quickly postponed when yet another, snow or hailstorm covers the ground. We'll get there, eventually, and when we do, spring will come fast and furious.

For the moment, at least while temperatures are mostly in the single digits, it's best to avoid spring cleanup and time in the garden. Current advice is to wait until temperatures are consistently about 10C, it's at this temperature when pollinators emerge from dormancy and their winter homes. I've managed to satisfy my gardening itch by picking up some large broken twigs and branches, by removing seasonal greenery (some of it is still frozen in planters and containers!!), and sweeping off patios and decks. I use a lot of leaf mulch in my gardens, new growth from fall planted bulbs is popping through while I obsessively monitor the snowdrops and crocus desperate for a bit of colour and growth. There are a few dark, damp spots where late fall leaves collect, especially from a neighbouring oak tree and because the piles are more than 3 - 4" thick, I remove them to let things dry up a bit, it's the last spot where snow lingers. The remaining leaf mulch is left in place to improve the soil.



Once the temperatures hit the 10C mark, I usually start the cleanup with cutting back last year's growth of the ornamental grasses. Then it's on to remainders from last year's annuals and vegetables, these are added to the compost. Seed heads and top growth from last year's perennials are next, leaving some of the late-to-emerge perennial stalks and seed heads such as echinacea; this is done simply to help me remember where they are planted. I try to get things cleaned up a bit before I start dividing and moving things around. Pruning of hydrangeas is an early spring chore, as is weeding of dandelions and plantain and a few others and pruning of other late flowering shrubs. The soil from last year's containers is dumped on garden beds and the containers refreshed with new soil.

❖ **Marjorie Vendrig**

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## Spring is BUS TRIP time!

**Mark your calendars: Tuesday June 9, 8am-5:30pm**

Depart from Living Hope Church parking lot, Lansdowne St E. near Morello's. First stop is the Quinte ONroute South (restroom).

Next, we stop at these places:

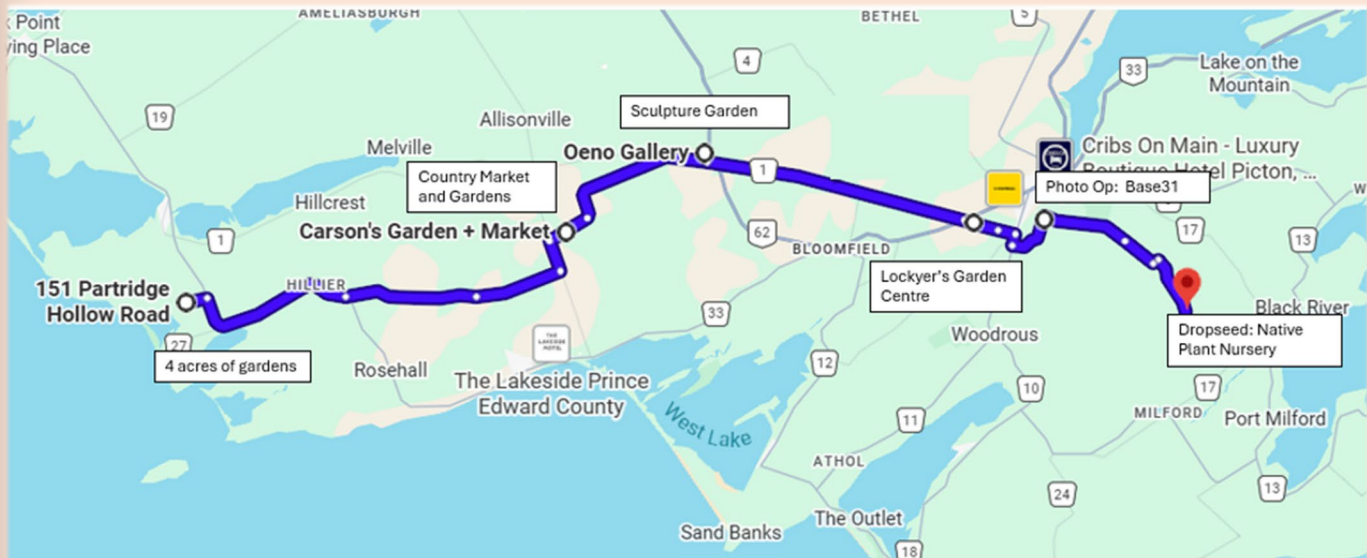
- Christopher Mousseau's garden (4 acres, recommended by Charlie Dobbin)
- Carson's Country Market, Bloomfield
- Oeno Sculpture Garden + Box Lunches from PEC Women's Institute
- Lockyer's Garden Centre, Picton
- Photo Op from the bus at Base31 restored army base
- Dropseed: native plant nursery, Milford

We'll finish up our whirlwind tour of PEC at the Quinte ONroute North before returning to Living Hope Church parking lot, Lansdowne St E.

The total cost of the trip including lunch is \$100 with the catered lunch, or \$85 if you bring your own lunch.

This trip is a fundraiser for the 7 high school scholarships that we are offering to our local high schools of \$150 each school. Thank you for your help!

Registration will open SOON.



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## PHS Speakers for 2026

### In Person meetings at the Peterborough Lion's Centre

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

**April – May** – University of Guelph Arboretum Spring Workshops:  
[www.arboretum.uoguelph.ca/educationandevents/workshops](http://www.arboretum.uoguelph.ca/educationandevents/workshops)

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** – OHA Earth Day Celebration, Speaker Mark Cullen, presented by GardenOntario via WebEx (see flyer below)

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** – A Day for Gardeners hosted by Peterborough Master Gardeners, Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St. Peterborough

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Botanical Cast Demonstration with artist Rebecca Fortin, Colborne street Gallery, 36 Colborne St. Fenelon Falls

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** – PHS Bus Trip – see details in this newsletter

**June 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>** – “Discovering Ontario” Triennial Flower Show 2026; Lanandscape Ontario, 7856 Fifth Line South, Milton ON (\$10 fee, cash at the door)

**Garden Ontario**  
**50/50 Raffle**  
 Heat Up Your Summer with a Big Win!  
 • Bring the Heat, Bring the Fun  
 • It's a Summer Win Waiting to Happen  
 Draw: July 26, 2026  
 Get Your Tickets Today!!  
 50% Goes To the Winner!  
 Ticket Prices:  
 700 for \$75  
 200 for \$50  
 40 for \$20  
 10 for \$10  
 Proceeds support Garden Grants and Education in Ontario  
<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha> Licence # RAF1533331



# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Presented by



Featuring Special Guest Speaker

**Mark Cullen**

and a Special Talk by



*Let's Talk Climate:  
What are the risks,  
and what can you do?*  
by Betty Plewes



Celebrate Earth Day with us as renowned horticulturalist and author Mark Cullen shares his passion for the natural world.

Through reflections on two inspiring books —The Light Eaters and Our Green Heart— Mark will explore the beauty, resilience, and wonder of the landscapes that sustain us.

An engaging presentation for gardeners, nature lovers, and anyone who cares about our green future.

SAVE THE DATE!

**April 24, 2026**

7:00 - 8:30 pm via WebEx

No Registration Required



***No Registration Required - This event will be first-come, first-serve and open to the first 1000 individuals logged on to the WebEx Account***

Join from the meeting link

<https://gardenontario.webex.com/gardenontario/j.php?MTID=m02933c0ef105afffa2b052e5fc461151>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2864 762 1710

Meeting password: GJamcBPJ282

