Peterborough Horticultural Society

Volume 165 **October 2026** Number 8

Wednesday October 28th , 2026 @ 7pm, at the Lion's Centre "Demonstration of Seasonal Decor" by Jessica York from the Branch Ranch



Join us in welcoming Jessica "Jess" York to our stage. Jess is the willow grower and weaving instructor behind **The Branch Ranch**, a small family-run willow farm tucked just outside Warkworth, Ontario. Her work blends creativity, community, and a deep love of working with natural materials.

Growing and weaving with willow gives Jess both a grounding practice and a way to share a timeless craft with others. Her workshops are known for being welcoming, encouraging, and joyfully hands-on—whether someone is weaving their very first basket or diving deeper into technique.

The Branch Ranch also offers living willow cuttings, dried willow, and custom willow builds, shipping across Canada and the U.S. At its heart, it's a place for people to slow down, learn something meaningful, and discover what can grow from a single stem of willow.



Jess will be talking to us about The Branch Ranch, about working with willow and will demonstrate how to put together some seasonal décor. She is sure to activate our creative spirits.

This meeting will not be available on Zoom; Guests are welcome for $5 per person

web: peterboroughhort.com **newsletter submissions:** ptbohortsoc@gmail.com
mail: P.O. Box 1372 Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6 **instagram:** ptbohortsoc
facebook: Peterborough Horticultural Society

President's Message – October 2026



October has arrived, and with it comes the beautiful transformation of our gardens. The bright greens of summer are giving way to the golds, reds, and oranges of autumn. While there is still plenty to enjoy in the garden, it is also a wonderful time to slow down, take a walk through our beds, and appreciate all that our gardens have given us this year.

October can bring some unpredictable weather. Frost may arrive at any time, so now is the time to bring in tender plants, harvest the last of the vegetables, and protect any plants that need a little extra winter care. It is also an excellent time to plant spring-flowering bulbs, while the soil is still workable.



As you tidy your gardens, remember that **not everything needs to be cut back**. Leaving seed heads and stems standing can provide valuable food and shelter for birds and beneficial insects throughout the winter. A little garden mess can be a very good thing!



Remember to keep those leaves – a leaf pile today will result in a black crumbly leaf mold next year, free self-made mulch for your gardens.

Wishing everyone a colourful October!

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**
PHS President

PHS Shirts for Members – still available!



Say hello to your new favourite gardening shirt! These shirts were so popular we will be selling them again this fall at the October general meeting. Shirts are $25 each, screen printed right here in Peterborough; funds raised from sales will help us to broaden our scholarship donations for 2027.



Membership Year = Calendar Year

Time to renew your membership for 2027!

If you have a membership for 2026, you should renew your membership at the October or November general meeting to continue to receive links for the virtual meetings in January & February and to attend the in-person meetings starting in March. To renew just send us an e-transfer to ptbohortsoc@gmail.com for your membership.

If you have been attending meetings as a guest and want to join up for 2027, please go to our website at: https://peterboroughhort.com/join-us/ fill out the form and e-transfer the funds. Your membership card will be waiting for you at the March 2027 general meeting. *Instructions are also included for people who want to print off the form and mail in a cheque.*

How do you know you have a membership for 2026?

That's easy – you should have a name tag that has the year "2026" on it 😊

If you don't, or you've lost your name tag and want to be sure, see Laura at the desk at the meeting and she will help you or email us at ptbohortsoc@gmail.com If you aren't a 2026 member you can still attend the meetings for the rest of the year, the charge is $5.00 per meeting.

Have you already renewed or joined up for 2027?

If you think you have renewed (or joined up) for 2027 and aren't sure, DO NOT just sign up again – this gives our Treasurer a headache and we try to be nice to her – just email us at ptbohortsoc@gmail.com or ask Laura at the desk when you come to the meeting. Laura has access to all the most up-to-date membership information and is always helpful.

What are the fees for 2027?

If you were able to attend the September meeting you will recall that the membership voted to approve an increase in the membership fees.

2027 membership fees are $30 for an individual and $35 for a family

Questions? Comments? – email us at ptbohortsoc@gmail.com





Whether you call it "Fall" or "Autumn" it's a great time of year!

September Flower Show & Tell

September 23rd was the Fall Flower Show & Tell event. The entries were amazingly colourful and everyone enjoyed voting – thank you to everyone who brought in flowers, everyone who voted, everyone who helped out and even to the people who "planned to bring in an entry but……"

The Winners!



			
Section 1 – Flower(s) Mr. Optimist Dahlias by Laura Jack	Section 2 – Perennials Summer Phlox by MJ Pilgrim	Section 3 - Annuals Nasturtium buy Debbie Fraser	Design Class – "A Garden to Celebrate" Verbena, hydrangea & more by Marjorie Vendrig

Winter Flower Show – Pictures of Summer

Pictures of Summer Show & Tell event – this is a repeat of the Houseplant picture competition with a twist! In January you will be able to send in pictures of your most prized houseplants AND pictures from your garden from this summer. Voting will take place at the March 2027 meeting.

Details will be in the January 2027 newsletter but start snapping those summer pictures now!

Scholarships – this is why we give them out!

The following are two letters received over the summer from the PHS scholarship recipients. They remind us why scholarships are important.

> Hello, Mrs. Vendrig.
> My name is A.S., and I was awarded the Peterborough Horticultural Society's award at St. Peter's Catholic High School. I apologize for the late email. I am working as a camp counselor this summer with a no technology policy and there was a mix up with getting part of the award in the mail which included the letter requesting some background information.
> Next year I will be studying at Trent University for a bachelor of science in Environmental and Resource Sciences. I am not fully sure what area of environmental science I would like to focus on, but I am currently leaning towards Climate Change. I do not fully know where my interest in the environmental sciences started, but it was when I was young. I have grown up spending most of my time outside and at the cottage in nature, so I have grown to be curious about how it works and how we affect it.
> Thank you so much for the award, and if you have any more questions for the newsletter, please let me know.

> My name is L.C.,
> I am the 2026 award recipient of the PHS Award for Adam Scott CVI! I am 18 years old and my interest in horticulture and farming started at a very young age.
> I have grown up on a 100 acre market garden and cash crop farm in Otonabee, where I have watched my grandparents, and parents grow their business from what started out as a corn stand on the highway, and has developed into a more diverse farm. I have observed all of the trial and error my parents have gone through, attempting to become more sustainable in their growing, harvesting and selling practice. I love taking part in the process of growing vegetables from start to finish. As a kid with my brother (and help from our mother and grandmother), we started a flower business selling flowers (bouquets and single flowers) alongside my parent's vegetable stand! This year my family has decided to take a gap year from the market garden and flowers and focus on developing the cash crop side of our farm as well as spend more time with one another before I head off to university!
> My experiences have made me curious about agronomy and agricultural science! I am attending the University of Guelph in fall 2026 for a bachelor of science in agriculture, and I couldn't be more excited! My future goal is to return after university and take over the farm from my parents and continue to build and grow the farm and business. I have been

very lucky to have the amazing support of my parents, grandparents, teachers, and mentors who have helped guide me down this path!
Thank you very much for your assistance with my future studies at Guelph!

❖ **Marjorie Vendrig**

Fall Bulb Planting: Plant Now for a Spectacular Spring!

As summer fades and the garden begins its transition into autumn, there is still plenty to do outdoors. Fall is one of the most important planting seasons for gardeners who want a colourful spring garden.

Spring-flowering bulbs need to be planted in autumn so they can establish roots before winter and reward us with flowers when the garden awakens next spring.

For gardeners in Zone 5b, September and October are prime months for getting those bulbs into the ground. The key is to plant while the soil is still workable but cool enough that the bulbs will concentrate on developing roots rather than producing premature top growth.

When Should You Plant?

A good rule for Zone 5b is to plant spring-flowering bulbs approximately 6–8 weeks before the ground is expected to freeze.

In much of Ontario, this generally means:

- Late September to mid-October: An excellent time for most bulbs.
- Late October: Still a good planting window, particularly if the soil remains workable.
- Early November: Bulbs can often still be planted if the ground has not frozen.
- Don’t be tempted to plant too early. Warm autumn soil can encourage bulbs to begin growing above ground. On the other hand, don’t worry if you haven’t planted by Thanksgiving the bulbs don’t need to be in the ground on a particular calendar date.
- Watch the weather and soil temperature rather than the calendar. Ideally, soil should be around 10°C (50°F) or cooler when planting.
- What Should We Plant? There is an amazing variety of spring-flowering bulbs suitable for Zone 5b gardens.
- Daffodils (Narcissus): A wonderful choice for Canadian gardens. They are generally long-lived, deer-resistant and often multiply over time.
- Tulips (Tulipa): From elegant single varieties to dramatic doubles and parrots, tulips provide almost every colour imaginable. Keep in mind that some hybrid tulips perform best when treated as annuals.
- Crocus (Crocus): Among the earliest flowers of spring, crocuses are perfect for planting in lawns, rock gardens and beneath deciduous trees.

- Alliums (Allium): Their architectural flower heads add height and interest to the late-spring garden and are generally unappealing to deer and rodents.
- Fritillaria (Fritillaria): A fascinating addition for gardeners looking for something different.
- Scilla, Chionodoxa and snowdrops: Are also excellent choices for creating early spring displays.

The DO'S of Fall Bulb Planting

✅ DO choose healthy bulbs. Look for bulbs that are firm, plump and free of mould, soft spots or damage.

✅ DO plant at the proper depth. A traditional guideline is to plant bulbs at approximately 2–3 times the bulb's height. Always check the planting instructions for the particular bulb, however, as recommendations vary.

✅ DO plant bulbs with the growing point facing upward. If you're unsure, plant the bulb on its side. Nature is remarkably good at figuring things out!

✅ DO plant in groups. For the greatest visual impact, avoid scattering individual bulbs randomly throughout a large garden bed. Instead, plant drifts or groups of bulbs.

✅ DO consider succession. Plant a mixture of early, mid and late-spring bulbs for a longer season of colour.

For example: Crocus → Daffodils → Tulips → Alliums

✅ DO water after planting. Give bulbs a thorough watering to settle the soil and encourage root development.

✅ DO mark where you planted them. This simple step can save a lot of confusion next spring! A small garden marker or map will help you remember where bulbs are planted, eg: discarded plastic blinds (shortened and spray painted) to indicate "bulbs planted here".

The DON'TS of Fall Bulb Planting

❌ DON'T plant bulbs in poorly drained locations. The combination of cold temperatures and saturated soil is a recipe for bulb rot.

❌ DON'T use damaged or diseased bulbs. One unhealthy bulb can potentially introduce problems into the planting area. Discard bulbs that are soft, rotten or badly moulded.

❌ DON'T over-fertilize. Bulbs don't require excessive amounts of fertilizer. Avoid putting concentrated fertilizer directly into the planting hole where it may come into direct contact with the bulb.

❌ DON'T plant bulbs where they will remain permanently wet. Even moisture-loving plants generally don't appreciate waterlogged conditions.

❌ DON’T forget about wildlife. Squirrels, chipmunks and other garden visitors may consider newly planted bulbs a buffet. If digging animals are a problem, consider covering the planting area temporarily with chicken wire.

Daffodils and alliums are generally less attractive to many bulb-eating pests than tulips and crocuses.

A Final Tip: Think Beyond Spring: When selecting bulbs this fall, don’t think only about the first burst of colour. Consider how the bulbs will fit into your garden throughout the growing season. Plant spring bulbs among hostas, daylilies, peonies and other perennials. The bulbs provide early-season colour, while the emerging perennial foliage eventually helps hide the fading bulb leaves. We put a small, seemingly lifeless bulb into cold autumn soil, wait through the winter, and trust that come spring, something wonderful will emerge. So grab your trowel, choose some favourites and plant a little spring happiness!

🌷 Happy Fall Planting—and may your spring garden be full of surprises!

❖ **Anne Trudell-Inglis**

PHS Speakers for 2026

In Person meetings at the Peterborough Lion’s Centre

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

There is no meeting in December and the January and February meetings will be virtual. Information on the 2027 speakers will be posted in the newsletters.

Remember to keep an eye out for further information in our newsletters and emails.

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

January – accepting submissions for the Pictures of Summer Flower Show & Tell
Make sure to take pictures of your gardens before it's too late. We are hoping for lots of happy, fun memories to share in the Pictures of Summer virtual flower show & tell.

