

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association

Spring 2025



Photo by Rhu Sherrard, Ancaster Horticultural Society



Stunning Orchids

Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington



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Editor's Message



Kalanchoes can be kept alive and lovely for years – thriving on neglect and don't seem to mind if watering is an oversight. This one has been around for a while, going outdoors in the summer months where watering may be just what comes down from the sky. Although the Christmas cactus plants may bloom in the early

months of fall, a kalanchoe succulent rarely does (for me).

Last autumn, when the below-freezing temperatures threatened, the houseplants came in and went onto a wide windowsill with a south-facing window and curtains that provided filtered light.

Late February or early March, a wonderful display took me by surprise and I took a picture to share with you. Of course, the plant also needs repotting. The blooms will last for weeks and I will enjoy them.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions that help to make the Trillium a fun and interesting newsletter.

Laura Masterson

editor@gardenontario.org

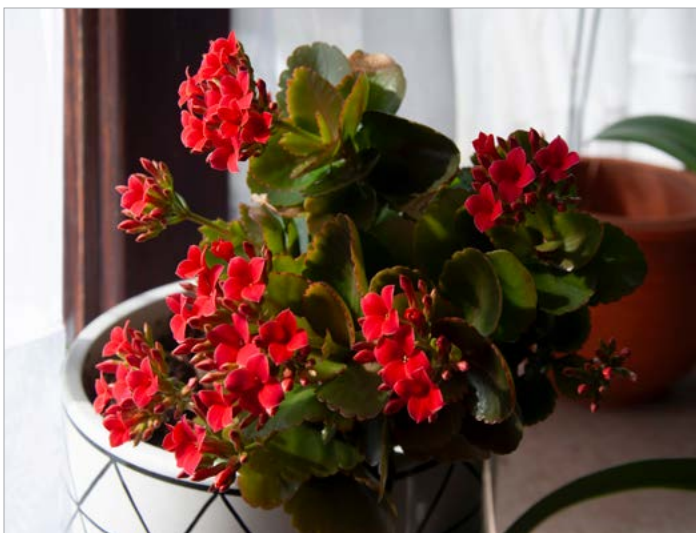


Photo by Laura Masterson

The Trillium is the quarterly online newsletter of the OHA where you'll find the latest gardening news.

This newsletter is for all members of all Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario in every district. If your Club/Society has a special project and you would like to share the news, please send in a story and photographs.

Submission dates for 2025:

June 1 – Summer issue
September 1 – Autumn issue
December 1 – Winter issue

The deadline for the next issue of the Trillium is **June 1**, but submissions can be sent anytime.

To send articles and photographs: Articles should be emailed in Word format, LibreOffice, PDF or plain text.

Photos and other graphics must have signed waivers from the photographer/artist and should be sent as separate files (i.e., not as part of a Word file), with a resolution of at least 1000 by 800 pixels whenever possible. Full-sized original files are all right, too. Please mention who wrote the article and the name(s) of the photographer(s) for a credit. These requests make it easier to work with photos submitted.

Articles can be emailed to:

editor@gardenontario.org

Laura Masterson, OHA Trillium Editor

For photographs that include minors, please send signed parental permission. Here is the link to the waivers on the OHA site:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Media-Release-and-Indemnity-Form-2024-01-26.pdf>

WAIVERS

FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PHOTOS OF MINORS

Here is the link to waivers on the OHA site:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Media-Release-and-Indemnity-Form-2024-01-26.pdf>

In this issue:

OHA President's Message.....	4
Virtual Earth Day Celebration	5
Orangeville & District Horticultural Society.....	8
Bath Gardening Club.....	10
Schomberg Horticultural Society.....	14
OHA Scholarship Program	16
Haldimand Horticultural Society	16
The OHA Family Scholarship	17
Leaside Garden Society.....	19
Minden and District Horticultural Society.....	20
For the Bees:.....	21
OHA 50/50 Draw Winner.....	25
OHA AGM 2025	25
Discount from Dubois Agrinovation	26
Gardening for the Planet!.....	27
Guelph Arboretum Workshops	28
Ancaster Horticultural Society.....	29
Vegetable Garden Journal	30
New Jersey Tea and the Mottled Duskywing Butterfly.....	32
Native Plant Nurseries List	34
Tomato Growing.....	35
Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners	39
Nobleton and King City Garden Club	40
GardenBrockville	41
Thunder Bay Horticultural Society	44
OHA Contact Information	45
Insurance Questions?.....	46
DONATION REQUEST FORM	47

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Keeping Ontario Beautiful
Trillium

Online Newsletter Subscription

To Subscribe to the Trillium

The online Trillium is free – just sign up and it will show up in your inbox 4 times a year.

To subscribe today, email a request to –

The Trillium Distributor:

secretary@gardenontario.org

The Trillium is also available on the OHA website: <https://gardenontario.org>

OHA 50/50 DRAW

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer



Next 50/50 Draw: July 19, 2025

Tickets will be on sale until July 18 at midnight

Licence # RAF1449351

For your chance to win, visit

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

Your ticket purchases for the OHA 50/50 Draw not only helps us keep Ontario Beautiful but it supports education for youth and adults. It also supports environmental programs, awards and grants assisting with pollinators, tree planting and community beautification.



OHA President's Message

It is hard to believe that a year and a half has already flown by in my position as President of the OHA. I hope everyone had the opportunity to spend a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and browse through the seed and bulb catalogues while enjoying a cup of Sipology tea.

Across the province, Societies and Clubs are gearing up for their first meetings of 2025, making plans for their fundraisers, plant sales, garden tours, etc. Districts and the OHA are making plans for the future and planning for their Annual Meetings along with elections and installations of Board Members and Officers. This year, the OHA Annual Meeting will be held by Webex on July 19th, 2025. Please plan to attend.

I want to take a moment to thank those of you that submitted applications for grants and those that submitted names of deserving individuals for OHA awards. Winners will be announced at the OHA Annual Meeting.

I would like to pause for a moment and say a very special thank you to Marian Heil, current OHA Treasurer, for her years of dedication to the Ontario Horticultural Association. She has been a very hard-working and dedicated member of the Officers and Board and we will miss her very much. Her knowledge, work ethic and focus have been paramount in keeping the Association moving forward in a positive way. We wish her well in her new adventures. We are also excited to be able to hire a new treasurer soon. Stay tuned for details.

I would also like to take a moment to say thank you to Jim Mabee, who has retired from his position as Judging School and Updates Coordinator. The OHA thanks Jim for his years of service in this role! We would like to welcome Penny Stewart in the role of Judging School and Updates Coordinator. We congratulate Penny on this new position.

I think we are all looking forward to spring and the warmer weather when we can get outdoors and work in our gardens. I hope everyone enjoys a very Happy Easter holiday and I am sure the Easter Bunny will be good to all of you. Please take care and stay safe and I look forward to seeing you at the OHA Annual Meeting.



Sharlene Desjardins

Sincerely,
Sharlene Desjardins
OHA President

Virtual Earth Day Celebration

Submitted and created by Kelly Taylor, Chair of the Earth Day Committee

GardenOntario™



Earth Day Celebration

April 25, 2025

7:00 pm

via WebEx

Join us on April 25th via WebEx to hear speaker Emily Posteraro from the Invasive Species Centre who will discuss the Spotted Lanternfly and the Box Tree Moth.

We'll also have Kathy Smyth, OHA Past President, join us to discuss the Ease of Growing Vegetables and Herbs.

Earth Day

April 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm
via WebEx

Featuring:

Emily Posteraro, Invasive Species Centre

*Learn about the **Spotted Lanternfly and Box Tree Moth**. Invasive species like spotted lanternfly and box tree moth could show up in your garden. Emily will share how these insects impact us and how the public can take action.*



and

Kathy Smyth, OHA Past President

*Learn about the **Ease of Growing Vegetables and Herbs**. Kathy will share growing tips and tricks on growing vegetables and herbs in raised beds and containers of all kinds.*



WebEx link will open at 6:40 pm

Cameras and microphones will be turned off during the presentations.





Friday, April 25, 2025
6:40 PM | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

HOW TO JOIN:

Join from the meeting link:

[https://gardenontario.webex.com/gardenontario/j.php?
MTID=m2d3283a3a5804ff4a6c53b4068f89ccd](https://gardenontario.webex.com/gardenontario/j.php?MTID=m2d3283a3a5804ff4a6c53b4068f89ccd)

Join by meeting number:

Meeting number (access code): 2867 373 4125
Meeting password: aGPQpWKN533

Join from a mobile device: (attendees only)

1-844-426-4405,,28673734125## Canada Toll Free
1-833-311-4101,,28673734125## Canada Toll Free

Join by phone:

1-844-426-4405 Canada Toll Free
1-833-311-4101 Canada Toll Free
Global call-in numbers | Toll-free calling restrictions

Join from a video system or application:

Dial 28673734125@gardenontario.webex.com
You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.



Orangeville & District Horticultural Society Celebrates its 55th Anniversary

By Vivian Petho, ODHS President and Archivist, Photos courtesy of ODHS Archives and Vivian Petho

The Orangeville & District Horticultural Society will proudly celebrate its 55th Anniversary this April 20, 2025. Fifty-five years is certainly a milestone for our Society considering the many changes our society has seen over the years.

April 20, 1970 saw the founding of the current iteration of our Horticultural Society. The first meeting had sixty attendees, and our first Board of Directors took their positions. Looking back in time, the Orangeville Horticultural Society is recorded in Town newspapers as far back as 1874. That first Society was responsible for planting over two hundred beautiful trees that line the downtown corridor of Zina St. and Alexandra Park. They are a testament to the longevity and rich history that is intertwined in the Town of Orangeville. During World War One, the first Society folded in 1914. It was reinstated after the War but the second Society finally closed in 1936.

In 1970, our version of the Society started. An early project was the pruning of shrubbery and planting flowerbeds and flowering crab apple trees at the Dufferin Hospital on 2nd Avenue. Through the first ten years, we tended garden beds at the Firehall, Hospital, Legion, Orangeville District Secondary School and the Train Station. We even participated in the Santa Claus Parade through downtown Orangeville.

Our second decade saw a continued growth in the Society. We celebrated our 10th Anniversary in 1980. That Fall, to coincide with Dufferin County's Centennial, the Society planted over six hundred tulips and daffodils. Over these years, we had beautiful flower shows and our Annual Plant Sale. At this time, our membership was 230 people. Our monthly meetings happened at the Tweedsmuir Church.



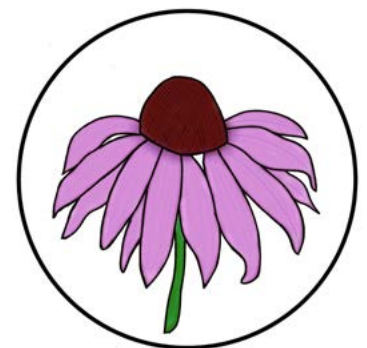
Crab Apple Trees



Orangeville Mall Flower Show

In our third decade, we connected more with our community. We had a three-day Flower Show in the Orangeville Mall. A new garden bed was established by the Society in Greenwood Cemetery. This was the decade that started our 'Open Garden Tours,' where the community had a chance to see the wonderful gardens of our members. The Kay Cee Garden bed was also established during this time. For our 25th Anniversary in 1995, there was a maple tree planted and we presented the Town with two benches for installation outside the newly-renovated Town Hall. During this time, we also moved our meetings to the Seniors Centre. 1996 was when we adopted our motto "Gardens Are For Sharing."

Congratulations Orangeville & District Horticultural Society on its 55th Anniversary!



*Logo design
by Vivian Petho*

Into our fourth decade, the Society continued to host our ever-popular Plant Sale and Flower Shows. The new millennium also brought a significant event, as in 2009 the George Douglas Trail opened. It was a fitting tribute to one of our late members.

The fifth decade of our Society connected us with the world. Our first website went live in 2011. During this time, we also had a new yearbook editor and photographer. At Canada's 150th Anniversary,

we planted a tribute to our country at our Greenwood garden bed. In 2018, our C-Line Works Yard Garden won the prestigious OHA "Pollinator Garden" Award. Our Annual Plant sale moved its venue to the Hockley Holding Garden.

In 2020, we were poised to celebrate our 50th Anniversary with great acclaim at the OHA Spring AGM on April 18, 2020. However, Covid-19 changed everyone's plans that year. Despite the disappointment and fearful time, the Society continued undeterred. Meetings shifted to virtual, as we all had to navigate ZOOM to come together. Our wonderful newsletter editor made a point of making two newsletters per month to make sure everyone could still be connected to each other. During this time, we were up to eleven garden beds that we tended in the Town of Orangeville. Our wonderful 'Gardening Angels' worked hard to ensure our beds were spectacular during that difficult time. In 2023, a new community outreach project was started by the Horticultural Society called "The Opportunity Garden." In partnership with Branching Out Support Services (BOSS) and Am Braigh Farm, we brought the opportunity to learn about growing food to neurodiverse adults. The participants loved growing pea shoots and wanted to share with the community again.

Thus, a fourth prong was added, as we began to donate fresh pea shoots to the Orangeville Food Bank. At the end of 2023, our brand-new website was launched <https://orangevillehort.com>. Along with Facebook and Instagram, we are sharing what we do in our Town with the world. In 2024, we decided to change our logo from the orange daylily to the purple Echinacea. This flower better represents our Society, as it is an Indigenous plant and a flower that local pollinating insects love.

On April 20, 2025, we will celebrate 55 years as a Society in this Town and surroundings. We continue to serve the community in both the virtual world and the gardens of The Town of Orangeville. To conclude this article, I leave you with our motto,

"Gardens Are For Sharing."

*Pea Shoots
Photos by Vivian Petho*



Canada's 150th Anniversary Tribute



OHA Trillium - Spring 2025

Bath Gardening Club

What's Happening in Bath

Submitted and written by: Pat Chown

Photography by: Don Taylor

Did you know? Our Club is 35 years young this year! We are celebrating the tremendous work done during those 35 years. We are welcoming all visitors and new members to join us for meetings and events. We are excited about participating together to create a more beautiful Bath.

Presenting Our Executive for 2025

President: Thank you, Sylvia Whalen for continuing on as our President. Your strength, involvement, ideas and the support that you give to all of us as our team leader are felt in all that we do.

Membership Coordinator: Diane Nolting has agreed to take the lead in this Committee. The population of Bath is increasing and we welcome any and all new-comers to our Club.

Co-Treasurers: We welcome both Joanne Pearce and Marjory Brunsdon to the position of Treasurer. Joanne will be responsible for working with the Executive to create the annual budget and to maintain a record of day-to-day income and expenses. Marjory will be responsible for grant applications and seeking corporate donations.

Sunday Market in Bath: Linda Cohen, our Market Coordinator, is excited to remain in this position for the coming year. She already has booked eleven entertainment events for the spring and summer, with more to come!

This year we welcome Tarra Williamson as our **Market Manager**. Tarra hails from Harrowsmith and is the owner and operator of Bloom Farm. <https://bloomfarmharrowsmith.com/>. After working her magic in invigorating the Frontenac Farmers Market, Tarra

offered her help to enhance our own Sunday Market in Bath. Tarra has been working hard and already has many vendors committed to be at our Sunday Market for the entire season. New promotional materials and signage are in the works. Gift certificates will be spread throughout the area to encourage residents to attend!

Opening Day is May 11th. Join us every Sunday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Recording Secretary: We welcome Diane Nolting as our new Recording Secretary. Thank you for stepping up, Diane.

Communications Secretary: Thank you to Joanne Sperinck for reviewing all emails coming into the Club and directing them accordingly; distributing meeting reminders, local and provincial gardening articles and information to the membership.

Program Coordinator: Janice Firth has been very busy engaging speakers that will provide an interesting and informative programme for 2025. Program topics discussed at future meetings will include: Growing Mushrooms, Garden Art, the Evolution of our Pollinator Garden, Bugtel and Memorial Grove, Soil Health and Bees and Honey.

Hospitality Coordinator: Thank you to Dawn Ford for taking the lead of this Committee. Dawn will be asking members to help her make tea and coffee for our meetings and clean up the kitchen once the meeting has concluded. Occasionally, she will require members to bake treats for a special event.

Publicity and Media:

A special thank you to Sandra Lowman, our webmaster and to Jeri Love, our Facebook administrator, who work tirelessly to post information not only to all of us but also to any individual that is interested in learning about the Club. We invite you to check out both sites: Our Website: bathgardeningclub.ca and Our Facebook Page: Bath Gardening Club and Horticultural Society.



Congratulations Bath Gardening Club on its 35th Anniversary!

Pollinator Garden and Bugtel Co-Coordinator:

Thank you to Kim Bonner and Carol Cartier for again taking the lead on this dossier. The pollinator garden has become a labour of love to Kim and Carol. Plants have been divided, added and all identified to inform visitors what is growing in the garden and also to assist the many volunteers who help weed the area.

In addition to the usual watering, weeding and maintenance of the pollinator garden, Kim and Carol have plans to refresh the Bugtel. Wood in the Bugtel structure will be replaced and a shelter will be added for ground-nesting bees. A mud puddle will be established for butterflies. Kim and Carol have also completed research that has resulted in ideas for improved garden maintenance, ideas that will provide more plant material for stem-nesting bees and better overwintering protection for pollinators in general.

Thank you to Dave and Adam Bryant for making sure that water is always available to our volunteers weeding and watering the area. And, thank you to Adam and Dave for maintaining our Memorial Grove.



Pollinator Garden, Bugtel Structure and Kim Bonner



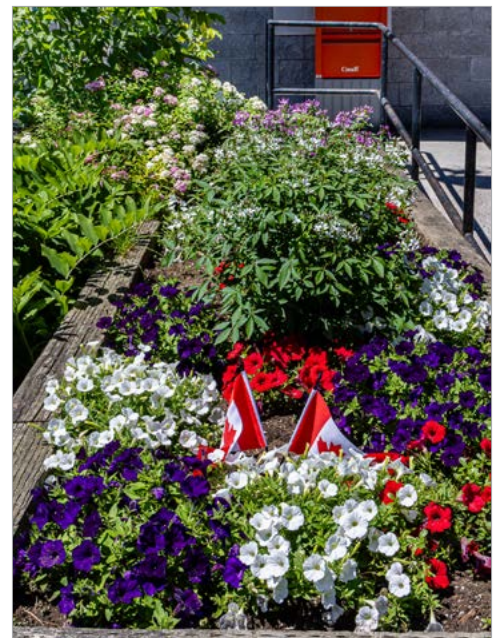
Village Planting and Gardens

Village Planting

Last year, the village took on a new and vibrant look with the addition of round and oval planters. These new planters were purchased with monies acquired through grants and also through the generosity of the LarfargeHolcim Cement Plant.

Val Behm and Elaine Nicholson are the Co-Coordinator of our Planting Committee. They have more surprises in store for us this year. At the end of the growing season, they transplanted donated perennials in Schell's garden. If these perennials survive the winter, Elaine and Val will look at other locations where perennials could be planted next year. Meanwhile, 225 annuals have been ordered from Sun Harvest this year. Once the annuals have been ordered, we know that spring is really just around the corner.

For the past two years, the Club has contracted Tristan Nagler of Flourish Garden Care to water our village gardens, barrels and planters throughout the growing season. Tristan has kindly gifted this service to our Club for the past two years. Tristan, we thank you for your generous support!



Loyalist Township: Climate Change Plan and Action

In response to our Gardening Club survey concerning what would be of interest to our local newsletter readership, climate change was considered an important topic. In this newsletter, work that Loyalist Township is doing to address Climate Change is being highlighted.

To provide background and context, the following website is highly informative: <https://www.loyalist.ca/en/living-in-loyalist/resilient-loyalist-township-climate-action-plan.aspx#How-To-Get-Involved>

In order for any change to take place, all stakeholders must be involved at the outset, collectively decide on the path to be taken and actively participate in making changes within their own companies and homes to make the difference. The following businesses and groups in our area are actively involved in helping to reduce emissions within their own group or organization: LaFarge Canada, Topsy Farms, L&A Stewardship Council, Bath Museum, Sustainable Kingston, Limestone District School Board, National Farms Union Local 316, MacKinnon Brothers Brewing Co., Ontario Power Generation and Cataraqui Conservation.



Individual Initiatives in the Loyalist Community:

The FoodCycler Pilot Program was initially introduced to Council in 2021. The objective was to compost food items in order to reduce landfill food waste. Since 2023, two pilot projects involving 100 participants each engaged in using Food Cyclers within their own homes. Each of the 200 participants were provided with a “FoodCycler” and asked to record their unit usage and the degree of satisfaction using the Cycler. “With an 82% response rate in the post-program survey, the program saw a notable reduction in landfilled food waste, high participant satisfaction and a strong commitment to continue using the FoodCycler. This initiative effectively reduced landfill waste and raised community awareness about sustainable practices, highlighting the impact of community-driven environmental efforts.” For more information, check out the following links:

<https://myemail-api.constantcontact.com/ResiLienT-Loyalist-Township-Climate-Action-Newsletter---FoodCycler-Pilot-Program.html?soid=1121867127990&aid=ujqYRhNqaaQ>

<https://www.loyalist.ca/en/resources/SR--2593---ResiLienT-Loyalist-Township-Climate-Action-Plan-2023-Report-Card.pdf>

The Loyalist Township staff is currently working on a feasibility study as to whether a community-wide program would be viable.

Comments from our own Daine Nolting, one of the participants in the FoodCycler Program:

“As for the Food Cycler, we love it! We have had it about a year and use about 5 times a week. It surprised us that we use it so often but we are pleased to be keeping this amount out of landfill. We plan to dig the dehydrated result into garden beds this spring.”

Getting Your Body Ready for Gardening: Dr. Brent Helmstaedt

Our Club was very pleased to welcome Dr. Helmstaedt to our January meeting to speak about taking care of and maximizing the use of our bodies as we go through our daily activities which includes getting ready for our very busy gardening season. Dr. Helmstaedt, a practicing chiropractor for more than 20 years, stated that through years of working with clients, he has become more focused on how his clients can fix themselves through learning how to improve movement by understanding posture, breathing, being aware of the role of the hips, spine, centre of gravity and muscles.

Thank you, Dr. Helmstaedt. The information that you shared, demonstrated and coached members through during your presentation, was extremely helpful to all of us.

We have our eye on up-coming events:



Earth Day: We are looking forward to partnering once again with the Township, Entrepreneurs and Residents of Bath to participate in the Annual Great Bath Clean-up to celebrate our planet. Hosted by Roberta Young of Free Flow Petroleum (Fast Freddy's), the Clean-up Day is an opportunity to help clean up winter refuse and prepare the village for planting season. Over 50 Club volunteers participated last year, all were offered lunch as a "thank you" by Free Flow Petroleum. More information regarding this year's specific date and times will be advertised on our website and Facebook Page.

Fertilizer Sale: Thanks to Diane Nolting for taking the lead once again in organizing the fertilizer making and sale day. This is an amazing fundraiser for the Club and a fun day for everyone who participates. Last year, our volunteers made 673 bags of fertilizer that were mixed and ready for pick-up in just under 2.5 hours. After expenses, the sale realized a profit of \$1277.26. Mark it on your calendar, the fertilizer sale will take place this year on May 3rd. Stay tuned for more information.

Canada Day Float: Our Club will again be entering a float in the Canada Day Parade. This is a huge event for Bath attracting eight to ten thousand people. Stay tuned for more information. We are always looking for volunteers to help with this fun project.

Future Garden Club Meetings:

February 24 • March 17 • April 28 • May 19

Our meetings are typically held on the third Monday of every month. This year, we opted to move the February and April meetings to the fourth Monday to avoid statutory holiday plans members may have. All meetings take place at St. John's Hall and begin at 2:30 pm unless otherwise advertised.

Check our website (bathgardeningclub.ca) and our Facebook page (Bath Gardening and Horticultural Society) for updated information.

Did You Know? The Bath Gardening Club has been planting flowers along Main Street since 1992. The first barrels were secured from a distillery near Belleville that was closing its doors.

Bath Gardening Club Celebrating 35 Years! (Thanks to Cyndie Eedson, our Bath Historian)



Canada Day Float

Schomberg Horticultural Society

Submitted by Susan Zweep

Our newly elected Board of Directors has been busy planning an exciting range of activities for this spring.

First Spring Meeting – March 25:

On Tuesday, March 25th, our guest speaker, **Helen Battersby** will present a fresh look at a growing trend, **"Designing with Edible Plants"**. She will turn traditional notions of what "ornamental" means upside-down and introduce us to unusual plants that may be safe to eat (or not!). This colourful presentation will get you thinking about your garden and edible plants in exciting new ways. Integrate beautiful edibles and edible beauty into your flower beds, vegetable patch and menu.

"Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice!" is the theme of the baking competition which will be held for members to compete with their special recipes for squares, savories, pies and cookies. After judging, attendees will be invited to taste the entries.

Anniversary Celebration Meeting – April 15

We are excited to be celebrating our **90th Anniversary** on Tuesday, April 15th, with **Frankie Ferragine** as our guest speaker at the Schomberg Community Hall, 325 Main St., Schomberg, Ontario. Frank Ferragine – affectionately known as "Frankie Flowers" – was born with a green thumb and grew up with a watering can in hand at his family's business, Bradford Greenhouses. A trusted gardening expert and weatherman, Frankie combines practical advice with dad jokes and flower puns for fun in the garden. His topic will be "Facts, Folklore and Fun in the Wacky World of Gardening." For more information, check out his website at: <https://frankieflowers.com/>. To honour our anniversary, there will be a special flower show this evening with flower arrangements following the theme **"90th Anniversary Grand Celebration"**. Anyone attending the event (including our guests) is invited to participate in the flower show. This show will not be considered by an accredited judge, but attendees will cast their vote for their favourite entries. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded.

Browse our archives and displays on the main floor of the Schomberg Community Hall and enjoy refreshments, the presentation and speeches on the second floor. Doors open for registration at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are available for \$20.00 at eventbrite.ca. For more information, email: schomberghortsociety@gmail.com.

Plant Sale – May 10

This time of the year is the perfect time to plan your garden. Even though snow is falling, we are curled up with seed catalogues, looking at pictures of our garden and thinking of what to change or purchase this year and checking out the plant sales that will happen in the spring. The Schomberg



*Poster graphics credit:
Donna Parrish*



Poster graphics credit: Donna Parrish

Horticultural Society, partnered with Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners, will be hosting a spring Plant Sale at the beautiful Schomberg Community Farm, Western Avenue, Schomberg. Put it at the top of your list! We will have shrubs, perennials, hanging baskets, heirloom vegetables and native plants. If you would like to be put on our mailing list, send a note to gorsline@sympatico.ca.



Photo credit: Eleonora Schmied

May Meeting – May 27

At our May 27th meeting, our guest speaker Randy Tumber will open our eyes to how we can unlock the full potential of our environment while creating the private oasis we've always dreamed about. Randy is a renowned landscape designer and recipient of many awards. His work is accredited with over 100 national and international awards and countless feature magazine articles. These prestigious honours include two International Master of Design Awards, two Dunnington Grubb Awards as the highest overall recognition for Ontario and the Canadian National Landscape of the Year Award. He specializes in naturalistic-looking water features and native landscaping.



Landscape Design Consulting



*Congratulations Schomberg Horticultural Society
on its 90th Anniversary!*

Haldimand Horticultural Society

Submitted by Barb Wilson, President

Welcome Spring!

We all have been hoping for the day when we can get out into our gardens. The weather is slowly warming up, so soon we'll be digging in the dirt once again.

The Haldimand Horticultural Society's 8th annual Seed & Garden Event will be held on Saturday April 5th at the Riverside Exhibition Centre in Caledonia. There will be lots of vendors, workshops, a scavenger hunt, food booth, guest speakers and much more- a great family event to attend.

Save the date for our annual Plant & Bake Sale, held Saturday, May 10th at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Caledonia – many varieties of plants for sale, tools & treasures along with a bake sale table.

Our "Poppy Project" continues to expand. Started in 2021 by members Catherine McGill and Sharon Slack, we have made banners with red, purple and white poppies for 3 area Cenotaphs (Caledonia, Hagersville and Cayuga) which were decorated in November for Remembrance Day. We are currently collecting poppies to create a new display at the Jarvis Cenotaph for 2025 and are grateful to community members involved in taking time to make poppies for this project. Over 4000 knitted and crocheted poppies have been donated since 2021.

**May we all have another garden season
that cultivates friendship, knowledge and beauty in our communities.**



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OHA Scholarship Program

Submitted by Sandra Mazur

Details of the Scholarship:

- Available to: Horticultural Society/Garden Club Member, Child, Stepchild, Grandchild or Step-Grandchild
- Up to \$1000 Scholarship Awarded Yearly
- For attendance at Post-Secondary Education Institute in Ontario
- Minimum of 2-Year Program

Don't miss this opportunity! Check out the application for all the details and how to apply in the following pages or gardenontario.org.



Applications are due on June 30th each year.

Ontario Horticultural Association Awards Coordinator, Email: awards@gardenontario.org



The OHA Family Scholarship

Submitted by Sandra Mazur, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, OHA 2nd Vice-President

Here is the information about the OHA Member/ Family Member Scholarship.

As an organization, we are committed to providing educational opportunities for our members and youth. Therefore, we thought that having our own scholarship would be a great opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to education to our members, our youth membership and our members' dependants who may require financial support to further their education.

The involvement of young people is crucial to furthering horticulture in Ontario. Just as we nurture our gardens and protect our natural areas, so too must we encourage the involvement of today's youth in all areas of horticulture.

Shortly, Ontario will be theirs to care for. Our responsibility as an organization is to demonstrate to youth the value of horticulture to the province, the community and the individual. Tending our responsibilities supports health and growth at all levels: the self, the garden and the society.

It has been a long process to get our scholarship ready for presentation to our members and I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all their feedback helping us in finalizing our documents. Many thanks to Charles Freeman, Dennis Miluck, Barb Collinson and the late Debra Bellevue who worked with me on the committee to finalize our rules and regulations.

We also had to look at funding and I am pleased to say that we currently have the next two years funded but we are actively seeking funding for the scholarship fund so that we can continue to fund one scholarship per year until we get to a point where we have enough funds built up to increase the number of scholarships we are able to offer per year. Many thanks to Kelly Taylor for her support, encouragement and assistance in making this become a reality and helping to get the funding documents in place for convention.

Please consider making memorial donations to the scholarship fund. We would also welcome all personal donations along with any Planned Giving (Legacy Giving.) Planned giving is a wonderful way to make a larger lasting contribution to a cause you care about. All donations will be issued a tax receipt by our treasurer.

This QR Code will bring you directly to the web page to donate. Thank you in advance for considering to make a donation to this worthy project.



OHA MEMBER OR FAMILY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

MISSION STATEMENT: The Ontario Horticultural Association is a volunteer charitable organization that provides leadership, education and promotes interest in gardening and related environmental issues with affiliated Horticultural Societies/Garden Clubs and like-minded organizations.

Purpose: To assist our members, youth members and our members' children and grandchildren in their pursuit of their post-secondary education in a horticultural-related field.

One – \$1000.00 Scholarship to be awarded annually to a member or a member's child or grandchild.

Criteria:

- Applicant must be a member or a child, stepchild, grandchild or step-grandchild of a Horticultural Society member in good standing within the OHA.
- Applicant must be attending a post secondary educational institution in Ontario.
- Applicant may be any age and be accepted into a post secondary educational institute in Ontario.

- The program must be a minimum of 2 years but the applicant is eligible in either year one or year two of the program.
- Applicant must provide the following with their application:
 1. A transcript of their marks unless returning as a mature student.
 2. A letter to the Scholarship committee detailing their role in horticulture and community involvement and outlining why they deserve this scholarship.
 3. A letter from an organization or company outlining their volunteer contribution to the organization or the company with which they have volunteered.
 4. A copy of their acceptance letter into their program.
- Applicant must be willing to attend a Society/Club meeting or a District or OHA meeting within 1 year of receiving the award to speak about the award or another topic of interest within their horticultural learning.
- Applicant must be willing to have their photo taken and allow it to be published along with their 'Thank You' letter in the Trillium magazine and in any other Garden Ontario publication as well as being posted on the Garden Ontario website and/or Facebook Page. They will need to sign a waiver regarding this publication at the time of the award being issued.
- The home society will be made aware of the scholarship winner so they can arrange for the speaking engagement to follow.
- Applications will be submitted to the Awards Coordinator by the deadline of June 30th each year.

Ontario Horticultural Association Awards Coordinator,
Email: awards@gardenontario.org



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Please Print

Date: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Name of College/University (you will be or are attending):

Name of program accepted into: _____

Are you currently a member of a Horticultural Society/Club affiliated with the OHA? YES ____ NO ____

Affiliated Society/Club Name:

If no, who in your family is a current member and which OHA affiliated Society/Club are they a member?

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON June 30th each year.

Ontario Horticultural Association Awards Coordinator,
Email: awards@gardenontario.org

Leaside Garden Society

Submitted by Joanna Blanchard, President

\$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

The Leaside Garden Society Founders' Scholarship
will award \$2,000 to a student in a Horticulture-related program

Goal:

to provide financial support to a student who will advance the knowledge of horticulture within the community, in line with our Mission

Eligibility:

a Canadian resident enrolled full-time in an eligible program at a post-secondary institution
(e.g. Botany, Ecology, Environmental Science, Forestry, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Plant Science)

Deadline:

June 30, 2025

For application, full scholarship details, eligibility and deadlines, visit:

leasidegardensociety.org

The Leaside Garden Society Founders' Scholarship

was established to honour the initiative of those who in the 1980s had the foresight and energy to form the Leaside Garden Society

Leaside Garden Society

is an affiliated society with the Ontario Horticultural Association and is a not-for-profit organization. Part of its Mission is to encourage, award and educate on the values and principles of gardening and the environment.



Visit **gardenontario.org**
for more information.
**Ask your society to get your
discount code**
and create your account on
duboisag.com



OHA Trillium - Spring 2025

Minden and District Horticultural Society

Submitted and Authored by: Shelley Fellows

Photo credits: Cheryl Fraser

On Saturday, February 2nd, in spite of a frosty, -17°C day, about 35 Minden and District Horticultural Society members gathered for fellowship and creative inspiration. A potluck lunch was held, followed by a hands-on presentation of the art of flower pounding. Presenter Mary Hamilton delighted the group with her floral creativity. Arriving by snowmobile as well as by car, members were very happy to connect in the winter months.

Celebrated at the event was 25-year member Ruth MacBrien, who, at 99 years young, not only is an active Horticultural Society member but also attended the luncheon.



Minden and District Horticultural Society member Ruth MacBrien



Mary Hamilton (right), Society member and "Flower Pounding" artist was introduced by Sue Sisson



Mary Hamilton demonstrates "Flower Pounding" to Society member Shirley Johannessen



The floral artistry of Minden and District Horticultural Society member Francis Thivierge

For the Bees: A Conversation with Lorraine Johnson and Sheila Colla

By Cynthia B. Lauer

Native bees are in trouble. Most gardeners know this. In response, they install a bee condo in their backyard or add some bee-friendly plants in the garden. They put out a shallow dish and keep it filled with fresh water. Or they leave a pile of leaves to decay in a protected corner of the yard.

These actions may seem commendable but a closer look reveals that not all of them are equally beneficial. Some are even ill-advised. The scale of the problem is dire enough to make us re-think how we garden. Gardens are often designed for maximum visual appeal with showy plants that have been introduced from elsewhere. Lawns are enduringly popular and leaf litter is removed. Plants are often chosen for colour, bloom period and other aesthetic properties that are shaped by the preferences of individual property owners without much concern for whether their preferred plants contribute anything to the environment.

We can do better. Indeed, we must.

In their new book, *A Garden for the Rusty-Patched Bumblebee* (Douglas and McIntyre, 2022), Lorraine Johnson and Sheila Colla lay out the scope of the problem and its implications. They note that installing urban honeybee hives does not help sustain native bees. Canada's 800+ native bee species do not make honey; most are solitary and do not live in hives. Their habitat has been lost and fragmented, their nests and foraging places destroyed and, in addition to the competition they face from non-native honeybees and managed bumblebees in greenhouses and field crops, managed bee species may be the source of new diseases causing declines of some native bee species.

Bombus affinis, the rusty-patched bumblebee, represents threatened native bee species whose populations have been decimated in North America.

In their book, Johnson and Colla describe over 300 native plant species including herbaceous perennials, vines, woody shrubs and trees. They provide information not only on the size, flowers, blooming period, exposure and soil preferences for each plant, but also on the specialist and generalist bees and other pollinator insects that enjoy key relationships with each host plant. For each entry, they provide a photograph or illustration, recommend companion plants and describe the plant's features.

Our conversation was a unique opportunity to explore many of these points in more depth. While the authors were interviewed separately, their responses were combined for readability and edited for length.

C: The book title refers to one species of bee, *Bombus affinis*, the Rusty-Patched Bumblebee. But, as you show in your book, the loss and fragmentation of bee habitat endangers many more bee species. Why did you choose this particular species to represent the problem?

L & S: The rusty-patched bumblebee is a species whose numbers in Canada have dwindled to zero in just a few decades, yet it was once a common species. This was a bee that visited hundreds of species of flowers for food and was found in all sorts of habitat types in Guelph, Toronto and London. Sheila made

the last known rusty-patched bumblebee sighting in Canada in 2009 in Pinery Provincial Park near Grand Bend, Ontario. In 2012, it was the first native bee in Canada to be officially designated as endangered. That such a common, generalist bee (feeding from many flower species) could disappear without us even realizing it until it is too late is a warning that we need to nurture native biodiversity even if we are still learning about species and their ecological relationships. The story of the rusty-patched bumblebee is urgent and cautionary.



Sundial lupin (*Lupinus perennis*) with bee

C: In order to designate a garden as a “wildlife friendly habitat,” the Canadian Wildlife Federation requires you to provide conditions that support bees and other species. This includes food sources, water, shelter, “green gardening” (e.g. rain barrel, leaving grass clippings) and sustainable practices (e.g. removing invasive plants). This goes well beyond putting in lots of native plants. If you have a garden for pollinators, does it have to have all of these features?

L & S: Providing water supports larger native animals like birds and mammals, not native bees who don’t need it. It’s important to keep in mind that native bees require three separate types of habitats. Everyone is familiar with forage (flowers with pollen for protein and nectar for carbohydrates and other nutrients). But bees also need overwintering habitat and nesting habitat. Depending on the species, this can include long grass, last year’s pithy stems from plants (like goldenrod and raspberries), rotting logs or abandoned rodent burrows, loose soil, leaf mulch and so on.

It may be difficult to incorporate all of these things into one garden but as more and more people start to appreciate what it means to steward land for wildlife and they start including some of these elements in their spaces, the overall landscape will become more wildlife-friendly. If neighbours get together and cooperate, the effect is multiplied.

C: What if a gardener happens to love a particular non-native plant that attracts a lot of bees, such as heuchera, sedum or hibiscus? Is there harm in mixing native and non-native plants? Is any compromise reasonable?

L & S: In exchange for pollinating a plant, bees receive food. Female bees collect pollen and nectar to feed larval bees. Even though we’re just beginning to understand the relationships between native bees and plants, research shows that species are much better supported if people use native plants wherever they can. This is because nectar and pollen are nutritive substances that vary from plant to plant. These two substances are not equal in their makeup; not all flowers provide optimal bee support. Flower visitation is insufficient on its own for evaluating the nutritional benefits of specific plants.

Pollen and nectar from a diversity of native plants have the correct balance of carbohydrates, protein, amino acids, lipids and minerals that bees need to flourish. The pollen of introduced plants does not support the pollen-specialist bees that have a co-evolutionary relationship with specific native plants.

Native plants provide nectar and pollen in the amounts and quality to which native pollinators are evolutionarily adapted. They are in sync. But it’s harder for them to do that when non-native plants dominate the landscape. Lawns are a good example. Kentucky bluegrass takes up a great deal of space but offers nothing whatsoever to pollinators. And then there is the enduring popularity of hundreds of non-native ornamental species.

Some bee species are specialists; others are generalists visiting a range of plants. The first group, about 1/3 of our native bees, need particular plants in order to rear healthy offspring. Other insects like moths and butterflies depend on specific host plants at the larval stage. If specialist bees can’t find the food they need to reproduce, they will disappear. It’s that simple. Gardeners can support these co-evolved relationships by planting native plants that have been squeezed out by invasive species or removed for other reasons.



Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) with bee



New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) with bee

We aren't telling everyone to pull out all of their beloved non-native plants. Landscapes with a healthy proportion of native plants won't compromise their ecological integrity if they also include some non-invasive non-native ornamentals. But it's crucial that gardeners include a good proportion of native plants to sustain our native bee populations.

C: In order to fully appreciate the connection between the decline of bees and global food sources, how do you explain to the average consumer the impact of losing 50% of bee species?

L & S: Sometimes we hear about Colony Collapse Disorder in honeybees used for pollinating agricultural crops. But the issues are much wider than that. Without bees, life on earth as we know it would be impossible. Everything is connected in a complex web of relationships. The loss of bee habitat affects a break in these reciprocal relationships and will inevitably diminish them.

More immediately, if we lose species, we risk losing resiliency of our agricultural and natural ecosystems under climate change. Having as many species as possible in a system allows there to be some redundancy. This is very important if a species is extinguished due to weather, an introduced disease or other causes as we saw with the rusty-patched bumblebee. Native plants and native pollinators have co-evolved; you can't alter or remove one without affecting the other.

C: Your book sounds consistent with an approach informed by Indigenous knowledge-keepers. How can the relationship between the native plant movement and Indigenous rights be strengthened?

L & S: In North America, gardening has been rooted very much in a settler-colonial worldview. The idea of managing a landscape, controlling what is welcome and what isn't, can be largely shaped by this worldview. It was not that long ago that milkweed was considered a noxious weed and still people consider goldenrods – native plants that provide a critical fall food source for insects about to migrate south or spend the winter underground – unwelcome in their spaces. Much of what is considered a manicured garden in North America consists of non-native plants brought here with European settlers. Reframing this to view spaces as places to steward native ecological relationships is a way to decolonize this history.

In Ojibwe, there is a word, *gitigaan*, which means garden, field and farm. Those three items are difficult to tease apart when you source your food and medicine from native plants and have long-standing cultural relationships with natural spaces. Creating habitat gardens, observing the ecological relationships that come with it, learning about the native plants in your region are all ways to connect with the land and to stand in solidarity with Indigenous ways of knowing. It is crucial to support Indigenous voices in the movement toward biodiversity and Indigenous-led land-based efforts.

Gardening for a Different Purpose

When gardeners seek ways to help native pollinating insects, there are concrete actions they can take. They might begin by adding one plant, say goldenrod. Seeing its bold yellow inflorescence and the number of bees enthusiastically feeding from it, they might be encouraged to toss in some native blue asters, pink coneflowers, and white pearly everlasting. The next year, they might expand the herbaceous perennial plant bed with native sunflowers, blue vervain, beebalm and not one but two kinds of milkweed. The following year, they might add a black chokeberry and a red osier dogwood as well as a speckled alder tree and an Eastern red cedar to give the garden more structure and to provide year-round support for insects. (Birds also benefit since virtually all terrestrial birds rely on a diet of adult and larval insects.) They also plant native groundcovers: wild strawberry, common blue violet and silverweed.

These activities signal not only a change in the composition of plants but in the whole purpose of garden spaces. The native plant movement is influencing how gardeners experience their gardens. As eye-catching as ornamental plants may be, if they are introduced species that support relatively few insects and reduce biodiversity above ground and in the soil, it detracts from their appeal.



Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) with bees



Monarch butterflies on Joe Pye Weed
(*Eutrochium spp.*)



Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) with
Painted Lady butterfly

In the end, it's not how plants look that should drive gardening decisions; it is how plants contribute to the complex food webs and ecological relationships that have developed over millennia. Gardens need to serve what Johnson and Colla describe as "the relationship of the plants to the habitat style in which they grow in the wild."

What about those bee condos? Bad idea. Concentrating bee populations in one spot makes them vulnerable to attack from disease and predators of the larvae. Instead, provide natural bee habitat with native species like joe-pye weed, wild bergamot, elderberry and mountain mint. Bees will overwinter in their hollow or pithy stems.

**A garden for the rusty-patched bumblebee is a garden that works for the benefit of the entire ecosystem.
Our collective future is inextricably bound up with it.**

Bio

Cynthia B. Lauer, PhD is a member of Simcoe County Master Gardeners. A retired sociologist and published author (as C. Levine-Rasky), Cynthia has been nurturing her passion for gardening since the 1980's.

PHOTO CAPTIONS AND CREDITS



IMAGE 1
File name: Lupinus perennis
Caption: Sundial lupin (*Lupinus perennis*) with bee
Credit: Shutterstock



IMAGE 2
File name: Solidago with bee
Caption: Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*) with bee
Credit: Shutterstock



IMAGE 3
File name: Symphotrichum with bee
Caption: New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) with bee
Credit: Shutterstock



IMAGE 4
File name: Joe-pye with monarchs
Caption: Monarch butterflies on Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium spp.*)
Credit: Pixabay



IMAGE 5
File name: Butterfly weed with bees
Caption: Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) with bees
Credit: Michael Dorsey, Flickr via Creative Commons



IMAGE 6
File name: Boneset with Painted Lady
Caption: Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) with Painted Lady butterfly
Credit: Vicki DeLoach (Flickr via Creative Commons)



OHA 50/50 Draw Winner

Submitted by Marian Heil, OHA Treasurer

Thanks to everyone who participated in the raffle

The proceeds from the draw are used to provide grants to Horticultural Societies and Clubs across Ontario to assist in *Keeping Ontario Beautiful*. Tickets for the next raffle are available at: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

The next draw takes place on July 19th.

The next winner could be YOU!



OHA 50-50 Winner **March 8, 2025**

The OHA is pleased to announce that the winner of the latest 50/50 Raffle draw is Leslie Daniels from Thorold. Leslie held ticket number C-23236 and won a total of \$3475.

Photo credit: Gavin Taylor

Next 50/50 Draw: July 19, 2025

Tickets will be on sale until July 18 at midnight

Licence # RAF1449351

For your chance to win, visit <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

OHA AGM 2025

Submitted by Sharlene Desjardins, OHA President

The 2025 OHA AGM will be taking place on July 19th via WebEx. It is extremely important that we have good representation from a majority of Societies/Clubs. We require a minimum of 100 voting delegates from a minimum of 50 different Societies/Clubs in good standing to make quorum. If we do not have those numbers, we would have to reschedule. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. There is no cost to attend, but registration will be required.

OHA website: <https://gardenontario.org>



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Dubois Agrinovation:

Please remember to register with Dubois Agrinovation to receive 10% off your purchases. As a result of your order, your Society/Club will receive a 2% rebate and the OHA will receive a 2% rebate. In order to receive the Society/Club rebate, your Society/Club must also be registered. Please visit https://duboisag.com/ca_en/ to register yourself and/or your Society/Club. If you require assistance, please contact your District Director.

Visit gardenontario.org for more information.
Ask your society to get your discount code
and create your account on duboisag.com



An OHA Climate Legacy Collaboration: Gardening for the Planet!

Submitted by Climate Legacy, Written by Eric Murphy



Photo Credit: Nennieinszweidrei – Pixabay

An important site for climate action that often gets overlooked is our gardens. Today, many gardeners are addressing the challenges of climate change in their own backyards by making small changes that reduce emissions in unexpected ways. Beyond shrinking one's carbon footprint, climate-friendly gardening practices can actively improve local biodiversity, protect our homes and communities from flooding and potentially soak up much more planet-warming pollution than they release.

Although these actions might seem small at first glance, the more widely we adopt them, the bigger the impact! Here are some quick tips to get started in climate-friendly gardening:

One of our favourite green gardening tips is **cutting fertilizer use**, both on gardens and lawns. Manufacturing synthetic fertilizers produces a huge amount of pollution and, during heavy rains, it can flow into local water supplies or other places it shouldn't be. To avoid this, many climate-minded gardeners replace synthetic fertilizers with a natural mulch which you can often find in your own backyard. Lawn clippings, wood fibre, compost or fallen leaves further shredded by a lawnmower (preferably an electric one!) can both be left on your garden or lawn to return nutrients to the soil. Coconut coir is a great store-bought option and much better for the environment than [using peat](#).

Another great way to avoid fertilizers is **planting more [native flowers and vegetables](#)**, a practice that comes with many other benefits alongside it. Non-native plants often require fertilizer and watering to thrive and, while they may look striking or produce delicious vegetables, native plants require less maintenance. On lawns, clover and other native groundcovers can be mixed with grass or even used as a resilient alternative to non-native grasses. Mixing in plenty of flowering plants is also a great way to help sustain vital pollinator populations. Another great use of fallen leaves or lawn clippings is leaving them in your garden to create an effective home for pollinators. If you pile extra leaves around trees, it can even protect falling caterpillars especially when paired with soft groundcovers.

On the subject of pollinators, something to avoid in addition to fertilizers, are pesticides. Pesticides pose a significant threat to bee populations and like fertilizer, they can run off during rainy days and cause even more harm. To give an

example of how small actions can add up – in Canada, [roughly 28%](#) of homeowners still use chemical pesticides on their lawns and gardens. That means millions of pounds of harmful chemicals are being spread across the country. Every person who takes action and gives up their pesticides, fertilizer and unnecessary watering is chipping away at these massive problems.

Beyond just avoiding harmful or polluting practices, there are many positive actions that gardeners can take to help their communities and the climate. With some adjustments, horticulturalists across Canada have turned their gardens into **carbon sinks** and a tool to reduce local flooding. While all plants absorb some CO₂ from the air, some are much better at it than others. A non-native Kentucky bluegrass, for example, is a poor carbon sink – instead, gardeners can plant local grasses, vegetables, shrubs and especially trees to play a small part in improving our air. And the more plants, the better!

Other gardeners put a special emphasis on developing a garden that's **rain friendly**. During heavy downpours, runoff can quickly turn to flooding, causing property damage and directing sewage into our drinking water and other fragile environments. Reducing runoff in your garden can be as easy as avoiding the use of concrete or asphalt in patio spaces or prioritizing a variety of native plants to keep the soil healthier and better able to absorb rainfall.

Some gardeners even take this a step further by putting in a [rain garden](#). Rain gardens are essentially reworked flowerbeds. You start by digging a depression in the ground and backfilling it with a mixture of loose soil, small stones and a sand and compost mix. Then you plant native vegetables, grasses or shrubs above the fresh soil, *et voilà*. Rain gardens absorb more stormwater, keeping it beneath your yard instead of in your basement or washed across your community.

These are just a few tips to get started on developing a more climate-friendly garden. It goes without saying that even the most perfect garden won't undo the damage of massive oil or natural gas projects, or celebrities who fly private jets 200 days a year, but when taken alongside our friends, neighbours and communities, small actions add up! If you would like more details on any of these positive gardening practices, you should take a look at the [Conservation and Environment Committee page](#) on the OHA website. It has a tonne of resources to get you started, including a guide on choosing native crops and reducing the use of harmful materials like pesticides. If you'd like to learn more about how gardeners and seniors can fight climate change, you can also visit the [Climate Legacy](#) website or [subscribe to our Newsletter](#).



Guelph Arboretum Workshops

*Submitted by Barb Watson-Ash, Marketing and Office Co-ordinator
The Arboretum, University of Guelph*

We have some great workshops on gardening topics. They are on our website at:
<https://arboretum.uoguelph.ca/educationandevents/workshops>.



Ancaster Horticultural Society

Submitted by Publicity Director Rhu Sherrard 2025/2026 Photos by Rhu Sherrard

Keeping Ancaster Beautiful for 64 years



Heidi Mungal

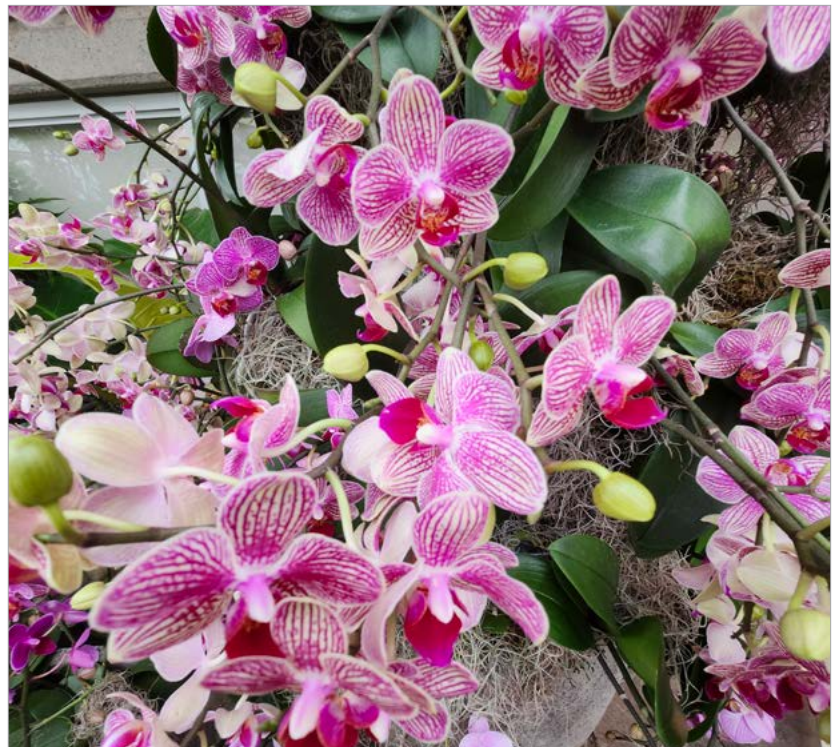


Don Bodnar

**Photos of Orchids taken by Rhu Sherrard
at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington**



*Above photo featured on front cover of this
issue of the OHA Trillium*



The Spring Equinox will arrive shortly and just like most gardeners, I personally can't wait to get into the garden. There is a lot of spring maintenance which can be completed around the gardens pending the weather! Early bloomers may even provide you with some colour and #springvibes. Seed starters may have some interesting additions to their gardens.

Our Society Members are looking forward to enjoying the community garden blooms and the maintenance in the Ancaster community during the spring, summer and autumn months.

On March 18, 2025, the speaker will be Michael Albanese, owner of AVESI. His talk will be on "Storm Water and Landscape Solutions – Rain Gardens". Michael is a landscape consultant, designer, contractor and writer who operates AVESI Stormwater & Landscape Solutions. His work focuses on helping people incorporate rainwater into their landscapes through rain scaping and ecological planting design. He is currently working on the second edition of his book 'The Modern Rain Garden'. Michael strives to have a positive influence on both the community and the environment.

Our February 18, 2025, speaker was Heidi Mungal, owner of Generations Marketplace and Learning Centre, who presented a talk on "Modern Day Homesteading". The farm provides a seasonal Marketplace, Educational Visits, Tours and Special Event/Birthday Parties for young and old. To learn more, contact Heidi at 519-718-2273 or email her at generationsmarketplaceal@gmail.com.

On January 21, 2025, we had Don Bodnar, Beekeeper at D.B. Bee Sanctuary who gave a presentation on "It Is All About the Bees". A Pure Raw Organic Honey can be found at his location in Dundas, Ontario. Don can be contacted at 905-627-5518 during honey season!

Ancaster Horticultural Society Calender of Upcoming Events:

- **April 15, 2025**, Kim Drew of Purple Haven Lavender Farm presenting on "All Things Lavender"
- **May 20, 2025**, Paul Oliver of Urban Nature Store presenting on "Attracting Wild Birds to Your Backyard Garden"
- **June 17, 2025**, Strawberry Social at the Ancaster Town Hall "Is Back"

Our events are held at the Ancaster Town Hall, Ancaster, Ontario. Please visit <https://ancasterhort.org/>. We can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

Society members are volunteering at the Spring Tide Bulb Show taking place at Gage Park in Hamilton from **March 7 to March 16, 2025**. Details can be found via the following link: <https://www.hamilton.ca/things-do/festivals-events/spring-tide-bulb-show>.

Our Heirloom and Plant Sale are highlights of our Society. We have approximately 41 varieties of Heirloom Tomatoes in a wide range of sizes, shapes and colours. Tomatoes are planted in 3.5-inch pots at a cost of \$5.00 each.

To Pre-Order by April 25th, email: ahsordertomatoes@gmail.com (Plant pickup, in Ancaster, May 10th). Tomato variety descriptions and all ordering details are on our website: <https://ancasterhort.org/>.

The Plant Sale is on **Saturday May 17th**, 8 am-1 pm at Food Basics Plaza, Ancaster, Ontario. Please drop by and introduce yourselves to the various Society Volunteer Members who are more than happy to assist with your plant needs!

"Flowers are the music of the ground from earth's lips spoken without sound." – Edwin Curran



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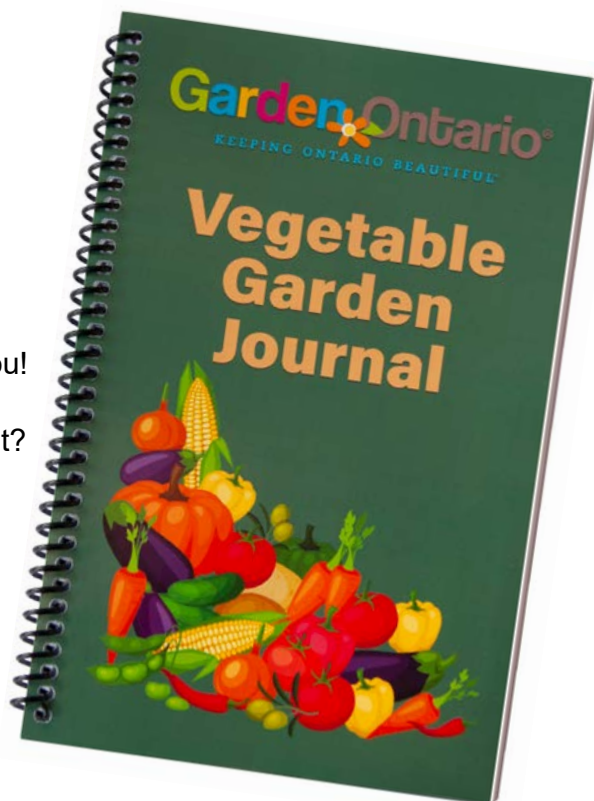
Vegetable Garden Journal

OHA Fundraiser: \$20 each
(includes HST)

Experienced gardening enthusiasts from all around Ontario got together to plan and create this OHA Garden Journal just for you! Are you new to gardening? Are you experienced? Do you have bugs, critters, questions? How do you know what seeds to plant? How do you serve or preserve the bounty of your garden?

Many of your questions will be answered as well as answers to questions you didn't know you had!

Order today from www.gardenontario.org

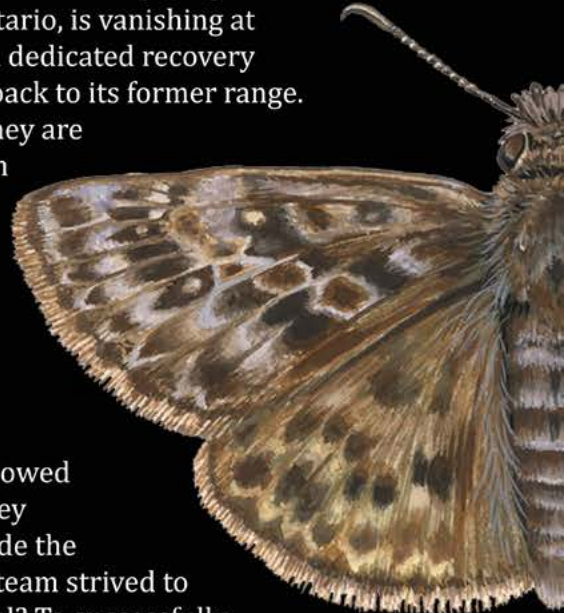


BUTTERFLIES ON THE BRINK

The Story of the Mottled Duskywing

Butterflies on the Brink is the gripping tale of a rare butterfly species' fight for survival on the edge of extinction. The Mottled Duskywing butterfly, found only in a handful of habitats in Ontario, is vanishing at an alarming rate. Witness the inspiring efforts of a dedicated recovery team as they work tirelessly to bring this species back to its former range. Through painstaking research and groundwork, they are determined to reintroduce these butterflies and, in doing so, accomplish a momentous achievement in butterfly conservation in Canada. However, their ultimate triumph depends not only on their own efforts but also on the butterflies' ability to withstand the ever-changing climate, invasive species, environmental degradation, and unforeseen challenges that lie ahead.

For three years, Pinegrove Productions closely followed biologist Jessica Linton and her recovery team. They documented their endeavours in the field and inside the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory lab, where the team strived to raise thousands of Duskywings. Their ultimate goal? To successfully reintroduce this critically endangered species back into its natural habitat. The resulting documentary is a captivating tale of triumphs, setbacks, and the unwavering dedication of a group determined to secure the future of this enchanting butterfly.



"To me, this is a love story that is the heart of our relationship with our sibling species. Against a tidal wave of mass extinction, it is inspiring to watch a devoted group working to restore one species of butterfly to a habitat from which they had been extirpated. This reveals how hard it is in a degraded world and how much we have to learn."

- David Suzuki, CBC Nature of Things

"Great documentary! An inspiring tale of a team of dedicated scientists on a multi-year effort to reintroduce an endangered butterfly and how the threats to that one species have implications for an entire ecosystem."

- Bob McDonald, national science commentator,
CBC Television & CBC News

47 Minutes | 16X9 HD | Stereo | Produced by: Pinegrove Productions
Director: Miles Finlayson | Writer: Franziska von Rosen | Narrator: Sarah Harmer



Contact: Franziska von Rosen
fvr@pinegroveproductions.ca | 613.795.7463

www.pinegroveproductions.ca

Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society

New Jersey Tea and the Mottled Duskywing Butterfly

Written by Sue Graci and Laurene Via

New Jersey Tea! Is the Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society brewing up another initiative? Not quite yet, but here is the scoop on this interesting and important shrub currently being reestablished in the St. Williams Conservation Reserve in Norfolk County.

As gardeners, we are all aware of the relationship between plants and animals whether it is a hummingbird visiting Bee Balm, a Monarch Butterfly resting on a Butterfly Milkweed or a bumblebee buzzing around Grey Goldenrod. One does not (cannot) exist without the other.

New Jersey Tea is a plant that plays host to a small, unassuming butterfly for its entire life cycle. And in our area, Norfolk County, we are working to bring both the plant and the butterfly back home.

Port Dover is located within the Long Point Biosphere Region, a UNESCO-designated area of biological importance. Known for its incredible biodiversity, Norfolk County (with its iconic Carolinian forests) has many SARs (Species at Risk).

Last November, at the 12th Annual Long Point Biosphere Research Conference, the keynote speaker was Jessica Linton, a Senior Biologist with Natural Resource Solutions Inc., who spoke passionately about the work being done to re-introduce the Mottled Duskywing Butterfly (*Erynnis martialis*) to Norfolk County.

By extension, hopefully someday soon, the butterfly will expand its territory and include Port Dover in its boundaries. When that happens, wouldn't it be wonderful if its host plant, New Jersey Tea, grew in gardens throughout the county? Wildlife does not stay within our arbitrary, designated protected lands; we need to provide habitats beyond them. The more widespread the native plants are, the more likely species like the Mottled Duskywing Butterfly will thrive.

Butterflies, we as gardeners know, are pollinators – crucial to the fertilization of plants because they carry pollen from one plant to another. Insects such as bees and butterflies are important pollinators but there has been an overall decline in their population due in part to habitat loss and fragmentation. Not only are they losing their habitat, but it is being broken up into smaller areas that are not connected.

The Mottled Duskywing was extirpated (made extinct locally) in Norfolk County in the late 1980's. There are often multiple reasons why a species disappears and here in Norfolk County, our native animals and plants are losing ground to habitat loss as development increases, whether it is residential, commercial or agricultural. At the same time, thriving white-tailed deer populations prefer to eat the plants that this butterfly depends on during its life cycle.

Fire, generally considered destructive and actively discouraged by society, is a necessary part of New Jersey Tea's life cycle. Fire kills the top growth but encourages growth near its base, which results



Mottled Duskywing

Photo by Jessica Linton



New Jersey Tea

Photo by Sue Graci

in a stronger, more vibrant plant. Carefully controlled prescribed burns have been conducted in the St. Williams Conservation Reserve to encourage its reestablishment. The Mottled Duskywing spends its entire life cycle on this single host plant, so work had to be done to ensure areas in the Conservation Reserve are conducive to the growth of New Jersey Tea before the butterfly could be reintroduced.

We spoke with Jessica Linton who told us, "In addition to being the host plant for the endangered Mottled Duskywing, New Jersey Tea in particular is favoured among many pollinator groups including flies, wasps, bees and butterflies. Based on our research, we believe large patches of New Jersey Tea are required to support healthy populations of Mottled Duskywing. But we also know they are capable of dispersal events up to 10 km in search of new habitats so having resources in between these larger areas is important."

Jessica also told us that "home gardens are an excellent opportunity to expand native pollinator habitat beyond protected natural areas and are often the critical steppingstones or linkages wildlife need to get from place to place. Even a small patch of native flowers in a garden can host hundreds of pollinators."

That is where gardeners come in!

An easy-to-grow compact shrub with glossy green leaves and clusters of bright white flowers, it has a mounding shape and is drought-tolerant due to its deep tap root. Preferring full sun, New Jersey Tea offers year-round interest in the garden, attracting butterflies and hummingbirds. It is named for its role in American history, when it was used as a substitute for tea during the American Revolution, a time when imported tea was impossible to come by.

According to Joelle Giles, Assistant Coordinator for the St. Williams Conservation Reserve, "To the home gardener, I would say this is definitely an easy-growing, drought-tolerant shrub well suited to sunny gardens with light soils. The best place to grow New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) is in a sandy, well-drained site in full sun. These plants don't like to have their feet wet and will develop root rot in heavier or poorly-drained soils. When open-grown, it can sprawl up to a meter across and almost as tall. If the homeowner wants to keep the shrub manicured, it can be trimmed and shaped any time after it flowers in July. The clusters of tiny white flowers have a light fragrance that attracts many insects."

She added, "To compliment the New Jersey Tea in the home garden, one could consider planting other native plants that grow well in dry, sunny sites and also support a variety of insect life (an important foundation for any healthy ecosystem!): (spring flowering) Prairie Smoke, Gray Goldenrod, Sundial Lupine, Butterfly Milkweed; (summer flowering) Blazing Star (*Liatriis spp*), Virginia Mountain Mint and Grey-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)."

If you want to harvest New Jersey Tea, pick the leaves in July when the plant is in full bloom. The dried leaves make a slightly minty tasting tea that is (another bonus) caffeine-free!

So why am I sharing this information with members of Garden Ontario? Because the Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society's Board of Directors thought this topic was important in helping gardeners understand why planting more native plants is so crucial to the well-being of our native animals.

Jay Cranstone, Natural Areas Stewardship Technologist for the City of Guelph, told us, "You don't need a large area to add habitat for native pollinator insects in an urban garden. Simply adding a few native plants or a small patch into your



Mottled Duskywing

Photo by Joelle Giles



Ceanothus americanus Photo by Jessica Linton



Mottled Duskywing Photo by Jessica Linton

garden can make a difference. Plant a diversity of native species to provide habitat to support a diversity of insects.”

If you are interested in planting New Jersey Tea, it can be found at many garden centres or ordered online.

We hope to encourage our neighbors to plant New Jersey Tea, so that someday, as our Mottled Duskywing Butterfly population expands beyond the limited habitat area that has been so carefully re-created, they will find more host plants and the population will grow to a healthy size, returning this butterfly back to its historical numbers.

And if the Mottled Duskywing Butterfly has caught your fancy, there is even a documentary, called Butterflies on the Brink, by

Pinegrove Productions. David Suzuki, of CBC’s The Nature of Things, calls it “a love story”.

Perhaps you too can encourage your neighbours to plant more natives to provide habitat for wildlife.

We encourage you to discover more about the relationships between native animals and the host plants they need to survive in your part of Ontario.

Native Plant Nurseries List

Submitted by Sandra Rammelaere, OHA Conservation and Environment Committee

During the cooler months of winter many gardeners take the time to peruse seed catalogues and make plans for their upcoming garden season. The OHA Conservation and Environment Committee encourages gardeners to try to include more native plants in their landscapes. The Canadian Wildlife Federation website has an extensive list of nurseries that sell native plants-perennials, bushes and shrubs, trees and grasses-across Canada.

<https://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore/gardening-for-wildlife/plants/buy/native-plant-suppliers/>

Simply click on the link for Ontario to look for nurseries that sell native plants that will thrive in your area of the province. There is also a link to their Native Plant Encyclopedia where you can look up a plant to read a description and determine if it will be hardy in your zone.

<https://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/encyclopedias/native-plant-encyclopedia/>

The David Suzuki Foundation also has information on locating native seeds and plants across Canada including attending seed swaps and seed libraries and even becoming a Seed Sitter.

<https://david Suzuki.org/living-green/how-to-source-native-seeds-and-plants/>



OHA Trillium - Spring 2025

Photos by Laura Masterson

Tomato Growing

Written and Submitted by Alex Kucharew, Grand Erie Master Gardener

My Needs/Preferences

- Check on seed pkg and/or plant ID tag for information.
- Eating fresh off the vine, canning and/or sauces, slicing for sandwiches and burgers.
- Early season (55/65 days) Mid-season (70/80 days) or Late season (80/100 days).
- Early season varieties can be an advantage here in Ontario as late blight, fusarium and verticillium wilt disease symptoms occur later in the growing season.

Site Conditions/Environmental Factors to Consider

- Space available to grow: Small space (balcony, patio driveway) plant dwarf and/or determinate (bush-like) varieties in containers/pots.
- Full direct sun (6 to 8 hrs at least).
- Slightly acidic to neutral soil pH (most soils are here) of 6.5 to 7.0 ideal.
- Well-draining soil with compost/organic matter (improves soil structure and nutrient content).
- Plant tomato with adequate spacing (1 to 3 feet from centre) depending on variety growth characteristics (ensuring adequate air circulation/faster drying of foliage after rain and faster healing of stems/foliage after pruning cuts which lessens the chance of disease occurring).
- Note: A healthy growing tomato tends/can fight off disease symptoms.

Tomato Growth Habit

- In a Determinate (Bush-like) growth habit, the plant reaches a certain height and stops growing (up to 4 feet high and, if hybrid, can be taller).
- Instead of ending with a growing tip, the stem ends up with a flower cluster (fruit ripens all at once) and dies off at the end of fruit production.
- A determinate hybrid (semi-determinate sometimes called) can produce fruit till frost like the indeterminates. (look at tags).
- Dwarf determinate (typically to 2 feet) is a plant growth characteristic.
- Lower maintenance: limited pruning, if any and usually just cage for support. In an Indeterminate (Vine-like) growth habit, once fruit set starts (forms flowers in little clusters) along the sides of stems, it continues to grow and fruit along the stems until frost.
- Both hybrid and heirloom can exhibit semi-determinate growth with fruit until frost.
- Higher maintenance with more pruning and support mechanisms (grow up to 8 feet+).

Growing Tomatoes for Optimum Growth/Fruit Harvesting

- Plant tomato deep. Plant 1/3 of plant underground which promotes strong root system.
- Choose disease-resistant varieties (look at seed pkg and/or plant ID Tag).
- Space plant 3 feet from centre for air circulation (fast drying of foliage/pruning cuts).
- Do not plant too early as tomatoes need warm soil temperatures to promote root growth so if you are putting mulch down (straw, pine bark nuggets) wait until at least end of May. Putting down (3 foot x 3 foot black plastic (with holes punched through for drainage) end of May can warm the soil (from sun) and after rain, the water cannot splash up disease spores from the soil.
- Water in the morning (faster drying during the day) and about 1½ inch per week.
- Water consistently (2-3 times a week) at the base of plant, not over the foliage (which can lead to moisture retention on foliage with disease potential.)
- Do not water heavily (at once) at fruit set because this may cause fruit cracking.
- Add compost amendment (triple mix) into top 3 to 4 inches of soil and cultivate.
- If fertilizing, use a fertilizer low in nitrogen (okay initially to get plant established and then lower N as growing otherwise too much foliage and less fruit).
- Use ratio examples like 10-10-10, 5-15-5, Nitrate based which is more readily available to plants and is directly absorbed (preferred).
- Calcium is generally available in the soil (soils with higher pH levels tend to have more available calcium and when soil is dry, it cannot absorb calcium which leads to blossom end rot.)

Types of Tomato Plants

- Open Pollinated tomatoes have same basic self-pollinating structure and have male/female reproductive parts within the flower so do not need external pollination (self-pollinated) and seeds saved from and grown the following year grow fruit identical to the parent.
- Family/Commercial/Mystery Heirloom and all open-pollinated new varieties not yet heirloom because no lineage (developed by commercial and/or serious backyard growers).
- F1 Hybrid developed through a breeding process (7 to 10 years) and sold to farmers/retail.

Pruning (Best to start when first flowers begin to open up usually late June/early July)

- When planting, remove any secondary sucker/stem (leave 1 main stem).
- Determinate plants have a predetermined number of stems (stop growing and produce fruit at the ends of the growing tips) vs semi and indeterminate which keep growing from these tips till frost. With determinate, I remove all suckers (branches that form in the leaf axils or junctions between true leaves and main stem) up to the sucker below the first flower cluster (which is left to grow another second stem and bear fruit). For dwarf determinate, I usually remove the foliage off the ground 3 to 4 inches).
- Advantage of pruning is that when it rains, the water splashing up at base of plant (with potential disease spores) does not reach the foliage.
- Semi-determinate and indeterminate varieties continue to grow and produce fruit along the vine so it's important to remove excess foliage and suckers (up to 1/3) so plant is able to put energy into fruit production and can also increase air flow and thus faster drying of foliage and pruning cuts.
- 2-3 weeks before end of growing season, top off (remove top approx. 6 to 12 inches) so that existing fruit will ripen fast.
- End of season – remove all plant debris as well as surrounding weeds as disease spores overwinter on debris and weed host.

Summary of Best Practices to Prevent Blight/Wilts

- Healthy plants are less affected by disease issues.
- Mulch (fabric, straw, etc.) around plant prevents soil from splashing up onto foliage.
- Water at the base of plant and avoid watering on foliage (water in morning if possible).
- Provide proper spacing to improve air circulation and faster drying of foliage.
- Prune lower branches to reduce splashing up of soil onto foliage.
- There are many Bio pesticides for managing diseases of tomatoes organically (sulfur, copper-based fungicides and bacillus subtilis strains (plant growth enhancement) to control/minimize soil, foliar, bacterial and fungal disease.)

Tomato Varieties

1. **Family Heirloom:** Traditional with accredited lineage.
2. **Commercial Heirloom:** Grown before 1940 with supporting documents.
3. **Open Pollinated:** F1 Hybrid to F7 generations breeding documented (OP) status by commercial/backyard grower or mystery heirloom found.
4. **Family/Commercial Heirloom and Open Pollinated:** Seeds when planted will grow identical to parent.
5. **Hybrid F1:** Cross between two different open-pollinated varieties which seeds planted will not be identical to parent.

Favorite Small and Larger Container Varieties to Plant (or put in ground for small and/or large yards)

- **Bush Early Girl Hybrid F1** is a determinate (compact up to 3 feet) early yielding, single crop, medium size fruit (not all season) (54 days) and disease resistant (may need cage).
- **Tiny Tim** is an Heirloom (open pollinated) determinate growing up to 16 inches high with red/grape small fruit (not all season) in 60 days.
- **Tasmanian Chocolate** (open pollinated) is a semi-determinate (up to 4 feet high) mid-season variety producing beefsteak fruit all season (65 days) (may need cage for support).
- **Red Robin Hybrid** is a determinate cherry tomato, growing up to 12 inches with 75 days fruit maturity (not fruit all growing season).
- **Celebrity Hybrid** is a semi-determinate (fruit all season) up to 4 feet high and 70 days to fruit maturity (mid-season variety, may need cage).
- **Roma Heirloom** is a determinate (3 to 5 feet high) and 75 days to mature, disease-resistant tomato used for sauces, canning.
- **Iron Lady F1 Hybrid** is a determinate (up to 3 feet high) variety that matures in 75 days (red slicer) with strong

resistance to septoria leaf spot, early blight, late blight, verticillium wilt and fusarium wilts.

- **Juliet Hybrid** is an indeterminate (2 to 3 feet high) variety that matures in 60 days (early season) with resistance to early and late blight.
- **Mountain Merit** is a determinate (3 to 4 feet high) variety that matures in 75 days with disease resistance against early and late blight (deep red, medium size).

Tomato Varieties Needing Cage and/or Stake Support

- **Super Sweet 100 Hybrid F1** is a indeterminate (4 to 8 feet high) variety that matures in 65 days with resistance to early and late blight, fusarium and verticillium wilts (red, sweet cherry).
- **Lemon Boy Hybrid** is an indeterminate (4 to 5 feet high) variety that matures in 72 days with early blight resistance and resistant to verticillium and fusarium wilts (yellow, medium, mildly sweet).
- **Sungold Hybrid F1** is an indeterminate (4 to 6 feet high) variety that matures in 60 to 65 days with resistance to early blight and fusarium wilt (orange-yellow cherry sweet fruit).
- **Matt's Wild Cherry Heirloom** is an indeterminate (4 to 8 feet high) variety that matures in 55 days with resistance to early and late blight (red sweet cherry).
- **Mountain Magic Hybrid F1** is an indeterminate (5 feet high) variety that matures in 65 to 70 days with resistance to early and late blight as well fusarium wilt and verticillium wilt (large 2 oz red cherry fruit).
- **Big Boy Hybrid** is an indeterminate (vine-like growth) (4 to 6 feet high) beefsteak with a maturity time of approximately 78 days.
- **Better Boy Hybrid** (improved version of Big Boy) is an indeterminate (5 to 8 feet high) with good disease resistance to wilts.
- **Plum Regal Hybrid F1** is a determinate (3 to 5 feet high) variety that matures in 75 days with resistance to early and late blight.
- **Jasper Hybrid F1** is an indeterminate (4 to 6 feet high) cherry type that matures in 60 days and is resistant to early and late blight and fusarium disease.
- **Cherokee Purple** is an heirloom, open pollinated indeterminate (4 to 6 feet high) variety that matures in 80 to 90 days (beefsteak).
- **Yellow Pear** is an heirloom indeterminate (8 to 12 feet high) variety that matures in 70 days with resistance to early blight (*alternaria solani*) and moderately resistant to late blight.
- **Black Krim Heirloom** is an indeterminate (4 to 6 feet high) variety that matures in 80 days and are resistant to blights (medium deep purple).
- **Green Zebra Heirloom** is an indeterminate (4 to 8 feet high) variety that matures in 80 to 85 days with resistance to septoria leaf spot and late blight (green 2 to 3 inch fruit.)
- **Brandywine Heirloom** is an indeterminate (6 to 8 feet high) variety that matures in 90 days (beefsteak – red, pink, yellow black heirloom varieties).
- **Costoluto Genovese** is an indeterminate (4 to 8 feet high) variety that matures in 90 days (large red fruit).
- **Mortgage Lifter Heirloom** is an indeterminate Low Acid (up to 9 feet high +) variety that matures in 85 days (huge pink beefsteak and low acid and fairly resistance to wilts).
- **Crimson Cherry Hybrid F1** is an indeterminate (5 to 7 feet high) variety that matures in 50 to 65 days with good resistance to early and late blight, fusarium and verticillium wilt.

Some Diseases of Tomatoes in Southern Ontario

1. Early Blight (*Alternaria solani* now called *linariae*)

- Starting at bottom of plant (older leaves), you will see dark concentrated rings (in a bull's eye pattern, develops rings like a target) in the centre of the diseased area (tissue surrounding these spots may turn yellow... a halo effect.)
- Stem infections (dry brown areas) can occur on seedling stems and/or older plant stems at base and infected fruit may drop from the plant.
- Tomato plants can tolerate a lot of early blight without reducing the number of tomatoes.
- High temperature and humidity part of the cause.
- Early blight pathogens overwinter in plant debris and

soil and survives on tomato seed.

- Volunteer tomato plants are plants growing from seed which fell down the previous autumn and have germinated the following spring.
- If surrounding tomato plants are all the same variety, that seed will be true to parent plant but if it was a hybrid F1, you do not know what you'll get and if a cross pollination between 2 different varieties, you can get a different good plant... a guessing game!
- If you had disease issues, volunteer plants could carry diseases from the previous growing season which can infect your new growing plants.

2. Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*)

- The blight causes dark, water-soaked spots on leaves, stems and fruits.
 - This blight thrives in cool, moist and humid conditions and typically occurs in southern Ontario mid to late July.
 - Leaves have burnt/frost damaged look and fruit can have brown lesions.
 - On the lower underside of leaves, a white mold will appear at the margins of the affected area with complete defoliation (browning and shriveling of leaves and stems) can occur within 14 days from the first symptoms.
-

3. Septoria Leaf Spot (*Septoria lycopersici*)

- Fungus usually appears on lower leaves near the ground after the first fruit set.
 - Lower leaves break out in yellow spots with tan centre and black dots appear in the centre. Yellowing of foliage is rarely seen although severely spotted leaves can turn yellow and die and fall off with defoliation weakening the plant.
 - To lessen the impact of this disease, remove infected leaves.
-

4. Fusarium Wilt

- There is a yellowing and wilting of leaves (often starting on one side of the plant) with stunted growth and drooping and death of the plant.
 - Soil-borne disease entering roots.
 - Fusarium prefers warm, moist soil with higher nitrogen.
 - Attacks the vascular system of the plant and plant can be dead within a few days.
-

5. Verticillium Wilt

- Yellow blotches appear on the lower leaves and as they spread, the veins in the leaves turn brown and then fall off.
 - Disease goes up the stem until plant is stunted.
 - Unlike Fusarium (which prefers warm soil with little moisture) Verticillium prefers cooler soils with more moisture.
 - Soil-borne disease attacks roots and moves up the vascular system of plant (prevents flow of water and nutrients to the leaves).
-

6. Blossom End Rot

- As the tomato ripens, leathery blackened patch appears bottom of fruit.
 - Most soils are slightly acidic to neutral pH and calcium usually is available in the soil but with uneven watering practices vs consistent (2-3 times a week up to 1½ inches of water at base of plant) and hot dry spells will restrict calcium uptake.
-

7. Dark Bull's Eye on Bottom of Fruit (*Anthracnose*)

- Have seen this a few times over the years where a large round and sunken mushy spot forms (bottom of fruit) in hot humid weather and affects ripened fruit (not green) and is aggravated by overhead watering and poor drainage.
-

8. Powdery Mildew

- See on lower leaves that are covered with a white powder growth of spores in humid conditions.
 - Lower part of plant (if you do not prune) has poor air movement and if humidity is high, then leaf powdery mildew can occur.
-

9. Bacterial Canker

- Distinctive yellow border between green and dead tissue.
-

Note: Bacterial Spot and Bacterial Speck are common leaf diseases and there are many more Fungus and Viral concerns affecting tomatoes like blossom drop, fruit cracking, poor fruit set, deformed (catfacing) as well as insects such as aphids, cabbage, looper, Colorado potato beetle, flea beetles, hornworm, stinkbugs, tomato fruitworm and variegated cutworm.

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Submitted by Mary-Jane Pilgrim, Peterborough Horticultural Society and Peterborough Master Gardeners



Saturday April 26, 2025

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!

All seminars are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners

Session 1:

- ❖ Composting & Soil **OR**
- ❖ Beyond Bee Hotels: Creating Habitat for Beneficial Insects

Session 2:

- ❖ Trees & Shrubs for Small Urban Spaces **OR**
- ❖ Shade Gardens

Session 3:

- ❖ Vegetable/Edible Gardens **OR**
- ❖ Harvesting Rainwater: One Gardener's Experience

**Plenary: Friends, Enemies and Frenemies: A Wildlife
Guide for Gardeners**



Nobleton and King City Garden Club Champions Community Engagement at Agri-Tech Networking and Employment Mixer

Written and Submitted by Anna Santarossa, Co-president

Photo by Anna Santarossa



Pictured are Anna Santarossa, Wendy O'Neill and Brandon Hebor who outlined the Nobleton and King City Garden Club's commitment to community engagement, in particular, focusing on educating and engaging with students.

Members of the Nobleton and King City Garden Club were thrilled to participate in the Agri-Tech Networking & Employment Mixer, an event dedicated to fostering innovation, sustainability and professional connections in the agricultural technology sector.

Hosted by Boreal Farms, STEM Minds and Seneca Polytechnic, the event brought together industry leaders, students and community organizations to explore advancements in agri-tech and career opportunities in the field. For the Nobleton and King City Garden Club, this was a perfect platform to promote their mission of environmental stewardship and community engagement.

Attending this event allowed the Nobleton and King City Garden Club to engage with like-minded individuals and organizations that are pushing the boundaries of agricultural technology while maintaining a deep respect for nature.

As part of their participation, Club members connected with students who showed great enthusiasm for the guest speakers and educational workshops that the Club regularly offers. Many students expressed interest in learning more about environmental conservation, the role of pollinators in agriculture and the importance of green spaces in urban planning. The event provided an excellent opportunity for the Club to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards while highlighting the valuable learning experiences the Club offers to the community.

The Agri-Tech Mixer underscored the importance of collaboration between community groups and the tech-driven agricultural sector. By attending, the Nobleton and King City Garden Club reinforced its commitment to fostering a greener future while serving as a valuable educational resource for students and like-minded individuals. Through their workshops and guest speakers, the Club provides a platform for those eager to expand their knowledge of environmental sustainability, conservation and innovative gardening techniques. Their presence at the event not only inspired the next generation to take an active role in sustainability efforts but also highlighted the Club's role in equipping them with the knowledge and skills to make a meaningful impact.

GardenBrockville

Submitted and Written by Mary Ann Van Berlo, Photos by Mary Ann Van Berlo

The Gardens of New Zealand

Recently, I had the pleasure of giving a talk to my home Horticultural Society (GardenBrockville) and sharing my memories of a bucket-list trip from 2024 – a garden tour of New Zealand. Many Societies choose to have a virtual meeting with a travelogue-style presentation in January to ensure no winter driving is involved and, also, to give their members a break from the local weather with a virtual visit to somewhere with lush, green growth and warmer temperatures. And if we can learn about plants and garden design in the process, it's a win all around!

Of course, Murphy's Law prevailed, and my computer decided to act up that night – PowerPoint was not allowing me to use the presenter's view so I couldn't see my notes. Luckily, I'd already given this talk five times that month, so I had most of the facts and figures memorized.



Our first garden visit was to Totara Waters, just outside of Auckland. This 2-acre private garden featured bromeliads, cactus, tree ferns and many other plants.



Another view of the garden beds at Totara Waters – bromeliads, cycad, palm trees and an aloe tree are seen here.

New Zealand has unique flora and fauna because it evolved in isolation after the supercontinent Gondwana split up 80 million years ago. Many of its plants and wildlife are endemic (meaning NZ is the only place where they occur naturally). Of course, with colonization, many invasive species were introduced but NZ is doing its best to reduce those invasive populations to allow the native species to thrive.

The bus tour started in Auckland on the North Island with many stops as we made our way south, continued with a ferry ride to the South Island, making our way to Christchurch on the east coast where we switched to the TranzAlpine train to cross to the west coast, and then continued by bus to Mount Cook and concluded in Queenstown. We visited two or three gardens daily (including private and botanical gardens as well as natural areas), explored glow-worm caves, hiked up mountains, were awestruck by old-growth subtropical forests (800-1000 year-old trees) and toured Hobbiton. The meals were delicious, the weather was fabulous and the people were welcoming.

I've toured gardens in the UK and Europe and these NZ gardens were of the same calibre as many of the ones I've visited previously (without castles though). Their landscape designs, tasteful art placement and varied plant materials were inspiring.

Horticulture in New Zealand is following the native plant gardening trend. We saw some excellent examples of garden beds designed entirely with NZ plants – the gardeners wanted to demonstrate that you don't need exotic plants to have a show-stopping display.

The NZ climate is subtropical and even in Queenstown (which has a similar south latitude, as



Woodend Gardens is a private garden that hosts events. They also have 10 acres of vineyards. The photo captures a perfectly-framed borrowed view of the grapevines and mountains.



The homeowner created a beautiful long-border of native shrubs and perennials to create an axis drawing the eye out to the long-view of Cook Strait. Paripuma Garden sprawls over 10 acres and also features a large butterfly garden.



The keyhole window from the walled parking lot, showcasing the view of a formal water garden had us wanting to see more and there was SO much more to enjoy at Winterhome Garden.



A lovely meadow garden at Flaxmere Gardens. This large private garden features many different areas with various garden styles.

Ottawa has north) they don't get frost due to their maritime climate. Tree ferns, cycads, aloes, bromeliads, fuchsia trees, orchids, lotus, all thrive without any protection.

Some garden design concepts that were used to advantage repeatedly were the "long view" and the "borrowed view". Given this country's spectacular mountain and ocean views, featuring them as part of the garden design makes good sense.

A number of the private gardens doubled as event venues. I asked one garden owner if they hosted weddings. His reply was "Weddings, funerals – whatever pays the bills".

The private gardens ranged in size from ½ acre in town to 10 acres in the country. The botanic gardens and parks were much larger. Botanic gardens are considered public parks in NZ so no admission is charged to enter and they are definitely well-used by the public.

After a wonderful day of visiting gardens near Christchurch, we had a couple of free hours and I casually said to the lady next to me on the bus, "Now if I could see a Kiwi, it would be a perfect day". She quickly Googled and said "There is

a wildlife sanctuary close by, we could take an Uber and go see them". So we did. The Kiwi is a nocturnal, wingless bird, so chances of seeing it in the wild were slim. The wildlife sanctuary had a Kiwi house with reverse daylight hours. It was completely dark, with only some infrared lights. Once your eyes got used to the dim lighting, you had to listen for the Kiwis scratching in the soil for food, then you followed the sound to spot them. We were successful in our quest to see Kiwis but no photos were allowed so you have to take my word for it.

It was difficult to reduce three weeks of touring and 5,000 photos into a cohesive slideshow while still capturing the beauty and scope of the gardens and landscapes. Hopefully, my talk inspired others to consider visiting this beautiful country. A number of audience members said they felt like they had visited and appreciated the virtual tour, as they were unlikely to make it there in person. The very positive experience of exploring NZ makes you forget the lengthy flights. I highly recommend a visit.



At Cassa Rosa Garden, the homeowner gave us a guided tour so that the special features he'd created would be revealed for maximum impact as we followed him through the winding pathways.



Broadfield Gardens is a stunning diverse garden and includes this formal water feature. The host gave us a guided tour of his 10 acres of paradise.



Moraki Wilderness Lodge featured old-growth forests that the owner had saved from logging by obtaining UNESCO World Heritage Site designation for this area.



Our first view of Mount Cook with Lake Pukaki in the foreground.

Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

Pictures and article courtesy of Vickie Bureau, President

The Thunder Bay Horticultural Society is proud to report 13,549 volunteer hours for 2024. Congratulations TBHS members.

December 5th, 2024, found 12 members attending a Salvation Army Christmas Kettle at the Canadian Tire Thunder Bay Centre location for a day and raised \$917.00 for a great cause and an excellent way of giving back to our community.

In January, Society members were able to take time and dream of their gardens for 2025 while waiting for the seed Catalogues to arrive. We then found out that Superior Seed Producers were introducing monthly presentations on "Eat Your Backyard" with the topic being "Navigating Seed Catalogues" and the timing couldn't have been better.

February found members getting ready for an exciting and active year planned for 2025 and are already into the swing of things. The 2nd Superior Seed Producers, "Eat Your Backyard" topic was on "Planning your garden and knowing your seeds" on the 3rd and the 14th, found members attending the Country Market to setup our Information/Membership Booth which will run from February 15-April 12, Wednesdays 3:30-6:30, Saturdays 8:00-1:00. On the 19th, a group of members gathered at Lakehead Region Conservation Association (LRCA) to help out with seed sorting in support of Adelaide Butterfly Garden. Our first General meeting of 2025, was on Feb. 20th, with an excellent turnout for a presentation on "Native Plants" by Elaine Wiersma. The 22nd, found members at 2 Outreach events, the Country Market booth and the Superior Seeds, Seedy Saturday at Roots Community Food Centre. We were also able to get our Annual Yearbook out, prior to the general meeting as promised, with 58 great pages of our 2024 accomplishments. Thanks to everyone who submitted reports and pictures, Tara for setting up the book and Kobain for designing the front cover.



Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive



Seed sorting for Adelaide Butterfly Garden



*Farmers Market Information/
Membership Booth*



Roots CFC Seedy Saturday

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