

# PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 159

April 2016

Number 4



**Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 7:00pm**  
**(doors at the Lions Community Centre open at 6:30pm)**

## **"An Eclectic English Gardener in Canada": Brad White**



Dr. Brad White was born in London, UK, obtained his BSc in Botany at Nottingham University and immigrated to Canada in 1967. His English horticultural journey included experiences on bomb sites and allotments and these triggered his interest in plant, butterfly and moth interactions. He obtained his PhD at McMaster University and spent time in David Suzuki's lab in UBC before returning to Ontario at Queen's and then McMaster Universities. He was a member of the Board of the Royal Botanical Gardens and is currently a member of the Conservation and Biodiversity Committee. He moved to Trent in 2001 and is currently the Director of the Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre.

From the prevention of poaching and illegal sale of meat to the preservation of habitats off the coasts of Taiwan and Hong Kong, he uses cutting-edge DNA technology to bring about change at home and abroad. He was instrumental last month in determining the gender of the new pandas born at the Toronto Zoo using innovative DNA testing on cheek-cell samples. Four days later, the results were in: the pandas were a male and a female!

The topic of Dr. White's talk on April 27 is "An Eclectic English Gardener in Canada". Brad will bring a unique mix of humour and information to enthrall us all with quirky stories and folklore relating to his horticultural hobby of gardening.

## **President's Message**

And what a great show it was! An amazing effort from some amazing volunteers. There are lots of kudos being offered later in this newsletter, so please do keep reading.

The fun doesn't stop with the PHS. Upcoming events include the Fleming Park Cleanup on Saturday April 23 and the much anticipated PHS Plant Sale on Saturday May 14. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend both events! At this time of year, the Board also starts to consider speakers for the 2017 year. If you have a suggestion, please let me know – [mjpilgrim@live.ca](mailto:mjpilgrim@live.ca)

❖ **MJ Pilgrim**

## **Fleming Park**

Just a quick reminder of our Fleming Park clean-up Saturday, April 23 at 9:30 a.m. Wear your rain boots (not snow boots) & garden gloves and bring tarps, rakes, pruners, etc., and we will shape it up in a couple of hours. We have a wonderful bunch of faithful volunteers for this, so we thank you in advance.

❖ **Annie English**

## **Community Beautification Grants**

We have received 22 applications for grants this year for various projects such as pollinator gardens, community gardens, and beautification projects. That means that 'word has gotten out' about our sharing of our garden show surplus and has become very popular!!



**LUGAMUG:** Don't forget to bring your coffee mug and wear your **Name Tag** to our meeting.

Newsletter Submissions: [ptbohortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ptbohortsoc@gmail.com) - P.O. Box 1372 Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6 - [peterboroughhort.com](http://peterboroughhort.com)

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The money that is provided for this year is from the 2015 show. Our committee meets at the end of April to decide how to distribute the grants and will notify the successful and unsuccessful applicants in early May! Your committee will certainly keep you informed and updated.

P.S. Hopefully you have seen some of the beautiful pictures of projects that were created in the 2015 area gardens on the 'thank you' board.

❖Chris Freeburn & Pat Lounsbury

## Flower Show

**Reminder...** our first flower show of the year will take place at our May meeting. Please consult your yearbook for details/times. Remember, this show will be judged aloud by Toni Sinclair, our flower judge. She will make comments and suggestions as she judges. We hope that the weather cooperates and that we get many, many lovely entries! From your flower show committee.

❖Shaun Pyper

## Master Gardener's Advice Table

Starting at the April meeting, there will be a Master Gardener's Advice Table located at the PHS meeting. Please bring your questions, and keep those MGs busy!

## Hospitality

We have a great kitchen facility at our new meeting place, The Lions Club on Burnham St. The staff has been so accommodating and helpful.

❖Annie English

## Library Update

Our move to the Lions Centre prompted us to downsize from two to one library cart, and I'm pleased to report that we still have a wide selection of gardening-related books... 279 books, in fact. Just in time for planning, researching, or getting ideas for the upcoming season, we've probably got a book that will guide you. All members are allowed to borrow 2 books per month and return them the following month. Late fees are assessed at \$1 per month. Stop by and Pat or I will be pleased to assist.

❖Pauline Drake

## Membership

Many members renewed their 2016 membership at the Lions Centre. If you haven't renewed yet, Diane and Cathy will prepare your name tag at the desk when you enter the building.

Welcome to many new members for 2016: Simone Clark, Jill Fyffe, Susanne Goldberg, Janice Keil, Maggie Mormul, Barb Morrison, Roger and Jeanne Randall, Debbie Whalen, and Joanna Young. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the April meeting.

❖ Membership: Cathy Lowes & Diane Raper

**Spring Plant Sale May 14, 2016, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

## Rain or Shine

Even though this winter was not one of the severe ones, we are all still eager to get back to our gardens to watch for all the new spring growth! Our Plant Sale was such a success last year, and we are hoping that this year's will be as successful or better. As you are cleaning your gardens, keep the Plant Sale in mind and dig out your extras; we would be very appreciative for those.



The sale will take place at Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St., West, on Saturday, May 14 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The church is located on the south side of Sherbrooke, just west of Woodglade Blvd. The entrance is at the back and there is plenty of parking. The church will be open from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 13, to drop off your donations. **WE NEED LOTS OF PLANTS...** as many as we can get! This is the perfect time to divide those overgrown clumps and the end result will be a happier plant. Pot up your extra plants a week or two before the sale and keep them watered so that they look their best. Larger pots (6inches or larger) sell the best. Please include as much information about your plants as possible: annual or perennial, sun/shade, height, colour, etc. If you have multiple plants, you could use your computer, print the label and attach to a Popsicle stick or to the pot. This could save you a lot of time and effort.

Please identify any aggressive plant. If you have any gardening magazines or garden decor items to donate please bring them to the sale. Bring any extra clean containers or garden trays to the April meeting to share with those who may need them. People want instant colour and large sells before small. We can also sell it for more. If you are sending in **special plants** (i.e., named varieties, more unusual plants, or a division of a plant that you purchased for more money) make sure that we know! Those will be marked at a higher price.

**PLEASE DROP YOUR PLANTS, etc., AT THE CHURCH FRIDAY NIGHT  
from 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.**

Thank you to all who have already signed up to help at the sale. If you want to add your name to the list, please sign up at the April meeting. Each person who has volunteered to help will be contacted by phone a week before the sale.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact:  
Anita Clifford: 705-748-0267 / anitaclifford@bell.net  
Pat Lounsbury: 705-745-2134 / glounsbury@nexicom.net

❖ Anita Clifford

Peterborough Garden Show:  
Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!

The April 8 - 10th weekend marked another smooth, successful Garden Show. From 8 am Thursday when vendors started arriving and the PHS and Master Gardeners started setting up their own decor and booths through to Sunday after 4 pm with the whirl of take-down activities, the Evinrude was a hub of activity and throngs of people.

The transformation actually started happening on Wednesday when **Dayle Finlay and her Decor Team** came to start hanging the many butterflies that swooped down from the ceiling of the Lobby. Our beautiful new garden shed style ticket booth had already been set up and painted by **Cauleen Viscoff, Jen Bird & Sandy Spremo**. **Vikki from Griffin's Greenhouses** brought the beautiful side planters that flanked the ticket booth. **Paul and Bev Williams from Williams Design**, Bethany, created the focal water garden in the Lobby. The **Set Up** crew organized by **Susan Leask** were busy bringing items from storage and assembling booths and planter boxes. Meanwhile, the 130 vendors filled the 2 pads with colour - fresh greens and spring flowers, hellebores, pansies, tulips, daffodils, primulas, pussy willows, and more. All the many garden products were set up and the feel of spring was in the air despite the cold outside.

Upstairs, **Kathy Hewitt** had organized a very successful Florist Design Competition. 7 local florists had created beautiful and original arrangements. The public voted for their favourite with over 1,000 votes



cast and **Patti Peeters'** floral cake design was chosen with Rambling Rose a runner-up.

The "Little Green Thumbs" Children's Garden was a hive of fun and activity throughout the Show. Becoming more popular every year and bubbling with the voices of happy children and their parents. Young ones were playing in the sandbox, dressing up, or buying vegetables. Others were making bulb planters, doing butterfly crafts, learning about butterflies, or having their faces painted. Many bright-eyed little butterfly faces were walking around the Show. **Karen Strano, Susan Bowie**, and their friends and family do an exceptional job in making this a colourful, fun, interactive spot to visit, and it is becoming a real draw to the Show.

Also upstairs, **Calvin Stillman** organized the Vendor's Lounge where vendors and volunteers could come to rest and enjoy complimentary coffee / tea and homemade cookies. On Sunday morning at 8 am, Calvin organized a Vendor's Breakfast where vendors could mingle and chat with other vendors. Breakfast was all fresh, home-made, and delicious. Many PHS and Master Gardeners responded to Calvin's request for 5 dozen cookies or muffins. Tulips brightened the tables.

Downstairs in the Coat Check, **Joan Harding and Donna O'Brien**, organized our close to 150 volunteers entering every 2 hours for their shifts. A truly huge undertaking and they did it so efficiently. A great team! They also oversaw the Advanced Ticket entrance and Week-end Pass Sales. **Dianne Tedford** was responsible for distributing and organizing the Advanced Tickets this year. It is becoming increasingly more popular and an easy way to enter and avoid the line-ups.

Joan Harding's laugh and smile were everywhere this year. She also organized bus tours. This year, five Horticultural Societies arranged bus tours: North Bay, Scarborough, Bracebridge, Orillia, and Madawaska. Another bus tour also came from Muskoka.

Our 8 Speakers were all excellent, with a range of topics and all well-attended and enjoyed. There were many positive comments. **Rachel Burrows**, on behalf of the Master Gardeners, was the organizer. Rachel also created the beautiful arrangement in the Speakers' Room and the table centrepieces throughout. She also was the classic voice on the intercom throughout the course of the Show.

The white Information Booth, the hub, was staffed by many of our **Show Committee** members; **Margaret Higgins** was often there. Margaret is in charge of Media and Advertising. She is hard working and efficient, and the high turnout testifies to that.

Another great contributor is **Cauleen Viscoff** who set up and maintains our excellent Website, a great resource for us.

We must also recognize **Rotary** for the great job they do with the parking. **Lloyd Graham** is our Rotary representative who organizes the parking team. A cold, chilly job this year!

Crucial to our success is **Claire Sullivan**, our Treasurer, who has a tremendous task in not only setting up the Cash Room and ticket sales with the responsibility for accurately tracking all the thousands of dollars that pour in during such a short time, and accounts throughout the Show and the year for all the thousands in revenue and expenses. Quite an accomplishment and she does it pleasantly and with a smile!

Not Committee members, but others who deserve thanks for their contribution are **BE Catering** who were back again with their wonderful decor in the cafe area and amazing selection of fresh, quality home-made foods and our local popular **Kyoto Coffee**.

Our thanks go out to **The Garden Route** and **Omeme Horticultural Society** who decorated the 2 rest areas.

**Tammy Gibson**, with her printing firm **Custom Copy**, was a great asset in helping design appealing, cost-effective layouts for our Programs and other printing needs, even printing more as needed throughout the weekend to meet demand.

Finally, I want to recognize the efforts of **Sandy Spremo**, our Show Coordinator, who works with our vendors and it seems a hundred other things to ensure the smooth operation of our Show each year. Even at the busiest, most demanding times, she always displays enthusiasm and friendliness. She is a real asset!

The Peterborough Garden Show is a joint venture between the PHS and Peterborough Master Gardeners (PMGs). **MJ Pilgrim**, as our President, and **Joan Harding**, as Coordinator, of the PMGs are the 2 key Committee Members on our Show Committee. They both work constantly throughout the year to oversee and ensure such a successful Show.

And of course you, our many volunteers, are also an integral part of this success.

It has been my pleasure as Coordinator this year to work with such a competent and dedicated team. No wonder the Show is such a success!

❖**Pat de Villiers, Chair: 2016 Peterborough Garden Show**



Where do I begin to thank all the wonderful volunteers who stepped forward to give freely of themselves and their time to contribute to the Garden Show's success?

Old Man Winter slowed down our annual sign-up at the February and March PHS meetings so we were still scrambling a week before the Garden Show. Many new members of the Peterborough Horticultural Society and Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners had quite an initiation as they jumped feet

first into unknown territory. We also had some members of the Omeme Horticultural Society and Ennismore Horticultural Society helping. I appreciate all the volunteers who unquestioningly assist us year after year to form the backbone from which we start adding. I have such admiration for those of you who set aside family responsibilities and worked around serious health issues in your desire to be a part of this huge annual venture.

All of your generous support is appreciated more than you will ever know. Year after year, the vendors and attending public comment on what wonderful volunteers we have. They all comment on how organized we are. This only happens because of the support we receive from all of you. Your assistance allowed those of us on the Committee to have some laughs and enjoyment even though there were some crazy moments with shift changes, bus tours, and Old Man Winter and Mother Nature trying to overpower each other.

Last, but by no means least, I want to Thank **Donna O'Brien** who assisted me throughout all of the Volunteer process, especially in the Coat Check area. Always smiling, co-operating, and looking for easier ways to make everyone's job go smoothly, Donna was a joy to work with and I hope that she will be my fellow Volunteer Coordinator next year.

Thank you for the joy and heartfelt memories that you have given me and for your patience when it appeared something might go wrong. All of you and your contributions are Priceless!

❖**Joan Harding, Volunteer Coordinator**

Susan and I feel so lucky to have had such wonderful help this year. You knew how busy it was when you were there. It was pretty much like that the whole weekend. It is so comforting to know that the children are in the hands of such caring, enthusiastic, and capable hands.

The artwork looked outstanding the way it was displayed. Thanks to all those people who put it up and took it down. Several children and parents came in to look for their creations.

To everyone who helped with set up and take down, thanks for your efficiency! We had so many parents (and grandparents) tell me what a wonderful event this was for their little ones. Whether they were exploring with the fruit and vegetables, fairy garden, puppets, costumes, sand box, planting, getting their faces painted, or doing crafts, they had smiles. The more adventuresome were able to learn something from the butterfly displays, books, and flannel board.



We saw and enjoyed every personality going. I'm sure many of you have stories to tell. I also hope that you had fun, and were able to explore the rest of the show as well.

As our children's garden is quickly becoming a very well-known and popular part of The Garden Show, I know that we will be repeating many of the activities next year and looking for new and unique ideas as well. If you have any for us, please pass them along.

If you enjoyed yourself, please keep us in mind for next year. Again, we could not do this without you.

❖Karen Strano and Susan Bowie, Little Green Thumbs Children's Garden

## Upcoming Events

- April 17 Ontario Hosta Society 6th Annual Hosta Forum Glen Cairn Golf Club, Halton Hills  
April 23 Norwood Hort. Afternoon Tea & Loonie Auction; Legion, 1pm; Auction, 2pm  
**May 14 PHS Plant Sale, Westdale United Church, 9-11am**  
May 14: OHA Trillium summer issue deadline editor@gardenontario.org  
May 21: Lakefield Horticultural Society Plant Sale. 8:30am - 11:30am Memorial Hall, Lakefield  
May 21: Omemee Horticultural Society Plant Sale. Curling Club, Omemee. 8:30am start.  
**May 25: PHS Spring Flower Show at General Meeting**  
May 28: Plant Sale for Parkinson's, 480 Gilmour St.  
June 11: Peterborough and Area Master Gardener's Plant Sale, Westdale United Church, 9-11am

## Did you know?

**Dragonflies** can fly up to 20 miles per hour! They also hover and fly backwards. These insect-devouring hunters should be a welcome sight in any garden, consuming gnats, midges, beetles, moths, and mosquitoes. More than 400 dragonfly and damselfly species inhabit North America.

Ancient Egyptian laborers ate **onions** to give them strength while building the pyramids! The *Allium* genus is one of the largest plant genera in the world, with over 1,250 species. Onions are also one of the oldest vegetables used as a food source.

The annoying **Asian Lady Beetle** is a beneficial insect! Though not welcome inside the house, these predators consume large quantities of aphids and scale insects, and are responsible for benefiting the pecan industry by controlling the pecan aphid.

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"

~Robin Williams



# PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1372, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6 -- peterboroughhort.com

## Membership 2016

New Membership  Renewal  Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Rec'd by: \_\_\_\_\_

Single @ \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Family @ \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you wish your yearbook (and nametag) to be mailed to you.

If so, please include \$5.00 to cover cost of postage.

In accordance with the anti-spam law, please check your consent for the receipt of emails for PHS related information to the email listed or on file. Please add **ptbohortsoc@gmail.com** to your safe list.

Please print.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of members who are included in the Family Membership.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheques payable to: Peterborough Horticultural Society. Do not send cash in the mail.**

Tell us a little bit about yourself! There are many ways you can participate within the PHS. Circle all interests.

**Regular Committee:** Board of Directors Archives Bus Trips District and OHA Scholarships Grants  
Fleming Park Flower Shows Hospitality 50/50 Library  
Membership Newsletter Nominating Program Public Relations  
Website Yearbook Twitter Facebook Computer Skills  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant Sale:** Friday: Set-Up, Pricing and Organizing Plants. Saturday: Overseeing the Sale of Plants. Clean up.

**Garden Show:** Set up (April 7/8) Tear down (April 10) Muscle Trucks Greeters  
Children's Garden Admission Ticket Committee Cash Room