

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Newsletter

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OCTOBER MEETING

Felicity Lukace, our speaker at the October meeting, showed slides of gardens that she had revamped. She focussed on mistakes that gardeners tend to make and have to correct. She brought along "her" shovel, demonstrating how sharp shovels should be, and talked about keeping the tools close at hand. Her down to earth approach kept us well entertained.

November Meeting

Make sure you come out to our last meeting of 2008 on November 26. This is our Annual General Meeting and Gary's last general meeting as President. The election and installation of officers for 2009 will occur. Of course, we will have our 50/50 draw and the library will be open. To celebrate the festive season, we are asking our members to bring along a treat to share that evening and a food item to donate to Kawartha Food Share or a contribution to the mitten tree. The punch bowl, tea and coffee will be provided and there will be a surprise presentation. Come out and join in the fun.

Help Wanted

Here is an opportunity to become directly involved in the activities of PHS. If you have an interest in a particular activity, wish to meet some new people or just have a good time, come out and join a committee or perhaps you are interesting in coming onto the Board. With more people to share the work, the less work there is for the individual. See Anne Milne or Gary Westlake to find out more. Don't be shy!



Gary Westlake presents a cheque to Sherry Booth from Trent University. With matching funds from the Ontario Government a scholarship will be available in perpetuity in the name of PHS.

50/50 Draw

The 50/50 draw was \$88.00 this month, won by Joan Cook. The subsidiary prizes were purchased at "The Avant Garden" shop, and the theme was "For the Birds" – items all related to feeding the birds this winter.

We also had a number of donated items including another of Ernie's lovely birdhouses; a wrought iron basket with a coco-mat liner from Griffin's and a couple of wasp deterrents, donated anonymously.

My thanks to everyone, who supplied/donated items, and especially to all who so cheerfully purchase tickets every month. I will be away during next month's meeting, but I hope that you will all participate as generously as always. The hat that so many of you commented on will be back in January!

Dawna Rhodenhizer





Workshops

Our last workshop for 2008 will be on Tuesday, November 25th at 7 p.m. at St. Alban's Church. There are still a few openings. If you would like to join us and make your own indoor or outdoor Christmas Arrangement, please call me at 292-8485 and leave a message.

We will begin the New Year with a Seed Catalogue Ordering Workshop. This workshop is for members who have never ordered or started seeds before, but would like to try this rewarding activity. It is also for those of us who hate to pay the high shipping costs for just a few seed packages. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 20th from 6:30 to 8:30 in the board room at the Peterborough Public Library. Gladys Fowler will lead us through three popular seed catalogues, explaining terms and giving suggestions on ordering, plus give us tips on starting from seed. You do not need grow lights or fancy apparatus for success. We will end the workshop by combining our seed orders, to save on shipping costs. The sign up sheet will be available at the November meeting. Chris Freeburn 292-8485

Membership

Membership fees for 2009 will remain at the current rate - \$15.00 for individual and \$20.00 for a family membership. You can beat the January rush and pay for your membership renewal at the November meeting. Look for the membership table as you enter the meeting room. Either a cheque made payable to Peterborough Horticultural Society or exact change would be appreciated. If you wish to mail your membership fee, please complete the form that was with the October newsletter or you can download the form from the website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca/about_society.html Please pay by cheque made payable to Peterborough Horticultural Society. Do not send cash though the mail

District 4 Fall Seminar

On Saturday, October 25 Anne Milne, Sally Rye, Pauline Drake and Chris Freeburn Represented PHS at the Fall Seminar that was held at the Timberhouse Country Inn Resort in Brighton. Speakers were John & Toni Murrell: Growing & Using Lavender and Don Davis: Monarch Butterfly Tagging.

Tips and Techniques

Winter is a tough time for our houseplants. They must contend with reduced light and humidity levels, overheated air and cold draughts. Is it little wonder that they drop their leaves or worse? Grouping your houseplants will make caring for them simpler.

They will probably need to be watered more frequently using water at room temperature. But be sure that the pot is not sitting in water so that the roots are waterlogged. You might tend to forget about your plants because they spend the winter in an area of the house where you do not go every day – out of sight, out of mind! You could resort to adding a note in your day planner to ensure that they are not gasping for their last breath when you finally remember.

To help increase humidity levels, mist frequently using tepid water. Another method is to sit the plants in a shallow tray that has a layer of small pebbles. The pebbles keep the pots above the water, which will raise the humidity levels as it evaporates. If the plants are grouped in one area, using a humidifier will help.

Placing your houseplants on a windowsill might take advantage of the available light but it will likely be too cold particularly if they are touching the glass. If the sill is wide enough, move the pots away from the window or place them on a table near the window.

The low light levels mean that most indoor plants will go dormant or die back. To increase the amount of available light use fluorescent bulbs. These are economical and readily available.

Check for pests regularly. Use insecticidal soap if necessary.

Late winter is a good time to re-pot root-bound plants. This will help to get them ready for the higher light levels as the days grow longer. Increase fertilization at this time.





Yearbook

I was not at the October meeting if you wanted to hand me your gardening stories for the yearbook. I will be at the November meeting, so look for me around the coffeepot. If you want, you can also email your entries to me at bcfree@nexicom.net. Please put PHS yearbook in the subject area, so I know what it is. Remember, you do not have to write a novel, just a short true (or maybe not!) story, poem or garden tip. I know there are some great stories out there. Time to share them!
Chris Freeburn 292-8485

Peterborough Garden Show

for the Love of Gardening

2009



The preparations for our 2009 Garden Show are well under way. Mark Thursday through Saturday of Easter weekend (April 9, 10, 11) on your calendars because this will be one of the most exciting gardening events of 2009.

The Master Gardeners have lined up some great speakers and demonstrations starting with Janet Crosby on Thursday night. You can see the whole list by visiting our website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca/speakers.html.

There will be a judged flower show again this year and the schedule and rules will be available soon.

Many vendors/exhibitors have already signed up, but at this point there are still booths left so if you know of any business that might be appropriate, please let Niki know.

The show only works if you volunteer to help, so make sure you are on the list. Please see Anne Milne.
Gary Westlake

Donations Committee

We have received two reports from groups that were recipients of grants from PHS. The North Kawartha Community Development Corporation sent along pictures and a newspaper article showing the planters that were thriving in Apsley. A letter of thanks and a series of pictures depicting the work at a new garden with a Celtic design was created at Ex Animo Inc. was received.

PHS Board News

At this time we have two Board members who have decided to take a break. Inge Bucharth has served another term as a Director for the society. Over the years she has been and continues to be an active member of the society. Inge will continue to assist with Fleming Park and the Plant Sales so we will see her almost as often.

Gladys Fowler is also leaving the board. She has been the driving force of the Scholarship Committee and the Plant Sales.

Thanks to these two great ladies for all their work and commitment to PHS.

There will be another change for the Board. Gary Westlake has completed his two-year term as President. And will continue as Past President as well as staying on as a member of the Garden Show Organizing Committee.

With this change, Ann Greer-Wootten will no longer hold the position of Past President. Mere words cannot express our affection for her and we all extend our thanks for her guidance and leadership over the years. PHS would not be what it is today without her.

Master Gardeners

The Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners has a telephone hotline. In past years it was turned off for the winter months but this year the hotline will be available throughout the entire year. If you need a horticultural question answered, call 741-4905 or visit their website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca





Coming Events

Norwood

Monday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norwood Legion – Christmas Potluck Dinner and Annual General Meeting

Omeme

Monday, November 17 at Trinity United Church, fellowship time from 7 to 7:30. Refreshments will be available at 7:15. Meeting begins at 7:30. 2008 Annual Meeting, Committee Reports and Election of 2009 Executive, 5th Annual Photography Show and a slide show featuring club activities and photos taken in members' gardens.

Festival of Trees

November 26 – 30, 2008 at the Peterborough Memorial Centre – This year's theme is Holiday Memories - Past, Present & Future. When you are there, look for the two arrangements that Rachel Burrows created on behalf of PHS. This is a great fundraiser for Peterborough Health Care

Millbrook

Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church Hall, Centre St, Millbrook Christmas Meeting with goodies and pictures of club activities and members' gardens..

Lakefield

Tuesday, December 9th - Annual Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner.

It is not too late to plant those spring bulbs that are still in their packages. If necessary, chip through the frozen ground, plant and cover with a thick mulch of leaves or straw.

The Last Word

This has been my last year as President. I have found the job both challenging and rewarding. I thank you for the opportunity. You have a wonderful Board who share the leadership of the Society and make the work fun to do.

We are always looking for members to join us on the Board or help on various committees and you don't have to be an expert gardener. You just have to have an interest in serving your society.

My wish for you all is that your gardens will do what you want them to this year, that you and your families stay well and prosperous, and that the Society provides us all with more great times while contributing to our community.

Gary

This Month in the Garden – November and December

Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

- ✓ Fertilize lawn.
- ✓ Make sure evergreens, shrubs and young trees are well watered for winter.
- ✓ Protect young trees from rodents.
- ✓ Plant some spring bulbs in pots for forcing.
- ✓ Store tools, hoses and other garden equipment and ornaments for the winter.
- ✓ Watch for bugs on houseplants (white flies, spider mites, and aphids).
- ✓ Protect rose bushes with plastic cones or by adding soil or compost just before the ground freezes.
- ✓ Apply mulch to tender perennials just as the ground starts to freeze.
- ✓ Protect pyramidal evergreens, rhododendrons and other shrubs using burlap screens.
- ✓ Cut branches for winter decorations.
- ✓ Order seed catalogues

Have your gardening questions answered – The Master Gardener hotline is now open though out the entire year. Call 741-4905 or visit their website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca

