

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 160 **January 2021** Number 1

January 27 @7pm: Bea Chan, Summer Roads Flower Company

Beatrice Chan is the farmer and heart behind Summer Roads Flower Co. She has a love for all living things and loves living close to the land. She has a degree in Ecological Restoration which led to her starting a flower farm. She has been working in the agricultural sector for several years and has worked on several farms in the area from organic veggie farms to purebred sheep farms, agricultural not for profits organizations and in agricultural research before she started her own cut flower farm in 2018. She believes in farming in relationship with the land, plants, and animals that support her and she farms with regenerative agricultural practices to support those relationships, and to build climate change mitigation and resilience into the farm. She particularly takes an interest in healthy soil food webs which are the basis of a healthy farm and soil. Her talk will tell you the story of how she became a flower farmer and the farming journey she has been on since, and a little bit of the vision for the farm in the future.



[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | summerroadsflowerco.com

Farm Stand: 1922 Selwyn Rd., Lakefield, ON

Coming Soon to a Screen Near You!

Get ready for Zoom!

Download the zoom
client:

zoom.us/download

and test the client:

zoom.us/test

That's all it takes 😊

President's Message

To prepare for creating this report for each newsletter, I usually read through my submissions in past newsletters. This year is so unlike past years... 😊 But, it is what it is.

Thank you to all 2020 members who were sent and completed the 2020 AGM Virtual-Style. It took a bit of time to put it together, but we may just adopt this format going forward as a great timesaver in face-to-face meetings. We had 65 responses within a day and a half so we're well over the 53 required by our constitution as a quorum. We were grateful for the complimentary comments left as well. It's a difficult time and we're doing what we can to let you know that we're still working on your behalf. Thank you!



web: peterboroughhort.com newsletter submissions: ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

mail: P.O. Box 1372 Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6 [instagram: ptbohortsoc & peterboroughgardenshow](#)

[facebook: Peterborough Horticultural Society & The Peterborough Garden Show](#) [twitter: @PtboHortSoc & @PtboGardenShow](#)

This month we are going where our Society has never gone before: ONLINE via Zoom. We've scheduled Bea Chan of Summer Roads Flower Company near Downtown Selwyn to talk to us about her business -- how it started, and the sustainability and mechanics of a cut flower operation. We will be sending a zoom link by email to all 2020/2021 members a day or two before the January 27th meeting. The first 100 members will be admitted to the zoom room. If more seats are required, we'll upgrade to a higher limit licence for February. We expect to be offering online speakers until at least June at this point.

If you've not yet renewed for 2021 (**remember that 2020 members have an automatic 2021 membership**), you can do so via our website: peterboroughhort.com Choose "Membership" and the information to join either online or via print & mail can be found there.

You'll also notice that we're using MailChimp to distribute email to members. This was prompted by Cogeco deciding that mass email sent via the blind carbon-copy (BCC) email feature was no longer going to be allowed. Mailchimp does provide a nicer interface and you can easily unsubscribe if you'd like to -- but we hope you don't!

Lastly, there will be no yearbook or rack card for 2021. Our program is just too unpredictable at this point. We're working month-to-month and looking forward to the day that we can again meet face-to-face. Can't come soon enough!

❖ **Mary-Jane Pilgrim**

Nature at its Cutest!



I watched an episode of Nature last night. It was all about the squirrel family and was very interesting! Chipmunks are the smallest members of the family. Because they are so small, they need to keep coming out in the winter for food to keep up their energy.

As I mentioned last month, the chipmunk in our yard was really well fed all summer and fall. I guess it's no surprise that we haven't seen any sign of him so far this winter. His store of nuts is huge! A chipmunk can hold up to seven acorns in their flexible mouth pouch.

The squirrel family is represented on every continent except Australia (and Antarctica). Ground squirrels that live in the deserts of the U.S. can scare off rattle snakes by making themselves appear bigger. They do this by pumping blood to their tail which then fluffs out then he waves it around. The snake basically "sees" by heat sensor, so this seemingly large squirrel scares him off!

❖ **Shaun Pyper**

2020 Volunteer Hours

Each year, we submit a 'volunteer hours' report to the OHA (Ontario Horticultural Association). Our number this year despite the pandemic was almost 1400 hours! Incredible. There are some great people putting their time into making this society one to be proud of.



Volunteering

The last 9 months have been unprecedented – both by what we haven't been able to do; visit in person, hug, travel, go to concerts/sporting events/theatre. But also, by what we have been given; time to reflect, space, quietness, opportunity to learn a new skill/craft, read, relax, more gardening. Can I say becoming somewhat skilled at video chats? If I had to list one specific thing that has had an impact on my life, it's the time I would have spent volunteering with the PHS and the PGS. It's given me pause to reflect on what it has meant to me, as well as what I've gotten from it. I wonder if my fellow volunteers are missing it too? What is volunteering? A simple google search tells us the following: Unpaid work undertaken freely by individuals as a service to others A voluntary act of an individual or group freely giving time and labour for community service. Sounds about right. However, when I think of the tireless hours put in by our many volunteers, this says it all: "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." – Sherry Anderson. And then I think that the following is just too perfect as a gardener; "If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito." – Betty Reese. I wish you continued good health, lots of virtual hugs and I look forward to the days we can spend together again in our love of gardening. Take care everyone.

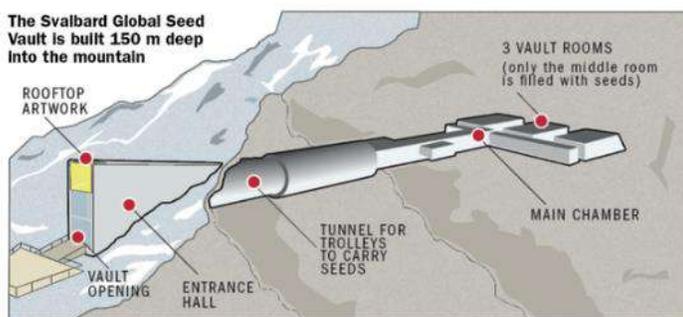
❖ **Donna O'Brien**

Sow, Sow, Sow your Seeds!

If you are a seed starter, it is about time to sow some.

But be sure to learn where your seeds are grown. For example, if you plant corn seed grown in Mexico, it will not do as well here. Our season is shorter as are our days... photosynthesis is vital for all plant growth and seeds grown here know that and flourish for that reason. Plant seeds grown locally - or regionally and are certified organic, non-GMO, pesticide-free ... especially for the food you grow - we are what we eat.

There are many regional seed growers and here is one in the Kawartha Lakes.... www.certifiedseeds.ca



Now on a wider scale, folks all over the world have been saving seeds for hundreds of years. There is a seed vault, The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, in Norway to secure those seeds for future generations. For more information on this vault, go to: www.croptrust.org/our-work/svalbard-global-seed-vault/

❖ **Cauleen Viscoff**

December Trivia Contest Winner

Congratulations to **Ruth Hillman** for winning the December PHS Trivia Contest!

We again had over 100 quiz submissions with Ruth coming out at #1! She received a 1L bottle of the "world-famous" Pilgrim Maple Syrup, brewed in Maynooth, ON. Apparently, waffles were on the menu after the big win.



Who Knew?

Recently my niece posted a question of Facebook that taught me something I never knew before... She had some milkweed seeds that she had intended to plant in the fall but had forgotten. Her question was: Plant them now or wait until spring?

My initial thought was how could you possibly plant something in cold and snowy January and expect it to grow, but it turns out that Milkweed – and a lot of other northern climate plants – require something called **cold stratification** in order to germinate. Cold stratification is the process of subjecting milkweed seeds to both cold and moist conditions as they require these conditions before germination can take place. For most strains of milkweed, they require at least 30 days of cold exposure in order to germinate.

To mimic cold stratification indoors: Wet a paper towel and gently wring it out so it is damp (but not dripping) with water. Spread your Milkweed seeds out on the damp paper towel and fold it so the paper towel fits inside a Ziploc bag. Place the Ziploc in your refrigerator for 30 days. Try to pick a spot where they will not be damaged or disturbed. Watch for signs of germination. By following this procedure 30 days before you're ready to plant outdoors, you can greatly improve your chances of a successful spring planting. Who knew??

❖ **Mary-Rose Daigle**



Winter Jam (not the traffic kind!)



You may have been very busy in your gardens, this past summer when suddenly you realized berries had come and gone in the heat and you have no jam! Not to worry- winter is actually a great time to make jam. Your house smells great and the warmth of the stove is really quite nice on a cold winter's day. All kinds of frozen fruit, that has been flash frozen is available now in stores and they make delicious jams. Be sure to check out canning safety guidelines and recipes for water bath canning at Bernardin.ca, or other online sites. See a simple, no pectin, recipe below from mountainfeed.com: Prepare a water bath canner and sterilize 6 clean, half pint jars. **Ingredients:** 4 cups frozen berries, any kind; 4 cups sugar; 2 tbsp. lemon juice; Pinch of salt. Place the frozen berries in

a heavy bottomed pot and set it over low heat. As the fruit defrosts, they will release their juices. Stir continuously. The heat can be increased as the juices pool in the pan. Bring the berries to a boil over high heat. Add the sugar and salt and stir to combine. Use a potato masher to crush the berries and create a smoother texture. Add the lemon juice and stir to combine. Lower the heat and continue to cook and stir often until the mixture thickens and bubbles slowly. Keep an eye on it so it doesn't stick to the bottom and stir until it reaches a thick consistency that sticks to a spoon when turned sideways. Ladle the jam into a hot, clean jar, pulled from the water bath, leaving ¼ inch head space. Wipe the rims, place the warm sealing lids on top and lightly screw on bands, finger-tip tight, and place in water bath

canner for 15 minutes. Place the processed jars on a kitchen towel and let cool undisturbed overnight and store in a cool, dark place. Jars that have not sealed should go into the refrigerator. Enjoy the taste of summer in February!

◆ **Laura Jack**

Images of January



These are photographs I thought suited January ... a walk in Jackson Park and a bloom that I am sure everyone has in their homes at the moment! Both meant to create warm memories and thoughts of the Spring to come. Only 2 months and a few days to go!

◆ **Anita Clifford**

Job Opportunity at Gardens Plus



We are expanding our team and hiring for the upcoming gardening season. The fortunate candidate needs to be "passionate for perennials" and would work 2-3 days per week from April to July, then hours would be sporadic until fall. The position includes working every other Saturday beginning in the month of May.

Job will include potting new stock, weeding gardens, sales help, general plant care and possibly help with Mail order.

Wages are based on experience.

Please forward resume to Dawn@gardensplus.ca by end of January. Successful candidates will be contacted for an interview early March.

Birds in Winter

In the gardening season, many of us plan additions to our garden scapes to attract birds to nest or as frequent visitors. Serviceberry, viburnums and elderberries among others provide berries birds love. Birdhouses of different sizes, trees for shelter, and bird baths kept topped up with fresh water also lure different birds to your garden. This spring I was thrilled to be visited by my first Baltimore orioles who were attracted by the orange oriole feeder. The hummingbirds loved the honeysuckle and large blue salvia as well as the red



hummingbird feeder. But my favourite is the diminutive grey warbler that nests each year, so easy to miss except for its beautiful trill.



Now with winter here the birds continue to be a source of interest bringing us that much-needed connection to nature throughout our Covid restrictions and the short days and cold months of our long Canadian winters. We can plan for evergreen trees to give shelter and hang different kinds of feeders to attract a variety of birds. Black oil sunflower seeds are high in protein and fats for winter cold. The cardinals like safflower seeds, which fortunately the squirrels do not. The finches like the long, tubular finch feeders and both blue jays and woodpeckers love the peanut feeders. This year as well as the regular visits from downy woodpeckers, I had my first visits from the brilliantly red crested red-bellied woodpecker.

As well as bird visits to my garden, I also enjoy seeing the birds on x-country ski trails at Kawartha Nordic Ski Club north of Peterborough where the birds at Tanney Cabin are so tame that clusters of chickadees and rose-breasted nuthatches eat out of your hand. Birds, as well as our gardens, bring us year-round joy.

❖ **Pat DeVilliers**

Peterborough Garden Show News: January 11 2021

To say these are unprecedented times is an understatement. In the early days of the COVID virus when the 2020 show was cancelled, we were reeling under “what if” and “what now” and it took some time to comprehend how fast our world was changing and for us to take it all in.

In the late summer months, Sandy Spremo our show coordinator, Claire Sullivan our treasurer and I spent dozens of hours working on creating a proposal to meet the requirements of a new financial incentive designed to help charitable organizations like ours, recover and move forward. We submitted our proposal to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, outlining several projects; including an outdoor garden show/event, complete with tents, all while meeting current pandemic protocol best we could predict. We also planned for virtual membership meetings, and online photo competitions with fundraising potential. Unfortunately, we were only one of thousands applying for the same dollars and were unsuccessful, so we are now moving forward, working to create new plans for 2022. With restrictions tightening and the virus loosening, neither the college nor we are planning any events for 2021. We will not host our traditional show until we are certain that our volunteers, vendors and our visitors will all be safe in these pandemic times, no matter how much we miss the excitement of our last 20 years. It is a difficult time for all of us who are used to gearing up for a spring show - but let's keep in touch and share creative ways to make our future in gardening even better and more exciting. Those of you who write, paint, walk, read, dream and scheme about gardening, ... please keep going. Our world may have cancelled many things, but gardening is not one of them... Let's work together and find new ways to keep growing.



❖ **Cauleen Viscoff, Chair, Peterborough Garden Show**

January is Design Month!



January is the cold month reserved for curling up with a good book, enjoying a hot cup of tea and planning your garden(s). Imagining the warm sunshine melting the snow and ice; providing the rich soil with a much-needed drink; heating the soil, urging the tiny beginnings of new plant life to sprout and bloom. The delicate snowdrop, the promising crocus, and the list goes on. You can almost smell the blooms to come! Now is the time to perhaps draw some sketches of this year's gardens, keeping in mind direction of the sun, amount of sun exposure, wind exposure, design, placement, dimensions, colour arrangements and themes. In a nut-shell, the 7 Elements of design: Simplicity, Variety, Balance, Emphasis, Sequence, Scale/Proportion and Unity. As is every year, the possibilities are endless!

❖ **Donna-Marie Fennell**




SUMMER ROADS FLOWER CO.

**Wednesday, January 27, 2021
@ 7pm**

Join us to hear Beatrice Chan talk about her journey in building the Summer Roads Flower Company.

