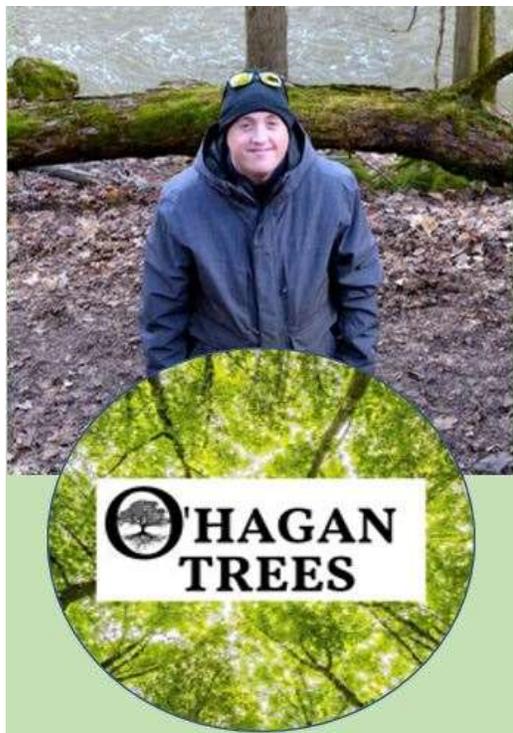


PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 160 **May 2021** Number 5

Wednesday May 26, 7pm: Double Bill Zoom Virtual Meeting



Brian O'Hagan of O'Hagan Trees

After growing up in Peterborough, and going through post-secondary in Ontario, Brian decided to get a job as a conservation officer in Manitoba. Living and working in the provincial parks in Manitoba gave Brian a deep appreciation for nature, and trees in particular. Close to Christmas in 2017, Brian realized that there was a demand for Christmas trees in the area. There were many growing naturally on his family farm in Keene, and he quickly discovered that spruce trees were not the only kind of tree that people were looking for! Noticing a need for a tree nursery, and able to combine that with his love of nature, in 2018 Brian started O'Hagan Trees. Although still a relatively new business, O'Hagan Trees has seen amazing growth over the past couple years, and even recently had to change locations! The business now focuses on many different varieties of trees (including fruit trees), as well as provides delivery, and planting services.

Sean & Theresa Wilson of Selwyn Garlic Farms

Sean has come from a long line of Dairy Farmers outside of Hamilton. After moving to Peterborough in 1995 for employment, Sean longed to return to the farm life. In 2010 Sean and Theresa purchased their own farm in Selwyn township. It only took a few years of cash cropping before Sean and Theresa felt the need to connect more closely with the community who benefit from the food they produce. Since 2015 the Wilson family farm has moved more acres every year toward "direct to table" foods. Specializing in garlic, the Wilsons offer sweet corn with the intention of growing a larger variety of produce every year. Selwyn Garlic Farms is supported by 3 generations working toward providing a quality product.

Members will receive a Zoom link on the Sunday or Monday prior to the meeting. Check your inbox and your spam folder for this link.

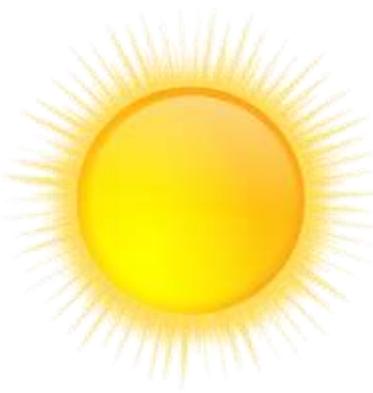


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President's message



Now that sunshine ☀️ has again decided to grace us with its presence, I'm hoping to spend a LOT of time puttering in my gardens this week and next.

I'm a plant collector. When people say we have enough plants, remember that those are **NOT OUR PEOPLE**. 😊 I don't collect one particular type of plant, but many kinds -- hosta, daylily hybrids, coneflowers, arisaema, ferns, primula, hellebore, sempervivum, sedums of all types. I'm even trying out nonhardy bulbs -- but no matter how I try, I'm just not a seed-kinda person. Must take a special personality that involves patience of some sort? My hat is off to you if you're a seedy person in a good way. 😊

I would encourage each of you to try some new plants this spring -- by buying new, or trading with a masked friend. We have some amazing plant vendors in our area, many of which are members in our society. VISIT them! SUPPORT them and not the big box stores.

Once we're again allowed to travel, there are a few garden centres outside of our area that are worth the visit: Anna's perennials between Omemee and Bobcaygeon is top of my list. After that, there is Lost Horizons in Acton near Guelph, a haven for collectors; and also, Northland Nursery north of Hamilton where every plant, tree or shrub is \$7 -- they're small but the price is often right if you're patient.

I miss you all and hope to see you at the next virtual meeting on May 26D.

❖ MJ Pilgrim

Promise of Spring!



This month has been just cold and wet and hard to believe that spring is on the wing. Even my gargoyle is looking like he is not convinced spring is actually coming! There are signs though, to give us hope. Peepers and bullfrogs have been singing tunes for weeks now, birds are coming back and finding new homes despite our crazy real estate market, trees are budding and opening up flowers and leaves, as anyone with allergies will attest to. There will be actual, current, pictures of real flowers from our gardens in this month's newsletter! I admit I have been doubtful about the real commitment of spring to arrive. While out on my bike today I decided to look for signs out in the wild, not just in my sheltered and somewhat coddled garden beds. I had no idea there are so many

Service Berry trees on the trail to Lakefield! They are in full bloom now along with Wood violets, Virginia bluebells, and what I think was a large patch of Trout lilies. There were also many branches of wonderful blooms yet to burst open- lilacs, crab-apple and pin cherries, I think. In the next few weeks, I shall look more closely on my walks and bike rides for what I do, now, really believe is the promise of spring.

❖ **Laura Jack**

May/June Photos

For our next newsletter we are going to keep things simple. Donna-Marie, our secretary, has a separate file for flower photos, so they can be sent in any time in May or June, right up until June 16th. We are looking for photos taken in your garden. There is no cutting or vases required. Send in photos of roses, peonies or any flowering plant that you consider pretty. These photos will be displayed in June's newsletter. NO reminders will be sent to you, so please mark date on your calendar.

Send your photos, maximum of 3, to myself at: <mailto:bagofwoods@hotmail.ca>.

Thank you,

❖ **Shaun Pyper**

In praise of mulch

Leaving soil bare is a recipe for extra work and weeds. Mulch to the rescue!

Traditional shredded pine or cedar mulch works well, but if applied too thickly it forms a somewhat impermeable shield on your gardens that rain quickly runs off of. Make sure that you work it periodically to break it up. My favourite of these is shredded pine as it seems to be finer than the others. You may want to stay away from mulch blends as in the past, I've experienced buckthorn outbreaks from seeds in the mixed mulch. Also, the popular black mulch may be too hot for your plants in the heat of the summer?

Chopped leaves are plentiful and free if you have enough trees. They can be shredded by running over them a couple of times with a lawnmower or running them through a chipper/shredder. The leaves break down fairly quickly and provide plenty of nutrition to the soil. And they're free!

Cocoa hulls (cocoa bean mulch) are the most expensive of the popular mulches and looks beautiful, but beware as it is extremely toxic to dogs.

Screened compost (including leaf mold) is my favourite mulch material of all. Besides looking great, it provides plenty of nutrients to your soil and increases microbial activity. It will need to be replenished yearly as it breaks down quickly.

Recap: A two-to-three-inch layer of mulch is enough to smother weeds and retain moisture. Make sure that it isn't pushed up against your plants/trees as it can hold moisture and cause the plant to rot (especially around trees -- we don't want to see any mulch volcanoes!).

❖ **Mary-Jane Pilgrim**



1: MJ's leaf mold awaiting spreading time, 2-3 yds shown here.

Leggy Dahlias



Last year I planted my dahlia tubers too late and got less than a month of bloom before frost. I wasn't going to make that mistake again! So, this year planted them in early April as per recommendations. I have a nice sunny area in the basement, and they progressed well. However, now with still a couple weeks till plant out, they have become too tall and leggy with thin stems that could easily break. Help! Time for some SOS advice from Google and a knowledgeable colleague who grows beautiful dahlias.

This is what I learned. First pinch the leader, in half for the tall ones or back to 3 - 4 sets of leaves. Pinch or cut right above a set of leaves and the plant will become bushier with more blooms. It's recommended that you use a water-soluble fertilizer at this point before planting out.

I still have a couple weeks before I can plant my dahlias in the garden.

Dahlias like warm soil that's not too wet - about 60 degrees. The guide is when the lilacs start to bloom or when you would plant your tomatoes that are also warmth-loving.

They will need 7 - 10 days of hardening off first - being put outside for 2 - 3 hours in a shady spot out of wind first.

When planted they can be planted deeper in the soil, removing a bottom set of leaves where like tomatoes they will grow extra roots. This along with their stake will help stabilize them.

Whew! A lot of effort I don't expend with my other plants but they are so rewarding with their beautiful blooms mid-summer.

Still, next year I'll try mid-April to plant my indoor dahlia tubers.

❖ **Pat de Villiers**

Wanted: Rhubarb

Anyone have more rhubarb than they need? Grace United Church is in search of donations of garden rhubarb, sometimes called strawberry rhubarb, for their spring Pie Sale. Every year George makes lots and LOTS of strawberry-rhubarb pies, with 100% of the profits going to the church. He has lots of strawberries, but still needs more rhubarb.



We can pick it up or it can be dropped off at my house. Call the church 705 742 5846, or email the society and your message will be forwarded to Dawna.

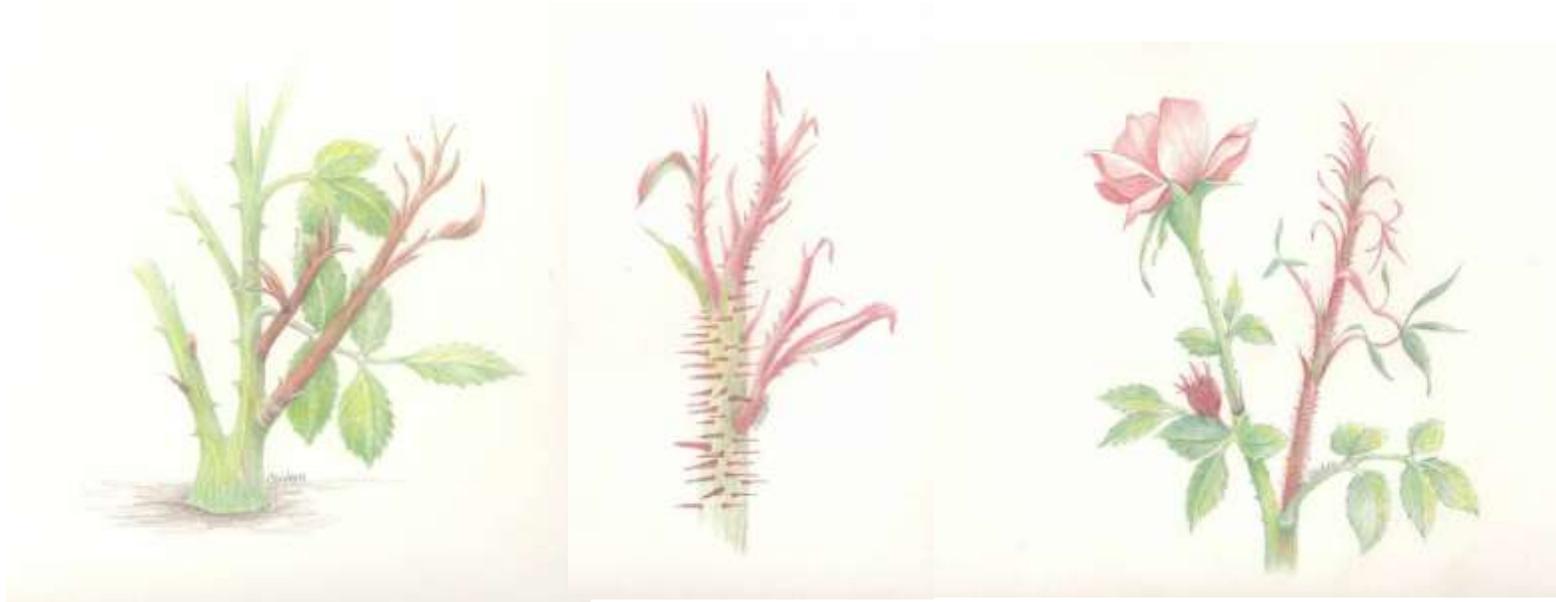
If you would like to order your own quantity of this fabulous pie: please note: 5" pies are \$5.00 ea. or 5 for \$20.00 They are fully baked, ready to eat. (Note: I have personally eaten a lot of these pies - they are delicious!) 9" pies are \$10.00 ea., frozen and unbaked. Cooking instructions are included.

Thank you for your support, and happy gardening!

Dawna Rhodenhizer

The DIFFERENCE Between NEW ROSE GROWTH & ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE

Basal Breaks on roses are new, reddish shoots growing from either the base or on a healthy cane. Rose Rosette shoots are much redder, distorted, thicker and very thorny. Not easily confused if you know the signs. The virus is spread by tiny mites (like dust) - airborne, on clothes or fur. The rose cannot be saved by pruning and must be dug and disposed of in the garbage.



New Basal Break

Rose Rosette Disease

Healthy stem with deformed red flower bud on left side and Rose Rosette on right.

For more details about roses: www.lushgardens.com

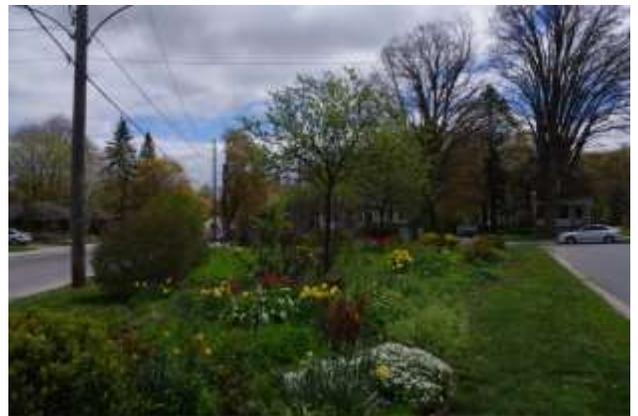
❖ **Cauleen Viscoff**

Barnardo Garden Help Request

In these days of "separateness", we are still fortunate to be able to garden and the Barnardo Garden is no exception. Although our group cannot go there together, we do our best when we have some spare time.

Since we have no budget, we wonder if some of you have extra plants, or even yard-waste bags you might consider sharing.

A **huge** thanks to these 2 ladies for their kindness and generous help last fall: Susan Gomez-Duran and Pat de Villiers. They not only shared their plants but helped to plant them as well. We are looking for small shrubs, grasses, Coneflower, Phlox, Mock Orange, small evergreens like Euonymus or Yew etc. If you are culling your garden, please send us an email, or send a photo before you dig.



Thanks so much,
Cauleen Viscoff, 705-745-0895, cauleenviscoff@gmail.com

Avoiding Injuries While Gardening

I know I look ridiculous standing in the center of my lawn, stretching my legs and arms, doing back and forward bends, and a few squats to wake up my hips and knee joints. But a few simple stretches before I dive into the day's gardening chores has been a life saver for me, or at least a back saver. I found some simple stretches on-line and I work them into my gardening routine every day. Here's a few other tips I try to follow to protect myself from injury and general wear

& tear: - When I'm down, I stay down --- when I bend or kneel to do a task, I make sure I have the tools and anything else needed readily at hand so that I won't need to get up again to fetch a different tool - If I don't need to be at dirt level, I'm not at dirt level --- I try to avoid bending & kneeling when I don't need to by having a flat surface strategically placed in the yard to rest my gardening bag and use as a work place - I protect my back with a support belt when I'm lifting anything heavy, as well as lifting with my knees and not my back - It's not just my fingernails that take a beating in the garden, the rest of my hand can get fatigued and sore in places. Again, I googled a few hand- stretches for gardeners and they've really helped. Lastly, and most importantly, I rest when my body says to rest, even if the To Do list is long and the light is fading. The garden, and the To Do list, will be there tomorrow...

❖ **Sandra Caswell**



Got Boxwood? Look out for this pest!

If you have Boxwood in your garden (I just planted twelve in mine!) then you are going to want to be on the look out for this pest that may be making its way to our gardens in the coming months or



years. This species of "snout moth" is native to eastern Asia and is an invasive pest in Europe. Sadly, it was recently detected in Toronto and so we need to be on the look-out in case this moth decides to follow its human counterparts and move into the beautiful city of Peterborough!

The larvae of this moth tends to emerge in mid-late May and feeds on the surface tissue of boxwood leaves. You may also see webbing amongst the chewed foliage when this pest is present. As the

larvae mature, they molt to increase in size and become more greenish and develop a striking pattern of thick black stripes along their body. Adult moths have white coloured wings with brown margins. Box tree moth larvae can be effectively managed with a safe biological insecticide (Dipel 2X DF PCP#26508), however I was not able to figure out whether this is a product that is readily available. There is a webinar available on the OMAFRA website that provides more information, but I've not yet had time to watch it. If you do happen to find this pest in your garden, you absolutely should report it to the website indicated in the photo above, and use prescribed methods to dispose of diseased plants in order to control the spread. Let's hope it doesn't make the jump for a while, but always best to be vigilant!

❖ **Mary-Rose Daigle**

PHS Photo Submissions:

Sandra Caswell



Chris Freeburn:



Laura Jack :



Laura Jack



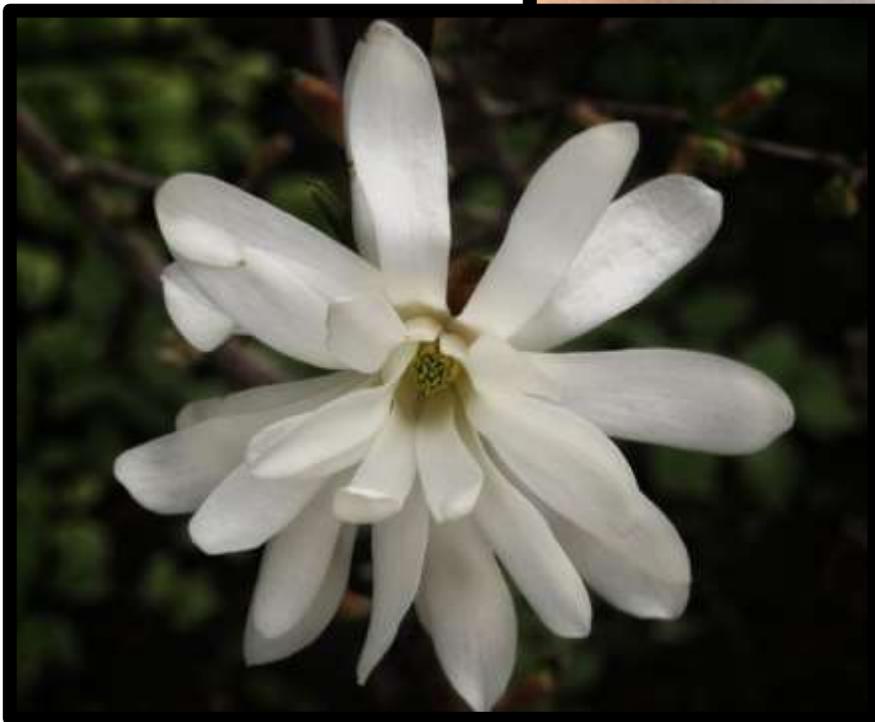
Donna-Marie Fennel



MJ Pilgrim



Anita Clifford



Shaun Pyper:

