

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Wednesday January 26, 2022: Virtual Meeting, 7pm

David T. Chapman “Wild, Weird & Wacky Weather”



In a country that is so vast and surrounded by large oceans, it is no wonder we have some of the most interesting weather in the world. It offers such a variety all year round because of its terrain, temperature variations and location. Learn about Fallstreak Holes, Superior Mirages and discover how far south the Aurora Borealis can actually be seen. This presentation covers the uniqueness of North America's weather, power and beauty all wrapped up into one great show. Join us at 6:45pm for garden chat before the main event begins

promptly at 7pm. Bring your weather questions for David!

Program Survey

We need your input for our monthly speakers and future events. Please tell us what you'd like to learn more about, and give us an insight into what 2022 might look like for you. The survey will take about 2 minutes.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/6X6TYGW

President's Message

Another month of uncertainty, another month of lockdowns, another month of staying at home a LOT. If you're like me, dreaming of the green spring and the new shoots emerging from the ground is still pretty far away, but it's something that keeps me going during the cold, dreary months.

I've noticed more and more online webinars that are being published on Facebook (see Garden Ontario's Facebook page, or Master Gardeners of Ontario's Facebook page) that at least allow us to think forward to a few months in a visual way. I urge everyone to take advantage of those -- seriously, what else do you have to do right now but sit on the couch eating cookies? LOL

Also, for your own health: If you get a chance and are mobile, TAKE A WALK. Down your street, to your local park, to your local conservation area (Selwyn conservation area & Harold Town conservation areas, Trent nature areas, and the Rotary Trails are all great places to see nature at its coldest and see how everything survives in winter mode.)

On the program front, this obviously is still a year of uncertainty. We haven't published a speaker list yet because we're hoping to be able to meet face-to-face as soon as possible. So, we'll be organizing Zoom speakers month-to-month, hoping that each month will be the last. At least we do have a whole world full of possible speakers at present!

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2022 PHS Yearbook

Our 2021/2022 Yearbook will be a called "The Pandemic Years" and we'd like to include a photo from YOUR garden. 😊

Send along one picture, please, with a caption and we'll devote a few pages to our outdoor pursuits during the various lockdowns.

Thank you to all 2021 members who were sent and completed the 2021 PHS AGM Virtual Style. It took a bit of time to put it together, but we'll likely use this format going forward as a great timesaver in face-to-face meetings. We had 103 responses by the 2-week deadline so we're well over the 77 required by our constitution as a quorum. We were grateful for the complimentary comments left as well. Thanks for your feedback and suggestions--we're doing what we can.

◆ MJ Pilgrim

Welcome to PHS' Newest Board Member: Sandra Caswell

You may recognize the name as Sandra has been sitting with the board as an associate for over a year. Sandra brings a great attitude, a willingness to tackle almost anything, and a legal perspective to the board. Welcome, Sandra!



President's Award: Donna O'Brien



This is a certificate which may be presented to a member, in good standing, at the discretion of the Society's President in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the Society's activities.

Donna has been a member of the board for over 6 years since 2015. You may know her best as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Peterborough Garden Show – a role that required hours and hours of organizing, calling and emailing. She has also been the face of our student scholarships, selecting the best of the post-secondary applicants to offer \$1000 scholarships. Donna has recently stepped down from the board and she will definitely be missed. Congratulations, Donna!

Extending The Growing Season at Both Ends

This year, I plan to use a polytunnel structure, built over one of my raised beds, to extend the vegetable growing season at both ends. I added fresh compost to the soil last fall so that the bed would be ready for late winter planting. Careful planning and seed ordering needs to start now if I'm going to get an early spring crop of vegetables.



In February, I'll start leek and broccoli seeds indoors. By the middle of March, under the polytunnel, I'll direct seed carrots, lettuces, swish chard, arugula, parsley, cilantro and spinach, followed by tatsoi, mizuna and bunching onions in early April, and transplanting out the broccoli and leeks by the end of April. I'll be getting a steady harvest of these hardy vegetables through May and June when others, such as tomatoes and peppers, are just getting going.

I'll also extend the season of some hardy vegetables well into fall and winter using the same polytunnel raised bed. I'll start Brussels sprouts and more broccoli indoors in early June and

transplant them out in mid-July, along with more carrots, beans and peas in early August. Later in August, I'll reseed many of the same greens and herbs planted in the spring. Once frost becomes a threat, I'll put the polytunnel over this bed and await the fall and winter harvest.

This is my first time trying to garden all year. With any luck, I'll have fresh beans and peas in October, broccoli in November, my own Brussels Sprouts on the Christmas dining table next December, and lettuces and other greens all year long!

❖ **Sandra Caswell**

Tuber Check Reminder ☺



A reminder for those who have stored their dahlia tubers that this would be a good time to check on them. Discard any that have turned mushy or have mold growing on them. The damage on your tubers could affect the others that are stored.

❖ **Anita Clifford**

Floral Frenzy?

This flowered vase with dried flowers got me thinking. Just how many flowers are represented in my home? Turns out quite a lot. I have live plants, dried flowers, flowers on glass and pictures of flowers!

My front room / living room and entry way have 11 living plants; 4 vases that include dried flowers; 6 pictures on the walls and 5 pieces of glass art that represent flowers. Yikes!

My main bedroom has 5 floral pictures, 5 floral cushions and one vase of artificial flowers. The kitchen holds no floral pictures or vases but does have a collection of 5 geraniums of varying colours that I brought in last fall. Phew!

Are any other member homes like this or am I the Crazy Flower Lady? My husband thinks so...

❖ **Shaun Pyper**



Winter Pruning of Woody Perennials

Late winter or early spring can be the best time to prune most shrubs and trees. Plants go dormant in winter when active growth is halted.

Prune before new growth starts as this allows the plants to direct energy to producing new growth once the warm weather arrives. It is easier to see the true shape of plants when their foliage is absent. Trees and shrubs that bloom on new growth should be pruned in winter/early spring while those that bloom on old growth should be pruned in late spring/early summer after blooms have faded.

Winter plants are dormant as are most insects and pests that can harm newly pruned plants. You can see the plant size, so selective pruning helps you maintain plant size by removing old wood. There are many helpful videos online that will guide you through winter pruning. And for all of us who are looking forward to our gardens...it's a way "to be out there gardening on a milder, sunny day"!! HAPPY GARDENING...and without your MASK!!



◆ Annie English

Herbs and their Companions

I love having fresh herbs at my fingertips all year long. I've been known to dig through the snow and find the chives, thyme, and rosemary to use them on rotation in my menu. But did you know that some herbs can be beneficial to other herbs? These kinds of companions can improve the performance or taste as well as keep predators away. Just as a good companion can be beneficial, a poor companion can be detrimental to plants growing close.

[Here is a chart](#) that can act as a guide to identify those good and poor companions; don't you always want to be near your bestie? You can also click on the chart to see a full sized version.

I have a small garden, so my herbs are incorporated in as borders, or if you're mint, you are contained in a pot at all times, because you can be a bit of a jerk and vigorously spread.

Tell us online on Facebook or Instagram what your favourite herb companions are!

◆ Elane Kalavrias

Herbs and their Companions

Herb	Good companion	Poor companion	Pest Control
Basil	Beans, cabbage, tomato, rosemary, thyme, parsley	Rue	
Chive	Carrot, grape, parsley, tomato	Beans, peas	Believed to repel aphids, beetles, cabbageworms, slugs, and carrot flies.
Coriander	Anise, potato	Fennel	
Dill	Cabbage, lettuce, onion	Carrot, tomato, cilantro	Keep away from cilantro, which it will cross-pollinate with. It works well as a trap crop for tomato hornworms and aphids.
Garlic	Carrot, Rose, tomato	Bean, pea, strawberry	
Lemon balm	Tomato		
Mint	Cabbage, plants in general	Parsley	
Oregano	Cabbage, cucumber		Helps repel aphids
Parsley	Asparagus, carrot, chive, tomato	Mint	Attracts beneficial insects like parasitic wasps, ladybugs and damselflies
Rosemary	Cabbage, broccoli, carrots, beans, garlic		Deters cabbage moth, bean beetles, Japanese beetles, and carrot fly
Sage	Cabbage, carrot, marjoram, strawberry, tomato	Cucumber, rue	Deters cabbage moth, and carrot fly
Tarragon	Plants in general		
Thyme	Cabbage plants in general		Deters cabbageworm, whiteflies, and cabbage maggots.

Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me!

Last month I wrote about the difference between potting soil and potting mixes. I wanted to let you know that my new potting strategy of only using potting mix for the plants I brought in from outside this fall has been pretty successful. We are not being terrorized by too many soil fungus gnats trying to fly up our noses this winter! Using one of the Fafard potting mixes- ProMix- has kept the purchases of the ugly, gross, yellow sticky tape, death traps for soil gnats down to a reasonable number. I have also been watering my plants from the bottom, a suggestion that came from our guest speaker, Denise Hodgins, from our October virtual members meeting. This has proven to be another great strategy to prevent creating too much moisture in the top layer of the soil-less mix. Keeping it dry on top can kill any eggs that any pesky gnats might lay and breaks the gnats' life cycle. I will occasionally spray an insecticidal soap over the top layer of the potted plants as well. We can now sit still in the evening and not be waving our hands wildly about swatting flies away – we do enough of that in the summer!



◆ **Laura Jack**

The Beauty of Snow

Snow has a lot of benefits to our gardens throughout the winter: it insulates our plants, protecting them from harsh, drying winter winds. It protects perennials from freeze/thaw cycles. It delivers moisture and nitrogen.



However, to me the biggest benefit of snow is its beauty. It highlights structures like benches, paths and arbours. It covers the neighbour's unraked leaves and dead vegetable plants. It flattens the weeds along the roadsides. It lays beautifully on the branches of evergreens--the contrast of the white and green is magical. Everything looks more visible, from ornamental grasses to that bright red cardinal outside your kitchen window.

When everything is covered in snow, the landscape is peaceful and still. The snow sparkles and all is white and pure. It's magical to stand outside with the big, fluffy flakes falling around you. When was the last time you purposefully went for a walk when it was snowing? Might just be time to dust off that scarf and those winter boots because other than moving to a warmer climate there isn't anything we can do about the snow. An added benefit of the arrival of the white stuff is that it offers a break from gardening chores. It's time to cover up with a warm blanket, grab a cup of hot chocolate and some good plant catalogs, and start planning for spring.

◆ **MJ Pilgrim**

Canada: Plant RED for 2022

From January 1 to December 31, 2022, The Year of the Garden 2022 will commemorate Canada's rich garden heritage, celebrate today's vibrant garden culture, and create important legacies for a sustainable future.



Planning is already underway for a year of exciting "Live the Garden Life" activities, celebrations, special events and promotions that will take place in communities, schools, businesses, public and backyard gardens in all parts of Canada. Join the Celebration, plant RED for 2022! #YOTG #hopeisgrowing #plantred

Giggles for "Serious" Gardeners!



◆ Donna-Marie Fennell

Panetone International Colour of the Year in the Garden



The American-based Panetone has determined that the international colour for the garden this year is Very Peri. This should make one of our members whom I cannot name, but whose initials are **Heather Grassie**, extremely happy!

We think **purple** and **red** go quite well together; what do you think?