

# MOUNT HAMILTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



**Chedoke Presbyterian Church**  
865 Mohawk Road West  
7:30 P.M.

**President**  
Shelley Peterson

**Secretary**  
Claire Kostyshyn  
[ckostyshyn@cogeco.ca](mailto:ckostyshyn@cogeco.ca)

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September-October 2011

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**MHHS Society Flower**  
Ruth Mills

## **Clematis in Containers**

Clematis can do well in the proper container. Use stone or earthenware or any kind of wooden pot such as a barrel but never use plastic. The container should be at least 16" deep and not less than 12 – 14" in diameter. Create good drainage with pebbles or broken pottery in the bottom and raise the container off the ground with something like pot feet.

- Use good compost, not loam-free potting mix, and replace the top 3-4" each year.
- It is a good idea to line your pot with insulation or it will need to be moved into the shelter of a shed or garage in winter.
- Choose one of the newer plants that reach only six feet or less, otherwise it will become too cumbersome.
- Don't forget to put in some type of support for your clematis to climb.

Maintenance consists of fertilizing and pruning. Depending on the weather, it should be done as early in the spring as the last week in March. I feed all my clematis with 20-20-20 fertilizer using about one gallon for each plant. If the

soil is really dry it should be moistened before applying the fertilizer. About the second week of April, I mulch all the plants with two handfuls of bone meal mixed in a two gallon pail of peat moss or good garden compost. If using peat moss be sure to moisten it with water. You will really find a difference in the health, size, and amount of blooms if you use this procedure.

Next newsletter we will discuss the pruning of clematis.

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The following articles are excerpts from the 2010-2011 Winter Trillium, the Ontario Horticultural Association Newsletter.

## **After The Frost**

You're probably preparing to 'clean' your garden for winter. I'd like to make a plea that you not be too tidy. Leave many of your plants just as they are. Don't cut or trim or cart away. And be sure to chop your leaves and put them on your gardens. There are several reasons for leaving your garden a bit 'messy' as winter approaches.

First of all, those clumsy wisps of cleome and cosmos will feed the goldfinches and other LBJs (little brown jobbies) as winter approaches. And the grasses and stands of coneflowers are a treasure trove for birds and small mammals well into winter.

Secondly, you may inadvertently be disposing of the pupal stage of some of our prettiest butterflies. The Black Swallowtail in particular overwinters in pupal stage on the stalks of many of your garden flowers and waits until spring to emerge. The Mourning Cloak butterfly overwinters as an adult in woodpiles and brush. Wouldn't it be

a shame if something beautiful ended up in your yard waste instead of in your yard?

Third, sturdy stalks and bushy plants catch and hold snow and keep the crowns of many of your perennials safe from the perils of the deadly freeze/thaw cycle in spring. It was planned that way.

Fourth, standing plants can add lots of winter interest to your garden. Ornamental grasses are especially attractive when they are covered with snow.

And lastly, the community of living things within your soil will benefit from the additional organic matter that you leave as a gift on top of your soil. Soil critters are important to the health and growth of your plants. Start working on next season's garden by providing food for soil critters this fall.

Your garden doesn't need to be squeaky clean. Emulate Mother Nature this fall.

**Carol Dunk, President, OHA**

## **Getting New Plants Through Their First Winter**

During the first winter, protection for newly planted perennials is a good idea. When the ground freezes solid (usually late November or December), mulch around plants with loose hay or straw - three to four inches high. This will insulate the plants against cold winds. Also water your plants well until the ground freezes up.

The idea for the mulch is to shade and insulate the ground to prevent alternate thawing and freezing that pushes perennials, especially new ones, out of the ground. Do not use pine bark pieces directly on soil for mulch. The bark pieces rob nutrients from the soil.

If you cannot find hay or straw, evergreen branches from your discarded Christmas tree

will shade the bed. Saw branches off the trunk and arrange in big overlapping layers. As an alternate measure, use a woven frost blanket, white in colour, and lay the frost blanket loosely over the bed. Do not stretch the blanket.

Wish for snow! A thick blanket of it is Mother Nature's free mulch.

**Kees Stryland, OHA Past President**

## NEWS

You may have seen the advertising for the Greenbelt Harvest Picnic held at the Christie Conservation area on Saturday, August 27. Mount Hamilton was very much involved. Members were on hand at the Horticultural Pavilion to share gardening tips and answer plant-related questions. There were information workshops at intervals throughout the day. Harvesting Seeds From Your Very Own Garden This Year by Rita Bailey. Shelley Peterson demonstrated the art of container gardening with a spectacular autumn theme. Your Society also ran a 50/50 draw. We sold 768 tickets and collected \$1,301. Therefore the prize was \$650.50 and it was won by a Mr. Gerald Cote of Newcastle. This was a very profitable venture on our part which we would hope to repeat next year.

**The June flower show** was a great success with 22 participants and 196 entries. The top points were awarded to Dianne Vlahovich (38), Yasmeen Minocher (27), Kay Suzuki (22), Marg Verbeek (18), Claire Kostyshyn (16) and Paul Gailing (16). Congratulations to our youngest participant in the flower show, Shannon Buck, age 11. She had a very successful first competition, winning one 1st place ribbon, two 2nd place ribbons, and a 3rd place ribbon. Next year we would love to see more of

young ones and try their hand at an arrangement at our show. It's never too early to start and sure to be a lot of fun for everyone! We also look forward to seeing more of you trying your hand at an arrangement or bringing in some specimens next year.



p.s. If you're curious about the point standing reflecting all the 2011 flower shows you can check it out on our website.

The winner of the 50:50 draw at our June meeting was Martha Novoselac, a new member to our society. Martha donated \$50 of the prize back to Mount Hamilton. Many thanks, Martha.

The following letter was received by one of our volunteers at Canada Blooms

On behalf of Canada Blooms: The Flower and Garden Festival, we would like to thank you for volunteering at our 2011 Festival – 'Rhythms'.

The Volunteer Committee would like to thank you for your commitment to Canada Blooms. This year's Fifteenth Anniversary Festival was one of our most successful celebrations in our history with much of the credit due to the quality of our Volunteer supporters.

Canada Blooms, Canada's largest flower and garden festival, is co-locating with the National Home Show in 2012! This co-location has created North America's largest home and garden event, which will be held, March 16-25 at the Direct Energy Centre. We are so excited because our 5-day festival is now becoming a 10-day festival!

Next year, you can still expect to enjoy our spectacular gardens, magnificent floral displays, wondrous flower competition, and interesting educational seminars and displays. But you will also see some changes, Canada Blooms will be shifting over to Hall A, Heritage Court and Hall F and the National Home Show will be held in the remaining Halls. Visitors to Canada Blooms will be able to attend the National Home Show (and vice versa) at no extra cost.

Volunteers are the backbone of our not-for-profit organization and you can take pride in the part you played in making Canada Blooms, Canada's premier flower and garden event. We hope that you will consider joining us for Canada Blooms 2012 - "*CityCulture*". Next year will be a banner year. If you know of any people who would like to volunteer, please have them fill out an application on line or call Barbara Ginsberg, the Volunteer Coordinator, at 416-447-8655 ext. 30 or [tickets@canadablooms.com](mailto:tickets@canadablooms.com) after September 15<sup>th</sup>.

On September 15, the Volunteer Section of our website, [www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com) will be opened to allow exceptional volunteers such as yourself to register to assist us as we grow again!

Best wishes,

Barb Ginsberg, Volunteer Coordinator  
Lisa Pascoe Administrative Coordinator

## PROGRAM NEWS

**September 16, 2011** Fall Flower Frenzy! This is a floral version of the Iron Chef: A dozen or more of our members will be divided into teams to create a floral design, using a variety of material they will be given at the meeting. They will have 35 minutes to get inspired, get to work, and get 'er done. While the clock is ticking down we will have commentary by our in-house design specialists, then our members will have an opportunity to vote for their favourite. Come out, get involved, and join the fun.

If you have spare 1 gallon pots, would you bring them in to Betty Park this evening. They will be used for the plant sale next year.

**October 21, 2011** October is Pie Night at our social, so join us for a taste of autumn goodness. Remember to bring your wallet, because we'll be taking reservations for our Annual November Dinner, and selling Indoor Plants. Members, you are invited to bring rooted cuttings of your favourite plants, and donate houseplants you no longer have room for. Our speaker this evening is Shannon Wood from Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority. Her topic is "Bees". Just stop and think what you might have or not have to eat if there are no bees. What are you growing in your garden that provides food for bees? Shannon will provide answers to these questions

**November 18, 2011** is our Annual Dinner. Our speaker for the evening will be James Graham, Director of District 13. Tickets may be purchased at the September and October meetings. The price is \$20.00 per person. A great evening with a fabulous dinner, a great speaker, and awards to give out.

## OUTREACH

Jason's House  
September/October 2011 Newsletter

Thank you to all the hard working volunteers who persevered through the cold, wet spring and hot, dry summer. As with our own gardens there are plants that are doing well and others that are struggling and then there are some that are multiplying and reseeding with abandon and we all know which plants those happen to be!

We had a successful cleanup day prior to the annual barbecue despite the sweltering heat and humidity. The numbers were down a bit for the barbecue on July 20<sup>th</sup> but we had 12 members out to enjoy the good food and social time. We even got to play musical chairs as we moved the picnic table in search of shade several times.

We will be having a couple of fall cleanup/raking days towards the end of Oct. and early Nov. Exact dates will be determined by the weather.

I would like to thank Ica Smith for all her help and support as my co-chair over the last several years. She has her hands full with other personal and society commitments, i.e. Flower Show committee chair so will no longer be able to act as my co-chair. If anyone is interested in helping out in that capacity

please let me know. For more information call me at 905 648 6771 or by e-mail at [htmacpherson@gmail.com](mailto:htmacpherson@gmail.com).

### **Growing Green**

Our Society's biweekly column in the Hamilton Mountain News starts up the first week of spring. This will be our third year partnering with our local newspaper. Our bi weekly column written by society members is yet another way of reaching out to fellow gardeners in the community. This year, Shelley and I welcome Rita Bailey, our program chair, as a fellow columnist. In her columns she will be sharing her expertise, love and enthusiasm for veggie and herb gardening the organic way. Look for two articles from fellow member Bill Fegan.

Helen

### **Ontario Horticultural Association 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention July 15 – 17, 2011**

#### **“A Growing Experience - From the Ground Up”**

##### **Report by Helen MacPherson**

Attending the Convention: Mary Lyn Brown (Voting Delegate), Heather French, Helen MacPherson (Voting Delegate), Betty Park.

This year's convention, hosted by the Societies of District 13 and held at The Radisson Hotel in Sudbury truly lived up to its theme and exceeded all our expectations. The venue, hospitality, organization, special touches and innovation shown during the convention made this an educational and memorable experience for the four of us who attended and well worth the long commute.

Where to begin?

**Thursday** was spent getting there, checking in etc. A stunning glass

fountain surrounded by potted plants stood welcoming us at the front entrance of the hotel which proved to be a good omen of things to come. Our late arrival caused us to miss participating in the Gorilla Gardening experience, which is committing “random acts of beauty” by planting a few areas of downtown.

**Friday:** Registration and an opportunity to visit the Master Gardener’s table and vendors. Opening ceremonies and a reading by Poet Laureate, Dr. Roger Nash, were followed by Youth Camp departure to Junction Creek, Ukrainian Centre and Camp Falcona.

Speaker, Dr. Stephen Monet, gave an enlightening presentation on “Sudbury’s Re-greening Story” First he told of the historic, devastating transformation of an area once rich in forests, pristine waterways and wildlife to a bleak, polluted moonscape by logging, mining and smelting companies. He then told us about the renewal effort and the re-greening program that has been transforming the area since 1978.

Liming, fertilizing, seeding and planting of grasses, trees, native plants is a work in progress but wildlife is coming back and the change is astounding. The Sudbury area has in fact won many environmental awards including The United Nations Local Government Award.

Speaker: Helen Scutt from OMAFRA spoke on “Growing your Membership, Cultivating Diversity.” She encouraged Societies to become more diverse, inclusive and accessible.

After lunch we took time to admire the flower show competition and then settled in to listen to two speakers. Jean Narozanski on “Perennials in the Woodland” and “Photography in the Garden” with Don Johnston.

Friday evening, after a delicious dinner at a Bistro across the road from the hotel we put our final bids in the day long silent auction. Mary Lyn was the only one who got lucky with her bid on the hosta she wanted.

**Saturday:** Plenary Session. Business reports Nomination and Roll call. Susan Hanna talked about the Gorilla Gardening initiative and the Picket Fence project. Both were great ideas that turned out very well. Carol Dunk encouraged us all with her enthusiasm for planting Pollinator Patches.

Additional info can be found on the OHA web site: [gardenontario.org](http://gardenontario.org)  
Speaker: Bob Wildfong, Executive Director, Seeds of Diversity. He noted that seeds are humanity’s greatest technological achievement and that the people’s seeds belong to all people and that everyone should be able to access and grow them. He then pointed out that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our food diversity has been lost during the 20<sup>th</sup> century with only 10% of the seeds available are being sold by the seed companies while the rest are in collections. To find out more about Canada’s latest initiative to protect, plants seeds and pollinators go to the Seeds of Diversity web site.

**Bus Trip:** We spent the afternoon touring 10 outstanding gardens. The diverse gardens reflected how Sudbury gardeners rise to the challenges of the land, soil and climate in the area.

**Annual Awards Banquet.** What a feast for the eyes. Exceptional floral installations by a very talented florist, Trevor Fielder, decorated the hall. His creations were later auctioned off, raising \$600.00 for the Maison Vale Inco Hospice. Our tummy’s full, after a delicious prime rib dinner we listened to Franco Mariott’s keynote address, “Hope in a Changing World.” He gave

an emotionally gripping talk on the Sudbury of the past, present and future. **Sunday:** We were awed by the artistic talents of the society members who had painted the pickets that were on display at the front of the hall. Business meeting included voting on resolutions, election results, installation of the new OHA President, Carol Dunk, 1st Vice, John Sellers and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, James Graham and competition results. Youth members returning from Camp Falcona did a presentation on their experience.

Speaker: Gerry Lougheed Jr.

“Harvesting a Field of Dreams or a Hellish Wilderness.” A side splitting, humorous presentation by a Funeral Director, no less, was a fitting ending to a memorable convention experience.

**District 9 issued their invitation to the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at Niagara College, Niagara on the Lake, August 17 – 19, 2012. The theme will be “Gardening Then and Now.” 1812 – 2012. For more info:**

**[d9.gardenontario.org](http://d9.gardenontario.org)**

NOTE: The 1812 Rose is introduced as the official rose of the OHA 2012 Convention. and sold exclusively by the 2012 OHA Convention Committee. It is a repeat blooming, scented, red rose growing 3ft. to 4ft. Order forms are available from the executive or on-line.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Can you think of ways to make your society even better? Have you some ideas which you would like to share with the executive? We are looking for enthusiastic members to join our executive. No experience necessary, just a sense of fun and a willingness to help improve your Society. Get involved and help your society grow! Interested and want to know more**

**about what's involved? Talk to any member of your executive. Training is provided.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

[www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca)

From eRBG this month:

Auxiliary Fall Plant Sale

**Friday, September 9; 3 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, September 11; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. @ Arboretum**

All items are half price! Rare perennials, new stock of woody plants, ornamental grasses, ferns, spring bulbs and more. We accept MasterCard, Visa, cheques, debit and cash. Prices include taxes.

Members' Mulch Day

**Saturday, September 17**

**8 a.m. to Noon @ Mercer's Glen Site (Off Old Guelph Road, next to the 403 overpass)**

**MEMBERS ONLY** —Royal Botanical Gardens offers members the chance to come and help themselves to our mulch — a small donation offsets the cost of providing this opportunity to members. Bring your own containers, shovel or scoop and be sure to bring along your membership card as this event is exclusive to Royal Botanical Gardens' members.

Shoreline Cleanups:

Help Clean Up Cootes Paradise and Carroll's Bay Marsh

**Saturday, September 24**

**10:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

As the receding shorelines are exposed after a year of very high water levels, trash from the spring floods is becoming

apparent. By the end of August water levels will have fallen 20 in. after a rising nearly 40 inches over the spring. The Royal Botanical Gardens is looking for your assistance in cleaning up the shorelines. Bring rubber boats and gloves, and canoes for the more adventurous to reach the more distant shorelines from the start points. RBG will also have its work boat on the water. Start location #1 – Hamilton – Cootes Paradise - Princess Point (335 Longwood Rd.). Start Location #2 – Burlington – Carroll's Bay Marsh – Valley Inn (1200 Spring Garden Rd.).

### **Christmas By Design November 17 and 18, 2011**

By popular demand we are again featuring our fresh evergreen urn inserts as well as a variety of greens. Check the website in the coming months for a complete schedule of all the events at this 2-day Sale.

### **Auxiliary Evergreen Design Workshops**

**Table design:** Tuesday, December 6 at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.

**Door Design:** Wednesday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. The container, fresh greens, and mechanics are all provided for you. Tickets are \$30.00, and will go on sale on September 1 and can be purchased on the RBG website or by calling 905-527-5577. Purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

### **District 6 Fall Breakfast Meeting October 1, 2011**

hosted by Stoney Creek Garden Club & Horticultural Society  
St. Francis Xavier Parish Centre,  
304 Highway 8, Stoney Creek, Ont.

L8G 1E6 (It is at the junction where King St ends by meeting with Highway 8 (also known as Queenston Rd).

### **Everyone is welcome**

Please forward any subjects or questions that they would like to table at the meeting. Don't forget it is the meeting of the societies so the agenda is based on their concerns and questions.

Please park near the back of the church close to King St. The overflow lot may be open behind the rectory garage, but this won't be known until that day.

### **District 6 Annual Fall Dinner October 22, 2011**

Ancaster Fair Grounds,  
630 Trinity Road, Ancaster,  
Social time: 5:30 pm and dinner at 6 pm  
Guest speaker Sonia Day, author and humorist. Entertainment by pianist composer Paul Benton.  
Tickets may be ordered through Marg Verbeek at our September general meeting.

### **The Gosling Foundation presents... Photography Contest!**

**Categories:** Wildlife, Plants, Youth (12 and under)

**Deadline:** September 31, 2011

**Prizes:** Over \$600 in gift certificates to Fotosource!

For full contest rules and details, go to:

**[www.goslingwildlifegarden.org](http://www.goslingwildlifegarden.org)**

Gosling Wildlife Gardens

2012 OHA Convention  
August 16 – 19, 2012

### **Gardening Then and Now 1812 to 2012**

To be held at the Niagara College in  
Niagara-on-the-Lake