

The Hort

St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society

Presidents' Letter

One of the many pleasures of gardening takes place over the winter months when we can take the time to reflect on and re evaluate our gardens. By including plants for their winter shape, colour and texture we are able to get enjoyment from our gardens during all four seasons in South Western Ontario. These plants provide much needed winter interest and are truly beautiful with the snow or ice glistening on them. Many more people are choosing to do their major garden clean up in the spring, leaving seed heads and nesting material to support birds, hollow stalks and leaf litter as a refuge for overwintering pollinators. Be selective in what you are keeping and never let invasive plants go to seed!

While starting your flower or vegetable seeds and nursing cuttings for another active spring season in the garden, please think about which plants you could share or divide for the society's Spring Plant Sale. It will be taking place the morning of Saturday, May 19th at Horton Market.

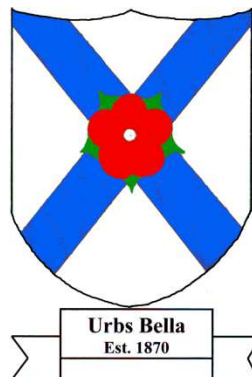
Your Executive and Board of Directors have already been making great plans for many of the years events. I challenge those who are not already, to get involved in some way and really become a part of the society.

Your ideas and support are always welcome and appreciated.

Shelley MacKenzie

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"

***Thank you;* to everyone who donated items or your time last year for the Meetings including the Adopt-a-table, Door Prizes and Refreshments as well as for our Workshops, Flower Show, Garden Tours, Plant and Yard Sales and our 1st Silent Auction. These events were successful due to your generosity and participation!**



**ST. THOMAS & DISTRICT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Prune branches and bring them indoors to force into early bloom. Branches easily forced include crab-apple, apple, cherries, serviceberry, and of course pussy willow. Some like to soak branches in a bathtub overnight. Trim the branches to a reasonable size for your vase. Place in tepid water, store in a cool dark area and you should have flowers in 2 to 4 weeks for many of these.

Please Note

**Meeting Times
are now 7:00pm**

GENERAL MEETING AGENDAS

**GENERAL MEETINGS: 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.
EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.**

**MONSIGNOR MORRISON CATHOLIC SCHOOL
10 SOUTH EDGEWARE RD. ST. THOMAS, N5P 2H3**

February 22, 2012

***SEED EXCHANGE** Bring seeds to share or swap with other members!

**SPEAKER: Ron Rossini, Master Gardener
Topic: Plant Birthing - The Seedy Side of Gardening**

MINI SHOW

Design: "Sniffles" A breakfast tray to cheer up the sickroom. Include a decorative unit (Pg. 95)
Horticulture: A 4"X6"photo of a Winter Garden, may be matted or framed.
Craft: A painted flower pot, not to exceed 10".

March 28, 2012

**SPEAKER: Bob Allen, Of Bob Allen Horticultural Services
Topic: Pruning**

MINI SHOW

Design: "Sugar & Spice" A small design to welcome a baby girl. (Pg. 104)
Horticulture: A Pot et Fleur (Pg. 103)
Craft: A decorated Easter Bonnet, equipped to hang, using dried and/or fresh material.

April 25, 2012

**SPEAKER: Jane Fish, Daylily Grower and Breeder
Topic: Astonishing Choice**

MINI SHOW

Design: "Spring Sunshine" A parallel design. (pg.102)
Horticulture: A collection of spring flowers, each flower in its own container, minimum of 3 types. (Pg.93)
Craft: A Spring wreath, equipped to hang, using dried and/or fresh material.

May 23, 2012

**SPEAKER: Margaret Miller, Garden Club of London
Topic: Demonstration - Floral Design**

MINI SHOW

Design: "A Tisket a Tasket" A design in a basket, (pg.91).
Horticulture: Three stems Tulip, any variety.
Three stems any other spring flowering bulb, named.
Craft: A bird feeder made from a recycled object.

Page numbers refer to Publication # 34 Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Design. This publication is available at the general meetings for \$6.00. If you have further questions please speak to any of the current Directors.

The monthly Mini Shows are a great learning opportunity to further your knowledge of what will be expected when entering larger shows. The Exhibitors as well as the Judges must follow what is asked for in the schedule. Points earned at the monthly mini-shows will be totaled for the Annual Meeting in January and a prize will be awarded to the people with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd highest number of points.

Gardening Calendar

January

Inspect houseplants regularly for spider mites and aphids

Send for garden catalogues

Reflect on last year's garden

Plan garden layout

Order flower and vegetable seeds

Ready seed flats and containers

Annual Meeting

February

Propagate indoor plants (geraniums etc.) by stem cuttings

Read garden catalogues, place orders.

Participate in seed exchange at meeting

Check for dates of annual garden shows

March

Start flower and vegetable seeds indoors

Prune fruit trees, grape vines and summer flowering shrubs

Start tuberous begonias in pots

Press garden perennials back into place if frost has heaved them

Spray fruit trees with dormant oil

Prune back overgrown shade trees & hedges

April

Unhill Roses, a little at a time

Prune Roses

Plant shrubs, trees & hedges

Repair lawn damage with topsoil & seed

Transplant biennials (violets, pansies, foxglove, etc.)

Plant early vegetables (peas, radishes, onions)

May

Pot up plants to donate for May 19th Sale

Transfer bedding annuals to outdoor cold frame

Check trees for tent caterpillars & other insects

Remove faded flower heads of tulips & daffodils

Prune shrubs & trees after flowering

Plant vegetable garden, strawberries & raspberries

Harvest asparagus

June

Prune evergreens & hedges

Mulch & compost gardens to conserve moisture & control weeds

Irrigate lawns & vegetables as required

Thin annuals & vegetables

Treat flowers and vegetables to compost tea

Stake tall growing perennials

Pinch back garden chrysanthemums

Remove faded rose blooms

Weed vegetable garden & flowerbeds

Exhibit and Attend the Rose and Flower Show

July

Shallow hoe gardens regularly if not using mulch to control weeds

Pinch back annuals, if getting straggly

Water garden thoroughly during dry spells

Cut grass no shorter than 5 centimetres (2 inches)

Better to let your lawn go dormant during excessive dry spells, rather than shallow watering

Attend and Volunteer at the Garden Tour

Harvest berries

August

Prune climbing Roses

Harvest vegetables, blanch & freeze

Donate to and attend our Talbot Trail Yard and Plant Sale

September

Prepare & seed new lawns

Divide perennials

Plant evergreens

Last fertilizing of lawns for the year

Air-dry onions for storage

Exhibit at the Harvest Show

Harvest grapes after first frost

Soak soil around evergreens & transplants

October

Plant bulbs in garden (e.g. tulip, daffodil)

Transplant shrubs & trees

Dig & store dahlias, gladiolus, & tuberous begonias

Plant amaryllis for Christmas blooms

Gather leaves and shred them to use for mulch and for adding to compost pile

Winterize lawn mower

November

Renew Hort. Membership

Soak soil around evergreens if ground is dry

Hill up roses

Check supports for newly planted trees

Protect trees & shrubs from mice & rabbits

Mulch tender plants

Plant hyacinth & other bulbs for winter forcing

Clean garden storage area & tools

Attend Pot Luck (Finger Foods) and

Silent Auction Nov. Meeting

December

Loosely wrap pyramidal evergreens with burlap or plastic netting

Remove snow from shrubs & spreading evergreens

Reduce watering of indoor plants

Set up indoor lighting unit

Adapted from Perfect Garden Guide, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture

In late winter prune flowering shrubs such as Tree Forsythia, Quince, MockOrange, Deutzia, and Honeysuckle. March also is a good time to prune fruit trees. Choose a day above freezing if possible, as it is easier on you as well as on the tree. First, check for and remove the 3 D's—branches that are dead (usually a different color), diseased (look for scabs or spots), and damaged (as from ice damage or wind breakage). Then check for and remove the 2 C's—branches that are crowded or crossing (they'll rub on each other, wearing off the bark where disease can enter). Finally, prune selectively, shaping the tree according to its age and type.

Coming Events 2012

March

Stratford Garden Festival

Thurs. Mar. 1st to Sun. Mar. 4th.

Stratford Rotary Complex,

353 McCarthy Rd.

Theme: "Celebrating our Roots"

Seedy Saturday

Presented by, Middlesex MG's

Saturday, March 10th 10am. to 3:30pm.

Carling Heights Optimist Ctre, London

Theme: "Come Grow With Us" \$5.Adm.

Canada Blooms/National Home Show

Friday, Mar. 16th to Sun. Mar. 25th

Direct Energy Centre,

100 Princes' Blvd. Toronto

Theme: "City Culture"

Canadale's Spring Open House

March 23rd, 24th and 25th.

269 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas

"**Digging in the Dirt**" Presented by

Elgin County Master Gardeners

A fun day of Seminars and Demos.

Saturday, March 31st 10am. to 3:30pm.

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas

Topic: "Sun and Shade"

April

District 10 Spring AGM

April 14.

Dutton/Dunwich Community Center

1 Erie St. Dutton

Get your hands dirty!

Volunteers are needed

date to be announced

Spring Clean up Kiwanis Gardens

1st Ave. St. Thomas

Adopt-A-Highway (Fairview Ave.)

Volunteers are needed

Saturday, April 28th, 9am.

Meet in the North Parking lot,

St. Joseph's High School, St. Thomas.

May

Annual Spring Plant Sale

Your plant donations are needed

Saturday, May 19th, 7:30am.

Horton Market, St. Thomas.

Elgin County MG's, Plant Sale

Saturday, May 26th, 7 am.

234 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas.

Class for Design "The Basics"

Choosing and Conditioning Materials,

Elements and Principles of Design.

Line Design, **Good Review!**

Wednesday, May 30th, 7pm.

Monsignor Morrison Catholic School

10 South Edgeware Rd. St. Thomas.

MEMBERSHIP

If this box is checked your membership is due.

REMINDER

Membership year starts in January.

\$12 for individual members

\$18 for 2 family members at the same address

Please send your dues to Membership Director

Sherry Burgess

30 South Edgeware Rd.

St. Thomas, ON N5P 2H3

**Do we have your e-mail?
Newsletters and other communication
can be sent to you electronically.**

E-mail sthort@acanac.net

Horticultural Association's website:

<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/thomas>

The Trillium, quarterly newsletter is at:

<http://www.gardenontario.org/gar/news1.php>

PREPARING FOR THE PLANT SALE

*A week or more before the sale, divide your plants getting a good supply of the root system. This will give the plants time to recover and look healthy.

* Place in clean pots with adequate soil. Water!

* Label clearly with the common and/or botanical name.

* Indicate whether they need sun or shade

* Please avoid donating invasive plants.

* Store plants in a cool place out of the sun.

* A clean, potted and clearly labelled plant as well as plants in flower will sell quickly and for a better price.

LUG A MUG:

Please bring your mug to meetings to reduce waste.

June

Annual Rose and Flower Show

Volunteers are needed

Saturday, June 23rd.

Monsignor Morrison Catholic School

10 South Edgeware Rd. St. Thomas.

July

Garden Tours

Gardens and Volunteers are needed

Sunday, July 8th, 11am. To 5pm.

August

Talbot Trail Yard & Plant Sale

Yard sale items and plant donations needed

Saturday, August 25th, 8am.



Come & see what's
New and Exciting this Year!

Canadale
Ontario's Favourite Garden Centre

269 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas
519-631-7264 • www.canadale.com

Garden Centre Discounts Please present your membership card

Bycraft Gardens 15%
11062 Sinclair Drive, R.R.# 1, Ilderton

Canadale Nurseries Ltd. 10%
269 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas

Family Flowers Inc. 10%
44329 Talbot Line, St. Thomas

Moore's Flower & Garden Centre 10%
R.R.#4, Aylmer

Moore Water Gardens 10%
4683 Sunset Road, Port Stanley

Parkway Gardens Ltd. 20%
1473 Gainsborough Road, Hyde Park

Shades of Green 10%
48855 John Wise Line, Aylmer

Trillium Gardens Perennials 10%
154 Wharncliff Road South, London

Van Horek's Greenhouses Ltd. 10%
930 Gainsborough Road, Hyde Park

St. Thomas & District Horticultural Society 2012 Officers

President Shelley MacKenzie 769-2529

Past Diane Vaughan 633-3213

1st Vice Sherry Burgess 631-9135

2nd Vice MaryLou Purcell 782-3291

Co Treasurers

Sharon Shortt 637-3586

Tammy Sullivan 633-7387

Secretary Richard Cartwright 633-3939

Board of Directors

Ellenita Bell

Joanne Girvan

Brenda Comfort

Frances Iscove

Consider becoming more actively involved
More Fresh Directors = Fresh Perspective!