

# ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2005



EDITOR

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Secretaries: Please feel free to use this material in your newsletters or press releases.

## THE GARDEN HOSE

In the gray evening  
I see a long green serpent  
With its tail in the dahlias.

It lies in loops across the grass  
And drinks softly at the faucet.

I can hear it swallow.

*Beatrice Janosco*



# Message from the President

*Ted Reed*

Your Ontario Horticultural Association and it's Societies for 99 years has done a lot! We are the biggest and best group of volunteer gardeners in the Province! Our Association was first organized in 1906 and received grants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. (See the accompanied article on EARLY HISTORY) Our history is rich in accomplishments and shows an enduring effort and dedication to the art and science of Horticulture.

In the early days the Association accomplished the following: Trees around the world, Projects in Peace and War, School ground improvement, Forestry, Wild flowers, restored abandoned Cemeteries, Work with the Plowmen's Association to grow and supply tons of food in WWI and II. Currently we support the holding of Flower and Vegetable Shows and Educational Exhibits, Conducting Certified Judging Courses, Encouraging the organization of Horticultural Youth Groups, Publishing a Newsletter 4 times a year, Providing Conservation and Environment information, Supporting the Beautification of communities throughout Ontario, In Memoriam Tree Planting of \$100, Special Beautification Project support of \$500, Society, District and Provincial Awards, Assistance in O.M.A.F Grants, Society Treasurer Bonding, Association Supplies, District Director Support, With the Trillium Grant the new Ontario Horticultural Association Society Manual, Youth Manual and Volunteer Toolkit, our new Home Page for all Societies and Districts - [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org), Law Insurance-Liability and now Property Insurance, Representation at the CNE in Toronto during Labour Day, Spring Western Fair, Herbfest in the Ottawa area, Success with Gardening in Toronto.

We are truly a visible and active Association for our 275 Societies. For the 100th year and with your help, will continue doing more.

The Association has been an Umbrella of Protection and Services for the Societies for these 99 Years. With our numbers of 44,000 the Association can obtain Liability Insurance at a low cost per person. A new feature offered to those Societies who own Real Estate, is a Property Liability Insurance Package three times cheaper than they were paying before. The Treasurer's Bonding Program protects the financial integrity of your Societies. A new program you will want to consider in the future is the protection of all our elected Directors and Executives and Officers at the Society, District and Provincial Level. A Directors and Officers Insurance Program offered by Law Insurance would protect current, past and future elected Directors, Executives and Officers as well as their spouses, estates and heirs. Single coverage to any small group would be quite expensive. For about \$10.00 per year per elected official, coverage could be provided.

Our Association has been providing the Districts and Societies many different Services and Programs. And yet with the rising prices of Gas, lodging, supplies, insurance, our Dues have been set at \$1.00 since 1994.

We have two very important staff members who handle all the correspondence and financial matters, our Secretary and Treasurer. According to Bill 66 and our Constitution, these two positions are the only ones for which we can provide remuneration. When we looked at the work being done in the Treasurer's office, we found the hours spent and the remuneration provided was less than \$4.00 per hour. We are getting the best professional product from these two positions and yet we are not keeping up realistically with their remuneration package. I hope you will discuss this matter with your Society members and encourage them to vote for a Dues increase for our Association in August 2005. When you look at all the cost increases we have all experienced, at your level and ours at the Provincial level, I hope you will not let this inequality continue. We have to be fair to our District Directors who donate a considerable number of hours to insure that your Societies are strong and Vibrant. I look for your support at the Annual Convention, August 12 - 14th, 2005, at Nipissing University

In 2005 there will be an opportunity for youth to attend their first Province wide Youth function... I call it a Youth Delegate Program and it will be held at the Mattawa Ecology Centre at the same time we have our Convention at Nipissing University in North Bay. It would be a real treat to one or more of your Youth to be able to attend this Program. The cost for the three day and two night program is \$189.00. This could be a great present for one of your grandchildren. or even a start toward it! Contact Betty Morrison, District 18, Assistant District Director : [kmorrison@accglobal.net](mailto:kmorrison@accglobal.net)

We've got a great Convention in North Bay for you. One of the attractive features offered at the Convention at Nipissing University, is the cost of Accommodation. The cost per person for three nights is \$99.00 (Including Taxes) in keeping with our 99th Year. Let me describe the Accommodations. There are 4 single bedrooms, and two bathrooms in each apartment. Two bedrooms and a bathroom on each side. The Common area in the middle consists of a Kitchen-Living room area. All is wheelchair accessible and the residence has an elevator. Quite comfortable for two couples. During the Convention there will be many interesting workshops, bus tour, a great fun night on Friday and a very nice banquet on Saturday. I look forward to welcoming your delegates to our 99th Convention on August 12 to the 14th 2005, in North Bay.

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# EARLY HISTORY,

*from the Green Book, The Story of Ontario Horticultural Societies 1854 - 1973*

**By Ted Reed, President**

The history in this book records those Societies and garden clubs who were in existence before or on the date of our founding 1906. Please excuse the omission of any Societies if made.

In the Dedication to the Story of Ontario Horticultural Societies, it reads in part:

“This history of the Ontario horticultural societies is dedicated to those, past present, who, through a desire for a more beautiful and happier world, contributed to the organization and growth of the Association, and it’s many accomplishments.”

In 1834 the first Horticultural Society in Toronto was formed and is still operating.

In December 1851, the Guelph (Wellington County) received it’s Charter.

1852 Brantford (Brant County) was organized

About 1852 Elora and Salem (Wellington County) was organized

In 1852 The Brantford Horticultural Society was organized.

Cobourg and District (Northumberland County) Society as early as 1868

1869 Society at Picton (Prince Edward County) Island County in the Bay of Quinte,

Kitchener (Waterloo County) 1872, a Junior Horticultural Society and in 1882 a Horticultural Society

In existence in 1874 , St. Thomas and District (Elgin County)

Organized in 1874 Barrie (Simcoe County) Horticultural Society.

Active Society in 1876 Chatham (Kent County)

Preston (Waterloo County) 1878 with 12 members.

Gananoque (Leeds County) Horticultural Society formed on April 1, 1885

The Orillia (Simcoe County) Horticultural Society was organized in 1888 and received Charter in 1906.

Ottawa (Carlton County) organized in 1892 with 60 members.

Belleville (Hastings County) organized in 1895 with 116 members in 1906.

Simcoe Society 1896 was organized , Simcoe District (Norfolk County)

The Midland (Simcoe County) Horticultural Society was organized in 1897.

Stirling (Hastings County) organized in 1897 with 51 members.

Owens Sound (Grey County) January 1898, membership fee was \$1.00 with .65 cents being sent to the Fruit Growers Association which in return, provided each member with a subscription of The Canadian Horticulturist.

1899 Kingston (Frontenac County) organized in 1899

1899 Hespeler (Waterloo County) organized the Hespeler Garden and Flower Lovers Society.

1900 Elmira (Waterloo County) organized with 15 charter members

52 Members in 1900 London (Middlesex County)

Waterloo (Waterloo County) 152 members in 1906

Brampton (Peel County) 110 members in 1906

Galt (Waterloo County) organized in 1906 with 104 members.

Fergus (Wellington County) existed in 1906

Stratford (Perth County) 161 members in 1906

Napanee (Lennox and Addington County) Society in existence in 1906 with 57 members.

St. Catharines, 1907 first report, 450 members

Sault Ste. Marie (Algoma District) organized in 1908

Oshawa (Ontario County) organized in 1909

Other earlier Horticultural activities were present in Ontario...

...Woodstock (Oxford County) had a typical English Gardening the 1830’s and in 1840 the first flower Show was held in a home.

By 1906 the membership was 93

...Small start in 1900, St. Mary’s (Perth County)

## **Notice of Motion**

**\*\*\*\*\*Important\*\*\*\*\***

At the 2004 Association, a notice of motion was moved and seconded to increase the Association dues paid by Societies by \$2 in September 2005. This motion can be found in the annual meeting minutes found in this mailing. Please have your voting delegates prepared for this vote at the 2005 annual meeting.

## **Nominating Committee Report**

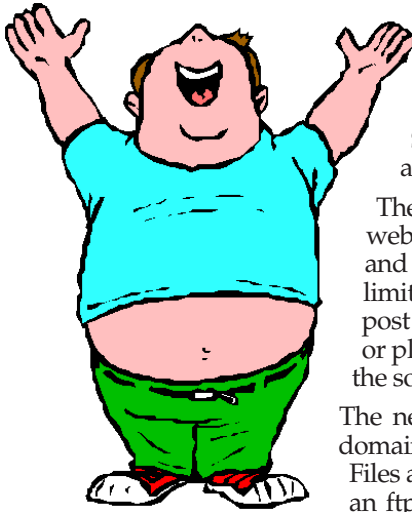
The following nominations for executive positions for 2005-2006 with the Ontario Horticultural Association have been received by the nominating committee:

President	Judy Lewis
First Vice President	Liisa Wolfgram
Second Vice President	Jim Mabee
Immediate Past President	Ted Reed

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## Expand Your WEB Presence...



Would your society like to put more pictures on your space on [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)? Would you like to design your own pages using your society colours? You can! At the annual convention in North Bay, August 2005, the Social Marketing Committee (SMC) of the Ontario Horticultural Society will be offering each society the opportunity to rent an addition 10MB of space on the Gardenontario site for \$40.00 per year. Participating groups will also be allocated three permanent email addresses for their society.

The new WEB Shell feature gives each of the 277 societies a **free** presence on the world wide web (WWW). The 5MB of space allows them to inform the public about their activities, events and participation in the local community. However, some societies have found the shell space limited with only one graphic per page and the restricted number of pages. Some would like to post a page with a series of photos and information about special events such as garden tours or plant sales. The additional 10MB of space will provide lots of room for photographs and give the society complete control over the layout and colours of the pages.

The new space will be provided as a sub-domain of the Gardenontario WEB site. Each sub-domain will have its own password protected storage location that can be accessed by the society. Files and graphics can be uploaded either through the limited ftp function on the site or by using an ftp program of their choice. The html pages designed and uploaded by the society can be accessed by using links to expand the available pages currently on the WEB Shell or as a

complete WEB site in place of the shell.

The three email addresses will permit a society to have contact points in the community that do not change from year to year. Currently, societies usually post email addresses for their president or someone else on the board. As the board changes, the contact email changes as well. The three email addresses offered with the addition space will remain the same as long as the society rents the space. The addresses could contain a position name plus the society name, for example:

**president-{Society Name}@gardenontario.org (president-bolton@gardenontario.org)**

**treasurer-{Society Name}@gardenontario.org**

**info-{Society Name}@gardenontario.org**

Any email that comes into the Gardenontario site using these addresses will be redirected to the current position holder in the society. When the person in the position changes, the emails can be redirected to the new person responsible. This allows the community to have a constant contact point for the society.

Making additional storage space and email addresses available expands the societies presence in their communities and meets the needs of those societies who would like to expand the capability of the free WEB Shell. Your society can take advantage of the added space at the Annual Convention or anytime after September 2005. Contact the SMC or Mike Dunk at [mike@mgdunk.com](mailto:mike@mgdunk.com) for more information.

### Just a Reminder for all Those Photographers Out There

A reminder that the Photo Print size was revised after the October Board meeting and is

**4" x 6" matted to 5" x 7"**

**(exception is class # 10)**

**Matted** is when there is a small cardboard frame (purchased or handcrafted) that is placed on top of your picture to "frame it"

To avoid being disqualified please ensure that this is done.

**Deadline for entries is June 1st, 2005**

Please make sure you label your entries according to the Show Schedule (an address label works well for your name and address)

If you wish your entries to be mailed back to you, please enclose a self-addressed envelope with **sufficient postage** with your initial entry.

If you are picking them up at the convention please indicate this with a small note.



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# REFLECTIONS OF ONTARIO

An invitation from District 18 to come to the 2005 convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association at Nipissing University, North Bay, August 12 to 14th.

In the last newsletter, we were just leaving Powassan to drive the 20 minutes to North Bay. But first there is another Society to visit. A lot of you will remember that Callander is famous as the "home" of the Dionne Quintuplets. It is also the home of our President Ted Reed and his lovely wife Isla. Trumpeter Swans are being naturalized in this area. The Horticultural Society has built and maintain a beautiful Memory Tree Park on a bluff overlooking Lake Nipissing among other activities.

Next stop North Bay but first: most of you will be coming up Highway 11 from the South and the South West, but for those of you who are coming up 17 from the South East, the only Society you will be driving through is Mattawa. This highway is rich in the history of the voyageurs which I think we all learned about as children in school. The Mattawa Society is our third youngest Society and has worked very hard on beautifying the town, especially their Park Mattawan for which they received a Trillium Grant for over \$22,000. It is the meeting place of the Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers.

I hope a lot of you will be coming from the North West along highway 17 or from the North down Highway 11, through District 13 or District 12. These two highways merge in North Bay which is the most northerly point in District 18. Lying between two Lakes, it is also the Voyageur Canoe Route. Its waterfront has become a real people place and I hope you will have time to take a ride on our horse carousel. We are hoping that by August there will be a second one that depicts animals of the north. These are being carved by North Bay wood carvers and painted by local artists.

Nipissing University is on a bluff at the very North West corner of the city and is in a beautiful setting. There are lovely nature walks behind the University and a pond to relax by if you need a few minutes of rest between all the activities planned.

All the members of the Societies in District 18 are looking forward to meeting you, visiting with you and sharing our part of Ontario. We are planning to have lots of fun as well as sharing new ideas and conducting the business of the Association. You have by now seen the program that is being presented and I am sure you will find something of interest. Hopefully, you have been able to look at our "Travel Booklet".

**The two judges for the cultural and design division are accredited judges of the Garden Clubs of Ontario so it is possible that we might have a standard show. If you decided to take advantage of this opportunity, DON'T FORGET YOUR SHOW CARDS for marking after the show is judged.**

Remember to check out our WEB Site, [gardenontario.org](http://gardenontario.org) for more information.

*Vickie Wiemer*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**At the 99th annual Convention, there is a handicapped entrance at the University with handicapped parking for those of you needing that service.**

**If you are going to be unloading material at the convention, unload at the handicapped entrance NOT the registration entrance.**

**Check with the parking attendant.**

# WWW.GARDENONTARIO.ORG

This is your website. You should be proud. We are.

Many societies in our Association haven't taken advantage of the free web shells to date. Perhaps they aren't aware they have passwords to download information, or enter their events on the website calendar. Has your district director provided you with your society password? If not, ask them about it, pronto! There are many available documents on the extranet in the back end of the website that you can download.

We love the feature "Garden Share" and the "Idea Bank", however it's not being used to its potential. We're looking to YOU to submit information. I repeat. This is your website!

Share your information with other gardeners across the province, whether or not they are members of a society or garden club.

In My Garden is a selection of image opportunities from gardeners across Ontario. Send in your submissions. In My Neighbourhood is a location to record community projects and programs. Show off!

The Idea Bank area can become a treasure-trove of ideas for projects and activities for Societies and individual gardeners, if you contribute your ideas. For example:

- Show schedules, guidelines for classes and competitions
- Programs ideas for bus tours, workshops, seminars and standing programs such as Adopt a Highway.

If you have ideas that you would like to share with other Societies, we would like to hear them! Send your inspirations to [webmaster@gardenontario.org](mailto:webmaster@gardenontario.org).

Social Marketing Committee.

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# Are We Worth It?

The Ontario Horticultural Association is made up of nineteen districts, 277 Societies and approximately 38,000 members. Our Centenary will be celebrated in 2006.

The Ontario Horticultural Association is a group of dedicated individuals who care a great deal about our environment and our communities. We share a wealth of practical knowledge on beautification of both urban and rural communities across this great province. The Provincial, Regional and Municipal Governments recognize the Ontario Horticultural Association as a credible and viable organization.

However, like all things in life there is a cost to the effective running of this association. The delegates that will attend the 99th Annual Convention to be held at Nipissing University in August will be asked to vote on a motion to increase provincial membership dues by two dollars (Membership fee would then be \$3/member). That's a whopping fee increase is it not! The last increase to provincial dues was in 1994 and went from 50 cents to \$1.00 at that time.

But what does the Ontario Horticultural Association provide to their membership? Surely not much if the membership fee is a mere dollar.

Well, there is the Liability insurance and the Treasurer Bonding insurance, both available at a very nominal fee and only because of the size of the membership province wide. A newsletter is published four times a year; chock a block full of information about achievements of Societies, informative articles, upcoming events.

Also offered to members are judging schools, a new revised standards manual, a youth program and newsletter, our

wonderful new Website, as well as an up to date Society Manual.

Then, of course, there are the five - \$500 yearly special projects awarded to member societies for projects within their communities as well as monies for planting of trees. Let us not forget about all the awards that are available for Member societies to recognize those very dedicated members (Silver Fir, Service Awards, Youth Leader Award, Life Membership to name just a few).

As an organization the Ontario Horticultural Association are able to liaison with other groups such as the Master Gardeners and our sister organization, the Agricultural Societies. Also covered from the provincial coffers are remuneration to the Provincial Secretary and Treasurer as well as district expenses, such as postage, stationary supplies, District Director mileage, provincial board meetings (held three times a year) as well as the printing of any periodicals, booklets and the annual report.

Lastly, there is the Annual Convention that highlights our diverse Province, brings old and new friends together, and friendly competition all at a reasonable cost.

So the next time you buy two, " a double-double please" at your local coffee shop, think about what the Ontario Horticultural Association really means to you and buy a virtual cup of coffee through the two dollar fee increase for your friend, the Ontario Horticultural Association.

*Mary E. Young*

*District 19 Director*

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## ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL AFRICAN VIOLET

*By Secretary of District #18, Isla Reed*

District #18 is hosting the 99th Ontario Horticultural Association convention, August 12th to 14th, 2005 at Nipissing University in North Bay.

The Centennial African violet is a fundraiser for District #18 and was approved at a meeting of the OHA Board members.

I am pleased to advise that a supply of the beautiful, variegated violet with a dark purple bloom, will be available at the Convention in August. We hope to have about 300 if not more.

For those of you who had ordered and paid for violets a year ago, I have those on hand now and will baby them along for you. You will receive these at the convention. Some violets of prepaid orders have been delivered.

We will not be taking orders in advance for these violets. You will only be able to pick them up at the convention. If you cannot get them this year, we have been advised that more will be available for the 2006 Convention in Ottawa in 2006.

If you have any concerns or questions, you can email me through Ted at... [tedreed@ontera.net](mailto:tedreed@ontera.net).

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# ON TOUR

Becoming teachers have practicums, doctors have internships, craftspeople apprentice... gardeners go on tour. It is the field study opportunity of the gardener.

Many garden clubs and horticultural societies offer tours of members' gardens and some of them are open to the public. Some private homes occasionally indicate that they are welcoming viewers by placing an "Open Garden" sign at the end of the driveway. Then there are public gardens such as at some museums, teaching institutions, grand estates, park land, municipal and botanical gardens who offer their grounds for public viewing as do many commercial nurseries with display gardens. Check your local library and newspapers for listings. Patricia Singer has a good book out entitled: *The Good Garden Guide. Ontario's Outstanding Gardens.* (Stoddart, North York. 1996.) which lists open gardens throughout the province by region.

## Canadian National Exhibition Group Ticket Offer

The Canadian National Exhibition is offering a special ticket purchase for groups. A Society can purchase tickets to the CNE as a community group (25 individuals or more who order as a group can save up to 40% off the regular gate price). Please contact Kary Lyn Baxter at 416-263-3812 or [klbaxter@theex.com](mailto:klbaxter@theex.com).

The most important feature of a group purchase is that they do not all have to be used on the same day. The only additional costs are for parking and the midway.

The Garden Show is worth the price of "admission".

The Air Show over the Labour Day weekend is also free.

By viewing local gardens, you can learn of the plants that can be grown in your own area, remembering to check that soil, light and drainage conditions also match. If your own garden seems lacking in colour during a particular time of the growing season, a visit to other gardens at that time will elucidate a multitude of plant material for you to consider adding to your beds. You can also glean numerous ideas for structures, path and mulching materials, focal points and ornaments. Gardeners are normally happy to share ideas and expertise and advise.

Dress for the weather and for comfortable walking. A tote bag or backpack is handy for carrying along sunscreen, insect repellent, sweater, rain jacket, clipboard with note pad, collapsible umbrella, refreshment and such. Children are usually welcome if kept calm and by your side. Rover and the cat will have to wait for you at home.

Most importantly, bring along your camera... preferably your video camera. This enables you to keep a visual and verbal record of what you see. You will create a tape you can review to help yourself learn the names of various species, remind yourself of plants you wish to hunt down for inclusion in your garden, and have a beautiful experience captured on film to enable repeated enjoyment.

On tour you will discover a wealth of information and inspiration. It is an experience at once educational and pleasurable. So lay down the trowel, scrub up those fingernails... it's tour time!

*Donna Christie*

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## Memorial Period at the 2005 Convention

At the Memorial Period of the 2005 Convention, we will take the time to remember our friends who are no longer with us. If a Society has lost a member in the last year and wishes to have that person's name recognized at the 2005 Convention, please send the name(s) to the Association Secretary before July 1.

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# NEWS FROM ACROSS THE PROVINCE

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## Report from the Espanola Horticultural Society for Ontario Horticultural Newsletter

In the spring of 2004 our Society was approached by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board, (DSSAB). We were asked whether we would be interested in being judges in a garden contest that they wanted to initiate at the family housing units that they own in Espanola. The purpose of this project was to encourage a greater interest and participation by the residents of these units in the area of yard maintenance, specifically in gardening and landscaping.

The DSSAB office advertised the contest among the family housing residents, provided prizes, and score sheets to our Horticultural Society. The Society's roll in this project was to do a drive-by each week and score each of

these homes according to their efforts in improving the appearance of them. A schedule was made up with our members so that each week 2 members were assigned to do the judging. Before the judging began we met with 2 members of the DSSAB and they drove us by each of the units to be judged so we could determine from that point what improvements, if any, had been made each week.

DSSAB felt at the end of the summer that inroads were made in increasing an interest in the beautification of these rented properties and have asked our Society to participate in this project again for the summer of 2005. Our Society also feels that this fosters an interest in horticulture which is our objective.

### ADDRESSES

#### TO KEEP HANDY

**Denise Edwards**

**Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food**

Denise Edwards

Volunteer Management Specialist

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

3rd Floor, 1 Stone Road West

Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2

Tel.: 519-826-3115

Fax: 519-826-3259

email: denise.edwards@omaf.gov.on.ca

### Insurance Questions

Please address any questions about insurance coverage to:

Law Insurance, 14900 Yonge St.

Aurora, Ontario L4G 1M7

(905) 727-1913

## “Beachburg Horticultural Society celebrates 45 years.”

“On July 13, 1959, a group of interested Horticulturists met in the boardroom of the Secretary's Office at the fairgrounds, permission granted by the North Renfrew Agricultural Society.”

This was taken from the first minutes of the first meeting of the society.

Harvey Fraser, who then was the District Director, conducted the first meeting and thus the Beachburg Society was born.

Mr. Fraser was pleased that the 14th society in District 2 would be a reality, and so it was.

Forty-five years later the executive of the Beachburg Society took it upon themselves to recreate the first meeting. Period costumes of hats, dresses and suits were put on and the play was acted out.

The members in attendance were given a part to play, of the executive that was chosen that night. A great time was had by all and what a surprise we gave our members. Everyone enjoyed themselves playing the part of founding members of the village.

*Submitted by Ken Fink*



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## NEWS FROM ACROSS THE PROVINCE

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# Celebrated 40th Anniversary

2004 was a very busy year for the Nipigon Red Rock Horticultural Society.

The year started with a presentation on "Birds Visiting Our Yards", a slide presentation of "Fancy Plants" (bold summer bulbs, vibrant shrubs, some rare and unusual perennials), a presentation on "the Good, the Bad and the Ugly" Bugs, and a slide presentation on the Wild Flowers of the Region.

We had our annual Waterfowl Viewing down at the Nipigon River. There were at least two dozen different species of birds that we were able to zoom in on.

Our next presentation was on Vegetative Propagation of Woody Plants. In May the Society held their annual Plant Sale.

During June, the flower beds in both towns of Nipigon and Red Rock were planted. The Society would like to thank all the people who helped to beautify the towns by planting the flower beds.

Our special day took place in July, when the Society celebrated their 40th Anniversary by hosting a Garden Tea featuring artisans Peter Langes, Maggie Phillips and Roland Choiselat. Everyone enjoyed the sunny weather and the homemade sweets and lemonade.

August was the month for our annual Flower and Vegetable Show and Tea. There were a good number of entries in the Children's section as well as in the Adult and Novice sections. The flower competition consisted of beautiful annuals, perennials, outdoor planters, lovely house plants, very creative rock and dish gardens, plus many more categories. The domestic competition had many types of delicious entries such as jams, jellies, relishes, breads, buns, pies and cakes. On the vegetable competition tables the entries were gorgeous looking. There were even freak vegetables entered. We also presented a special 40th anniversary award.

When fall arrived, we had our Pumpkin and Potato Weight-In Contest. Our next presentation was a slide presentation on the Gardens in Cornwall, England.

The Society ended the year with a florist instructing us how to create a beautiful 16" Christmas Grapevine Wreath. At our annual Christmas get together, Santa made a special stop.

As you can see, the Nipigon Red Rock Horticultural Society enjoyed a year of fun, friendship and education on many topics.

We meet once a month at Grace United Church, Nipigon, at 7 p.m. and our meetings are free and everyone is welcome.

# St. Mary's Horticultural Society

St. Mary's Horticultural Society is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. One of our anniversary projects will include the planting of a red maple, with the financial help of the Ontario Horticultural Association special tree planting grant. As the symbolic colour used to represent 40th anniversaries is ruby, our choice of tree should remind everyone each fall of this event. Our plan is to invite original Board and Life members to attend our June open meeting, where we will celebrate with an anniversary cake. We have chosen a new emblem, and will be designing a new flower garden in Centennial Park with the approval of town Council. We would like to welcome exhibitors to a special Standard Show on August 24, as part of our flower and vegetable show. The Standard Show offers the student judges from the Garden Club of Ontario 6th School for

Floral Design Judges, Instructors and Exhibitors an opportunity to complete some of the requirements of their course.

In 1965 we stated that the objective of our Society was to "encourage interest and improvement in horticulture." In 2005 we continue to do this by bringing in educational speakers to our open meetings, by having flower shows, garden tours, garden fairs, bus trips, a continuous tree planting program, and by beautifying the town with the planting and maintenance of 12 town flower beds. In these ways we continue to contribute in making St. Mary's "The Town Worth Living In". We invite you to visit our beautiful small town to enjoy the achievements of our Society. Our calendar of events can be viewed on our website, [www.horticulture@stonetown.com](mailto:www.horticulture@stonetown.com).

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## Charitable Donations and “In Memoriam” Contributions

The following charitable and/or “In Memoriam” donations have been received by the Association. We wish to thank the Societies listed below for these contributions on behalf of deceased members.

Leonne Nault, Markham Garden & Horticultural Society in memory of Anne Smith

Cannington Horticultural Society in memory of Jack Spellen

## Ontario Horticultural Association Supplies

*Supplies can be ordered from:*

Don Matthews,

Box 491,

Harriston, Ontario,

N0G 1Z0

Email [donjo@wightman.ca](mailto:donjo@wightman.ca)

## Green Gardening Tips-

### FROM THE NORTH YORK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

- Styrofoam cups can be chopped in a blender and mixed with potting soil in place of perlite
- Shred junk mail for mulch
- Save your spent coffee grounds and put some around roses for nitrogen and some around the base of each hosta plant to keep slugs away
- Save your egg shells, break them up and then bake them in your oven until they are very hard. Make a circle of them around any plant that is eaten by slugs. Slugs do not like to go over rough or sharp surfaces.
- Use a new piece of a disposable diaper in the bottom of a pot before you add soil. Did you know that one adult diaper can hold 12 cups of water, so you can see that you will not have to water a plant as often.
- Plant low ground cover plants among your roses to protect them from black spot. The fungus which lives in the soil is then stopped from bouncing up on the leaves as it rains.

# Special Projects

## OHA NEWSLETTER SPEECHLEY

The Ontario Horticultural Association Special Projects are selected each year from submissions from horticultural societies. To be considered, a project must be of benefit to the community at large. The Cobourg Horticultural Society decided that planting a garden at the newly completed Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg filled the criteria. Early in 2004 Ann Hancock, then President, contacted Rhonda Cunningham at the hospital who enthusiastically suggested that the focus be on augmenting the development of Speechley Garden. This garden will be reserved for the use of palliative care patients and their families and for patients in rehabilitation. An initial donation was in place, but more plants were needed. Before the application was sent, other local horticultural societies were approached, and Rice Lake, Grafton and Colborne added their names to the submission.

Happily, our application was selected in the spring of 2004. The contribution of \$500 was used to purchase plants selected by Janet Crosby of Brookside Perennials including Chaema/Sungold, Tricyrtis/Lightning Strike, Helleborus Orientalis, Pulmonaria/Diana Clare, Cutleaf Sumach and Sorgastrum/Indian Steel.

Upon completion of the garden a thank you card was sent with the following message: *“A thoughtful act or a kind word may pass in a moment, but the warmth and care behind it stay in the heart forever.”*

On March 16th, 2005 a cheque for \$500 was presented to the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation on behalf of the Ontario Horticultural Association. The cheque was presented by Bev. Silk, Assistant Director in District 4 and Ann Hancock, Past President of Cobourg Horticultural Society.

The comforting and healing value of a garden is well established. The former hospital had a small therapeutic program which was led by a volunteer (who was a member of the Colborne society) and had been supported from time to time by the Cobourg society by funds to purchase plants. The design of the new hospital allows for the expansion of the garden projects and outreach to more patients.

Thanks are extended to the Ontario Horticultural Association for selecting this worthwhile project and to Ann Hancock who worked so hard in bringing this to fruition.

*Submitted by Bev. Silk, Assistant Director District 4*

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# Gladiolus - Are They Winter Hardy Perennials?

*by Jim Mabee, District 10*

Of course Gladiolus are perennial but are they winter hardy? Most people think they have to dig them, clean them and store them every year. Not so in my part of the world and perhaps not in yours either.

First, a little about how to grow glads — one of the most beautiful and easiest flowers to grow. They do well in a wide range of soils but **MUST** have good drainage. Most garden soil that will grow weeds will grow good glads with little or no added fertilizer. By all means, avoid over fertilizing as too much fertilizer is worse than not enough! A little well-composted animal manure is really all that is needed.

Glads prefer full sunlight and good air circulation.

Plant only clean, plump corms from a reliable source. I like to pull back the dried husks and check to make sure the corms are free of blemishes and noticeable diseases.

Plant corms three to six inches deep and from four to six inches apart. Before the glads bloom, hilling soil four to six inches up around the stalk will help prevent the glads from tipping over especially in the taller varieties.

Now, here is where my experience has shown that I do not have to dig glad corms every year!

In zone 6A, the key is to plant them six inches deep, in a very well drained soil. Out in my open field, they stay in the ground for about three to four years with no digging. After that they need to be dug because they become crowded and will choke each other out. During this time, they multiply like crazy and even though some of the new bulbs are smaller, they too will grow and bloom in the second year after replanting.

Keep weeds down by shallow cultivation and hand weeding. Avoid compaction of the soil surface which prevents aeration to the roots. If available, a light mulch of straw, grass clippings, etc., between the rows will discourage weeds and help conserve moisture. Now, speaking of moisture, since my many thousand glads are grown in an open field where there is no irrigation, they only receive what nature provides and they thrive well on that. Imagine, no watering!

There are a few insects bothersome to glads, but the main culprit is thrips. These tiny insects, tan to black in color and less than one eighth inch in length will leave marks on the flower petals and are a real pain. Several sprayings during the year, just as the buds start to show and as the flowers begin to open, with an insecticidal soap product will help alleviate the problem.

If you do choose to dig your glad corms each year, the corms are lifted at the onset of ground freezing weather or about six weeks after flowering. For me, in southern Ontario, I've worked well into December to get the digging done. After digging, the tops are broken off by hand, close to the corm. The corms are then rinsed off with water and spread out to dry in shallow layers in trays or porous bags in an airy location for two to three weeks in a warm location. During the winter months, the old 'mother' corms are broken off and discarded and the new corms cleaned and peeled. And all those little cormels, well they are a bonus as they can be planted the next year and will flower in their second year.

Storage of corms is in an open, airy location where there is good air circulation and if possible, the colder the better, but not freezing.

Now, my challenge! I would challenge all gardeners to buy a few glad corms this year and plant them in a permanent planting that has very good drainage. The farther north you live the closer to the house you may want to plant them. Plant them six inches deep and leave them alone for at least three years. Since some varieties are more winter hardy than others you may have a loss. They are as cheap as annual plants and you aren't spending a great deal of money if there is a failure. On the flip side, you may find you have found, as I did, that these beauties are quite hardy and even though over the years we have been told to dig, we just may not have to. On my farm in southwestern Ontario, some of the glads have been growing and prospering after 15 years and I've only dug them four times during that time to split up the clumps.

By choosing several different varieties and planting deeper, I have a good feeling that even in the northern parts of the province, you'll find that some varieties of gladiolus can become a true, winter hardy perennial.

Take the challenge and let me know your results next year!

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# Take the Tree Trivia

1. Does a tree grow in winter?
2. Which tree do beavers prefer to eat?  
A) birch B) maple C) poplar
3. Do maple trees have flowers?
4. Trees are the second oldest living thing on earth?  
True or False.
5. Why do moose like the water?
6. Which province in Canada has the highest percentage of total land area in forest production?
7. Do woodpeckers kill trees?
8. Raccoons always wash their foods before eating it.  
True or False
9. Most trees survive their first five years of life.  
True or false.
10. The average deer life span is  
A) 6 B) 12 C) 18 years.
11. There are more insects in 93 square centimetres of forest soil than there are humans in the world.  
True or False
12. The most common type of tree disease in Canada is  
A) Dutch Elm disease B) heart rot C) white pine blister rust
13. Trees that produce cones are called what?
14. The roots of trees stop growing in the winter months.  
True or False
15. Like fingerprints, no two leaves are exactly alike.  
True or False
16. Do loons walk on land like a duck?
17. One acre of healthy forest produce about  
A) 4 B) 8 C) 12 tonnes of oxygen per year
18. Deer can make a broad jump of as much as  
A) 4.6 B) 6 C) 9.2 metres
19. How many times can a woodpecker tap against a tree in a second?  
A) 2 B) 10 C) 20
20. In a natural forest, the chances that a seed will grow into a mature tree are about  
A) 1 in a 100 B) 1 in a 1000 C) 1 in a million

## *ANSWERS:*

1. no;
2. c;
3. yes;
4. false;
5. they eat plants;
6. N.B.;
7. no they eat insects in already dying trees;
8. false;
9. false;
10. b;
11. true;
12. b;
13. conifers;
14. false;
15. true;
16. no they cannot walk upright;
17. a;
18. c;
19. c;
20. c.