

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Trillium

Ontario Horticultural Association Newsletter

Spring 2007



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Editor:

Linda Hugli

181 Garson-Coniston Rd.
Garson, ON
P3L 1G3

Phone: (705) 693-2476

Fax: (705) 693-5057

E-mail:

editor@gardenontario.org

OHA Website:

www.gardenontario.org

Society Presidents:

We encourage you to use
Trillium articles in your
local publications.



*May's scarlet vessels
Floating on a verdant sea
Emperor tulips*

Message from the President



Good wishes to all in 2007 and much success with your society fundraisers, community plantings, and in your own gardens. May everything grow your way this year.

Winter isn't so bad really. It increases our reaction to spring renewal, the most exciting time of the year. Ice melts, bulbs force their way upwards toward the sun, and surprises continue to push up from the thick layer of organic matter to delight us all season long. You know the surprises I'm talking about ... 'When did I plant that?' or 'What the heck is that?'

We have another growing season ahead of us. One more plant sale, garden tour, community planting project to organize. Another district annual meeting to organize, another gathering of the masses at the 101st annual convention. Time to think about our upcoming Convention, and District 8 director Valerie Neal and her committee have been working very hard to make this an exciting transit into our next 100 years and experience visions of our future. Look for further information with this newsletter mailing. Book your accommodations early.

Thanks to our second Ontario Trillium Foundation grant and the hard work of the Social Marketing committee and our Development Officer, we will all benefit from the promotional materials, workshops, and banner stands that will soon be available. We've had positive comments about the reprint of our history book and can look forward to volume two down the road.

As President, I had the privilege of nominating Bert Card, Jim Anderson, Madeline Hobson, Metje Mabee, Bruce Wilson and Gladys McLatchy for the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. Sadly, Gladys passed away in late January at 98 years of age. Gladys served as president in 1974. All these recipients have donated many years of volunteer service to their societies, districts and the Association.

The spring garden shows have already begun. The first event was February 17th, *Get a Jump on Spring*, at the Toronto Botanical Garden. The OHA was represented by volunteers from District 5, headed by Malcolm Geast, who goes above and beyond with service to our Association at the last minute! This year our Association will have a tree display at *Canada Blooms* (March 7-11) next to the Landscape Ontario booth and speaker stage. We are grateful to Landscape Ontario and Denis Flanagan for arranging this for us. The next major show of course is the *Successful Gardening Show*, March 15th – 18th, at the International Centre in Mississauga.

Our flower show theme is *Global Warming* and we've had enthusiastic feedback from designers regarding the classes. It should be another wonderful flower show.

Ed Lawrence has recently published his first book, *Gardening Grief and Glory*, and is offering his book as a fundraiser for societies. He wants to redirect a portion of the proceeds of the sale of each book back to each respective society to support the club's activities. Ed has been a strong supporter of our organization for a long while. Detailed information will be coming soon through your District Director and on page 4 of this newsletter. Ed plans to attend our convention for book signings.

For all those interested in becoming a judge or improving your skills as a judge, the next school of horticultural judging will likely begin at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton in the fall of 2008. This will be organized by our sister association, Garden Clubs of Ontario, in cooperation with the RBG.

Remember, every gardener needs a shovel, a spade, a trowel and a sense of humour! Keep smiling everyone. It's good for your health. J

See you at the Bay in Owen Sound!

Liisa.

president@gardenontario.org

905-820-5606

From the Editor's Desktop...

During the frigid days of February, when 'cocooning' often seemed to be the only sensible way to get through the day, this spring issue of Trillium was a blessing for me! I looked forward to opening my hotmail each morning to find news and photos from society presidents, newsletter editors, and District Directors from all corners of the province. In addition, the rewarding creative process of putting together the newsletter brightened my days. I hope that reading through the Trillium will bring a breath of fresh spring air to you as well!

***NB...**

The permission form on the back of the Poetry Competition insert in the winter mailing was not the appropriate form. The correct Poetry Reproduction Permission Form can be downloaded from the gardenontario website. Alternately, entrants may contact Mary Young at meyoung55@sympatico.ca.

The deadline for submissions for the summer Trillium is **May 21st**.

Linda

Secretary's Message

We have had a wonderful extended fall season and recently entered our traditional Canadian winter. This, too, will soon pass and we once again look forward to our spring weather. At this time of year we also look forward to details on the upcoming OHA convention in August that is being held in Owen Sound.

With this issue you will find a registration form and on page 7 you will find additional information on speakers, tours, etc. offered this year. We look forward to your attendance as Owen Sound promises a relaxing time. Please remember to book your accommodation early.

A thank you to all societies for completing the Volunteer Hour form and the Society Annual Report. The information you provide is used for many purposes as well as record keeping. Throughout this issue you will find many interesting articles informing you of the activities by societies and your parent association.

We wish you a time of pleasure as you go through the catalogues and look forward to hearing from you in the meantime.

Marlene Bruckhardt,
secretary@gardenontario.org

OHA is pleased to announce that Malcolm Geast will be writing the second volume of OHA's history, covering the years from the early 1970s to our centennial year 2006. Malcolm is President of the East York Garden Club and Assistant Director for District 5. He also is a member of the East York Historical Society and Heritage Toronto, and has a background that includes a significant amount of writing and historical research.

*"I have just read the History of OHA
and was truly impressed.
I believe it is the shot in the arm
our club needs to rekindle enthusiasm
for creating projects in our community.
Thank you for a job well done."*

**Ruth Wright,
Outgoing President,
Belleville Garden Club**

History Book, Volume 2

Part one of the **OHA Heritage History Book Project** is now complete, with the reprint of *The Story of Ontario Horticultural Societies, 1854-1973*. Now it's time to focus our efforts on the next step, the writing and publication of **Volume 2**, covering the period from the early seventies until the present. Our plan is to have it ready for the 2008 OHA convention. But we'll need some help from you.

As an organization with a far-flung membership, the records that make up our history are also spread far and wide. Much of it (and certainly the most interesting parts) is held in the archives of our individual societies and districts. And that's where you come in. I'm asking you to share some of that knowledge with us.

I'm looking for information about significant events that have taken place over the past three and a half decades. Community events and projects, major anniversaries, notable personalities, unusual occurrences (good or bad), membership drives and fundraising projects – I want to hear about all of them.

There are many societies in the OHA that didn't exist when the first book was written. I want to know the story behind the formation of those new societies, why and how they were formed. And if you're a former member of one of the societies that has disappeared since Volume 1 was written, I'm interested in knowing the story behind its dissolution. And of course, nothing tells our history better than pictures. I want to see photos of the people and events that have been a part of your history.

I know that, for good reason, you're a little reluctant to part with the original documents that make up your society's history. So what I'm asking you to do is to send me copies or summaries. You can mail me photocopies, scan your documents and email them, or send me a story or report. But if you do decide that you're willing to send original documents, please contact me by email or phone first. You can email your information to malcolm@eastyork.net or send it by mail to:

Malcolm Geast
10 Dustan Crescent
East York, Ontario
M4J 4G5



And if you'd like to talk to me about information that you have, you can call me at 416-429-4719.

OHA Fundraising Opportunity How Do You Turn Gardening Glory into Cash?

Ed Lawrence Has the Answer!

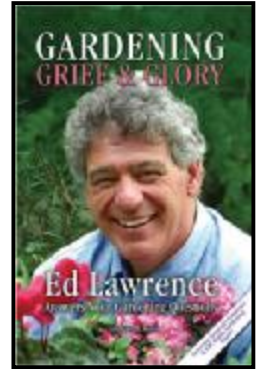
Ed Lawrence, retired chief horticultural specialist at Rideau Hall for 30 years and CBC's popular radio phone-in gardening expert, has joined with the Ontario Horticultural Association to raise money in support of OHA society and club programs and activities. The vehicle is Ed's newly-released book, "Gardening Grief and Glory – Ed Lawrence Answers Your Gardening Questions", a compendium of the many stories of horticultural peril and redemption that he has encountered over more than two decades as the "gardening guru" on CBC radio noon's Monday gardening phone-in. The book is an anecdotal, voyeuristic journey of green-thumbed discovery, sure to be of interest to both the nervous novice and trowel-worn expert alike.

Ed, along with co-author and former Government House Attaché, Liane Benoit, has opted to self-publish the book in an effort to retain greater control over its distribution and allow for its use as a vehicle to raise money for a select number of charities and organizations. The Ontario Horticultural Association was Ed's first choice for support. As a longstanding society member and recipient of the OHA's prestigious "Award of Merit", he saw this as an opportunity to give something tangible back to an organization he feels has done so much to promote horticultural interests in the province. "The OHA was an obvious choice for me" said Ed, "it's been a privilege to have the wonderful career I have had at both Rideau Hall and with the CBC and now that I am retired from Government House, I'd like to do what I can to help the OHA support and encourage other gardeners."

After consulting with the Board of Directors, the decision was unanimous to accept Ed's offer and put the fundraising opportunity out to all societies and clubs. There is no obligation to participate, but interested groups will have the opportunity to sell the book for the retail price of \$26.00 (plus GST) and receive a donation of \$4.00 for every book sold. In addition, all the books purchased through this fundraiser will be signed by Ed and will come with a handy bookmark inscribed with Ed's famous "40 to 1" water and soap solutions for eliminating common garden pests. The three clubs or societies that sell the most books per capita based on paid membership will have the opportunity to have Ed make a presentation or participate, all expenses paid, at an event of their choice over the next year.

The total amount raised through this fundraiser will go directly back to the local society or club that makes the sale. Given the size of many groups and the number of gardeners familiar with Ed's work – to say nothing of the birthday, Christmas and hostess gift requirements this book could satisfy - proceeds could quickly add up to several

hundred dollars and support a range of society activities, resources and programs. The fundraiser will run from the beginning of March until June 30th, with the three winners of the "event with Ed" to be announced at the OHA Convention in Owen Sound in August.



To find out more about the book, peruse the Table of Contents or view some sample pages, please go to Ed's web site at www.gardeningwithed.com. District Directors will be contacting each society president shortly to determine if their group wishes to participate so please let your director know if you are interested. An information package will be mailed out shortly to all participating societies and clubs; it includes a sample copy of the book (to be donated to the library afterwards), an order form and a simple list of instructions and FAQs.

So how do you turn your gardening glory into cash?
Request an information package and find out!

Leaside Junior Gardeners

The Leaside Junior Gardeners run a **Hands On** program under the auspices of the Leaside Garden Society. Through this initiative, the Society's youth bring the fun of gardening to children in our local schools. In Spring the children plant at the Library, Trace Manes, The Gateway, Father Caufield Parkette and Sunnyview School. In the fall the Sunnyview children plant spring bulbs around the school and pot bulbs to take home.

Thorncliffe Park School students experience the wonder of the Toronto Botanic Garden Teaching Program.

Thanks to the Leaside Garden Society and the Parks Department, these children will be introduced to the love and care of plants and the joy of gardening.

Betty Muir, Leaside Garden Society



A giant thank you card from a local school



25 Silver Congratulations!

Prior to 1982, two ladies, Susan Foreshew and Mrs. Wilby, began the paperwork to create a Horticultural Society in the communities of Loring, Port Loring and Arnstein. They went door to door to find others who were interested in gardening.

2007 marks the 25th anniversary of the Argyle Horticultural Society, the result of those inquiries. We have two Life Members, Edie Alfonse and Marlene Bain, who have been members continually throughout the years.

Being the smallest group within District 18 with 30-40 members, it is a small but strong group of volunteers who work together to promote horticulture within this rural and tourist area. This June, the District 18 Spring Convention will be hosted in Port Loring.

The society's accomplishments have included a book titled *Loggers, Settlers and Lumbermen*, the History Essay Award to the Argyle Public School, and the 2003 Homecoming Memory Book. In addition, each year we donate the time and the plants to various community gardens and planters. One of our members hosts an extensive library of gardening books available to our members. Each year an August Flower show is held to display the hard work our members have put into their gardens and to promote the group's importance in the community.

Meeting once a month from March to December, we listen to various speakers, enjoy making crafts, and have a great potluck supper each December. If you are ever in the area during the first Thursday of each month, please be our guest. We love to make new friends!



*The Argyle Society's
Poppy*

Therese Brown

Memorial Period at the Convention

At the Memorial Period of the 2007 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 Convention, please send the name (or names) to the Association Secretary, Marlene Bruckhardt, at secretary@gardenontario.org before July 1st.

Sharon's Challenge

Last night we received 8 inches of fresh snow here in Bracebridge and as I sit and look out upon the beautiful countryside glistening white, I find I am very thankful to be here. I also have my latest Vesey's catalogue in hand and although I love winter in Bracebridge, I am looking forward to being in the garden again. My parents always had an incredible garden and it was their passion and encouragement that instilled that appreciation in me. I remember weeding in the massive vegetable garden and one of the two very large rock gardens on many occasions and I never begrudged the task. As a matter of fact, I cannot remember my parents ever scolding me for pulling out the wrong plant, yet I am sure that many times I must have pulled one of their favourite perennials thinking it might be a weed.

Last summer my 2-year-old grandson came to stay with us. His energy and laughter were inspiring. One day I was working in the garden with Connor at my side when he started copying what I was doing. I began deadheading a planter and he started deadheading too, only some of the 'heads' weren't yet 'dead'. The thought came across my mind to tell him to stop, that Nana would do the deadheading and maybe he should find something else to do. Almost as quickly I realized that my reaction could possibly intimidate such an impressionable mind and he may decide it was wrong to go near plants in the future. Instead I chose to let him continue and he did. He got every bloom off the plants in that planter and the next day while outside, he started again. I am soooo looking forward to having him at my side in the garden again this year...seriously!

I have a challenge for all of us!

I challenge each and every member to do something this year to inspire, educate, and promote gardening to at least one young person. I know there are many of you already doing this and to you I say **BRAVO!** No one wants their favourite begonia deadheaded the day before the flower show, but just think of how a child can learn from that experience - the feel, the smell and the beauty of plants. Besides, that ribbon you win will probably be put in a box in the attic in the near future anyway. Children, however, will remember the time they spend in the garden with a friend or loved one for many years to come!



If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me...

Sharon Hill, OHA Treasurer
P.O. Box 595, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1T8
705-645-3552 or treasurer@gardenontario.org

Meet The New Directors...



Phil Kennedy,
District 3

Hi. My name is Phil Kennedy, the new Director for District 3. My interest in gardening, unlike most folks, was influenced by my father, who couldn't grow a thing! He did, however, have some great ideas and he never gave up trying. He was convinced that it wasn't him, but the challenging Winnipeg weather.

In my previous life I was a flight engineer with the Canadian Air Force, spending nearly 30 years with that organization before retiring to Prince Edward County in 1996. My wife, Lenore, and I joined the local horticultural society that first year. It wasn't long before I discovered the local Master Gardeners and began expanding and sharing my knowledge of horticulture. The following year I became a member of the Board of Directors for our club, followed by president in the year 2000. Three years later, I took on the job of treasurer for District 3 and in 2005 District Director.

In my spare time, I look after the local high school greenhouse, sit on the Prince Edward County Stewardship Council, and am Vice President of the PEC Agricultural Society. Lenore and I run a small perennial garden centre (Arbour Gardens) on our property.

This past year as District Director has been busy. The learning curve is steep, the e-mails are many, the paperwork almost never ending. Yet it is all worthwhile because of the remarkable people I encounter during my meetings and visits. They make what could be a job...fun!

May all your weeds be wildflowers.
Phil

Monica Skinner,
District 7



Monica Skinner began her gardening life while in Barbados when she and her husband, re-landscaping a previously covered up cliff face at the back of the house, discovered that, at 200 ft above sea level and about 2 kilometres inshore, it was full of marine life fossils.

In 1976 the family immigrated to Calgary. With three children under 10 years old, Monica went back to school at the University of Calgary. The family had a very small garden where the emphasis was on vegetables and berries. After graduating, she taught high school for one year after which she was employed by the Adult Education Department and by the University.

The National Energy Program in the 1980s caused massive job loss in Alberta, necessitating a family move to Fort McMurray for work. Soon after, Monica was hired as an instructor at the local community college. Gardening there was a challenge with the frost-free days not arriving until June and first frost often by the end of August. However, the summer days were long, so when things did grow, they grew quickly.

In 1995 her husband took an early retirement and accepted a 4-year contract job in Bermuda. While there, Monica was a part time tour guide for the Bermuda Botanical Gardens and grew her vegetables in containers on the deck until a kind Bermudian family lent her a patch in their garden for her use. Gardening there is the opposite of Canada – you try to keep things alive during the summer heat and everything grows beautifully in winter.

At the end of the contract they returned to Canada and settled in Guelph, where Monica became a Master Gardener. Monica's home society is Guelph, where she was president for 2004/2005.

to be continued

An Invitation from District 8

The twenty-one horticultural societies that make up District 8 invite you to the Annual OHA Convention August 10 - 12, 2007. Our societies are spread across three counties and their mottos say much:

Bruce ... Nature's Retreat

Grey ... Beautiful Naturally

Huron ... Ontario's Beautiful West Coast

Our host city is Owen Sound. Right on the edge of the waters of Georgian Bay, the site offers wonderful gardens, a spectacular view across the harbour, and a spacious facility with lots of free parking.

The theme this year is

Keeping Ontario Beautiful ... Visions of Our Future.

The keynote speakers will reflect that theme. Patrick Lima and John Scanlon will share with us images of **Larkwhistle**, their renowned garden on the Bruce Peninsula, where they have been practicing sustainable techniques for many years. David Phillips, who served as Senior Climatologist for Environment Canada, will speak about **The Climate of Ontario: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow**. Could a topic be more timely? Two noted plantsmen and published authors, Martin Quinn and Trevor Ashbee, will share their thoughts about how gardening brings communities together to create a better life for the citizens.

Seminars will address a wide range of topics from floral design to photography, from the unique eco systems in Ontario to how you can revitalize your horticultural society. An updated list will be available at the OHA website, gardenontario.org.

All the meals served at this convention will adhere to the principles of **The Hundred Mile Meal**. All foods served will originate within a 100 mile radius of Owen Sound. Friday's evening meal will be a fish fry featuring Georgian Bay Whitefish (local chicken if you are not a fish fan). Saturday's evening meal will feature what this area is so proud of - its outstanding beef. All meals will have vegetarian alternatives. The caterers we are working with have responded enthusiastically to the challenge. This is just one of the conservation ideas you will experience this year.

Have you checked out the competitions? There are opportunities for talents of all sorts. This year, for the first time, there is a poetry section. Pick up your pen! And have you noticed the prize for the special section in the Horticultural design? All the competitions will be in the same large space and convenient for delegates to check out the talents of OHA members.

There will be four bus trips offered. They are available on a first come - first served basis. On Friday we head south toward Walkerton and Hanover. There will be a stop at Folmer Botanical Garden, which has over 25 acres of alpines, grasses, wildflowers, native and ornamental shrubs, perennials and roses among limestone outcroppings, wetlands, meadows, and ponds. Then there will be stops in Walkerton and Hanover to

see two examples of public garden spaces that have added greatly to their respective communities. The final stop will be at a private garden, **My Heart is in It**, a garden which lives up to its name!

Friday's other trip heads east to the Meaford area. There will be stops at Grandma Lambe's Fruit Market, a destination point for visitors to Grey County. Also we will be dropping in at Scott's Pottery to see how their beautiful terra cotta pots are made and a chance to shop their 'seconds' sales room. Ormsby's Nursery will be next, followed by a walk along the shoreline of Raper's Park. Alternately, you can stay on the bus and wait for the walkers at the Breakwater Park.

On Saturday one bus will travel to Kepple Croft Gardens at Big Bay. There are over four acres of perennial, shade and rock gardens created on a gravel ridge, art installations and nature trails. You'll love Kepple Henge. Saturday's other trip will be highlighting the beauty of the city. The bus will stop at Harrison Park and Englis Falls, as well as private gardens.

Owen Sound is a four seasons tourist destination. We **strongly** advise you to book rooms early. Check out the insert in the registration package or visit these websites:

www.visitgrey.ca

www.explorethebruce.com

**Valerie Neal,
Convention Coordinator**



Gladys Anne McLatchy

June 21, 1908 - January 24, 2007



It was a great experience to have known Gladys McLatchy for over forty years. That was less than half of her life. Gladys passed away in her 99th year and was sharp as a tack. How any one person could put so much and so many things into one lifetime is utterly amazing. Gladys was born in England and came to Canada as a little girl and over the years became one of the most respected and loved people around.... feisty when she had to be, friendly if she was your friend, in which case you were a very lucky person.

Her knowledge of the people and places of Richmond Hill was encyclopedic. It was her town and she did her best to promote everything for the good of it.

The Curtain Club had its start in her basement and the Girl Guide unit was started in the Anglican Church with the assistance of Gladys McLatchy. She had a dry goods store on Yonge Street for a number of years and customers were always greeted with a smile and time for a chat. Golfing was another pastime for this fine lady and she was a member of the Summit Golf and Country Club where she even scored a *Hole in One*.

I believe that Gladys's true love was her garden and all things related to gardening. She was especially proud of her hollyhocks and iris display. It was a lovely sight when she lived on the NW corner of Major Mackenzie Drive and Yonge Street to see the blooms in her front garden saying *Welcome to the Town of Richmond Hill*. She was a great asset to the Richmond Hill Horticultural Society and received a special medal for serving as Secretary/ Treasurer for 25 years.

From there, Gladys went on to become president of the Richmond Hill Hort. Soc. and then District 15 Director for 6 years. She also served as president for the Ontario Horticultural Association in 1974/75. The OHA honoured Gladys with the Silver Trillium, highest award for a lady, the Silver Medal, highest award for any

member of the Association, plus the Meritorious Medal for service to the promotion of Horticulture, awarded at the annual convention in Hamilton on March 7, 1957.

Gladys wrote the commendations at the awards ceremony during our annual conventions, which turned out to be works of art. Not a sound was heard from the audience while she was reading the citations.

Gladys also received the *Senior of the Year* award from the town of Richmond Hill in 1996 and had a lane named after her in 2006. The corner house was sold to the doctor next door for a medical practice and at 91 years of age I received a call from this dear lady to tell me she was moving. When I inquired if it was to a retirement home, she replied most emphatically that she was not going into a place with a lot of old people but had just bought a two-story house with a large garden! If the good Lord ever thinks of starting another Garden of Eden, I know who will be the first person there, complete with a spade, fork, and a bunch of iris and hollyhock plants. God bless you Gladys for leading such full and wonderful life!

A.E. (Bert) Card

Haiku

Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. The currently popular English adaptation of 'free form' Haiku follows these rules:

- The theme is seasonal. The content should convey an experience.
- The poem contains a *kido*. This is a seasonal word (eg tulips = spring).
- The poem does not rhyme (blank verse).
- The form consists of three lines.
- The first line contains five or fewer syllables.
- The second line has seven or fewer syllables.
- The third line has five or fewer syllables.
- Most importantly, the poem should paint a vivid mental image in the reader's mind.

Example:

**Sick and feverish
Glimpse of cherry blossoms
Still shivering.**

Akutagawa



Who Wanted To Retire Anyway?

Lemoine Point is a conservation area situated on the shores of Lake Ontario and Collins Bay. A volunteer group, the Friends of Lemoine Point, consisting of dedicated citizens - a number of whom are members of Kingston's Horticultural Society, have a history of service to the area that includes activities intended to protect and promote the natural beauty of the Conservation area.

One such initiative is the Heritage Forest. Over the last 7 years, the group has planted more than 700 trees and shrubs as well as 2500 seedlings in the Red Oak Plantation. A nursery committee was formed in 2003 in an effort to start producing our own plant material from cuttings and seed. The project has gradually increased to include a fenced site, with 3000 seedling Oaks, 200 Hickory seedlings, 30 species of wild flowers, 17 species of trees and shrubs and 4000 evergreen seedlings.

Learning as we go, we have discovered that germination rates can vary surprisingly. We planted acorns expecting 50% to grow instead 90% sprouted! We've also discovered that we have unwittingly created a well laid out buffet for some of our four-legged friends. The installation of the fence, using chicken wire over the acorns as well as wrapping young tree seedlings, enabled us to bring the odds for survival more in our favour.

The members are also involved in a new initiative: the planting of a meadow, an experiment which would provide various conditions for the natural regeneration of wildflowers. The data collected on this project as well as growing and propagation methods that have been learned over the past years will be made available to any interested parties.

This year past we have installed a computerized irrigation system, built a workshop, had our grand opening and are planning to put in "hot beds" for the propagation of *fussier* species.

Phil Kennedy,
District 3 Director



Committee – 1 Squirrels – nil!

Special offer for OHA members:

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OOPS!

Please note the following corrections for the 2007 Youth Competition Rules and Regulations...

9. Fresh Plant Material is not treated in any of the above ways. **(rules 7 & 8)**

Section B – Class 3:...**Tom Thomson...**

In addition, the Youth Newsletter has several discrepancies in the competition section. The correct version is available on the gardenontario website.

Insurance Queries?

Contact:

Brian McCartney
Law Insurance,
14900 Yonge Street,
Aurora, ON
LAG 1M7
1-800-529-2235
oha@lawbrokers.com

Species at Risk and Your Woodlot

Question: What do the bald eagle, the yellow lady's slipper and the Garry Oak all have in common?

Answer: Each of these has been identified as a species at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). You could find one of these species living in your woodlot!

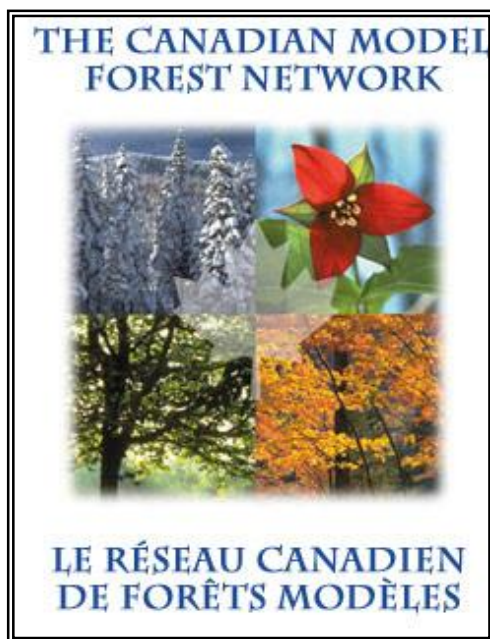
Approximately 80 % of the species identified by COSEWIC are at risk due to loss of habitat. We can all understand how clearing land for farms, or draining wetlands for housing developments, can take large tracts of land away from wildlife. Harvesting woodlots, if not carried out with great care, may damage or destroy habitat for some species. When animals, plants, insects, and other life forms can no longer find the food, clean water, shelter from predators, breeding sites and climate that they need, their numbers decline. Some species may disappear completely.

Canada has a new piece of legislation that is designed to protect all species at risk and the ecosystems in which they live. The Species at Risk Act, Bill C-5 is designed to prevent a species from becoming extinct; to help recover extirpated, endangered or threatened species, and to ensure that species of special concern do not become endangered. It identifies each step in the assessment, listing the recovery processes for species at risk. At the same time, the Act seeks to engage all Canadians in stewardship activities to preserve species and their critical habitat. Those responsible for forest management activities are encouraged to avoid damaging wildlife species and plant communities that are at risk.

What about your woodlot? You should do your best to be aware of the needs of the wildlife species on your land. Although detailed stewardship activities are mandated for large forest companies in their forest management plans for Crown Land, the smaller scale stewardship activities carried out by interested landowners and individuals are just as important.

These kinds of voluntary activities include everything from installing nest boxes to enhancing your woodlot to provide a better habitat. If you're planning on doing some harvesting, make sure to leave den trees or nut bearing trees. Work with your neighbours whose properties may adjoin your own to conserve habitat conditions in a larger area of forest.

Land stewardship is promoted through a host of national and provincial programs. More importantly for you, a variety of incentives are available to encourage landowners to manage their lands for the benefit of any species at risk. The federal government, in concert with the provinces and many non-government groups, provides landowners with information and resources for a variety of conservation projects. Each year, the Canada Habitat Stewardship Program provides \$2 million to conservation organizations to help landowners with projects that protect species at risk and their habitats.



Question: Where do I go for information about species at risk?

Answer: No matter where you live in this country, there are people who can help you. The following websites can be a guide to help you find out what you need to know:

Habitat Stewardship Program: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca
Species at Risk Act: www.sararegistry.gc.ca
Ontario: www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/sar/designation-e.html

This information has been provided by the Private Woodlot Strategic Initiative, a collaboration between the Canadian Model Forest Network and the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners. For more information, please visit www.modelforest.net.

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Submitted by Philip Kennedy,
Conservation and Environmental Committee**

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people.

For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.

Let us give thanks...

For generous friends...with hearts...and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

For feisty friends, as tart as apples;

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;

For crotchety friends, sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the others, as plain as potatoes and so good for you;

For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes;

And serious friends, as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter;

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings;

And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter.

For all these we give thanks.

**During last May's District 13 Annual Meeting, Christine Osmond recited this wonderful poem as our grace before dinner. In speaking with Reverend Coots, I discovered that he has had many requests to use and reprint his poem, and he told me that he would be pleased to have it appear in our newsletter, and used at our events.*

-LH-

Queen of the Nile



Selenicereus: Genus of summer-flowering perennial cacti with climbing, ribbed green stems, up to 2 cm across. Nocturnal, funnel-shaped flowers eventually open flat. The plant is frost tender, and needs sun or partial shade and rich well-drained soil. It may be propagated by seed or stem cuttings in spring or summer.

This is an extraordinary plant. It has to be one of a very few plants that bloom only at night. The bloom starts to swell around 7 pm and is in full bloom by midnight. Shortly after this time, the bloom begins to retract. By early morning the bloom is finished. The bloom is about 15 cm across, white, and very fragrant. It is truly a wonderful sight to behold!

For the past few summers, a Queen of the Nile cactus has become a celebrity in my neighbourhood. This year there were 33 blooms – a new record. Cy and Anne, my neighbours across the street, are the proud owners of this most unusual plant. It blooms in the second or third week of July. About 2 or 3 days before it blooms, Cy puts us on notice. Then, when he is sure that the day (night actually) has come, he alerts all the neighbours. We assemble on his veranda at 11 pm and begin our vigil. This is usually celebrated with wine and cheese to complement the event. It has become a social event we all look forward to, an opportunity to spend time with neighbours and really get to know them. This year was our fifth Queen of the Nile event. We all look forward to repeating the ritual next July.

It is truly remarkable how a wonder of nature for a very brief moment can bring a neighbourhood together in fellowship to bear witness and celebrate this unusual spectacle.

Dave Money

Appreciating March

I confess that March has not been my favourite month. Having returned from a vacation in a warm sunny climate, I have little patience with putting on boots, hats, gloves and coats again. It should be warm; it should be spring; and I am getting grouchy. But the other day, someone mentioned that June would be coming soon, and then the days would start to shorten. I froze in horror. It was time for a new attitude.

March isn't that bad. The sun is up early in the morning. My fish have survived the winter and are swimming around near the surface of the water. The sun is still up when I get home from work.

In fact, March has many redeeming features. Most of the snow is gone, so it is a good time to walk the property and plan new garden areas or revise old ones that aren't working well. There are many sticks and other objects that can be picked up while the ground is still frozen, and you can walk on it without getting muddy or hurting new grass.

There is no better time for a brisk walk than in the morning. Now the sidewalks are clear, the air is cool, and you can see where you are going. The birds have returned, and have you seen the brightness of the red Cardinal, singing his heart out seeking a mate? Evening walks are now more enjoyable as well. Did you see how bright the full moon was this month?

Look at your patio or deck, and envision evening barbecues, or afternoon talks with friends in mild weather. Start checking out patio furniture for needed repairs or painting. Finish off housework, because once the warm weather comes, you won't want to spend an extra minute inside the house.

Yes, in these lengthening days I am turning my thoughts to spring. However, each day I now try to slow time down and appreciate the leisureliness of March. Soon, when I can sit on my deck, I plan to pour a glass of wine and toast the attributes of March.



Elaine Litster,
Orangeville & District Horticultural Society

Coming Events...

Mar. 7 – 11

CANADA BLOOMS

Toronto Flower & Garden Show

Metro Toronto Convention Centre
Acres of fantasy gardens
'Open Classes' Flower Show
Workshops & demonstrations
www.canadablooms.com
1-800-730-1020

Mar. 15 – 18

Successful Gardening

International Centre
Airport Rd,
Toronto
OHA Competition Showcase
Make It & Take It Children's Garden
1-416-512-1305



March 15-18, 2007

Apr. 12 – 15

Ontario Garden Show

Royal Botanical Gardens
Burlington
1-905-634-8003
www.ontariogardenshow.com

Apr. 13 - 15

For the Love of Gardening 2007

Peterborough Garden Show
Paul Zammit, John Valleau, and more!
Evinrude Centre
www.fortheloveofgardening.ca

May 4 – 21 Weekends

Tulip Festival

Ottawa
Ten days of celebration!
www.tulipfestival.ca

Garden Tour Etiquette

Allison Laurie,
Flamborough Horticultural Society

Every summer I try to go on at least two garden tours. It is so nice to visit a garden and to see different plants and ideas. All types of gardens – small, large, professional, hobby, organic, Japanese, English cottage, rose, shade, sun, annual, perennial, rock or water – I like them all! We have, in the past, also opened our garden for tours and we have been a part of the Hamilton Spectator's Open Gardens. After being on both sides of the garden tour fence, I offer a short list of garden etiquette rules that will keep you in good standing with the hosts.



1. Adhere to the schedule. If the garden is open from noon to 4:00 pm, do not show up at 11:30 trying to beat the crowd while the host is running around trying to get everything ready. Nor do you show up at 10 to four and expect to take an hour to view the garden.

2. If you have questions, ask the hosts. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

3. Leave your pets, children, and non-gardening spouses at home. The host will not have time to watch them for you and you will be too busy to notice that they are running wild through the beds or standing there whining, "Are you done yet?"

4. Remember not to brag about your own garden. It will not be well received if you repeatedly tell the hosts that your plants are bigger, healthier, and more fragrant. On the other hand, if your own plants are spindly and sickly, ask the hosts to share their secrets for success.

5. If you see something you don't like, keep it to yourself. You may not like pink plastic flamingos or orange flowers beside red ones, but this is not your garden...it is theirs.

6. If the host is a proud collector of one species of plant and owns many different varieties, do not complain that you can't tell them apart.

7. Never **ever** weed, prune, pick, or rearrange anything!

8. Ask permission before taking photographs. The hosts will be flattered but perhaps not amused if they find these images in a magazine or posted on the internet.

9. Do not flatter your host with the expectation that you will be offered a cutting from the plant you're admiring. Instead, ask where it was purchased. Your host spent the money to get it... why shouldn't you?

10. Taking seedheads or cuttings when you think nobody is watching is stealing. Don't think it won't be noticed. Don't do anything that will make the hosts wish they hadn't opened their gardens.

11. Do not remove plant markers in order to read them. Invariably, a label will break when you try to put it back. Bend down to read markers. It is good for you to have the blood rush to your head.

12. Paths are to be walked on. Stay out of the beds and off the rocks in the rock garden. Lastly, no matter how scorching the day may be...keep your feet out of the 'water feature'!

13. If you are visiting a rural garden, wear bug spray. Be warned, the host will be used to the 'squits' and will be insulted when you run screaming through the garden with your arms flapping wildly, complaining about your blood loss.

14. Unless it is an absolute emergency, do not ask to use the bathroom. This is a garden, not a rest stop.

15. Take enough time to see the garden. Do not run through it with the explanation that you have several others to see as well. It will be insulting to the host if you presume to think you can appreciate all the garden has to offer in ten minutes. Consider the amount of work that has gone into preparing the garden for the tour.

16. Make sure that you find the hosts and thank them for allowing you to come and visit. Tell them what a wonderful garden they have and that you wished yours looked as beautiful!



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Tel./Fax: 705-645-3552

Note: Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to receive a receipt.



Milne House Garden Club presents

7th Annual Legacy Event

A floral demonstration & workshop by **Per Benjamin**
International Designer from Sweden



Floral Demonstration & Workshop in the Floral Hall by Per Benjamin
Swedish National Champion and World Cup winning floral artist

Floral Demonstration - Floral Hall - \$25 pp
Tuesday May 1st 2007 - 12.15pm

All Day Workshop 575 pp (plus materials) - including Lunch
Wednesday May 2nd 2007 - 9.30 to 3.30pm

Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Ave. E.
(at Leslie) Toronto
416 449 3664



Audio Visual by METROCOM

niagara-on-the-lake

'07

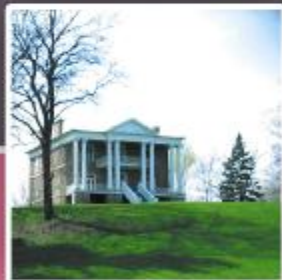
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Since the Convention, the Alliston & District Society and the Gananoque Society are new societies honouring deceased members. There are now 451 names from 88 of our 284 societies recognized in our Memorial Book. It should be noted that funds from the Memorial Book special fund are available to societies via your District Directors for public plantings.

Alex McIntosh

Donor's Name & Address _____

P.C.

Name of Deceased _____ **Year died** _____

If you wish a family member to be notified, give the full name and address.

Name & Address _____

P.C.

Mail with your monetary donation to
Alex McIntosh, 2268 Niagara Stone Road, SS-1, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0
For information, call Alex collect at 905-468-2078

NOTE: If you wish to have the deceased person's name announced at the Convention, please notify the OHA Secretary.

Rodney Society Members Honoured

At the Ottawa Convention last August, the OHA awarded its Environmental Award to Carolyn and Eric Guest of Rodney. As a follow up to the announcement, Anna Peterson, Director of District 10, attended the fall meeting of the Rodney Society and presented a plaque and certificate to the Guests in recognition of their outstanding work on the restoration of a portion of Sixteen Mile Creek.



Stamps for Spring

On March 1st, Canada Post released the first two stamps in its spring commemorative stamp program. Societies that used last year's garden stamps when mailing out newsletters might well be interested in continuing the theme with these new stamps.

The two stamps feature two Canadian lilacs, 'Isabella' (originated in 1927 at the Ottawa Central Experimental Farm after more than seven years of work by plant hybridizer Isabella Preston), and 'Princess Alexandra' (cultivated in 1874 by former Windsor mayor James Dougall).

Canada Post's new 'Permanent Stamps' also sport floral images, and can be purchased online in rolls of 100, including free delivery!

Malcolm Geast



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2007 OHA Supplies List & Order Form

Item #	Item Description	Price	Quantity Ordered	Total
01-01	Youth Member Card	free		
01-02	Youth Service Certificate	\$1.00		
02-01	Society President Certificate	\$1.00		
02-02	District Appreciation Certificate	\$1.00		
02-03	Life Member Certificate- w/card	\$2.00		
03-04	Note Pad (4.25" x 5.5 "	\$1.00		
04-01	Pin- President	\$5.00		
04-02	Pin- Past President	\$5.00		
04-03	Pin- Judge	\$5.00		
04-04	Pin- District Director	\$5.00		
04-05	Pin- Past District Director	\$5.00		
04-06	Pin- Secretary	\$5.00		
04-07	Pin- Treasurer	\$5.00		
04-08	Pin- Member	\$5.00		
04-09	Pin- Youth Leader	\$5.00		
04-10	Pin- Life Member	\$5.00		
04-11	Pin- Assistant District Director	\$5.00		
05-01	Notecards, 5 per pkg, with envelopes	\$5.00		
05-02	Notecards, 5 packages	\$20.00		
06-01	Decals, static cling	\$1.00		
06-02	Gardenontario Bookmarks	free		
07-01	Needlepoint Pendants	\$5.00		
07-02	Ontario Judging & Exhibiting Standards (Publication 34)	\$5.00		
07-03	History of Ontario Horticultural Societies 1854-1973 (soft cover)	\$9.99		
07-04	History of Ontario Horticultural Societies 1854-1973 (hard cover)	\$14.99		
08-01	Golf shirt, green (logo) - small	\$8.00		
08-02	T-shirt, white - X large only	\$6.00		
08-03	Sweat Shirt, cream - medium	\$25.00		
08-04	Sweat Shirt, green - medium	\$25.00		
09-01	Society Manual binder - includes Youth Leader Manual and Volunteer Toolkit	\$40.00		
09-02	Society Manual CD - pdf format includes files for OHA colour ads, bookmarks, and new brochures	\$5.00		
			TOTAL	

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