

The GardenShed

APRIL 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



APRIL BEAUTIES

Photo by Barrie Wood



The GardenShed

~ From the Editor

Apparently, rabbit poop makes great fertilizer. This is excellent news at my house, because we have buckets of the stuff, already pre-spread around the gardens. And all it cost us was one magnolia, one giant pussy willow, five purple sand cherries, two yellow dogwoods and an entire hedge of euonymus. Against all odds, I'm hopeful that the life force of these mangled shrubs will overcome the ravages of ice, wind, freezing temperatures and hungry rodents, and that they will live to bloom again. I will let you know.

On the first mild day, and at every opportunity thereafter, what gardener is not out poking around, examining the damage of yet another harsh winter? And somehow, we manage to remain hopeful. We brush aside a few leaves searching for what my kids used to call 'little green guys' poking up from the earth. We examine the dead and broken sticks of shrubs for any budding sign of life. We revel in the beauty of a snowdrop or crocus. We imagine the garden in its full June splendour.

April into May. A time of new beginnings in the garden. As you will see in this issue, there is plenty going on in our community – from plant sales to new gardening methods to lectures and conferences – to help you along this path. I wish you pleasure on the journey.

~ Lorelyn



~ President's Message

Well, I think that spring has definitely sprung!! My daffodils are blooming, my hellebores are looking quite beautiful and my tulips are all well on their way. I can't believe how quickly everything has started this year and with my luck, I won't have anything to put in the Mini Flower Show in May, because they will all be finished.

I had the pleasure of attending the Peterborough Garden Show at the beginning of April and nothing gets you more psyched for gardening than wandering around hundreds of flowers, plants and gardening experts. I made a promise to myself that I wouldn't buy anything this year, because I am notorious

for buying plants and bulbs at the show. I stayed true to myself, but boy, was it ever hard!!

Our annual District 4 AGM was held in Brighton on April 25th and I attended with Carol McArthur and John Sellers and came away with many great ideas. It is always nice to get together with other people from our District 4 to renew friendships and to compare notes. Our member, Rose Odell, has been the District 4 Director for the past five years and this year saw the end of her tenure and the installation of our new Director, Diane Westlake. We also installed three Assistant Directors: Carol Mitchell, Dennis Miluck and Pam Chellew, and two Financial Reviewers: Carol McArthur and Diane Morrison.

The OHA presented Rose with a Hoselton *Tree of Life* in recognition of her service and the District 4 Board presented her with a bouquet of flowers and gift certificate for a plant for her new garden!

There were 2 Horticulture Societies recognized for their special Anniversaries: Grafton and Brighton are both celebrating 90 years this year and each group was presented with an OHA Certificate.

There is always an "In Memoriam Period" at the AGM and this year we remembered the two members that we lost: Life Member, Harold Harnden and our Financial Reviewer, Gerald Burgess. We will miss them both.

I know that I am always reminding everyone to record their volunteer hours. It might interest you to know that there were 461,704 volunteer hours recorded for the province and of those hours, 42,162 were recorded in District 4. It was also

mentioned that it is known that many hours are not recorded!!

During the morning, we saw a slide show on how to make a "Living Wreath" from succulents. It was suggested that if anyone wished to make one, they should just google "Succulents, Living Wreaths" and they would find many to choose from.

After lunch, we had a guest speaker, Dawn Golloher from Gardens Plus in Peterborough and she spoke about "Hot New Plants for 2015". I have taken note of all the plants that she spoke about, but they are too numerous to mention here. I will compile a list that will be available at our next meeting. Dawn also had some plants for sale and I must admit that I bought some....I couldn't resist!!!

All in all, it was an enjoyable day and I would recommend that the membership think about attending some of the District events....always informative, lots of laughs and you usually get to spend some money on plants or a silent auction!

From your president,

~ Sharron



~April Presentation

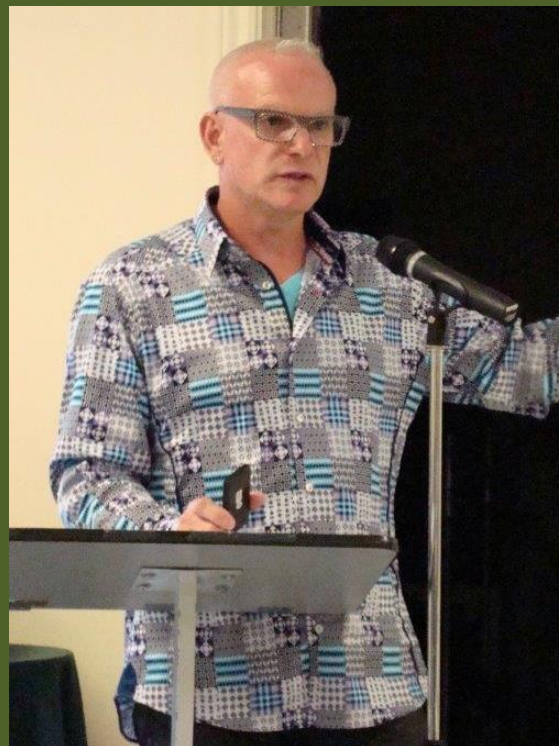
All About Hostas

with **Kevin Elchuk**

On Tuesday 21st April Kevin Elchuk of Giboshill Hostas gave a most interesting and comprehensive talk on hostas to the Cramahe Horticultural Society. His excellent slides showed the great diversity in size, shape and colour amongst the plants, 350 varieties of which he has for sale. He drew attention to the three species hostas from which he hybridizes, namely plantaginea, which has fragrant flowers, ventricosa, and clausa which has purple/pink flowers which remain closed.

Large hostas include the Humpback Whale and Blue Angel, both of which are blue, Elatior, also huge but green in colour, the large yellow Great Lakes Gold, and Loyalist, white and green. One of the most popular hostas is the Empress Wu which can grow four feet high with leaves spreading 22 inches by 15. A particularly interesting hosta is Key West which changes colour during the season becoming more yellow during the year. There also are mini hostas such as Itsy Bitsy Spider, only two and a half inches high and Pandora's Box, which grows as a mound to 8 inches. Small hostas include Dragon Tails and Golden Needles.

Hostas vary in texture and shape. Bridegroom and Irish Luck have shiny leaves whereas Deep Blue Sea and Corn Muffin have corrugated leaves. The Abiqua Drinking Gourd has cupped round leaves, so large that a small bird can bathe in it, while Curly Fries and Lizard Lick have narrow, rippled leaves.



There is currently an effort to introduce the colour red into hostas with some success – examples of this are Fire Island, Designer Genes, Rubies and Ruffles and Island Breeze. However the red may turn to green as the season progresses. Some hostas sport into unstable forms, such as Striptease which in turn sports into Hanky Panky, Naked Lady and Kiwi Full Monty. Blue Mouse Ears also has its sports, namely Mighty Mouse, Pure Heart and Church Mouse.

In general hostas need protection from afternoon sun, although they benefit from the morning and evening sun. An exception to this is Aphrodite which has double flowers and Venus with its triple flowers which need full sun. Another sun lover is Sum and Substance which has huge thick leaves.

Many hostas need a lot of space as they spread considerably. Their thick heavy

roots are difficult to dig up and separate. This should be done in the spring when they need to be soaked overnight in a transplant solution with indole-3-butyric acid. Our speaker then made a point of the importance of subsequently sterilizing the shovel. Hostas also benefit from being fertilized and tomato food by Miracle Grow or Shultz is recommended. When transplanting it is important to keep some of the soil on the roots as it contains the microbes to which the plant is accustomed.

When buying plants, however, it is important to wash off the soil which may have dried out and when planting add sheep or cattle manure together with blood meal. The roots should be fanned out.

Gardens can be embellished by the addition of tree stumps, water features, chairs and

statuary. Mini hostas can also be grown in pots, but we are warned that it may be necessary to break the pot if we wish to remove them. Overwintering can be tricky. They should not be moved until after the first frost and then kept in a barn or garage under a layer of snow which helps keep the soil damp without freezing, and gives them an essential period of rest.

Unfortunately slugs also enjoy hostas. The best remedy is to make a solution consisting of one part ammonia to ten parts of water. Once the hostas start to appear in the spring, the surrounding area should be thoroughly soaked with the solution to kill off the eggs. Subsequent soakings will also help to kill off the slugs.

~ Jill Sellers

~~~~ OHA News ~~~~

- June 10 - District 4 June Celebration Event, Peterborough (Naval Club)
Buffet lunch & Awards Presentation. \$25
11 am – 3 pm, Theme: “Western Cowboy” – dress if you dare in Western style
Speaker: Doug Kennedy on “Native Grasses”
For info, call Bev Silk (905) 349-3766 or email d4secretary@gardenontario.org
- June 13 – 21 GardenOntario Week
Check the website for daily events province-wide during the week:
week.gardenontario.org
For info, contact the OHA Secretary, Kelly Taylor at secretary@gardenontario.org
- July 3-5 - OHA Convention, Ancaster (Redeemer College)
“Summer in the Southern Tier”
- October 24 - District 4 Fall Seminar, Location TBA.
- Photo Competition for 2015 is as follows: (a) There’s Much to Love About Autumn
(b) Two Seasons (2 pics, same view in spring & fall)
(c) Up Close and Personal (flower with a bug)



~~~~ Executive Doings ~~~~

From April 14, 2015

Many samplings were required to arrive at a fair assessment, but the verdict is in: the new Salted Caramel Timbit is delicious! Thank you to the President; and this is where I must seriously explain that the refreshments at our Executive meetings are provided by Sharron herself, not Society funds. Her generosity is appreciated, and sets the tone for an informal but efficient and enjoyable meeting.

A cheque that arrived from Conon Nurseries led to an explanation for those (like me) who weren't aware of the arrangement, that if a purchaser declares her/himself a member of Cramahe Hort at time of purchase, Conon will rebate 10 percent to our Society! So please remember to speak up as Cramahe Hort when shopping at Conon's - it's a generous thing they do, let's take advantage of it!

June 12 was set as the date for preparing the new hanging baskets for Victoria Square. Carol had a sample of the new, much better baskets. *Empty*, they look good, so overflowing with flowers, they will add greatly to the look of the Square. Sharron will start reserving quantities of desired plants from member Marjorie Bailey.

Happy to report that June Johnson has stepped up to replace departing member Anne Marie Vanstone as Librarian. Thanks, June! She wants to stress immediately that there is a moratorium on new additions to the library until further notice. She doesn't want it to become just an overcrowded pile

of books. But please, DO take advantage of all that is there – a tonne of gardening information.

We learned that Joanne Titus had led an interim meeting on the Community Gardens (pending Len Salvati's return) and the group had concluded that \$700.00 would get them up and running and having a small garden in place by this summer. This was great news! It allows them to proceed with the more detailed grant application, while actually getting plants into the ground. The Executive stressed that getting the community onboard was now crucial, and finding and choosing gardeners for the projected two allotments must proceed apace. The Executive moved to amend the current budget to include the \$700.00. It was decided that this measure should be taken to the general membership April 21 for approval. If you attended you know this; if you didn't, you know it now!

To further establish our "brand" it was moved to purchase green garden aprons for the volunteers at the plant sale at Apple Blossom Tyme. They will have the same monogram as the T-shirts, and they will be maintained and used for sales and events in the future. It will help the public to know that we are not just a random bunch of people with a lot of plants on tables, but a "highly organized, efficient and friendly group offering great plants at great prices." I quote myself.

Happy Gardening!

~ *Barrie Wood*



~~~~ **Wanted! Plants, Plants and Plants!** ~~~~

**It is Plant Sale Time again!**

Our sale is on May 30 and 31, so we are in need of as many plants as we can get.

Out in the garden it is time to divide and pot up those beautiful perennials as soon as possible so they look their best. And if you know of any friends or neighbours who can part with some, we will help with the digging and potting.

We can provide pots and labels and drop them off, or pick up any empties you may have. Labels are most helpful if the colour and variety are noted along with growing habits if known.

Shrubs, potted herbs, veggies and annuals are all welcome.

We need vans or trailers to get the plants to the sale, and any trays/low boxes you may have for customers to take the plants to their new home.

Any questions or help needed please call me, JoAnne, at 905-344-7484 and THANK YOU.

*~ JoAnne Titus*

~~~~ **From One Gardener to Another** ~~~~

In spring 2014, I read a book on straw bale gardening. I was intrigued by this new method. I set up six bales and conditioned them as per instructions. This takes about 12 days, so one has to plan accordingly.

I planted four with two varieties of potato. They produced well, and harvesting them was easy. No digging! I just pulled the straw apart to get enough potatoes – one meal at a time. In the other bales I planted seeds: beets, radish, carrots and lettuce. All came easily, and as I harvested each I planted more seed.

Advantages for me: no kneeling or bending for maintenance; no soil-borne diseases (as no soil was used); my resident 'critters' didn't find and eat my crop.

~ Peg Howden

*(If you want more information about straw bale gardening, check out the book **Straw Bale Gardens** by Joel Karsten, available in our own Cramahe Hort Library.)*



~~~~ Calling All Photographers ~~~~

Do you have a photograph of your garden or a particular bloom that you would like to see in our 2016 anniversary calendar? Photos should be in landscape format and must be submitted to Carol McArthur before June 30, 2015. Final selection of 13 photos for the calendar will be made by a committee of three, and their decisions will be final. Proceeds from the calendar sales will go towards our new Community Gardens at the Twin Diamonds/Rotary Park.

Digital photos may be sent via email to mcarthur.198@sympatico.ca. Carol does also have the ability to digitize paper photographs, as long as you get them to her in time. Any questions? Give Carol a call at 905-355-2665.

~~~~ Upcoming Garden-Friendly Events ~~~~

Cobourg Ecology Garden Spring 2015 Speaker Series

“Permaculture” May 19, 7:00 p.m.

with Linda & Tony Armstrong, Headwaters Community Farm

Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library. Admission free. Donations appreciated

~~~~ News You Can Use ~ Upcoming Plant Sales ~~~

Peterborough: Saturday, May 9, Westdale United Church,
1509 Sherbrooke Street, 9 – 11 am

Port Hope: Saturday, May 9 Port Hope Town Park / Fall Fair Centre,
81 McCaul St, 8:30a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Grafton: Saturday, May 9, & Saturday, May 16 (Growing Together)
Haldimand Memorial Arena, 9:00 am - noon

Brighton: Tuesday, May 12, Plant Auction with auctioneer Jim Nelson, King Edward
Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St., 7:30 p.m. (Advance viewing, 7 pm)

Omeme: Saturday, May 16, Omeme Curling Centre, 9:00a.m.-11:00a.m.

Cobourg: Saturday, May 16, Columbus Community Centre, Come early!

Lakefield: Saturday, May 16, Lakefield Cenotaph, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Cramahe: Saturday, May 30 & Sunday, May 31, Victoria Square, All day

Bobcaygeon: Sunday, May 31, KVS Drive Shed, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



~~~~~ Over the Garden Fence ~~~~~

(Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)

Brighton Horticulture meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St. 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Next Meeting: May 26 "Succulents, Sempervivums & Other Drought Tolerant Plants" with Anna Mizyn of Anna's Perennials, Lindsay

Cobourg Horticulture meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next Meeting: May 6 "Garden Design: Accessorizing Your Garden" with Ken Brown, PLUS Spring Mini Flower Show

Grafton Horticulture meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next meeting: May 12 "Invasive Plants" with Ewa Bednarczuk of the Lower Trent Conservation Authority

Omeme Horticulture meets at Trinity United Church, 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Next meeting: May 18 Onsite tour and history of "Peterborough Millennium Park" with Cathy Dueck

Port Hope & District Horticulture meets at the Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S., 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Next Meeting: May 11 "Native Wildflowers & Catherine Parr Trail" with Joyce Higgs AND Spring Mini Flower Show

~ Please Join Us ~

... on *facebook* or online at cramahehort.ca

... or at a meeting - on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Keeler Centre, Colborne.

Next meeting: May 19

Flower Arranging with Lenna Broatch
and **Mini Spring Flower Show**

President: **Sharron MacDonald**
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Secretary: **Clare Phillips**
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Treasurer: **Carol McArthur**
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Newsletter: **Lorelyn Morgan**
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Peony – 2015 Cramahe Hort Flower of the Year

***Growing our community
... one garden at a time.***