

# *The GardenShed*

**AUGUST & SEPTEMBER, 2015**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**



FALL HARVEST

Photo by Barrie Wood



# The GardenShed

## ~ From the Editor

Albert Einstein said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Without wishing to make light of the very serious issue of mental illness, according to Einstein, gardeners – the ones at my house, at least - are insane!

Every spring, we do the same thing we did the year before: we plant seeds and carefully nurtured seedlings into our healthy soil, give them lots of water and sunshine, keep them weeded, and hope for the best. But experience has taught us that, crazy though it may be, we absolutely must not expect the same results from year to year.

One year, we plant a row of parsnip seeds and get a splendid harvest. The next year, the same row of seeds yields not a single parsnip! One year, we're eating butternut squash into April, while the following year, a measly three squash don't last until the end of October. Last year, we watched our entire tomato crop collapse and rot from late season blight. This year, we planted extra just in case, and now can't keep up with all the gorgeous red fruit.

Are we crazy? I don't know. I prefer to think that Einstein just wasn't a gardener.

~ Lorelyn



Sharron serving up the burgers at the annual August barbecue.

Photo by Len Salvati

## ~ President's Message

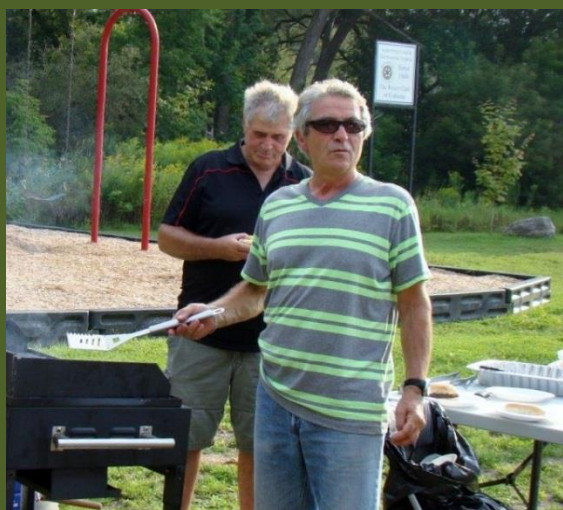
Well, I can hardly believe it, but it seems that our summer has come and gone. We are officially into autumn and by the looks of the trees, it is approaching quite rapidly. It seems like only yesterday that we were complaining how hot it was, and already I have heard people saying that it is cold. We need to remember the summer's heat when we are in the middle of one of our cold spells this winter!!

I don't know how many of you still have flowers blooming in your gardens. I still have a number of blooms brightening my



yard and I am quite happy to see them still flourishing. The growing season this year seems to have started a bit later than usual, so perhaps that is why we still have things growing. I plan to enjoy them as long as possible! Of course, since it is fall, the gardens will require some work so that they are ready for their long sleep....cleaning up and dead-heading flowers, planting new bulbs for the Spring, mulching and watering, pruning where needed, and cleaning and oiling your tools before you put them away. And then there are the leaves....a never ending succession of leaves to rake or ride over with the lawnmower....ah fall, we love you!!

We had a very successful BBQ in August which was attended by about 25 of our members. We thought we were going to get some rain that evening, so made good use of the new shelter that the Rotary Club had just finished. With the addition of a couple of tables and chairs, we were quite comfy under the shelter and of course, we never did get the rain. A big thank you to our "chefs", Len Salvati and his able assistant, Ken Blake...they did a great job of manning the BBQ.



Thanks also to everyone who brought a pot luck salad or dessert, the tables were groaning and I think everyone had more than enough to eat. An enjoyable evening spent with great friends!



Our September Vegetable and Decorative Flower Show was a bit of a disappointment this year....very few entries in either section, but congratulations to the people who did enter the show....thank you for taking the time and effort to bring in your vegetables



and flower designs. We all enjoyed seeing them. Our guest speaker, Muriel Godden, gave a great talk about seed sharing and how to go about getting a seed sharing event going for our meetings. This is a wonderful way to share seeds from your garden, both vegetable and flower, and keep a variety of plants going. Not everyone has the same flowers or vegetables in their garden and this way, you can share different seeds and not have to buy them. We also had a number of guests at the meeting and we had some new members join, so that is always encouraging.

We are in the midst of nominations for the coming year and as I pointed out at the meeting, the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary HAVE to be filled in order to have our executive installed at the AGM in November. We cannot present an empty slate to the OHA....they will not accept it. Please put your thinking caps on

and try to think of people to fill these positions and also, we have director positions and convener positions to fill. The job descriptions can be found in the By-Law, Policies and Procedures book and everyone is welcome to check out what a job may entail. It would be nice to see some new blood on the executive/director board....our current members have worked very hard for a number of years and they would like to have a chance to just enjoy the meetings too. Please bring your nominations to the next meeting or if you don't wish to put up your hand, send an email to me indicating who you wish to nominate or better yet, if you wish to volunteer for one of the positions!! This is your Society and it can only run with the help of ALL the membership.

From the cluttered desk of your President,

*~ Sharron*



Photos by Sharron MacDonald



## ~~~~ September Presentation ~~~~

### *Seed Saving and Sharing* with *Muriel Godden*



Photo by Barrie Wood

On September 15th Muriel Godden, a retired teacher, gave an interesting talk to the Cramahe Horticultural Society on how to set up a seed-sharing routine. Having a group of people who enjoy growing their own flowers from seed has a number of advantages. To begin with it is much cheaper than buying packages. Moreover you may only want a few seeds and not a whole package, unless you want to grow a whole swathe of flowers, such as poppies. In this way we can fulfill our mandate to teach and beautify our surroundings. Enthusiasm can be maintained by having a new speaker each year.

While in general it is important to let seeds ripen and turn brown before gathering

them, there are some plants which need a different treatment. For instance rose hips and solomon's seal need to be squashed before they dry out. Some birds perform a useful function by swallowing them. On the other hand, the castor bean seed is very hard and needs to be pried free and scraped. Some plants are biennial, such as sweet william, and need to be planted in August.

It is important to allow the seeds to dry out in order to avoid mould and store them until spring. Small bags for this purpose can be obtained cheaply from Dollarama.

A date for the seed-sharing can be chosen in March or April when people can lay out their seeds and say a few words about them. Vegetable seeds can also be shared in the community.

There are two books published which give good general information, namely "The Flower Farmer", which speaks about a cutting garden, and "Take Time", which lays out a monthly schedule.

It's important to measure people's success with their seeds which will improve year by year. Everyone should be free to take seeds and they can then talk about them in a "drag and brag" night!

~ Jill Sellers

## ~~~~~ OHA News ~~~~~

### District 4 Fall Seminar

Saturday, October 24

At the Campbellford Legion, 35 Bridge St. W., Campbellford

9:00 a.m. – check in, coffee, set up displays & competitions, 10:00 a.m. – meeting begins

**“Herbs Can Be Part of Your Garden for Food, Medicine and Good Looks!”**

with Koidu Sulev from Richter’s Herbs

Don’t forget to lug a mug.

Competition:

DESIGN:

1. A Fall Array – a design using flowers and/or fruit and/or vegetables and foliage
2. Shine On, Shine On, Harvest Moon – a design in a pumpkin
3. Autumn’s Palette – your own interpretation

HOUSE PLANTS

1. Potted Plant – flowering – named
2. Potted Plant – non-flowering – named

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. There’s Much to Love About Autumn
2. Two Seasons (2 pics, same view in spring & fall)
3. Up Close and Personal (flower with a bug)

### Let’s Go Back to School – Horticulture Judging School

Sometime in the dead of winter 2013, it seemed like a good idea to take horticulture judging. The course is sponsored by the Ontario Horticulture Association District Four and runs over three calendar years starting in September, 2014 and ending in September, 2016.

Surprisingly, although it is a considerable time commitment, the courses, held over five weekends in Peterborough, have been enjoyable. To date, three of the five courses have been completed.

To complete the course, candidates must be members of a horticulture society, obtain a minimum of 70% on each of five written examinations, and submit proof of winning two first place ribbons and four other entry

cards during the period from June, 2014 to September, 2016. The first place ribbons must be from a class with a minimum of four entries. Students must also judge with a certified judge at least three times. Once all the criteria have been met, students will be considered certified OHA judges. Most of their subsequent judging assignments will be at horticulture society club shows or fall fairs.

The weekend courses consist of lectures from Barbara Twiner and Ann Slemming, our main instructors and mentors, as well as from invited lecturers on special topics such as roses, spring bulbs, vegetables, potted plants. Students are also required to create assigned designs for each weekend, and to



contribute seasonal horticulture specimens and vegetables. Designs and specimens are used for judging practice during the course.

For me, the most enjoyable part has been student judging at fall fairs. People can do the most creative things when trying to interpret the class descriptions in the show catalogues, which really makes the judge's job challenging. At this point in time, the judge that is mentoring me has to figure things out, which is a real learning experience!

~ Kris Rahn

[Editor's note: both Kris Rahn and Rose Odell from Cramahe Hort are taking the judging course.]



Photo by Barrie Wood

Peonies in September? We certainly didn't expect to have a recent photo of our 2015 Flower of the Year for this issue of **The GardenShed** ... but Kris Rahn was obviously listening closely in June when Hazel and Joe Cook explained how to postpone the life of your peonies by cutting them as buds and keeping them in the fridge. Here's a photo of Kris' beautiful fall peonies.

### ~~~~ A Timely Tip ~~~~

According to member June Johnson, planting the occasional daffodil among your tulips will be enough to deter squirrels from decimating your tulip planting. June says her information is not scientific, but that about 20 daffodils dotted about in a tulip bed of about 12 square feet has kept the rascals away, while they have done their worst on a nearby tulip bed containing no daffodil bulbs. For the price of a few daffodil bulbs, this would seem to be worth a try! June also adds bloodmeal to her bulb plantings in the fall. Thanks, June!

[If you have a tip you'd like to share, the editor would love to hear from you at [lgm@sympatico.ca](mailto:lgm@sympatico.ca) or (905) 355-3137.]

## ~~~~ From One Gardener to Another ~~~~~

As summer arrived, I was looking forward to hearing the bullfrogs calling in my pond. (It's music – the natural kind!) I am outdoors a great deal of the time, so usually I hear and enjoy these and other animal sounds. June came, July, August – nothing. I still have not seen or heard a bullfrog. Normally, there are five or six in the pond. They are territorial, so singing and croaking is their way of saying, "My space!" I am a lot concerned.

I used to go outside at dusk to watch little brown bats flying and feeding. I still go out the last three or four years, but have not seen any bats. One of the big issues with them is the fungal disease 'white nose'. It's spreading from east to west across North America, killing thousands of these bats.

I only had one nest of tree swallows this year. Usually there are three to five. This is the second year that I've had no barn swallows nesting in my barn. Usually there are two.

For the first time this year, the entire month of July I had to wear long sleeves, pants and a head net to do any gardening, at any time of day - the mosquitoes here were so abundant and hungry! Could this be due to the lack of bats, swallows and frogs?

And then there's the huge change in the number of butterflies on this property. I believe it was three years ago that I noticed a big difference. Luckily, I had taken many photographs the year before. This year I saw NO viceroy, black swallowtails or hummingbird clearwings. Previously they



Photo by Barrie Wood

were abundant. I saw only one tiger swallowtail, two mourning cloaks and one

white admiral – also previously abundant. I still have two giant swallowtail adults and a few caterpillars on the gas plants. This is normal, and the numbers of cabbage whites and sulphur yellows seem to be stable.

Only a few monarchs have been spotted the last three or four years. Previously, I would see dozens on a daily basis, as I have many flowers for the adults, and a two-acre field of milkweed for the 'babes'. Many people know of the decline in monarch numbers. However, I'm somewhat encouraged now in September, as I have seen more of them this fall as they migrate south - many more than the last two years.

As a student of nature, I know that all life forms are subject to cycles of higher or lower numbers due to natural factors, but to have NO bullfrogs is very concerning to me. I don't want to experience Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring".

~ Peg Howden



## ~~~~ Executive Doings ~~~~

From September 8, 2015

Our first Executive Meeting after the summer break was full of very important items, and as such, those of you who attended the General Meeting on September 15 heard all about them:

The Community Garden Trillium grant application for \$74,900 is submitted, after countless hours of work by Len Salvati, Clair Breton, Sharron, and the rest of that committee.

Clair Breton's proposed 2016 budget was submitted and is available for perusal.

There will be a Gladiola category and several other flower categories added for the September 2016 Vegetable & Flower Show (we already have a trophy – let's get it in action!)

The membership year will officially be January-December. Renewing members are asked to wait until January to pay their dues to avoid confusion, unless you plan to be away at that time. New members are welcome to pay now, and Oct/Nov will be included in their 2016 membership year, as a bonus to the new folks.

The CHS 2016 calendar, showcasing the lively diversity of our gardens in Cramahe, is now available for a price of \$15.00, tax included. It is quite beautiful (we have some talented members with a lens!) and makes a lovely gift. Please sell these! They will raise funds for our work, specifically the new Community Gardens. Talk to Lenna Broatch.

On a sombre and sad note, future Exec. Meetings – and my report – will have to survive without TimBits, as all outside food and drink is now prohibited in the Keeler Centre. It means we cannot have snacks at general meetings, and our annual potluck cannot happen. We are actively searching for other venues for the latter. Any ideas? Contact a Board Member please.

Other biz from Sept 8 that was not on the general agenda:

If you are without email, your phone calls will now be coming from Bea Fredenburgh, who is taking over from Jill Sellers. Thanks to both.

Since our Castleton garden beside the Municipal building is officially still in the creation stage, CHS has been cleared to do the maintenance as required, without creating staffing/union problems. So feel free to pull weeds if you are passing by. It's a nice garden, and the bench (a Cadillac of a bench!) was installed this summer.

The Breck's catalogue is now in our library – I immediately put in my shampoo order, but was told it was the other Breck's. Have a look at the next meeting, and explore our quite extensive lending library – it's a good resource.

Enough from me. Until next time.

~ *Barrie Wood*



~~~~ *Over the Garden Fence* ~~~~  
 (Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)

**Brighton Horticulture** meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St. 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Next Meeting: Oct. 27 **"Maintaining Your Garden Tools"**

**Cobourg Horticulture** meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next Meeting: Oct. 7 **"Gems of Ontario Gardens"** with Marion Jarvie (Guest fee \$5); Flower Show Awards Presentation

**Grafton Horticulture** meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next meeting: Oct. 13 **"Old Fashioned Favourites"** with James Graham; Youth Awards Presentation

**Omeme Horticulture** meets at Trinity United Church, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Next meeting: Oct. 19 **"Northumberland County Forest"** with Ben Walters

**Port Hope & District Horticulture** meets at the Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S., 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Next Meeting: Oct. 5, **"Bridge Basket Workshop"** with Mary Adamson, Ann Dilks & Paulette Mouzer

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

October 24 & 25, 2015 **ORCHID SHOW AND SALE** (An American Orchid Society Judged Show)

Floral Exhibits, Art, Photography, Workshops, Lectures

Admission \$6

Columbus Centre, 2401 Columbus Drive, WINDSOR, Ontario

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

March 11 – 20, 2016 **CANADA BLOOMS** Canada's largest flower and garden festival

Will once again co-locate with the **National Home Show** (2 events for 1 admission)

At the Direct Energy Centre in Toronto

Admission \$20 at the door

\$14 each for groups of 20 or more, booked in advance

[www.CanadaBlooms.com](http://www.CanadaBlooms.com)



## ~~ Please Join Us ~~

... on *facebook* or online at [cramahehort.ca](http://cramahehort.ca)

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

Next meeting: October 20, 2015

### Feeding Birds in Winter with Brenda Ibey

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Photo by Barrie Wood

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



Photo by Barrie Wood