

# *The GardenShed*

FEBRUARY 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



WINTER SHADOWS

Photo by Barrie Wood



# The GardenShed

## ~From the Editor

*Do you have to be an optimist to enjoy gardening? Without a doubt, my own most optimistic act as a gardener is the sowing of seeds during the shortest, coldest, darkest days of winter. I learned about winter sowing from JoAnne Titus at one of the first Cramahe Hort meetings I attended, and have since discovered that it has been common practice in Europe for years. I don't understand why more gardeners don't avail themselves of this approach: seeds planted in tiny recycled plastic 'greenhouses', left outside under the snow to undergo the freezing and thawing cycles of winter and spring in your garden.*

*Winter sowing requires no special equipment and no space on the living room windowsill. For the cost of a packet of seeds, you can get a head start on your gardening plans in January or February, while other gardeners are still dreaming. Thanks to JoAnne and Cramahe Hort, I now have an abundance of winter-sown perennials, biennials, annuals and grasses thriving in my garden, and we've also successfully used this method to start a surprising number of delicious veggies.*

*If winter sowing interests you, it's still not too late to make something good from this cold February weather. You'll find a list of helpful websites later in this newsletter. Meanwhile, stay warm and cozy. It's only one month to the first day of spring!*

*~ Lorelyn*



**Peony – Cramahe Horticultural Society's  
2015 Flower of the Year**

## ~President's Message

As I sit here watching the snowflakes drift past my window, I wonder if you are all longing for Spring like I am!! Winter was a long time coming, but now that it has us in its grip our thoughts must be turning to our gardens and what we will be planting soon. The seed catalogues are out and I have been deciding what to plant in my vegetable garden and this year I am hoping to try out some "straw bale" gardening as well. I know some of you had great success with the straw bales last year and I am anxious to see if I can have the same success with mine. I am also looking at some other methods of planting for my garden this year...anything to change things up!! After our guest speaker Doug Kennedy last Tuesday, I have some ideas for my

flower gardens as well. Doug certainly had some interesting thoughts on planting native plants and the eco-systems in our gardens and how to utilize each area to its best potential. We will see how that all turns out when I finally get out into the garden.

We have a lot of projects coming up this year, not the least of which will be the formation of our "Community Garden" for our 50th Anniversary in 2016. This will involve a lot of time and effort on behalf of the membership and I would like to thank those that have signed up to help with this committee. It is going to be a wonderful addition to our community! Thanks also to the other people who have signed up for some of our other projects, it is with your commitment that we will be able to accomplish our goals this year.

Now is the time to sit back, relax and read our catalogues and dream of things to come. Spring is on its way and we will soon be out in the garden, putting into place all those ideas and notions that we had all winter long to plot and plan. Dream on little dreamers, dream on!!

*From the desk of your president,*

*~ Sharron*



***The vegetable garden asleep***

## *~February Presentation*

### *Native plants, trees and shrubs with Doug Kennedy*

Doug Kennedy, an environmental technologist who owns Greenside Up and is a pioneer in the green industry, gave a most interesting and informative talk on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> to the Cramahe Horticultural Society. Why should we specialize in native plants? For one thing it is cheaper as native plants grow in places that suit them. Moreover, there is no middleman taking his cut and growers can collect their own seeds. Non-native plants can become very invasive and strangle those occurring naturally. In addition, it is better for the environment as no herbicides are needed.

Native plants grow in the habitat that suits their needs. They are winter and drought hardy, so they do not have to be watered or brought indoors. They also provide food and habitat for the wildlife and preserve biological diversity.

Suggestions were made as to how to start a native garden. Information can be gathered from libraries, native plant reserves or a local garden club. However, we have to give thought to micro-climates and ecosystems. There are plant hardiness zones but individual areas can vary – such as, through exposure to sun and wind. All this affects the well-being of your chosen plant.

In south Ontario native plants that flourish include bee balm, wild bergamot, black-eyed Susan and black snakeroot (which prefers some shade). Favourites also

include the cardinal flower which needs moist soil, the obedient plant which must be grown with care as otherwise it will take over, milkweed (essential for Monarch butterflies), and penstemon digitalis (foxglove beard tongue) which may need support as it grows quite tall.



**Doug Kennedy**

Ephemerals are plants that bloom for a short period. Spring ephemerals include bottle gentian (which needs partial shade), evening primrose, large-flowered bellwort, Jack in the pulpit (which flowers in the spring and produces red berries in the fall), Michigan lily, and two kinds of ferns – the ostrich fern, which needs shade and moisture, and the sensitive fern which tolerates poor soil. Others include the red and white baneberry, trilliums, Solomon's seal, wild geranium and wild ginger.

Our favourite native trees are sugar maple, silver maple, bur oak, red oak, which grows rapidly, and white oak, which needs full sun. The oak trees can be identified in the winter by their bark and buds. Other trees include the American beech, white birch, American basswood (favoured by wood carvers), poplars - trembling aspen, large tooth aspen, balsam poplar - and balsam fir. These are quick growers. Tamarack is another native, as is the white pine and blue beech.

Shrubs include viburnum (nanny berry), high bush cranberry, red berried elder, common juniper, red osier dogwood, pussy willow, Virginia creeper (which grows aggressively), and virgin's bower.

People can grow different types of gardens. There are butterfly gardens, ecosystems, Zen, Low H2O maintenance gardens and large property restoration.

Doug Kennedy also added a few brief ethical guidelines. Don't harvest more than 10% of the whole patch as this can lead to infestation. The birds and bees will aid in seed transfer. Wait until after the hay has seeded before harvesting, and share your knowledge.

*~ Jill Sellers*

# ~~~~ The OHA Page ~~~~


## Calendar

- March 14 - District 4 Spring Get-Together, Peterborough
- April 25 - District 4 AGM, Brighton (King Edward Community Centre)
- June 10 - District 4 June Celebration Event, Peterborough (Naval Club) Theme: "Western Cowboy"
- July 3-5 - OHA Convention, Ancaster (Redeemer College)
- October 24 - District 4 Fall Seminar, Location TBA.



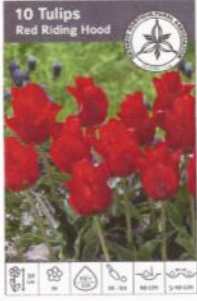



Photo Competition for 2015 is as follows:

- (a) There's Much to Love About Autumn
- (b) Two Seasons (2 pictures, same view in spring & fall)
- (c) Up Close and Personal (flower with a bug)

**Fundraiser – Bulbs are \$7.00 per package, payable to Carol McArthur.**



### 2014/2015 OHA Bulb Fundraiser

 <p>5 Tulips Queensland</p>	 <p>5 Tulips Calgary Flames</p>	 <p>10 Tulips Red Riding Hood</p>	 <p>15 Muscari armeniacum</p>
 <p>30 Muscari Valerie Finnis</p>	 <p>5 Narcissus triandrus Thalia</p>	 <p>10 Narcissus Jack Snipe</p>	



## ~~Executive Doings~~

This is a new column to report briefly on the workings of your Executive, to keep members abreast of what the Executive is up to, especially for things that might not be discussed at the General Meetings.

The Executive meets in the afternoon of the Tuesday before the General Meeting to make sure all is set for the upcoming meeting, and to keep future events, plans and projects moving forward.

The first item of business at the February 10 meeting is indeed relevant for all members: as of now there will no longer be an intermediate size of TimBits: one must choose either an inconsequential 10 or a gluttonous 50!! Our intrepid President makes these kinds of decisions every day, and on February 10, she chose . . . well, I lived on lettuce and kale juice for the next 3 days.

Carol McArthur presented her report which was looked at in detail. Carol does a very *thorough job* of a very *important job*. She is helped by computer software, and, upon the return of Len Salvati and Clair Breton, the latter will be shadowing Carol's every move with an eye toward assuming the Treasurer's position in the future. Thanks, Clair!

The Calendar Project, which Sharron brought up at the General Meeting, was nailed down a bit more. Price quotes for varying quantities will be obtained. The whole thing was started at a previous Executive meeting by June Johnson bringing in a copy of a calendar her 10-year-old granddaughter Beatrix had made for her: it

was stunning in the excellence of the photography, and kicked off the whole idea of a Hort Calendar as a fundraiser. Thanks to June and the amazingly talented Beatrix!

The need for Apple Blossom Tyme volunteers from our Society, *apart from* the Plant Sale People is made necessary by a restructuring of how the Garden Shed sale booths are administered. Hort will now be responsible for hiring overnight security, as well as the "sweat equity" of helping all the vendors get to their booth locations and set up as required. So, as volunteer lists are circulated at meetings, please do your part – it is the single largest fund-raiser that our Society holds each year.

The 4-Garden Tour was discussed at length, and Sharron referred to it at the General Meeting. We need one more garden, and ideas/volunteers are welcome. A brochure will need to be created, and refreshments provided. More to come, as the garden sites are finalized.

The Community Garden project received a boost as the Township has pledged to do the earth moving/leveling that will be required at the site, with their equipment and operator, at no cost to the Society. Thank you! The Grant application will be submitted shortly; the previously scheduled meeting to get it in motion had to be cancelled: people DO have lives outside of Hort (although I'm not sure about Sharron, given how much she does for the Society!)

We discussed the legality of notices we send out with respect to the ability of recipients to "unsubscribe", a recent rule change from . . . ? Not really sure who



decides these things: Consumer and Corporate Affairs? The CRTCC? Mike Duffy?

This report seems to have portrayed our meetings to be dry and dull, which they surely are not: we have a lot of laughs (one member of the executive is an inveterate ham) and people bring forth ideas and thoughts about gardening to see what the executive thinks. It is a loose, highly informal gathering, but work gets done, and

things move on. Being on the executive is not a huge burden or nasty task that one tries to “just get through”; it is a collection of nice people (aren’t *all* gardeners nice??!) getting together to better the cause of horticulture in our community (and don’t forget the TimBits).

~ *Barrie Wood*



### ~~~~~ *Membership* ~~~~~

*Have you renewed your membership for 2015? We are now up to 49 members for this year, very close to the magic number of 50 that we need in order to receive our OMAFRA grant. Your Hort membership is still a bargain at \$15 for an individual, \$25 for a family. It's time to renew if you haven't yet done so.*



### ~~~~~ *Over the Garden Fence* ~~~~~

*(Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)*

**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: March 10 “**Attracting Monarch Butterflies to Your Garden**” with Laurel Merriam

**Brighton Horticulture** meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St. 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.

**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: March 4 “**Creating Beautiful Garden Photographs**” with Elisabeth La Fontaine – *PLUS* Seed Exchange



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

**Peterborough Seedy Sunday**

Sunday March 1, 2015 1 to 5  
George St United Church, 534 George St N  
Peterborough, ON

Buy or trade seeds. Vendors. Resources.

For more info : <http://urbantomato.ca/learn/seedy-sunday-peterborough/>

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**A DAY FOR GARDENERS**

Presented by the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners \$30 for the day (lunch included)

Saturday, March 7, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Activity Haven, 180 Barnardo Ave, Peterborough

Sessions include: Landscape Design, Soils (including composting), Pruning, Square Foot Gardening, Edible Forest Gardening, Herbs

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*March Into the Garden Lecture Series*

*Sponsored by Northumberland Master Gardeners*

- March 9 Dugald Cameron Summer Bulbs
- March 16 Frank Kershaw Creating Mystery in the Garden
- March 23 Dawn Tack Golloher Latest and Greatest in Easy Care Perennials
- March 30 Ed Lawrence Elements of Great Gardens

7:30 pm at Calvary Pentecostal Church, 401 Croft Street E, Port Hope

Tickets \$40 for all 4 lectures.

Available in Cobourg at Quinn's Blooms & Greener and Pine Ridge Nursery. In Port Hope at Kenneth Bell Fashion Accessories and Limelight Advertising. In Grafton at 1812 Antiques.

For more info contact Helen at 905-377-9803

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## Canada Blooms Garden Show

March 13 – 22 Toronto (Direct Energy Centre)

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

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## GREENING YOUR GROUNDS

### Free 2-Part Natural Landscaping Workshop

*Sponsored by the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority*

**Part 1: Let's Get Started**

**Part 2: Ask the Experts**

*March 12 & 26 at the Cobourg Community Centre*

*March 16 & 30 at the Newcastle Public Library*

*March 18 & April 1 at the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority in Port Hope*

For more information or to register call Kestrel Wraggett, 905-885-8173, ext 247

Or register online at <http://www.grca.on.ca/poster>

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## For the Love of Gardening Garden Show

April 2, 3, 4 Peterborough (Evinrude Centre)

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

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## ~~~~~ News You Can Use ~ Winter Sowing ~~~~~

*If you are interested in talking more about winter sowing, give me a call at (905) 355-3137 or drop me a line at [lqm@sympatico.ca](mailto:lqm@sympatico.ca)*

*Here are some websites with helpful information about winter sowing:*

[www.agardenforthehouse.com/2012/11/winter-sowing-101-6/](http://www.agardenforthehouse.com/2012/11/winter-sowing-101-6/)

[www.wintersown.org/wseo1/How\\_to\\_Winter\\_Sow.html](http://www.wintersown.org/wseo1/How_to_Winter_Sow.html)

[www.alchemy-works.com/fall\\_planting.html](http://www.alchemy-works.com/fall_planting.html)

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**~Contact**

**a**

**Master Gardener**

**Durham Region**

[www.durhammastergardeners.ca](http://www.durhammastergardeners.ca)  
[info@durhammastergardeners.ca](mailto:info@durhammastergardeners.ca)

**Haliburton**

[www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca](http://www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca)  
[hamastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:hamastergardener@gmail.com)

**Lindsay and District**

Christine Halbot 705-277-2712  
[chalbot@xplornet.com](mailto:chalbot@xplornet.com)

**Northumberland**

Joy Cullen [cullenejoy@gmail.com](mailto:cullenejoy@gmail.com)

**Peterborough and Area**

[www.peterboroughgardens.ca](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca)  
[mgcontact@peterboroughgardens.ca](mailto:mgcontact@peterboroughgardens.ca)

**~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: March 17

**“Seven Wonders of the Lower Trent”**

with Ewa Bednarzcuk

- President: **Sharron MacDonald**  
[sharron@start.ca](mailto:sharron@start.ca)
- Secretary: **Clare Phillips**  
[c.phillips@sympatico.ca](mailto:c.phillips@sympatico.ca)
- Treasurer: **Carol McArthur**  
[mcarthur.198@sympatico.ca](mailto:mcarthur.198@sympatico.ca)
- Newsletter: **Lorelyn Morgan**  
[lmg@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmg@sympatico.ca)



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

