

The GardenShed

JANUARY 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



CRANBERRY ICE

Photo by Barrie Wood



The Garden Shed

From the Editor

Another year has turned the corner, and with it for me comes the new responsibility of producing this newsletter. Sharron has done a terrific job as editor since long before I joined Cramahe Hort, and she is a pretty tough act to follow.

As Sharron has mentioned, I do have some magazine editing on my resumé, but it is from the distant past, long before computers were invented, when galleys went back and forth from editor to printer for corrections and changes were made using the cut-and-paste method. Are things ever different now! As a just-barely computer-literate person, I am anticipating a steep learning curve, and I am always open to ideas and suggestions.

I am hoping to include all the current news from our meetings as well as from our larger gardening community. If you hear of any local event that might be of interest to the group, please do let me know. And if you ever have any gardening thoughts you'd like to share in writing in this newsletter, I'd love to hear from you!

Meanwhile, I wish you sweet winter gardening dreams.

~ Lorelyn



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

President's Message

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and that you all got to spend time with your family and friends. It is hard to believe that we are starting 2015 already and I am very much looking forward to the upcoming year with the Society. Your Executive has worked hard to try and provide an interesting schedule for you and we hope you are all going to enjoy what we have planned for you. We listened to what you had to say and we are sure that you will like the roster of guest speakers that we have for this year. There will also be a "hands on" workshop that we know will be of benefit to everyone!

We also have to start thinking about what we want to do as far as the new Community Garden is concerned and we have a great committee that will help us get that underway. Also this year, we are hosting

the "4 Club Garden Tour" in June, so we have to think about the gardens we would like to include in the tour.

I know we haven't had much winter weather as of yet, but I am sure that we will have our share before winter is over! Now is the time to sit back and enjoy all those gardening magazines and books that we don't usually have the time for. And I know that we all have seed and nursery catalogues that we want to peruse!! We can also start to plan our gardens for the spring. After all, what else do we have to do at this time of the year!! I look forward to seeing you all at a meeting soon.

~ Sharron

Report on the Presentation:



Soil Amendments with Dan Clost

On Tuesday January 20th the Cramahe Horticultural Society had the pleasure of hearing Dan Clost of Connon Nurseries talking about soil – and he was careful to point out that soil is that wonderful medium in which we grow our vegetables and flowers, and is different from dirt which is without value. Soil in the wild is full of nutrients and does not need amending, but when we use the same soil for our plants year after year it can become depleted. When adding any material it is important to make sure that it is properly worked in so that it can benefit the roots. This differs from mulch which protects soil from the elements and is left piled around the plants. There are many different kinds of mulch which can be used as amendments. One popular material is broken wood bits. This is easy to obtain and although it may absorb nitrogen for a couple of years, after that it breaks down and adds nitrogen to the soil.

We have to be careful not to overdo our digging. Rototilling can be useful when used to work over a new bed, but should not be used after that. A digging spade is our best tool and a good pair of gloves will protect our hands from blisters. All kinds of little insects live in the soil and these help to keep the soil friable. Worms are especially our friends. When digging, it is not necessary to have the surface of the soil nice and smooth. While this may appeal to our aesthetic instincts, it is important to keep the tilth nice and loose.

We need to take care of our soil. Unfortunately, pollution is deadly and

turns soil into dirt. For this reason we have to add fertiliser. This is not needed in the form of chemical additions but in the natural elements we have to hand. Leaf mould is excellent as is compost which can decompose in four separate bins. One way to keep the soil in good shape is to rotate the crops we grow.

Vegetables are divided into four groups, each needing different elements and in return adding to the composition of the soil. The first group are the nightshade family, which includes tomatoes and potatoes. These do not like nitrogen. What they do like is to be watered at the same time each day. This group is followed by the legumes such as peas and beans. These benefit from a good supply of compost and add nitrogen to the soil. The third group includes beets, parsnips and onions. This group needs to be able to put down good roots so it is important to dig down deep when preparing the soil. They also benefit from a supply of bloodmeal. The last group like barnyard manure and include cabbages, head lettuce, and sprouts. An interesting tip we were given by Dan concerns cabbages. Once they have been harvested, we can divide the top of the remaining stalk into four in the shape of a cross. We may then get little sprouts forming.

Lawns should be aerated in the spring. A variety of grasses can be grown. Blue grass survives very well, as does fescue, while endophytes (rye) are not liked by bugs.

In answer to questions from his listeners, Dan suggested that keeping squirrels at bay and preventing them from digging up our tulips is best accomplished by adding bloodmeal to the bulbs half-way down the planting. This is disliked by the squirrels

and by covering it with earth, other creatures are prevented from dispersing it.

Maple leaf tar spots are not dangerous to the trees that bear them but it is not advisable to compost them.

Moss on the soil surface is indicative of compacted soil. It is important to add lime and loosen the soil.

Red ants can sometimes become so numerous that they attack the roots of bushes. These can be dispersed by a mixture of borax and sugar.

~ Jill Sellers



The Library Corner

Anne Marie Vanstone (above) introduces 'Ruby', our newly-acquired library cart, to the members at the January 20th meeting.

~~~~ 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


5 Tulips
Queenstand






5 Tulips
Calgary Flames



10 Tulips
Red Riding Hood



15 Muscari
armeniacum

30 Muscari
Valerie Finnis

5 Narcissus
triandrus Thalia

10 Narcissus
Jack Snipe




Membership

Annual memberships are now due. Our current count is at 44 paid members and as usual, we need 50 in order to receive our OMAFRA grant. If you have not yet paid, please remember to do so at our next meeting on February 17. Your Hort membership is still a bargain at \$15 for an individual, \$25 for a family.

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

Spring Into the Garden Speaker Series

sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northumberland

4 Mondays in March at Calvary Pentecostal Church, 401 Croft Street E, Port Hope

Tickets \$40 for all 4 lectures or \$15 per lecture (if available and only at the door)

For more info contact BBBS at 905-885-6422 or toll free 1-888-278-2484

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

Canada Blooms Garden Show

March 13 – 22 Toronto (Direct Energy Centre)

www.canadablooms.com

For the Love of Gardening Garden Show

April 2, 3, 4 Peterborough (Evinrude Centre)

www.peterboroughgardenshow.com



Over the Garden Fence

(Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)

Grafton Horticulture meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm

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

Cobourg Horticulture meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.

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Contact a MasterGardener

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Haliburton

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Peterborough and Area

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News You Can Use

Mark Cullen shared some of his favourite gardening websites in an article in the Toronto Star dated January 7/12:

Landscape Ontario

<http://www.landscapeontario.com>

Perennials

<http://www.perennials.com>

The Plant Encyclopedia

<http://www.theplantencyclopedia.org>

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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.

President:	Sharron MacDonald sharron@start.ca
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*Growing our community
 – one garden at a time.*

