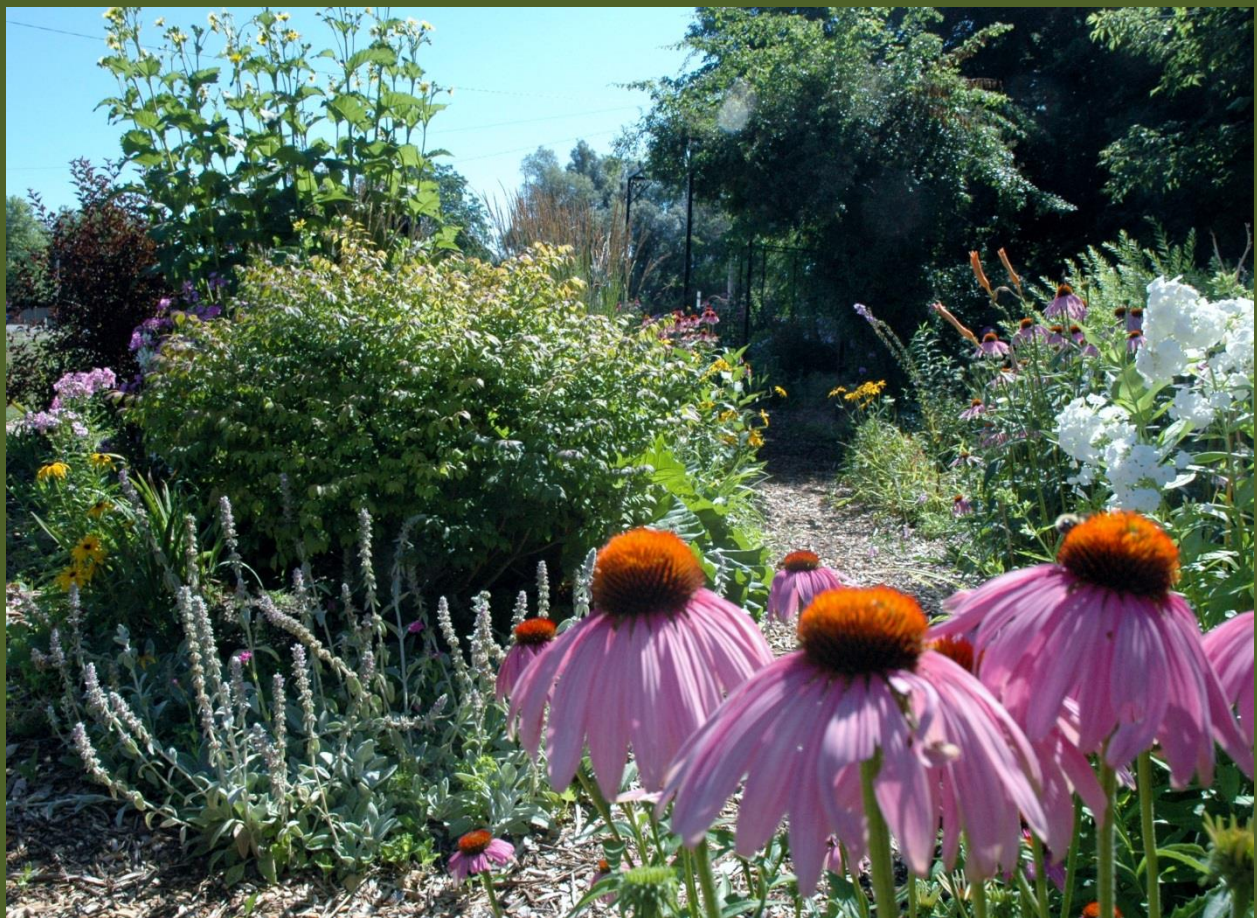


The GardenShed

JUNE & JULY, 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



OUR ECOLOGY GARDEN IN JULY

Photo by Barrie Wood



The GardenShed

~ From the Editor

It has been a crazy month! Back at the beginning of July, when I first started putting this issue together, the unseasonably chilly weather was the favorite topic of every gardener in town ... and now that I finally have all the pieces I need to hit 'send' on the newsletter, I am sitting in front of my fan and wondering whether this heat spell will ever end.

It seems amazing that our gardens can adjust to this see-saw weather, but year after year, adjust they do. July is the month when most Ontario gardens really fill out and strut their stuff. My own sunny slope – which a friend likes to refer to as 'organized chaos' – is even more chaotic and blowsy than ever this year. Everything about it is 'more' – more blooms, more colour, more height, more fragrance, and definitely more weeds.

To celebrate the midsummer spirit of 'more', in this issue you will find as many photos as could fit of our beautiful Cramahe gardens and the gardeners who create and tend them. Thank you all for sharing your little pieces of paradise with us.

I hope you are keeping cool in the shade of your favourite tree.

~ Lorelyn



Peony, Cramahe Hort Flower of the Year for 2015, from the garden of the editor.

Photo by Barrie Wood

~ President's Message

W O W where the heck did the summer go? I can't believe it is the end of July already and it seems like we just had our June Flower Show!! And what a great flower show it was. We had a lot of "Novice" members enter the show this year and I am sure that was because Lenna Broatch did such a fantastic job of leading the Design workshop the previous month and inspiring everyone! Many thanks to Lenna and her helpers for doing such a great job. It was wonderful to see so many entries in the show, despite the bad weather we had been having. Of course weather is one thing we have little control over, but that didn't stop our members from bringing in a wide range of flowers, plants and decorative designs. It was great to see all the "Novice" entries and now I am sure they all have a good idea of what to expect at the next Flower Show. Our judges

were very good about putting some constructive remarks on people's tags so that they would know what to do differently next time.

In June I also attended the June Awards Lunch in Peterborough. This was a great chance to catch up with other members of District 4, have a great lunch and listen to a guest speaker, who just happened to be Doug Kennedy from Greenside Up Environmental (our guest speaker in February of this year). Doug had a number of lupines with him for sale, so of course I had to buy some!! We had three people that received their 25-year pins, but since none of them were in attendance, I will be presenting the pins at our meeting in September.

On the weekend of July 2nd to the 5th, Rose Odell and I attended the 109th Annual Horticultural Convention at the Redeemer College in Ancaster. What a fantastic weekend we had..... great guest speakers, many different tours provided, lots of vendors with garden-related articles and plants to sell, hanging out with old friends and making new ones, and generally having a great time. Right from Thursday night with the river/dinner cruise, Friday night with a BBQ and entertainment, to the Banquet and Awards dinner on Saturday night.....it was all a wonderful time.

It was also a teaching and learning weekend and we did that as well. I toured Dundurn Castle and its gardens and learned about the history of the garden, dating back to the 1830's, complete with an original map of how the gardens were laid out. At the castle, they continue to garden in the same fashion and use only heritage seeds that are the same as those used in the original

garden. I also toured Whistling Gardens and Fountains and was pleasantly surprised at what Darren Heimbecker has created on his 56 acre "farm". He works on his own with a little help in the summer, but boy, when you have a vision, you can sure make it happen. A lovely garden with much diverse and interesting subject matter.....well worth a visit!!

You will be pleased to know that our member, Rose Odell, was voted in as Vice President for the OHA at the Banquet on Saturday night. This means that next year, Rose will be running for President of the OHA. Congratulations Rose and enjoy your year and you know we are behind you for next year's nominations. That will make two members of Cramahe Horticulture that have been President of the OHA, the other one being John Sellers. I might be getting a little ahead of myself, but I am sure that Rose will make it next year!!!!

July 4th also saw Cramahe Horticulture host the 4 Club Garden Tour and from all accounts, it was a great success! I would like to thank the members who so graciously opened their gardens for this tour: Irene Osborne, Jill Sellers, Leslie Sherk, Peggy Howden, Robin Young and Jackie Oliver. Thanks also to the members who helped out at each of the gardens. It would not have been possible without your help! Thanks also to Carol and Gord McArthur and their grandkids for looking after the refreshments at the Ecology Garden. When I got home from the Convention on Sunday night, I already had emails from members of some of the other groups who had written to tell me how much they had enjoyed the gardens. Well done everyone!



I know it seems that we don't do much in the summer, but phew, we have been BUSY!! Don't forget to mark your calendars for the BBQ on August 18th at the Ecology Gardens. This is our chance to reconnect after our summer break and get ready for September! More information about the BBQ will follow closer to the date. Enjoy the rest of your summer and try to stay cool and hydrated. See you next month.

From the cluttered desk of your President,

~ Sharron



Member Don Clark, digging into the pile of bark chips donated by Rock Ridge. By the end of the clean-up day, all of these bark chips had been distributed around the Ecology Garden.

Photo: S. MacDonald



Entries in the decorative section of our flower show.

Photo: S. MacDonald



The clean-up crew at the Ecology Garden in early June.

Photo: S. MacDonald



Members enjoy the June flower show.

Photo: B. Wood



Our judges busy at work examining a peony, flower of the year.

Photo: S. MacDonald

~~~~~ June Presentation ~~~~~

Growing Delphiniums with Hazel & Joe Cook



Hazel & Joe Cook demonstrate how to stake a delphinium.
Photo by Barrie Wood

On Tuesday June 16th Hazel and Joe Cook of Blossom Hill Nursery gave a very attractive illustrated talk to the Cramahe Horticultural Society on growing delphiniums. They are classified as perennials, but it is essential to make sure that they are of British stock as those that come from the Pacific turn into annuals on account of our cold winters. Martha Steward has written a comprehensive book on growing delphiniums.

As they are tall specimens, they need to be planted at the back of the border, with at least half a day of sunshine, in soil enriched with compost. Seeds should be started in middle to late January. They flower in September on one stem the first year, but spread to several stems in subsequent years flowering as early as July. Any weak stems

should be cut out in order to keep the plant strong, three stems being ideal. Cuttings of part of the crown can be taken in early April.

Delphiniums need to be staked, using three bamboo stakes in order to support them properly. They come in a variety of blues, deep purple, pinks and white. As the blossoms die down, they should be cut off, leaving the leaves to feed the plants. Sometimes they will bloom a second time in the fall. When winter arrives, they need to be cut down to the ground. They must not be mulched at that time as this attracts slugs and snails and may promote rot. They thrive with snow cover. However, mulch can be spread around the plants during the summer months. Watering (including rain) once a week during the growing season is enough for mature plants. They should not be subjected to an irrigation system.

Our next meeting in the Keeler Centre will be held on Tuesday September 15 at 7:00 p.m., when Muriel Godden will give a talk on Preparing for a Seed Sharing Event. All are welcome.

~ Jill Sellers

~~~~~ The 4-Club Garden Tour ~~~~~

July 4, 2015 Hosted by Cramahe Hort

If you didn't get to go on this year's garden tour, these photos will give you a teeny taste of what you missed. We certainly have some wonderful gardeners and gardens here in Cramahe Township.



Irene Osborne in her beautiful country garden. B. Wood



Irene's fragrant thyme path.

B. Wood



Jackie Oliver with her 'Fourth of July' rose, which of course was blooming for the tour (and for Jackie's birthday!) on July 4th.

B. Wood



Jackie talks gardening with a visitor.

B. Wood



Robin Young, pointing out a garden feature.

B. Wood



Robin's elegant pond and waterfall area.

L. Blake



Peg Howden, with echinacea 'Hot Papaya' in full bloom. B.Wood



Peg's front porch – what a place for an iced tea.

L. Blake



Jill and John Sellers in their pastoral garden.



One of Jill's luminous calla lilies.

B. Wood



The high wire trapeze on Jill & John's property was definitely the most unusual garden ornament on the tour.

L. Blake



Leslie & Scott Sherk beside their idyllic pond and entertainment area.

B. Wood


~~~~~ *OHA News* ~~~~~

**Report on the 109th OHA Convention - July 3-5, 2015**

**"Summer in the Southern Tier" - Hosted by District 6**

**At Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ontario**

The convention was held at Redeemer College with the plenary meetings for Friday, Saturday & Sunday morning held in the auditorium. Some delegates arrived on Thursday afternoon to get settled into their accommodation and then go out for the evening on a dinner cruise on the Grand River. A Silent Auction is usually in place to give delegates a chance to take home some treasures.

At the meetings some business is presented and we get to hear great speakers. The speaker for Friday morning was Catherine Kavassalis from Oakville Horticultural Society and her talk was on "Gardening for Life". Some of the things she mentioned included: growing food for emergencies, medicines, fun, health, community and life. Climate change is forcing plant life northward. Keep your soil healthy. "Earthworms are invasive". Native trees are hosts to more species. Provide shelter and feed all species all year.

President Jeff Blackadar reported that Garden Ontario Week had 79 events this year and hopes for many more in 2016. The event will run from June 1-19, 2016. There were two \$1,000.00 bursaries given this year to Lakehead University and University of Guelph. Seedy Saturday gave the first grant in March, 2015. New Youth Leader Programs are being developed. OHA has taken a stand against Neonicotinoids. Also, Jeff reminds us to recognize our volunteers with awards.

The treasurer's report was presented by Sharon Hill. An item of note is that the insurance cost is increasing a small amount to \$.70 per member and \$100.00 per society in 2016. Also, the name of OHA is being rebranded to Garden Ontario and this process will take about two years to complete.

The secretary's report presented by Kelly Taylor included the fact that there are 282 societies with 28,472 members with a loss of 486 members in 2014. Also in 2014, 491,963 volunteer hours came from members, 30,876 from the executive and board, for a total of 522,839 volunteer hours.

A number of resolutions were presented and passed.

Also through all morning sessions "Humdinger Tips" were presented by Directors.

The speaker on Saturday morning was Trish Symons who showed us photos of what her garden looked like when the property was bought and what it looks like now. What an amazing transformation and some great ideas to take home.

Both afternoons, delegates had the choice to go on bus tours or stay and join a seminar or workshop.

The meals were all buffet style and very delicious. The Saturday night Awards Banquet was Country Style serving in large bowls of each tasty portion delivered to the table. The delegates then returned to the auditorium for the presentation of awards.

An activities contest was also given to each district to complete over the weekend with the winning district being given a trophy on Sunday morning. The winner was District 8. It was a lot of fun and brought people together to share information and meet new people.



Also on Sunday morning the chain of office was passed over to Suzanne Hanna who will lead us through the coming year. And the OHA flag was passed over to Gary Brenner, District 19 for our next convention which will be held in Waterloo at the Waterloo Inn. Get ready to polka and enjoy some wonderful German food.

Delegates all received a lovely plant to take home.

~ Rose Odell

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)

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

### Thoughts on a Garden Tour....

You just never know what will intrigue people. I was a little surprised by the attention some of my plants got on the recent 4-club garden tour.

I knew the Burk's Moonlight daphne shrub would receive attention, as it always does. It has unusual, beautiful, variegated foliage. The pink, fragrant flowers were already done.

I thought my newly enlarged hosta walk on the front lawn was looking good and has the potential to be quite spectacular when it matures. Not one person mentioned or asked about it.

Hosta 'Empress Wu' is looking huge and beautiful to me – it's now three years in the ground. Not one mention.

In the front yard, several people asked about eryngium 'Big Blue'. I wrote out the name for them. It's a sea holly unlike the others, about three feet tall, with large blue flowers. But the colour! It looks as if it's been spray-painted a phony shade of blue – stems and flowers.

Another one no longer in bloom – amsonia hubrichtii – has soft yellow green feathery foliage. It got lots of attention, while its cousin – amsonia tabernaemontana (dog bane) – still with some blue blooms, got no notice.

Fleece flower (persicaria polymorpha) got lots of comments. It's a huge plant with white flowers for three to four months. Easy and trouble-free.

Near where Lenna (my wonderful helper) and I sat, there is a plant that no one we spoke to could identify. It is a native, called a Canada lily. It was in bud on the day and I joked with a few people that it would likely open up the next day. Sure enough, two flowers opened on the Sunday morning! It's in full bloom now.

All in all, I hope everyone enjoyed all the gardens on the tour. I enjoyed having the guests.

~ Peg Howden





~~~~ *Executive Doings* ~~~~

From June 9, 2015

It was with dirty fingernails and wind-whipped hair that the Board met on June 9th, as most members had spent the morning filling the new hanging baskets for the beautification of Victoria Square. The baskets are indeed bigger and better than in previous years, and I hope all have paid attention to them over the summer. The superior baskets were a good purchase.

Carol reported that Apple Blossom Tyme was a financial success for us, despite the weather on the Sunday. Also, our municipal grant has been received, and 2 clematis vines for Castleton Garden purchased, which happily, left some grant money unspent.

Our Society is committed to providing a blue spruce for Victoria Park as part of its renovation. It may be more costly than planned, but we will proceed. When it all begins to happen is a bit nebulous at the moment, but there are paint markings on the grass now, so it could be imminent.



Barrie's garlic in June.

B. Wood

We are still trying to get Keely Biron to come to a meeting to clarify policies regarding maintenance of garden properties. Someday.

The Community Gardens project is well underway, with Len Salvati at the helm. With significant grant money required, the paperwork is very involved. Wish him well if you pass him on the street.

Len also reported on the Ecology Garden, but you'd best assess it for yourself by going over and having a look! It's in good shape, thanks partly to a generous donation of bark chips by Rock Ridge, and a hard-working crew that descended on it the week before the 4-Club Garden Tour, which is covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

Other significant matters that were discussed were also raised at the general meeting on June 16, which I hope you all attended. Summer has flown and August is upon us. Seize it and we'll see one another again in September. Enjoy!

~ Barrie Wood

~~ 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: Saturday, August 8, **Annual Flower & Vegetable Show**

Saturday, Sept. 12 **Annual Plant & Yard Sale**, commencing at 8:30 a.m.

Sept. 22, Brighton Gardens Awards Night, 7 p.m. **"The Law on Pesticides"** with Scott Olan of the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change

Cobourg Horticulture meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next Meeting: Sept. 2 **"Everything You Wanted to Know about Apples"** with Heidi Behan; Mini Fall Flower & Vegetable Show

Grafton Horticulture meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next meeting: Sept. 8 **"Closing the Garden; Roses & Hydrangeas"** with Stephen Poole of Connon Nurseries; Summer Flower Show, 6:30 p.m.

Omeme Horticulture meets at Trinity United Church, 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Next meeting: August 17, **Flower Show & Helpful Hints**

Sept. 21 **Growing and Cooking with Garlic** with Gail Grainger

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: August 17, Potluck Picnic & Flower & Vegetable Show.

Sept. 12 FALL PLANT SALE, Port Hope Town Park/Fall Fair Center, 8:30 – 10:30

Sept. 14 **"Perennial Grasses"** with Anna Mizyn of Anna's Perennials

~~ 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.

Summer Potluck & Barbecue: August 18
at the Ecology Garden

Next meeting: September 15
Seed Sharing with Muriel Godden

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

