

The GardenShed

MARCH 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



MARCH MAGNOLIA

Photo by Barrie Wood



The GardenShed

~From the Editor

Probably by the time you read this, April will be well underway. Easter and the Peterborough Garden Show will be upon us, and spring more than two weeks old. And yet. Still we find ourselves caught driving in whiteout blizzards and wondering whether the temperature will ever creep above 5 degrees to stay.

Gardening time must be getting close though, because in this issue of The GardenShed you will find a calendar of upcoming plant sales sponsored by nearby horticultural societies. To me, this truly signals that it's time to get out there and dig in. I'm willing to bet that by the time the next issue arrives, we will all be stiff and mud-stained.

And speaking of the next issue ... I'm putting out a call to all of you to make contributions to this newsletter. Do you have a favorite spring recipe? A planting tip? Have you read an interesting article lately? Or taken a great photo? Would you like to review a book you've just read? I would love to hear from you! Please send anything that you think might be of general interest to lqm@sympatico.ca. The deadline for the next issue is April 24th.

Happy digging!

~ Lorelyn



~President's Message

SPRING!!!! The robins are singing, the snowdrops are up and I even have some daffodils poking their heads up through what is left of the snow. After our long winter, I think we can finally feel that spring is on its way. I love this time of the year, a season of rebirth and growth...the days are longer, the sun is brighter and we soon forget how horrible the winter was. We really start in earnest to get those seed pots started and by now, our catalogues are "ear-worn" from all the times we have been through them to see what we will plant in the spring.

Our Horticulture Society is much the same. Now is the time we put our minds to the projects that we have planned for the coming year. First we have to think about the plant sale that will take place on Apple Blossom Festival weekend....we ask that everyone think about the sale when you



finally get out in the garden and start dividing those plants that have taken over. Please remember to label your plants so that some lucky person will know what little treasure they are taking home.

Next on the list will be the planter baskets for Victoria Square, and those will have to be done by sometime in June. Of course, we will have our Ecology Garden clean-up and there will be on-going preparations for our new Community Garden. We are hosting the 4 Club Garden Tour on June 27th, so plans will have to be put into action for that event. We have our usual plant and flower shows to look forward to and of course, many good guest speakers on the line up for this year.

As you can see, we have many activities planned and we look forward to having your participation at some or all of them. "Many hands make light the work"!!

I have just returned from 2 weeks in Florida and I feel completely rejuvenated.....it was wonderful to see all the beautiful Bougainvillea in full bloom.....like here, they are just starting to experience their Spring, so things are starting to burst out everywhere. I am ready to get out in the garden and start getting things cleaned up. Look out...here I come!!!

*From the cluttered desk
of your president,*

~ Sharron

~March Presentation

Seven Wonders of the Lower Trent

with Ewa Bednarczuk

On March 17 Ewa Bednarczuk gave a delightful talk and slide show on the Seven Wonders of the Trent River Valley to the Cramahe Horticultural Society. She is an enthusiastic ecologist interested in the conservation and preservation both of the land and wildlife and has put together a vibrant stewardship plan. She also has a number of seedlings of native species, particularly white cedar and white spruce which can be ordered in the fall. One of her interests is helping landowners naturalize shorelines with native species, which encourages wildlife.



She moved to this area four years ago and started to explore the swamps and marshes. She explained that there is quite a difference between the two as swamps are wet areas with woody trees whereas marshes consist of wet lands no deeper than six feet which allow grasses and other green plants to grow.

The Lower Trent Conservation Authority owns most of the Murray Marsh, although there are some areas privately owned, and it is managed as natural habitat, with no trails provided. However, it is possible to park nearby at Goodfellow Rd. and walk around this biodiverse area. There are a number of wild birds to be seen, including sandhill cranes. Ewa is leading a hike in the Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area on Saturday, April 25 at 10 a.m.

Another interesting area is King's Mill which contains an old grist mill now inhabited only by bats. There used to be a number of waterfowl there – ducks, geese and swans – but after a dam was built, it flooded the area.

Last September a tour of the seven wonders was organized for the staff at Lower Trent and the favourite was Douglas Springs. Amidst the limestone rocks and springs there exists a marker tree. There used to be a number of such trees used by the First Nations people to mark a camp, trail or spring. A young sapling would be bent and all its branches removed except for one which became the trunk. These exist in various places in Canada and the U.S. There is a large sugar maple marker at Douglas Springs.

Another wonder is the Bleasdel Boulder Conservation Area. This contains an enormous granite rock which is a glacial erratic from the Bancroft area and bears no relation to its limestone surroundings.

One of Ewa's favourite wonders is a unique place, a tall grass prairie with a cemetery. Settled by Quakers in the 1800's, the area was set on fire which burned the dead grass material shaded by trees and

destroyed the woody plants trying to grow. This created a tall grass prairie habitat.

One area that has retained its natural appearance since the time the Europeans arrived is Peter's Woods, a nature reserve on the Oak Ridges moraine. It is an old growth forest with many tall white pine trees – some still growing and others lying on the ground, providing a great habitat for bugs, etc. One outstanding tree is a white oak, estimated as being 450 years old. Its branches start well above the ground and its base contains remarkable moss socks.

Ranney Gorge is considered an Indiana Jones experience. Four metres above the Trent River is a pedestrian suspension bridge which sways gently over the river and provides a spectacular view.

Ewa also mentioned the Weller's Bay Sand Bar which contains much of ecological interest but people are warned not to enter it as it was used for target practice during the Second World War and the ammunition has not been cleared

~ Jill Sellers



~~~~ OHA News ~~~~

- April 25 - District 4 AGM, Brighton (King Edward Community Centre, 9:00a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
Speaker: Dawn Golloher, "Hot New Plants of 2015"
- 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 pics, same view in spring & fall)
(c) Up Close and Personal (flower with a bug)

~~~~ Executive Doings ~~~~

From March 10, 2015

A hardy Band of Eight met at the Keeler Centre, where rumours of Tim's new "Salted Caramel" donut flew about, but no evidence could be found. The search was fulfilling nonetheless. Or just filling.

A number of things were on the agenda that were discussed at the general meeting on the 17th, like the possible newsletter mailing for those wishing a paper copy, and the Recreational Services Survey through the library website (which I hope you have all filled out by now).

Lorelyn reported that membership has exceeded the minimum of 50 required for OMAFRA funding which helps float our little group along. With a few more joining on the 17th we are heading toward 60, and

with SnowBirds wending north soon, we should reach that level.

We continue efforts to get Keeley Biron to address a general meeting to enlighten us a bit on what more Hort can do in terms of garden maintenance/beautification without stepping on Township staff toes and job descriptions. He has been unavailable, so it was decided to try to get him to the next board meeting for a few minutes, and I will pass along what we learn then to the general membership in this space in April.

I for one (as a non-Facebooker) was floored to learn that the Hort Facebook page has about 110 Friends (or possibly Likes – I'm not sure of the difference). Sharron puts a lot of time into this endeavour (which she



enjoys) and has communication and input from gardeners all over the world: Great Britain, USA, India, Peru, and the Philippines, as well as across Canada. How amazing and great! Imagine a Peruvian farmer who raises hardy wheat on a high Andean plateau considering how we do things at the ecology garden in Colborne! Computers may drive us all mad, but sometimes the “Wow” factor is pretty high. Thanks, Sharron.

OK, Spring officially arrived at 6:45 pm on March 20, as it promptly turned cold with a nasty north wind, but let’s all take heart and start thinking about that soil that has been exposed as the snow has gradually receded. Enjoy!!

~ *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: April 28 “**Container Gardening with Pizzazz**” with Vicki Witney of Griffin’s Greenhouses, Peterborough

**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: April 1 “**Healthy Composting**” with John Montague

**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: April 14 “**Splitting Perennials**” with Master Gardeners Betty Delong and Ina Spence

**Omeme Horticulture** meets at Trinity United Church, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Next meeting: April 20 “**All About Cannas**”

**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: April 13 “**Summer Containers**” with Fleming Nielson of Viking Nurseries



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

### Cobourg Ecology Garden Spring 2015 Speaker Series

**“Intensive Vegetable Gardening”** April 14, 7:00 pm

with Elaina Asselin & Gregory Hill, Wicklow Way Farm

**“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 ~~~

**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, King Edward Community Centre,  
81 Elizabeth St., 7:30 p.m.

**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.



## ~~~~~ *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**

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

### **Northumberland**

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

### **Peterborough and Area**

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

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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.

Next meeting: April 21

"All About Hostas"

with Kevin Elchuk of Giboshi Hill Hostas

President: **Sharron MacDonald**
sharron@start.ca

Secretary: **Clare Phillips**
c.phillips@sympatico.ca

Treasurer: **Carol McArthur**
mcarthur.198@sympatico.ca

Newsletter: **Lorelyn Morgan**
lgm@sympatico.ca



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