

The GardenShed

OCTOBER, 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



FIRST FROST

Photo by Barrie Wood



The Garden Shed

~ From the Editor

I tend to be a very lazy fall gardener. Usually by this time of year, I am pretty tired of working in the garden and have already started dreaming of knitting by the fire. My modus operandi is to just leave everything as is and do a big clean-up in spring, when I'm fresh and energetic.

I like to think of this as the more ecologically sound approach. Am I not offering seed heads for the winter birds? And protecting roots by not leaving them fully exposed to those dreaded freeze/thaw cycles? As an artist, I also like to claim that leaving my perennials standing creates more architectural interest under the snow. But really, I'm pretty sure I'm just lazy.

If you are a more energetic fall gardener than I am, and like to whip your garden into shape ready to greet the spring with a clean slate, there are lots of ideas for you in this issue. If your fall habits tend to be more like mine, you might want to forego the lists of chores and check out the new books at the library. Either way, enjoy the fall while it lasts. Winter is coming, whether we like it or not.

See you at the pot luck!

~ Lorelyn



Frosted California poppies.

Photo by Barrie Wood

~ President's Message

Well, fall is definitely in the air....as I sit here writing this message, the rain is pounding on the roof and the wind is making short work of the leaves on the trees. The colour on the trees has been spectacular this year and I particularly like this season for that very reason. That is one of the joys of living in Canada and I don't think I would like to live anywhere else....I really do like my seasons!

We had a very interesting speaker this past week at our Horticulture meeting and she told us everything we needed to know about feeding the birds over the winter. I must admit that I have been feeding the birds for years and even I learned a few

things I didn't know. One thing for sure, I won't be putting out any more peanuts in the shell for a while, because as Brenda explained, right now the Blue Jays and Squirrels are only taking the peanuts to hide them, not eat. She suggested waiting until winter and then they will actually be taking them to eat right away, which will be a savings on my part. No sense spending money on peanuts that are never going to see the light of day again! Brenda also arrived with a number of very interesting bird feeders and other useful things for the birds and other assorted critters in your yard. She claims that her Squirrel Buster Bird Feeders are squirrel proof and guaranteed for life...I would like to have tried out her claim, but unfortunately, everyone else seemed to have the same idea and she was sold out by the time I was ready to do some shopping. I guess I will have to check out her shop in Peterborough the next time I am up there.

We also had our call for nominations at our meeting and I am pleased to announce that all the positions have been filled, with the exception of one. If anyone is interested in the Advertising and Publicity position, please let me know. Thanks to everyone who stepped up to fill one of the slots, especially our three brand new members (two of whom joined just that night!). I know that you will enjoy your time on the board and it will give you a great opportunity to see how our organization is run. We look forward to working with you!

I just spent today, Oct. 24/15 at the Annual General Meeting for District 4, held in the Legion in Campbellford. I attended with Clair Breton, Carol McArthur, Clare Phillips, Hans Leys, and June Johnson. They had a record turn-out of 100 people representing

the 19 societies in our District and it was a very informative day for all who attended. It is always a great opportunity to get together with other members of the district, to catch up, compare notes, have some great food and have a few laughs!! They also hold a photo competition and decorative competition and they had quite a number of very interesting displays....there are some very creative people out there. This is also the time of year when we find out when the Spring Get Together, the June Celebration and the Fall AGM for next year will be held and where. It would be great if more people would take the opportunity to go to some of these events and see what our District is all about and get to meet some of the great people that help run our Societies! Another wonderful opportunity is the Annual Horticulture Convention which will be held in Waterloo next year....close to home and easy to get to. I have been to a number of the conventions and I have a great time and learn something new every time I go. Something to think about for some of you!

Don't forget, our meeting next month will be our AGM Potluck Dinner and it will be held at Old St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, starting at 6pm on November 17th. This will be the night we invest our new Executive and Directors, so please plan on attending. We ask that you bring your own PLATE, CUP, KNIFE, FORK AND SPOON and of course, your Potluck item. We have told the church that we will not be using their dishes or cutlery, so PLEASE be sure to remember yours!! I hope to see you all there.

From the cluttered desk of your President,

~ Sharron

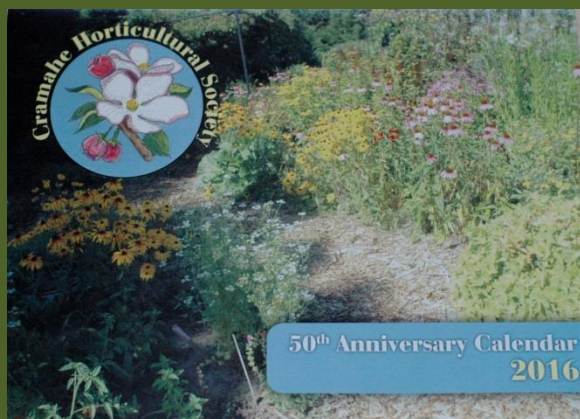


~ From the Treasurers

CALENDARS

The 50th Anniversary Calendars for 2016 are available now. There are several reasons why you should buy one (or more).

1. Dates and times for our meetings in 2016 are highlighted.
2. The back page has the Ontario Horticultural Society's Volunteer Form to help you keep an accurate record. The hours we serve with the Society help reinforce how important volunteers are to our community. And there is a monetary reason too - the Ontario Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs provide CHS with a \$1000.00 Grant if we prove our worth!
3. The calendars are a timely Christmas gift.
4. The funds raised by sale of our Calendar will help fund the CHS Community Garden Project.



The beautiful pictures selected by the committee were provided by seven of our members. It was difficult choosing from the hundreds submitted. However, the criteria for selection were that the picture needed

to be landscape orientation and it needed enough pixels (photography terminology) to give a clear, bright picture. A cell phone photo does not reproduce well.

Price: \$15.00

Available from Carol McArthur
905-355-2665

BLUE SPRUCE TREE



In 2013, Cramahe Horticultural Society (CHS) hosted the Fall Seminar for OHA District 4. We held a silent auction which provided the majority of the cost of the beautiful blue spruce tree our society planted in Victoria Square recently. As well, District 4 OHA distributed money last year to each Society in the District to plant a tree. The executive hope you enjoy our contribution to Victoria Square's rehabilitation.

~ Carol & Clair

~~~~~ October Presentation ~~~~~

Feeding the Birds

with

Brenda Ibey

of

The Avant-Garden Shop



Photo by Barrie Wood

On Tuesday, October 20th, the Cramahe Horticultural Society listened to a most interesting talk given by Brenda Ibey on the finer points of winter bird-feeding. Her store in downtown Peterborough – The Avant-Garden Shop – has a variety of supplies to match the needs of our feathered friends and also some informative three-minute videos.

To keep predators, such as bees, from stealing food from the humming birds and orioles there is a supply of bee guards, also

some in hard plastic to keep the squirrels out.

Gardeners can do their part by leaving berries and the seeds of echinacea and sunflowers as long as possible into the winter. Goldfinches need the oil in niger seed which can go rancid, so it needs to be bought fresh each year. Although their bright gold colour disappears in the winter, they may still be around in their olive feathers. Redwings have a pretty song and they need a special feeder with small holes. Cardinals also have special needs. They have short necks so need to sit right in front of the seed. They like safflower seed as do grosbeaks. Squirrels don't like these seeds but chipmunks may take them.

Trees are important to the birds as they provide shelter and food. Goldfinches like spruce, pine and cedar which provide shelter and seeds. Cardinals also like cedar trees. In order to survive the birds need good quality suet and whole shelled peanuts. The orioles and hairy woodpecker love peanuts and suet as do nuthatches and blue jays. Brenda Ibey also sells heated bird baths which contain a thermostat to keep the water from freezing. These should be kept

10-15 feet away from the feeder in order to stay clean.

Birdhouses should not be painted bright colours as birds do not like them and should not contain staples which can rust. A little ladder inside the door is useful for the small birds but the door should not contain a perch as this would allow predators to eat the eggs. Birdhouses can be ventilated by holes in the bottom. A special squirrel buster is available which closes itself under a certain weight. A word of caution regarding peanuts: they should not be put

out until the cold weather has arrived as blue jays will bury them.

Hummingbirds and orioles have a special saucer-style feeder which can contain boiled sugar water, one part to four, and which keeps wasps and ants out. These birds, together with butterflies, also like grape jelly, such as Welch's.

Happy bird feeding and watching!

~ Jill Sellers

~~~ Community Garden News ~~~

Once upon a time, the Cramahe Horticulture Society decided they wanted to create a community garden to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of their society. This small project started as the wish of a few members and very soon grew into a very large project that had the committee overwhelmed. What we thought would be a very simple project became something of a nightmare.

We thought it would be a small job for the Township to move the earth on the "hilled" property that had been so generously donated by the Town. WRONG. Because the town owns the property, we needed to comply with many new regulations regarding the use of the land – 'Design Standards for Municipal Facilities' being among them. This required a topographic survey and a grading plan, which in turn required the hiring of an engineering firm. So the fun began!!

We wanted to apply for an Ontario Trillium Grant to help us get this project underway and when we began the registration process, we found that this was a job in itself. We were required to provide quotes for all the work that would be done – including grading, earth removal and cement pads to go under the tool shed, the meeting area, the porta- potty and the benches. We also needed to figure out how much wood would be needed to build the proposed 29 raised beds. Everything that we thought we would need to make the garden a success had to be sourced, priced, summarized and categorized...right down to the last screw and nail! A daunting job, to say the least. Many hours were spent by the committee and many cups of coffee were consumed in the duration. The wine will be consumed when the project is complete!

Little did we know when we started that this "small" project would consume us for

hours and days at a time. We were a small but mighty force – the little engine that could!! The process just for the registration of the grant application was lengthy and involved and took many hours of work – a lot of “verbiage” to define our wants and wishes and we had to record the last 2 years of our financial statements for the CHS.

Once the registration was complete and filed, we had to wait to be accepted. Once the registration was accepted, we were then able to complete our grant application – another huge job, with many more hours of quotes for the jobs, equipment, costing of materials, engineering quotes and so on and so on. Again, copious cups of coffee were consumed and lots of hours were spent trying to get the application “just right”! We were confident that we had done everything that was required. Then the wait began!! We were crushed when we received notification that we had been denied. I guess our definition of “just right” didn’t meet their interpretation of the grant metrics. You need to be a Philadelphia Lawyer to read and understand the questions that are asked.

Not to be deterred, we regrouped and decided to try again. We went to another Ontario Trillium Workshop to make sure we were in the “right stream” and that our application met the grant metrics and the correct outcome for the grant. This grant application will be submitted in early

November and we will be crossing not just our fingers but everything we have in the hopes of receiving it.

This might be considered a disappointment, but in fact, it has turned out to be a blessing in disguise. In the previous grant application, we were only allowed to request \$75,000, but in this application, we can ask for up to \$150,000 and since our first application had a working budget of \$80,300, this could be to our advantage. We have since realized that there are some more things that we can ask for, like a Hoop House (instead of a Greenhouse), so that will put up our price somewhat.

We have also sent out letters to the local businesses asking for donations of money, materials or labour and we have already started to receive some cheques. Our town may be small in numbers, but it always comes through when it counts. Stay tuned for future developments!

Anyone wishing to become involved with our very worthwhile project is asked to contact Len Salvati at len.ls@bell.net or at 905-355-5133.

~ Len, Clair & Sharron

(Community Garden Director, Len Salvati,
Administrator/Treasurer/Secretar, Clair Breton,
Garden Manager, Sharron MacDonald)



~~~~~ *From One Gardener to Another* ~~~~~

Do you have trees on your property? Then you have 'black gold' to improve your soil to feed your flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees! If you are fortunate enough to have a shredder, use it, and put a 2" to 3" mulch of shredded leaves on all your garden beds and around trees and shrubs in the fall. Most of this will decompose early in the next year. Repeat this process every year and you will have highly nutritious soil to grow healthy plants of all kinds.

If you don't have a shredder, use your lawn mower and rake up the bits. I know, I know, it's labour-intensive and hard work!



Peg Howden, winner of this year's photo competition, with her prize-winning photo of a peony, Cramahe Hort's Flower of the Year for 2015.
Photo by Barrie Wood

But also good, healthy exercise for you. And it can be very pleasant outdoors on an autumn day.

Or, if you can, designate an out of the way area to compost piles of whole leaves and let nature make the 'black gold' for you for two or three years, then use the composted product at any time of year on your gardens or lawns. You will have good results.

Fall is a great time to make a new garden – the easier way. No 'sod busting' or digging. Mark out the size and shape you want. If it's on grass, mow as low as possible. Lay down layers of twelve to fourteen sheets of newspaper over the entire area. Put some soil, manure or compost all over the area; this is mainly to hold the paper down. Now, put down as deep a layer as you can of – you guessed it – leaves. Up to six or eight inches if you can. Now, cover this with soil, compost or manure and let nature do the work over the winter. In spring it should be ready to plant. Any little remaining bits of leaves or newspaper can be left or dug in as you are planting. You will have a good, nutritious soil to start. Mulch again with leaves whenever you can. It will just get better and better.

I know this method works well, as I have used it for the last five gardens I have made here.

~ Peg Howden

~~~~~ *Timely Tips* ~~~~~

PUTTING YOUR GARDEN TO BED FOR THE WINTER

I'm sure many of you have a routine for your garden chores in the Fall, but I thought I might list a few that maybe you don't know or maybe aren't doing when you clean up your gardens for the Winter.

Now is the perfect time to "dig and divide" your perennials, some of which may have been in your garden for five years or more. To divide perennials, dig up the entire clump or, if that is unmanageable, a portion of the existing clump using a garden fork. Cut the clump in half using a garden knife or sharp spade, and if it is big enough to cut again into quarters, go for it! Replant the divisions in holes that are prepared with generous quantities of compost and existing soil or use triple mix. WATER THOROUGHLY.

This is the perfect time of year to plant your bulbs, trees, shrubs, roses and

perennials. As autumn progresses, the warmth of summer still radiates through garden soil, encouraging young feeding roots to grow. WATER THOROUGHLY at the time of planting and again before hard freeze-up.

Pull your annuals: petunias, geraniums and the like are done, or close to it. When you remove them, be sure to put them in your compost bin so they will rot down to make wonderful humus that will make a great additive to your soil next year. The same goes for the cuttings from your hostas and peonies. Fill in the blank spaces in your

garden with fall mums, flowering kale/cabbage and asters.

Lawn care is important at this time of the year as well. Apply winterizer fertilizer now (or any time up to late November). Look for a low-nitrogen/high-potash product with slow-release nitrogen in it. Try 12-0-18 for best results. Rake your leaves off of your lawn and onto your gardens, where they will rot over the winter. There is still time to lay sod or fill in bare patches or to create a new lawn. Cut your lawn to 6 – 8 centimetres high and use a mulching-mower to return the nitrogen-rich goodness of the grass clippings to the root zone of the lawn. With only a couple of lawn cuttings left in the season, be sure to lubricate your power lawn mower. Sharpen and clean it with a mower-deck scraper. Manual walk behind lawn mowers should be sharpened and sprayed with light oil before you put away for the winter.

This is also a good time to check over all of your garden tools and get them ready for Winter. Now is the time to sharpen the tools that need it and lubricate anything that requires it. It is suggested that a light coating of oil be placed on all of your tools to keep them rust-free over the Winter. We probably don't think too much about the tools we use, but if we don't take care of them, we will soon be buying new ones.

Lastly, I don't know how many of you know that you are supposed to water your trees frequently until the first frost. WATER



THOROUGHLY every week to make sure that the trees have sufficient water to last over the Winter.

Some of these tips are from our garden friend Mark Cullen and some are from

Cullen Gardens. I hope they will be of help to you as you clean up your gardens.

~ Sharron

~~~~ Executive Doings ~~~~

From October 13, 2015

Humbled as I am that the Executive was more than capable of carrying on without my presence at the meeting, I am grateful to Jo Anne Titus for taking notes to enable me to write this report. (She was diplomatically mum on whether or not anyone had smuggled in a contraband coffee, or – *gasp!* – a donut.)

There was a discussion around insurance, the great bugaboo of all groups such as ours. It will surprise no one that premiums are up. However, it may surprise you to learn that of your \$15 membership fee, less than \$4.00 remains available to our society; some goes to OHA/District 4 for dues, but the majority goes to . . . **INSURANCE!** Your fee looks like more and more of a bargain (tea and coffee at eight meetings and there goes your \$4.00!). Most societies are considering a fee increase, and Cramahe may have to do the same, but not immediately.

We also have bonding coverage for the Treasurer position. Previous policy covered amounts up to \$15,000, but Clair Breton suggested that since we almost never handle amounts greater than \$10,000, we could reduce coverage to the lower amount and save some money . . . so we did! So if you want to donate \$12,000 to Hort, please

do so in the form of 2 cheques for \$6,000 each. Thanks.

Len Salvati reported on the Ecology Garden fall cleanup, for which we had the help of personnel from Lakefront Utilities, via the United Way. This is a community assistance programme, wherein labour, not money, is donated. Imagine money NOT as the be-all-end-all! What a great thing! Thanks to those folks who helped as well as to the United Way as a whole.

There was a good deal of discussion about the future of Cramahe Hort and whether it might have to fold if the slate of board members was not filled as required by the OHA constitution. But if you attended the general meeting on October 13, you know that many people stepped forward and now the slate is full except for one opening, in Advertising and Publicity. Anyone? Many thanks to all who volunteered, including new members Deborah Russo, Karen Prins and Trisha O'Brien, for taking on Board positions.

Thanks again, Jo Anne, couldn't have done it without you.

~ Barrie Wood



~~~ Hort News at Cramahe Library ~~~

* Mary Norton, CEO of Cramahe Township Public Library (and Cramahe Hort member) is excited to announce the latest exhibit in the library's Digital Archives. Entitled '**A Place Called Cramahe: Its Geography, Environment and Animal Life**', it can be enjoyed online and should be of interest to all of our members. Mary is looking for comments and critiques, and is also interested in any wildlife photos that you may have to add. Go to:
<http://vitacollections.ca/cramahelibrary/search>

* Thanks to a grant from the Northumberland & Durham Society of Architects, the Library has recently added these new books on garden architectural design and landscaping. Why not pick up some great material for winter garden dreaming:

"The Artful Garden – creative inspiration for Landscape Design" by James Van Sweden & Tom Christopher

"Gardens in Detail - a 100 Contemporary Designs" by Emma Reuss

"Landscaping – Ideas that Work" by JulieMoir Messervy



"Garden Design a Book of Ideas" by Heidi Howcroft & Marianne Majeurus

"Home Outside – Creating the Landscape You Love" by Julie Moir Messervy

"Landscaping with Stone – creative patios, walkways, walls and other landscape features" by Pat Sagui

* And, if you ever want to see your Hort newsletter printed out in full colour, drop by the Library to view hard copies of current and back issues of **The GardenShed**.

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

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

~~~~~ *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: Nov. 24. AGM and installation of officers. Speaker TBA. 6:00 for 6:30 dinner.

Cobourg Horticulture meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next Meeting: Nov. 4 **"Pruning Techniques for Trees & Shrubs"** plus AGM.

Grafton Horticulture meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next meeting: Nov. 10 **"Preparing your Outside Christmas Pots"** plus AGM and Election of Officers

Omeme Horticulture meets at Trinity United Church, 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Next meeting: Nov. 16 **"Catherine Parr Trail Wildflowers"** with Joyce Higgs plus AGM and installation of officers, and annual Photo Show and Competition.

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: Nov. 9, **"Small Gardens & Balcony Gardens"** with Shelia Stobo of Sheridan Nurseries

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

Spring Get-Together	March 12, 2016	Auburn Bible Chapel, Peterborough
AGM	April 2, 2016	Ennismore
Celebration Event & Awards	June 8, 2016	Naval Club, Peterborough
Fall Seminar	Oct. 29, 2016	Bobcaygeon
OHA Convention 2016	Dates TBA	Waterloo
OHA Convention 2017	Dates TBA	Toronto
OHA Convention 2018	Dates TBA	District 3



~~ Please Join Us ~~

... on facebook

... online at cramahehort.ca

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

Next meeting: November 17, 2015

Pot Luck Dinner, Annual General Meeting
and Installation of Officers

St. Andrew's Church, King St., Colborne

Doors open at 5pm, Dinner at 6pm.

**** Dishes & cutlery will NOT be provided.
Don't forget to bring your own.****

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

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

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

Clair Breton
clairbreton@bell.net

Newsletter: **Lorelyn Morgan**
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Cramahe Hort's 2015 flower of the year, peony, in October.

Photo by Barrie Wood

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