

# ***The GardenShed***

**SPRING 2019**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB**



HARBINGERS OF SPRING

Photo by Barrie Wood



# The **GardenShed**

## ~ **From the Editor**

Seven years ago this month, when Barrie and I were fairly new in town, we happened upon the Hort plant sale in Victoria Park. It was near the end of the day and the plants had been pretty well picked over, but we still loaded up a box, and we got to joking and talking gardening with the volunteer who helped us out. She was so warm and friendly and encouraging that we just knew we wanted to join this club. As many of you know, that friendly face belonged to Bea Fredenburgh, whose wisdom and generosity and sunshiny smile have been such a huge part of this club and this community for so long. We lost Bea this week, and she will be sorely missed.

A few months after first encountering Bea, Barrie and I attended our first Hort meeting in the fall. We shared a table with another couple – Frances and Laurence Schell – who were also brand new to the club. Though their B&B responsibilities often kept them away from meetings, Laurence always took the time to email me a few kind words about the latest newsletter, and we have enjoyed a smile and chat with both of them whenever we met. Laurence died suddenly last month –and his loss is also reverberating in our community.

Recently, a series of unfortunate events has brought my 96-year-old mother to live with Barrie and me (which is why this newsletter is a

little late. Apologies.) This has been sudden and unexpected and we are running to catch up. Who knows how much gardening we'll get done this spring? But life is like this, isn't it? You just never know who's going to be with us, or for how long, so ... trite though it may be ... all I can say is, hug your loved ones, take a big breath of beautiful Cramahe air and enjoy your garden. Till next time,

~ Lorelyn



Phlox, our 2019 Flower of the Year

## ~ **From the President**

Well, it's winter in April still, but hope "springs eternal" as I watch snowflakes float past our window. OK, it's still March but it is past the equinox, so officially its spring, isn't it?

I'm beginning this message early because we have a very full programme in April and, being a



procrastinator, I would most likely miss Lorelyn's very strict publication deadline.

Since our last newsletter we have had two very interesting speakers. Firstly, Garry Edwards presented a wonderful talk on the operational history of the Victorian Kitchen Garden while telling the story of his and his wife's own experiences in developing from a bare canvas, on farmland outside of Roseneath, their very own destination garden farm at Meadow View Gardens - a personal piece of work developed over three years. The talk was inspirational if not somewhat daunting. I would hope that everyone would make an effort to tour the garden if possible. (Maybe if there's enough interest we could arrange something as a club jaunt?) Then, not to be out done in March, Dianne and Gary Westlake took us on a journey through the process of landscaping one's garden with the "good", the "bad", and the "ugly".

Their slide show contained the basic steps in planning and executing garden landscaping, from background planting to hard and soft landscaping. It showed both successful and not too successful examples, as well as simple tricks and tips for planting layouts.

Skipping ahead to April (and it may snow tonight), where oh where is spring???

The major event this month of course was the District 4 AGM which we hosted at the Keeler Centre. I want to thank, on behalf of the club, the district and myself, all the volunteers who assisted in this very successful event. I would especially like to thank Sharron MacDonald and her committee, Valerie Detenbeck, Joan

Crawford and Karin Prins for their hard work in organizing the event and decorating the venue. Well Done! We hosted some 93 participants (more than usual), including 19 of our own members (Yea!) . We had a very successful silent auction and fifty-fifty draw. The speaker, Leslie Abrams, was, as always, entertaining. All the comments I received from the executive of District 4 and many of our guests were very positive. So everybody give your selves a pat on the back. I think we've re-set the bar to a new height.

We have yet to finish our April blitz of activities as we will be participating in the Brighton-Cramahe Home and Garden Show at month's end.

Finally I want to remind all members that our annual plant sale is coming up at the end of May. It is our big fund raiser for the year and I hope that when you are getting out into your gardens and are deciding what to divide and move that you remember to set aside some specimens for the sale. We also need all those volunteers to help at the sale.

Speaking of volunteers, remember to record your hours. Our district last year recorded a total of 40,000 hours or so of volunteering and our club did our share, so congratulations all.

That's it from me for now. Good gardening everyone and may the sun always be on your back and the rain out of your garden shoes.

~ Jim



## ~~ February, 2019 Presentation ~~

### VICTORIAN KITCHEN GARDENS

with Garry Edwards of Meadow View Gardens

Garry Edwards is a dynamo, brimming over with ideas, advice and - if not impossible, improbable - projects and tasks that he has brought to fruition. He fills a room with energy and excitement and the audience is quite worn out after a 40 minute talk. The Apple Country Garden Club members who braved the February weather, fastened their seat belts and listened intently to a wealth of wisdom.

Garry has been in the field of horticulture for forty years. Sixteen years ago, he left the gentle climes of Devon in the UK for this part of Canada. The man loves a challenge! More about Meadow View Nursery, run by Garry and his wife Julie, later but first, given the title of this talk, we will explore the inspiration behind the man.

Growing up in one of England's most beautiful landscapes, Devon's beauty imprinted early on Garry. Devon has miles of coastline known as the English Riviera, the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, and the Dartmoor and Exmoor national parks.

In particular, Devon and the surrounding counties are home to the formal gardens of many of Britain's royal residences and stately homes, like Trewithen in Cornwall, Knightshayes in Devon, Combermere Abbey, and the Tudor gardens of ancient Cressing Temple, as well as the grade-listed properties of the National Trust. Some are the oldest, some are award-winning, some are magnificent, but all operated in times gone by within a strict code: the head gardener was expected to maintain the hundreds of acres of gardens, feed the "big" house year round from the farm and kitchen garden, provide fresh flowers and generally operate the gardens and glass houses to an awe-inspiring level of perfection. To be fair,

these estates had all the infrastructure and manpower needed to achieve that goal, as well as a temperate climate.

Canadian gardeners spend considerable time fighting off the ravages of winter and the heat of summer. (The best Canadian example of the "stately home" operation is Rideau Hall which, as the home of the Queen's representative in Canada, follows the British tradition to the greatest degree possible, given the confines of our Canadian weather).



Traditional clay rhubarb cloche.

One of the key elements of the Victorian kitchen garden was the 12-month gardening calendar and, against all odds, Meadow View Nursery operates its kitchen garden practice using these same principles and techniques.

**December:** Make loam; apply topping (vermiculite, peat/pearlite & gravel); sew and cover seeds. Create a freestanding hotbed of earth heated by fermenting manure, ideal for raising or forcing plants such as early carrots and radishes. Inside the poly tunnel, use layers of thick fleece blanket to keep seeds frost free. Boxing day is sowing day, especially leeks and





onions; use heat trace cables so although there is no heat in the poly tunnel, it is safe to sow basil and borage now, and you can force sea kale.

In warmer climes you can double dig as late as December. It is a gardening technique used to increase soil drainage and aeration. It involves the loosening of two layers of soil, and the addition of organic matter - not a favourite task of even the most enthusiastic of gardeners.

**January:** sit back in front of the fire and pore over seed catalogues - many heirloom species can be ordered from the UK. This month you can sow peas in long stretches of eavestrough which can then be picked up and taken outside in May. You don't need heat to germinate seeds, but do use a heated propagating bench to sow saladings every two weeks. For an early harvest of tender and pink rhubarb, cover the crowns in December or January with a layer of straw, newspaper or bracken and cover over with an upturned bucket or a traditional clay rhubarb pot to exclude light. Stalks will be ready to pull two-to-three weeks earlier than those crowns that are left uncovered.

**February:** You can sow early melons and tomatoes this month and cucumbers which are very easy to germinate, but you must continue to cover them all.

Chitting potatoes describes the sprouting of the potato tuber - putting it, eyes upright, perhaps in an egg carton, in a light, cool, frost-free place at about 50F (10C). The best location for chitting is a porch, slightly warmed by the house, by a window or in a greenhouse.

**March/April:** As spring emerges in our zone, the hope is you have done your double digging in the fall. (October to December). It is a necessary evil. You can plant chitted potatoes during this period.

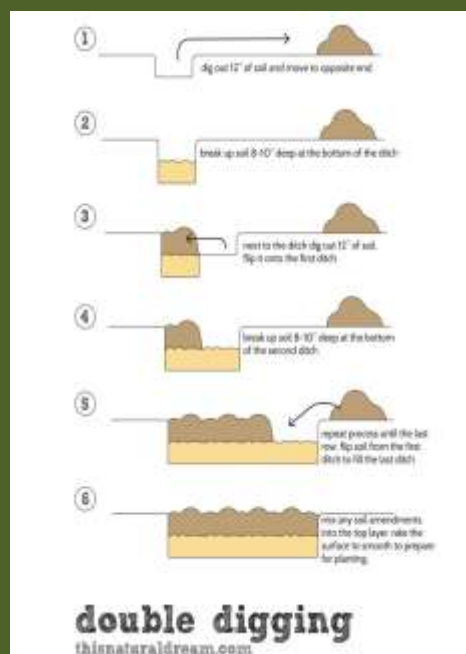
**May:** Dahlia tubers are planted in the spring after all danger of frost has passed. In a cold

climate, if you want dahlias to bloom as soon as possible, start the tubers indoors about a month before the last frost date.

Fill 6" or 8" pots with growing mix and plant one tuber per pot. Dahlias are tender annuals, but they can be overwintered easily. In fall, after the first frost has blackened the foliage, cut off all but 2 to 4 inches of top growth, and carefully dig tubers without damaging them. Best to hang them to dry to avoid rot. Store in pots, boxes or bags, in a basement. In the spring, take cuttings and put them in perlite and throw away the corm each year.



Spring flowers make the gardens fresh and beautiful. End of May plant annuals, weed, add manure, clean debris from winter. And wait for the bulbs planted the previous fall to burst forth.



**June, July and August:** Time for the brassicas such as: broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, cabbage, turnips/turnip greens, collards, kale, and bok choy. They can be planted spring, summer or fall and will mature in 60 to 90 days, they grow best in partial shade, in firm, fertile, and well drained soil. Late June the cucumbers in the poly tunnel should be huge, and the early forced strawberries are ready. If you have planted tagetes (marigolds) around the tomatoes they will kill eel worms and white fly.

**September:** garden in bloom - beautiful! Harvesting raspberries and other berries, tomatoes, kale, leeks, squash so much more.

**October:** Now is the earliest time for double digging - Add 3 to 4 inches of good manure to augment the soil. Set up the poly tunnels, propagating benches, hotbeds etc. The main work is collecting seeds for drying and sewing the following year. As previously described, wait for first hard frost to dig up and dry dahlias.

**November:** Time to plan for next year. Clean up gardens, cut backs, and mulch leaves. Remember to use cold frames, Chase barn cloches and the attractive Victorian Lantern Cloches to get a jump start on the season for tender seedlings.



As promised, we will take a virtual tour of Meadow View Nursery, Garry and Julie Edwards' 37 acre property in Roseneath, with 7 acres of established gardens.

Meadow View Nursery began with a half acre Victorian walled (rather hedged) kitchen garden to supply both themselves and others with fruit and vegetables.

Over the next few years, a Courtyard garden; Pond and Waterfall; Rock garden; a Grand garden Entrance; the Gallery and the Italian Sunken garden were established. As well, there is a Stumpery Climb (popular in the 19th century); a Walnut Walk; the Cottage garden; Birch Avenue and Orchard, an allée of clematis and shady, cool woodlands.

Concomitantly, large scale trees for shade, aesthetics, privacy, fruit and ornamental purposes were planted, all of which have transformed a hay field into a

"destination". In fact, Meadow View has become an multi-roomed outdoor venue for large scale events such as weddings and smaller scale "Devon Cream Tea" events, complete with roaming peacocks, reminiscent again of the fauna of the UK's stately homes. All this activity is scheduled to open with the good weather of 2019.





For Weddings, Events and Cream Teas:  
[julie.meadowviewgardens@gmail.com](mailto:julie.meadowviewgardens@gmail.com)

For Garden and workshop info and visits:  
[garry.meadowviewgardens@gmail.com](mailto:garry.meadowviewgardens@gmail.com)

Visits by appointment only.

~ Robin Young

## ~~ March, 2019 Presentation ~~

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY with Gary and Diane Westlake



Dianne and Gary Westlake are steeped in the joys of gardening - both are master gardeners, both are past editors of newsletters and both are past Presidents of horticultural societies.

Diane is presently a director of the OHA District 4. This wealth of exposure and knowledge make

them amply qualified to speak to "Landscaping – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly".

The take away from this presentation is that your garden should express your perspective, your aesthetic, your desire to be self sustaining. While we all need help sometimes and a bit of brawn with a shovel will never go amiss, the garden should be yours and yours alone. In order to benefit from the peace and satisfaction of working in your garden you have to work in your garden!

Here are 24 home truths per the Westlakes, with apologies to those on the "don't" side.

1. Don't fill your space with hardscape, some gardens look like prison yards.
2. Size matters with hardscape materials – scale to your available space.





3. Landscape choices can be used to hide the indiscretions of neighbours.

4. It doesn't matter if your aesthetic is minimalist or over the top.

5. Mulch volcanos will kill your trees, the roots will eventually grow into the mulch instead of the ground.

6. Don't buy dyed mulch especially the new rubber fad - natural is the way to go, it contributes to the quality of the soil as it breaks down.

7. Guard against BAD pruning - has the same effect as bad furniture in a room

8. Avoid bare ground - unless you like weeds

9. Landscaping should be a joy, an escape, therapy, not just work – so watch for subtle transitions in your gardening, often related to age or illness

10. Boomers are creating spaces that are fun and safe for grandchildren and pets.

11. Do attract pollinators and birds through thoughtful planting

12. Enjoy your garden, create spaces for entertaining

13. The garden should be maintainable.

14. Examine soil (fertility, texture, sand, gravel, rocky, clay – keep applying compost), light (throughout the day, week, month, year), exposure (dry, wet, terrain, topography) etc. in order to plant a maintainable garden. Low maintenance: hosta, day lily shrubs, trees, peonies, ornamental grasses High maintenance: roses, tall iris, collections, bare ground.

15. Weeds are the biggest deterrent for gardeners young and old. Some, like lambs quarters will be here long after we are all gone. The best way to start a new bed and suppress the weeds is to apply cardboard or similar over grass or bare ground; use triple mix to mound

earth on new bed; put compost on top - don't mix in; you can plant right away from small perennials to shrubs. Or, if compost is not available use bark mulch, spread it out, don't mix in.

16. Landscapes should be environmentally sound - leave the good bugs, deal with the bad ones, watch for disease, buy plants that do not attract bugs.

17. Landscaping should be cost effective – you don't need every hosta in the nursery; go to plant sales; buy plants that are right for your garden environment; buy baby plants and be patient.

18. Don't be a species collector because the new issues from growers/ nurseries are infinite



19. Landscapes should be aesthetically pleasing – one way to design your garden is to print a picture and draw the improvements over existing. Everything from formal to “wildflower” is possible. A vast expanse of green grass is a lot of work and boring. You can use foliage (ie: no flowers) to design a low maintenance garden (colour, texture, varied sizes, coniferous and/or deciduous). Mass plantings are attractive (have to be somewhat concerned about disease). Massing colour is effective, using the same colour throughout the garden or same palette.

20. Do have vertical structures - arbours, trellis etc. to support climbing plants. Don't go overboard.





21. Do create “garden rooms” to add interest and depth to your garden. You will need way finding once the rooms are established (path etc.) and there should be focal points.

22. Use trees indigenous to your area and keep big trees away from your house. 23. Bird houses provide hours of entertainment but must be

erected and maintained (and protected from animals)

24. Balcony, deck, patio gardens can be beautiful. Use pots, vertical garden grids, climbing plants etc. And, above all ENJOY!

*~ Robin Young*

## ~~ April, 2019 Presentation ~~

### INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

**with Vicki Simkovic of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council**

April 16, 2019, the Big Apple Garden Club welcomed Vicki Simkovic MSc, Coordinator of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) which was created 12 years ago because of the growing crisis caused to ecosystems by invasive plants.



In this role, she interacts with the public, hosting meetings, workshops and conferences; assisting in preparation of educational resources; and fostering partnerships with like minded Non Governmental Organizations (NGO).

Vicki is a passionate ecologist and lifelong naturalist. Through her volunteering with NGOs; stints as a field assistant with the Upper

Thames Region Conversation Authority; and as a technician with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Vicki brings a strong invasive species background to her job.

What plants are considered invasive? Native species are those which were here prior to the arrival of Europeans on our shores. Therefore “invasive” is any alien species introduced from one geographical region to another. They fall into three categories – minimal, highly and transformer.

Why is the control of invasive plants so urgent ? Because they are the second highest cause of species loss – after loss of habitat. Consider the weeds that invade wetlands such as Invasive Phragmites (European Common Reed) which is the worst of the invasive species. It has been causing damage to the biodiversity of Ontario’s wetlands and beaches for decades. It is an unfortunate truth that because of Ontario’s climate and population, it is the worst area in Canada for ecosystem damage. Witness the infestation at Presqu’île Park for example. These species are successful because they have no predators, they are highly adaptable and they reproduce very quickly.

Turtles, for example, cannot survive in a Phragmites contaminated area, and action must



be taken immediately or it will grow faster than it can be eradicated. The *Phragmites* biology explains why this is the case. *Phragmites* expands through rhizomes, 80% of which are underground. It prefers standing water; it is spread by the wind, humans, and birds and it grows unchecked along ditches and roadways. One plant can create 1,000 seeds and it is found in all states and provinces of North America. Eradication and organized collaboration are the short term solutions, but the long game is to replant native species in areas previously choked by invasive plants, once the area has been cleaned. Turning the corner on that strategy sometimes seems prohibitively difficult though, when you consider our familiarity with Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Dog Strangling Vine and Spotted Jewelweed. Even so, prolonged focussed eradication must be maintained if we have any hope of conquering these species.

There are also invasive water species such as Purple Loosestrife, Yellow Floating Heart and the Water Soldier, an invasive perennial aquatic plant that is native to Europe and northwest Asia. The only known wild populations in North America occur in Ontario, within the Trent Severn Waterway, that is so prolific it impedes swimming.

In the “grow me instead” column, try ground covers that grow in poor conditions such as English ivy, Periwinkle and Gout Weed as they stunt the distribution of seed from invasive plants. They too require a certain amount of work to keep them under control. And finally, here is a representative list of invasive grasses, trees and shrubs and suggested native species to employ in the ongoing struggle:

#### **GRASSES:**

Miscanthus grasses are perennial plants introduced to North America near the end of the nineteenth century. Native to Japan, China



Big Bluestem

and Korea, these grasses are commonly used as ornamental plants, as a barrier plant along roadsides and in agricultural fields. They can become invasive unless watched closely. Use Bluestem instead.

#### **TREES:**

Norway maples can be mistaken for native sugar maples, however sugar maple leaves have five lobes only, and are longer than wide. The sugar maple leaf stem sap is clear and the leaf buds are sharp pointed instead of round like the Norway maples. The Norway Maple has



Crimson King is an invasive Norway maple.

severe environmental impacts. It grows faster than native maples and other forest trees, and its dense, shallow root system makes it difficult

for native seedlings to get established and makes it prone to blowdowns during storms.



Silver Maple



Russian Olive

Consider Red, Sugar, Silver and Freeman maples instead.



Freeman Maple

dangerous in wooded areas where they blanket the forest floor, choking native seedlings. There are an infinite number of well behaved, beautiful shrubs available in the Northumberland growing area to help you avoid these three invaders. If you are wondering “why Japanese Knotweed - they are so lush and attractive”, may I draw your attention to the child at the base of the gigantic shrub!

#### **SHRUBS:**

Japanese Knotweed, Russian Olive, Japanese Barberry are just some of the invasive species that outgrow native plants, particularly



Japanese Barberry



Japanese Knotweed

#### **Where do you report invasive species?**

Hotline 1 800 563 7711

[vicki@oninvasive.ca](mailto:vicki@oninvasive.ca)

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources>

~ Robin Young

## ~~~ Giggles from the Garden ~~~

### SHRUBBOGRAPHY

Communicating with a “romantic friend” has never been easier than it is today, what with Email, texting and social media. But in days gone by, young couples used to be constantly supervised by chaperones or worse, who watched every move and made sure the lovesick pair was never alone lest they get ideas. (News flash: they already had ideas; what they didn’t have was the means to put them into play).

So the Victorians, clever souls that they were, came up with a way to get messages to the objects of their affections that seemed innocent to the older generation. It is now called floriography. Somehow, particular meanings were assigned to particular flowers (I scratch my head trying to imagine how this evolved in a way that everyone understood). Thus red roses meant devoted love, ranunculus meant “I am dazzled by your charms”, and peonies meant “I hope these ants crawl into your shorts, you faithless brute.” (There might be other interpretations for that one – this not an exact science.)

Imagine if we here in the New World had decided to make it our own. Since space here was very widely available, plantings could be bigger too. There was room for all kinds of things that couldn’t be grown in crowded Victorian gardens. Thus was born Shrubbography, or shrubbage as some called it, and even shrubbish, which seems a bit mean-spirited. These botanical messages could not be ignored, because who can ignore a small tree and root ball the size of an adult ostrich arriving on your doorstep? So herewith, a small sample of the meanings one could convey to a paramour using shrubbography, as developed by slightly insane settlers in our past, who also quirkily chose the Latin names to connote their meanings.

NOTE: just read the Latin as if it were English, aloud if possible, and see if you get the connections.

Some shrubs told of undying love:

***Cytisus scoparius***: “let’s take a look at this”

***Cytisus dissectum***: “let’s take this apart”

***Deutzia x elegantissima***: “you are two times classy”

***Mahonia aquifolium***: “even with wet leaves, you are ma honey”

***Pyracantha*** (fire thorn): “my soul burns”

***Buxus sempervirens***: “it’s always nice to see you in that sweater”

***Berberis stenophylla***: “haircutter or secretary, I will love thee”

***Crataegus monogyna***: “you are the only woman for me”

Some spoke of heartache:

***Prunus Lusitanica***: “you have cut me- I am as one shipwrecked”

***Syringa vulgaris***: “I need an injection -of what I care not”

***Cupressus sempervirens***: “the police are always around”

***Erica ciliaris***: “Erica causes me to.... well, you know, it happens to every man once in a while, it doesn’t mean anything...”

Some were whimsical:

***Prunus spinosa***: “let us cut straight to the great philosophers”

***Corpus Alba sibirica***: “have you read Tolstoy? It’s very romantic”

***Tilia***: “please wait until ya see my face”

***Ligustrum ovalifolium***: “let me buy you a leafy Ovaltine”

Some were slightly abusive:

***Cornus stolonifera***: “your jokes belong on Hee-Haw”

***Calluna vulgaris***: “to the moon, Alice!”



*Cercis siliquastrum*: “that circus getup is foolish”

Some were remarkably specific:

*Picea glauca albertiana*: “I’m going to Red Deer to see the eye doctor”

*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*: “three of my teeth say we should visit Athens”

And finally *Rubus cockburnianus*: no translation available – or advisable.

So there you have it: the Canadian version of, say, a small handful of *crocus* (“your voice sounds frog-like”). Big messages require big plants.

Keep all this in mind as you head out to the garden centre this spring to seek a new shrub for that empty corner in your garden: you don’t want to give anybody the wrong idea.

~ *Barrie Wood*

## ~~~ *Bringing in the Lilacs* ~~~

workshops with the kids at the Castleton and Colborne Libraries during March break were both well-attended and fun! We also hosted a very popular kids’ table at the Brighton Home Show .

### *In Castleton ...*



### *In Colborne ...*



## ~~~ The Gardener's Companion ~~~

*The musings and words of wisdom below are taken from the c.1989 Gardener's Companion left by Master Gardener Elya Chestnut for the future caretakers of her own gardens, at what is now the property of Jim & Valerie Detenbeck.*

### April

- It's time for final raking. As soon as the lawn and garden are dry enough, remove leaves. Be cautious as new shoots of early spring bulbs are beginning to appear beneath the leaf carpet.
- Roll the lawn and apply fertilizer.
- Toward end of April begin to mow lawn. Trim back hydrangea to 6-8" and trim or remove last year's flower stalks and spent seed heads (if you left them for the birds to winter feed.)
- Trim back the clematis.
- Dig, DO NOT PULL dandelions and other perennial weeds from the garden. Pulling will break off root and defeat purpose. Also my personal preference would be to burn goutweed along with whom- ever thought it was a garden plant.
- Towards end of April start to work on borders of gardens, edging and preparing for annual planting in May/June
- Fertilize and apply a light layer of compost to gardens and cultivate and water in.

*~ Submitted by Jim Detenbeck*



## Garden to Table

### Mother Wood's Rhubarb Upside Down Cake

6 tbsp brown sugar

4 tbsp butter

4 – 6 cups chopped rhubarb

1 cup sugar

¼ cup shortening or margarine

½ cup sugar

1 ¼ tsp baking powder

¼ tsp cream of tartar

1 cup flour

½ tsp salt

¼ cup milk

1 egg

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Spread brown sugar and butter roughly in the bottom of a low casserole or cast iron pan. Heat it in the oven until caramelized.
3. Mix rhubarb with 1 c sugar. Add to caramelized brown sugar & butter in hot pan. Do not stir. Cook in oven until bubbly.
4. Cream together the shortening and the ½ cup of sugar. Combine with the baking powder, cream of tartar, flour, salt, milk and egg to form a batter.
5. When the rhubarb mixture is bubbling, remove from oven and pour the batter ovetop. Return to oven and bake 25 minutes.

**Chicken with Rhubarb Sauce**

1 tbsp olive oil  
4 boneless skinless chicken breasts  
Salt & pepper  
1 small onion  
3 cups chopped rhubarb

2/3 cup granulated sugar  
¼ cup fresh lemon juice  
2 tbsp Dijon mustard  
2 tsp cornstarch

1. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook, turning once and sprinkling with salt and pepper, about 5 minutes, till well browned. Remove to a plate to keep warm.
2. Add onion to skillet; reduce heat to medium and cook for 3 minutes. Stir in rhubarb, sugar, lemon juice and mustard; bring to a boil, stirring to scrape up any brown bits in the bottom of the pan.
3. Return the chicken and any juices. Spoon some of the sauce over top, cover and simmer 10 – 15 minutes or until no longer pink inside.
4. Dissolve cornstarch in 2 tbsp cold water; stir into sauce and cook, stirring until thickened.

*~ Lorelyn Morgan*

**~~~ District 4 AGM ~~~**

## ~~~ *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. Upcoming meetings: May 28, **Nancy Cole** of Stone Mills Farm Bees, *Bees*; June 14, 2-4 p.m. *Spring Flower Show*; June 25, **Sandra Goranson & Susan Warrack**, *Pruning: When & How*, plus PEC Master Gardeners Rose Show.

**Cobourg Horticulture** meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Upcoming meetings: May 1, **Paul LaPorte**, *Building Biodiversity with Native Plants*; June 5, **Paul Zammit**, *Elements of Great Gardens*.

**Grafton Horticulture** meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Upcoming meetings: May 14, **Christine Gill**, *Creating & Caring for a Rock Garden*; June 11, **Kerry Hackett**, *Favorite Herbs & Homemade Recipes* + June Flower Show

**Peterborough Horticulture** meets at the Lions' Centre, 347 Burnham St., Peterborough, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings: May 22, **Kerry Hackett**, *Eat Your Weedies*; June 26, **Suzanne Catty**, *Distilling Demo: How Essential Oils and Hydrosols are Extracted*.

**Port Hope & District Horticulture** meets at the Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S., 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Upcoming meetings: May 13, **Irka Dyczok** of Design Farm, Inc., *The Secret World of Mushrooms: An Eye-opening Introduction to the Fungal Kingdom*; June 17, **Joanne Weber** of Eastcliff Farm Ayton, *Getting Your Garden Off the Ground: Trellises, Supports, etc, and The Importance of Soil*.

## NEIGHBOURING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PLANT SALES

May 11 <b>Port Hope</b>	8:30 – 10:00 am (Port Hope Fair Centre, McCaul St)
May 12 <b>Grafton</b>	9:00 am – noon (Haldimand Community Memorial Arena, 10766 Cty Rd. 2)
May 14 <b>Brighton</b>	7:00 pm, Plant Auction. 6:30 pm advance viewing (King Edward Comm. Ctr.)
May 18 <b>Campbellford</b>	8:00 a.m. (Bank of Montreal corner, Doxsee Ave & Bridge Street)
May 18 <b>Cobourg</b>	9:00 a.m. (Columbus Centre)



## ~~ 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 in Colborne.

### Next meeting:

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 pm  
**Miniature Design Workshop**  
with Bev Silk  
Plus Mini Spring Flower Show

### Upcoming:

Saturday, May 25, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm  
**Annual Plant Sale**  
in Victoria Park, Colborne

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00  
**Building Biodiversity with Native Plants**  
with Paul LaPorte  
Plus Summer Flower Show

Sat June 22, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Four-Club Members' Garden Tour**  
Hosted by us this year.  
[Cramahehort.ca/events/](http://Cramahehort.ca/events/)

### The Apple Country Garden Club

President: **Jim Detenbeck**  
[detenbeckgary@gmail.com](mailto:detenbeckgary@gmail.com)

Secretary: **Trish O'Brien**  
[twillow\\_51@hotmail.com](mailto:twillow_51@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: **Clair Breton**  
[clairbreton@bell.net](mailto:clairbreton@bell.net)

Newsletter: **Lorelyn Morgan**  
[lgm@sympatico.ca](mailto:lgm@sympatico.ca)



Irises to rival Monet's

Photo by Barrie Wood

# *Growing our community*

.....

# *one garden at a time.*

