

The GardenShed

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



SPECTACULAR REDBUD IN FULL BLOOM ON THE PROPERTY OF LIFE MEMBER MARY GUEST

Photo by Barrie Wood



The Garden Shed

~ From the Editor

Be careful what you wish for, that's what they say. And it looks like 'they' might be right, because it's possible that so many people wished so hard for rain last year that boy, oh boy, are we getting rain.

I understand that many farmers' fields may not get planted at all this year, while many a basement is becoming a less-than-classy indoor pool. Here in downtown Lakeport, we're supposed to be having the outside of our house painted. Ha. Maybe it will be done by August, maybe not. Meanwhile, the bare wood where the loose paint has already been removed keeps getting more and more waterlogged. Sigh.

But ... the trees and flower gardens are loving it! My irises and peonies, poppies and lupins put on a spectacular – if all too brief, thanks to the rain – show. Now they are all completely decimated and dashed upon the paths, but I can hold the memory of their glory in my heart until next spring.

Nonetheless, I sure hope that once we've finished deadheading our rotting peony blooms, we can finally enjoy some consecutive sunny summer days relaxing in our gardens.

Despite the rain, this has been a busy spring for our Hort club: planters for the park, 3 P's Parade with the kids, plant sale, flower show; this issue is a photographic smorgasbord. Enjoy!

~ Lorelyn



A beautiful glad
– Cramahe Hort's 2017 Flower of the year

~ President's Message

As I sit here writing, I am wondering what has happened to our weather patterns! I know the calendar says it is now summer, but with all the awful weather we have been having, it is somewhat hard to believe. We went from a summer last year when we wished for rain to this year when we are wishing the rain would stop. There is no happy medium and it certainly makes it very difficult to get out in our gardens....I personally don't own any hip waders and I sometimes feel like that would be the appropriate gear for gardening now. Of course, I shouldn't speak too soon, because before you know it, we could be under drought conditions again (let's hope not!). I guess we can't do anything but complain about the weather, but it would sure be nice if Mother Nature would get over her hissy fit and let us have some more summer-like conditions and then maybe we can truly get out and enjoy our gardens.

The past few months have been busy ones for the society and thankfully, some of our activities were conducted inside. We had our decorative

workshop at one meeting and that was well received. The mini spring flower show had quite a few entries and was well attended.



Our plant sale was held on May 27th and we started out in the rain, but by the end of the day, the sun had made an appearance and we had our best plant sale to date. Thank you to JoAnne Titus and her helpers for such a wonderful sale. Thank you to Gord and Carol McArthur and their crew for putting the hanging baskets together which are now hanging in the Victoria Square Park.

The chair project was completed over a few sessions, with a number of people getting together to sand and scrape wooden chairs and then get them painted up. Another day was devoted to filling the planters and then another day we loaded the truck and placed 11 chairs around the downtown portion of Colborne. We have now received another six chairs and are in the process of getting them ready to be placed around town. They have been very well received and are thriving, with no damage or loss to be reported.

The "3 Ps" project was conducted with children at the library. First they put together insect hotels for themselves and then they helped fill in our big hotel for us. Another project saw them paint pots and then plant seeds in them. And finally, the kids had a parade from the library with the insect hotel being pulled in a wagon. They took it to the ecology garden where it was mounted in the pollinator patch. While at the garden, the kids were given plants

to put into one of the raised beds and they finished up with popsicles. There were quite a number of people and kids involved with the parade and thanks go to our very own clown, Lesley Blake, for entertaining and leading the parade.

We also had our summer flower show and despite all the rain, we had a wonderful display of flowers for the show. Congratulations to all who participated and to all the winners. Thanks to Kris Rahn for convening the show.

On June 29th, Jim Detenbeck and I will be attending the graduation ceremonies at ENSS to present the Cramahe Horticulture Society scholarship and that will finish up our activities until we meet again in September.

We won't get together until the picnic potluck on August 15th and it will be held at the ecology garden. More details will follow when we get closer to the event.

Enjoy your summer, whatever it may bring and I hope to see you all at the picnic.

From the cluttered desk of your President,

~ Sharron



Rose, Sharron, Valerie & Jim at the District 4 Spring Celebration.

~~~ Pick & Plunk ~~~



~~ April Presentation ~~

Decorative Workshop

With Chauncy Perry of *Flourishes* Flower Shop

On April 18th, 2017, the Cramahe Horticultural Society welcomed Chauncy Perry, the owner of Colborne's flower shop *Flourishes*, to conduct a workshop on floral design.

Chauncy Perry has worked in the horticultural and floral industries since 2007, starting at Mills Flowers in Gananoque, a wholesale greenhouse with attached flower shop. He also owns the music shop *Pickers' Paradise* in Colborne. In April 2015 after four years freelancing as an floral designer on the side, he decided to expand his shop to include flowers and plants. *Flourishes* opened on Valentine's Day 2016 and has been met with great support from the community. In what little free time he has, Chauncy is a member of the Canada 150 and Apple Blossom Tyme festival committees, as well as vice president of the chamber of commerce, and business advisor to the Mill at Piper Creek Arts and Heritage Centre.

After passing on a few tricks of the trade aimed at lengthening the viable life of cut flowers, Mr. Perry set the audience a challenge. He supplied cut flowers and ivy bowls together with varied greens and raffia, and each table of 6 set about designing a floral display.

The end result was a group of attractive floral displays that were varied, balanced and ranged from tall airy displays to shorter, more compact and intensely coloured offerings, all very different, one from another. Clearly the Cramahe Horticultural Society has some talented floral designers. Mr. Perry chose one as winner and explained its features. A draw was held for the arrangements and each found a new home.

~ Robin Young



~~ Hanging Baskets ~~

Carol and Gord MacArthur once again assembled a highly efficient team to plant the planters to be hung in Victoria Park. This year, we tried planting earlier, so that the plants would have time to settle into their new environment and the planters could be hung in place in time for the Apple Blossom Tyme Festival and the Hort plant sale.



This year's red and white theme in honour of the 150th birthday of Confederation includes the following plants:

1. *Bacopa* "Snowcopia" white
2. *Sutera cordata* "Snowstorm" Giant Snowflake
3. *Calibrachoa* hybrid "Superbells" red
4. *Calibrachoa* hybrid "Superbells" double ruby
5. Ivy
6. *Dracaena*



~~~ Plant Sale ~~~



~~ OHA News ~~

OHA Convention 2017

Theme: Green from Shore to Shore

July 23 – 23, 2017

Sheridan Parkway North Hotel,
Richmond Hill

Fall Seminar

Photo Competition:

1. Storm/Wind Damage
2. Children Love Flowers Too
3. I Have Changed (2 photos of the same plant(s), first during summer, second during autumn)

October 28, 2017

Lindsay & District
Dunsford Community Centre

OHA Convention 2018

Theme: Shore to Shield

Kingston (District 3)

OHA Convention 2019

Theme: Come to the Deep South Where Everything Grows

Windsor (District 11)

~~~ Executive Doings ~~~

BOARD NOTES FROM APRIL 11, MAY 9 AND JUNE 13, 2017

Well, the results are in: after a tempestuous online discussion, and some very heated and pointed arguments, the razor-thin majority of members were in favour of my combining notes from all the executive meetings that have taken place since the last newsletter. If you are on the losing side of that discussion and long for the old "one report per meeting", well, this is a democracy. No walls will be built, no matter who pays for them.

You've heard about the great success of the plant sale, but good news is always worth repeating: we grossed \$2020 !! Another big round of thanks to Joanne Titus and her merry band of elves who made it all happen (and had fun, too). She is retiring from the position now, so . . . to all who enjoy the plant sale experience – now is the time to step in and make it your own.

The flowers on chairs project is a big success too. People love 'em! Business owners had offered to keep them watered, but the Township has moved in and is watering them. OK!! There are more chairs to come, and we hope more and more will appear around the village. They add a lot of visual interest.

Trash and Treasures is next up: bring your gently used, no longer wanted cleaned up stuff to Jim and Valerie's house (King Street West) on Friday evening, August 11th, if possible, and the whole thing starts at 6:00 am (sic) Saturday the 12th. You know there will be bargain hunters cruising around before then. I'm told there will be exactly two more rain-free days this summer, so let's hope August 11 is one of them.

Another young ENSS graduate will be heading off to learn more about growing green things. Brody Sheppard will receive Cramahe Hort's \$500 bursary toward his studies at Algonquin College in Ottawa. He hopes to become a Forestry Technician, and he will be very happy to come back and speak to us after his first year at college.

It looks like a few raised community garden beds can be put in near the ecology garden compost bins, without a lot of advance work. So that will get a few people into gardening who wouldn't otherwise be able to do so. We are currently soliciting those first few takers of a plot.

Sharron's Facebook deliberations have led to some interesting figures: 193 people reached the Shazzam app for plants. It's a phone app which allows you to take and submit a picture of a plant for identification. Cool! 90 people reached the pocket guide for the Chihuly New York Botanical Garden - where art and nature collide, *yet nobody gets hurt*. (I added that last part – maybe people DO get hurt: what if the tree you are painting falls on your easel and you are collateral damage?)

51 people reached How to Plant Asparagus, and all of them said "Dang, I should have read this in April!"

50 people reached Dividing Hostas in 3 steps. 35 of the least patient of them then visited How to Divide Hostas in 2 steps – but they will surely regret the shortcut.

And 49 people checked out the post about Cramahe Hort Plant Sale. And that's how you get to \$2020!!

The most recent meeting ended in a very timely manner – people were inclined to race home and do 10 minutes of gardening while the sun was out, and the next shower was queuing up. I hope everybody is able to catch some minutes here and there. And if not, what can you do but put your feet up, pour a favourite beverage, cradle a good book, and be confident that it's not your fault the weeds are getting out of control!

~ *Barrie Wood*

~~ June Presentation ~~

Catharine Parr Traill and Canadian Wildflowers

With Joyce Higgs



Though Catharine Parr Traill suffered untold deprivation and misery in the backwoods of Canada she insisted that *“The sight of green things is life to me”*.

The Cramahe Horticultural Society welcomed Joyce Higgs who has made a study of Catharine and of the Canadian wildflowers she revered.

Catharine married Thomas Traill in 1832 and emigrated to Upper Canada, close to her brother near Peterborough. Her book, *“The Backwoods of Canada”* published in 1836, chronicles her experiences – those of an English gentlewoman in the untamed wilderness of Upper Canada. As time went on, Catharine grew to love the flora and fauna of her new home, and in 1868 she published

"Canadian Wild Flowers" followed in 1885 by "Studies of Plant Life in Canada" with its beautiful horticultural sketches. In the "Canadian Settler's Guide" Catharine shared her myriad survival skills in housing, feeding, doctoring and educating her family, which included the survivors of her 9 children. Catharine published her last book at the age of 83 and died at 97, in 1899.

Ms. Higgs presented 16 of the most common Canadian wildflowers, most of which have medicinal properties. It is important to note that the word "heritage" indicates a plant that existed pre-1945 while "native" connotes the era of Pre – European contact. Catharine, through her own ingenuity and her friendship with the local Chippewa people (Ojibwe) became a talented herbalist, able to exploit the land which was "*savage and grand in its primeval beauty*". Though homesick for the genteel manners of her native land, Catharine had to admit that "*filled with the love of Nature, my heart forgot for the time the love of home*". She appears to have been the poster child for adaptation.

The sixteen commonly named wildflowers are as follows:

Black-eyed Susan is a handsome drought tolerant annual, biannual or perennial which beckons bees and butterflies

Bloodroot is found on the margins of the forest and is an early Spring bloomer

Blue Flag Iris is the official flower of Québec (fleur de lis) which prefers shade and exudes lovely hues of blue and purple

Butterfly Weed is a host for monarch butterflies. It is showy scarlet/orange and is commonly found in this area on Highway 45 near Alderville

Canadian Bellflower is very easy to grow with white, violet and blue flowers. The Canadian cultivar is more robust than its UK cousin which is native to Scotland

Canadian Columbine thrives on neglect in poor soil, though it looks very delicate. It grows among

rocky outcrops and is important to local fauna, bees and hummingbirds

Cardinal flower is a profuse bloomer in Summer. It is actually a red version of the lobelia, which is rare in the UK but locally, grows on the banks of the Otonabee River

Lupin displays beautifully in its wild state. One often sees whole fallow fields displaying the tall azure blue, white and purple stately spikes. Karner blue butterflies feed on nectar from many different types of flowers, but their larvae can only survive on the leaves of the Lupin

Marsh Marigold presents a splendid field of cloth of gold. It needs low, wet ground found in drainage ditches. It is a Spring ephemeral, which refers to perennial plants that emerge quickly in the Spring and die back to their underground parts after a short growth and reproduction phase

Ontario Blazing Star is a liatris that favours dry hills and dried water courses. It has dark grass-like leaves and dense flower heads

Purple Corn Flower is a handsome ornamental which can be left for birds and used as decor after the Summer season

Sharp-lobed Hepatica loves a rock garden - it is the "*first to appear in an old growth forest and its sweet flowers gladden the observer*" - according to Catharine Parr Traill - it is essentially the same as the daisy in the UK

Virginia Creeper is a prolific grower - in fact don't stand still too close to it. It climbs effortlessly and covers a myriad of visual sins. Catharine Parr Traill favoured it to cover her log cabin which she considered ugly. The Creeper has the distinction of continuing to grow unfazed by a severe haircut, which is necessary from time to time as it can "fall off" whatever it is climbing up due entirely to volume

Wild Bergamot is the magic ingredient in Earl Grey tea and is related to Bee Balm (Monarda). It thrives in grassy plains in much of North America

Wood Geranium is in the Cranesbill family. It blooms after the Spring flowers and is both ornamental and an astringent for a sore throat

Wild Rose (rosa bland) has the fragrance, colour and short life of its species. Beautiful and fleeting, it grows in meadows and prairies and is the closest to a thornless rose that exists.

The Cramahe Horticultural Society members are grateful to Ms. Higgs for the information provided

and for reawakening an interest in reading Catharine Parr Traill's books. Not only is Ms. Traill an accomplished author, illustrator, herbalist, mother, wife (of a delicate husband) and pioneer, but to all who knew her, a relentlessly pleasant and resourceful woman who personifies the tenacity, courage and ingenuity of the settlers of this part of Ontario.

~ Robin Young

~ June Flower Show ~~




~~~ *The 3 P's Project* ~~~  
*Parade, Planting and Popsicles!*





# ~~~ *The Chair Project* ~~~

*A colourful way to beautify our community and mark GardenOntario Week, June 10 – 18, 2017.*







*~~~ Volunteer Service Awards ~~~*





# ~~~ *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.  
Upcoming Meetings: August 12, **Annual Flower & Vegetable Show**. September 16, **Plant Sale**, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Curling Club parking lot. September 26, **Gardening as We Age**, with Diane & Gary Westlake.

**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. Upcoming Meetings: July 9, **Summer Tea Party**, location TBA. Saturday, August 5, **Summer Flower, Fruit and Photography Show**, Cobourg Library, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. September 6, **Gardening from a Hammock** with Dan Cooper.

**Grafton Horticulture** meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.  
Upcoming meetings: Sunday, July 9, 1-4 p.m., **4-Club Garden Tour**. September 11, **Catharine Parr Traill & Canadian Wildflowers**, with Joyce Higgs.

**Omeme Blooms Garden Club** meets at Trinity United Church, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Upcoming meetings: July 17, **Harvesting & Preserving Your Vegetables**, with Joyce Higgs. August 21, **"Must-Have" Plants and Flower Show** at Omeme Legion. September 18, **Rain Gardens**, with Cauleen Viscoff.

**Peterborough Horticulture** meets at the Lions' Centre, 347 Burnham St., Peterborough, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings: September 27, **Secret Lives of Small Creatures in Your Garden** with Leslie Abram, Photographer.

**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.  
Upcoming Meetings: August 14, **Potluck Picnic/Flower & Vegetable Show**. (Parkette across from Ruth Clarke Show and inside building.) September 11, **Pruning & Dividing**, with David Retallick of David's Perennials.

## ~~ *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.

### Upcoming:

**Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 am to 4 pm**  
*Trash & Treasures*

**Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.**  
*Summer Potluck Picnic*  
*At the Ecology Garden*

**Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**  
*Pure Joy Herbal Creations*  
*With Joy Cameron & Joanna Wiersma*  
*and*

**Fall Vegetable and Decorative Flower Show**  
*and*

**Nominations for Officers for 2018**

## CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

President: **Sharron MacDonald**  
[sharron@start.ca](mailto:sharron@start.ca)  
Vice President: **Jim Detenbeck**  
[detenbeckjg@gmail.com](mailto:detenbeckjg@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)

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