

The GardenShed

Summer 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB



Spring 2021



the Garden Shed

Summer 2021

~ from the Editor

Thankfully, with the COVID vaccination availability and the province's organized and efficient distribution of same, we have a lot to look forward to this year. Time to enjoy (COVID/small) gatherings, barbecues and sipping drinks on the patio.

Ah summertime! For gardeners, Spring and Fall are very busy seasons, but summer is a time to rest, recoup and watch the results of your efforts.

An update on last Fall's invasion of the dreaded Devil's Beggar-tick plant and seeds in my garden: I certainly did not vacuum up all the seeds from the clearing out of that dreadful plant as this year my garden was full, I mean FULL of those devilish plants. It took me a while to recognize what they were (all the sprouts look the same to me) and I had planted a lot of flower seeds in that garden...so by the time I figured that out, the devils had choked out anything else. Now I have a pretty bare garden but no devils. Hopefully that's the last I see of them.

On the positive side, the roses are gorgeous, the hostas huge, the veggies are coming along nicely. So, I'm getting set to put my feet up and enjoy our wonderful summer weather. I say this all the while feeling totally distressed by the extreme heat and devastation by wild fires in western Canada.

We don't normally have a summer issue but I think this year it is a good idea to extend the camaraderie throughout the summer while we're actually growing our gardens.

So, I thank all who have provided input to this issue, taking time from your lazy days of summer.

~ Shannon



~ from the President

As I sit here on this dull Sunday afternoon, I am thankful for the reduction in the humidity. The past couple of weeks have been a bit on the brutal side and it has been hard to handle the humidity some days. Working in the garden has been a case of 'how many shirts will I change today'. I don't mind a bit of heat, but I find it very hard to breathe when it is so humid. I have asthma and it can get quite difficult, especially if I have to be wearing my mask for any length of time! I am sure a number of you have experienced the same thing while trying to work in the humidity. And then there has been the rain! I know we need rain for our gardens, but I think we have probably had enough already. I don't know what is happening to the weather (climate change perhaps), but it certainly is having an impact on us. We are on a well, so we can appreciate the rain and we have all of our rain barrels filled, but it has made it difficult to work in the garden. If we aren't melting from the heat and humidity, we are drowning in all the rain!! It is too bad that we can't ship some of the rain out to B.C. to help put out all of the wild fires they are having. Hopefully the weather will sort itself out for the rest of the Summer.

Now that the Province is going into Stage 3 of the reopening, we should be able to start thinking about getting together for some meetings. I know that we can only have 25 people inside and I don't know when that will change. Since we don't normally meet in the Summer, we are looking at September for our first meeting at the Keeler Centre ... providing they are opening up for meetings. More information to come as we learn more.

We have kept busy behind the scenes and have had our executive meetings by Zoom each month. The township asked that our group look after the gardens surrounding the Gazebo in Victoria Square Park and that was taken care of. Peggy Howden provided about 20 plants that she put in among the plants that were already there. The club had to buy 3 new boxwood shrubs to replace 3 that were dead. We were also asked by the Art Gallery to take over the gardens there. Trish O'Brien, Nancy Riggers, Ingrid Schumacher-Anderson and myself spent an afternoon weeding and cleaning up the shrubs. We will be going

back in the Fall to move some of the Hostas as they are stuck between some of the trees. This garden is well established and will need minimal work to keep it looking good.

*I have spoken before about the **Hope Garden** contest and the posters have been distributed throughout Cramahe Township. So ... get out there folks and nominate a bright and beautiful yellow garden! It could be your neighbor's garden, your friend's garden, your daughter's garden, even....well, you know...your.... garden... send a message to cramahe.hort@gmail.com to let us know.*

The hope is that we will be able to have our Fall Vegetable and Decorative Flower Show in person. Our Spring plant sale has been moved to Fall due to COVID and will be held tentatively on September 25, or October 2. More information to follow. Then there will be the Photography Contest in October. If all goes well, we will be having our Annual General Meeting in November.

I will be attending the OHA Virtual Convention from July 16 – 18, being organized by District 10. I have received the information about the virtual portal and I will log on Friday morning. The convention is having guest speakers, vendors, garden tours and the Annual General Meeting ... just like you were there in person. I have attended many conventions, but I must say, I am kind of interested to see how this one will go. I will let you know in the next newsletter.

I am busy getting speakers for our meetings for the next year. If there is someone or something in particular that you would like to have for a guest speaker, please let me know at sharronstart@gmail.com and I will see what I can do. Maybe there is a workshop that you would like to do or something you would like to learn how to do. Put your thinking caps on and let me hear your ideas.

I hope you all can continue to enjoy the Summer and I look forward to seeing you all in the Fall. Stay safe, stay well, keep hydrated and keep the water out of your boots!!



~ Sharron

A special **shout out** to Olga J. who, for the first time since joining in 2019 submitted her flowers to the flower show this year. Hopefully we will see her entries every year from here on.



THE APPLE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB
presents
GARDENING FROM A HAMMOCK
BY DAN COOPER
April 20, 2021

Dan Cooper has hit the nail on the head! Low maintenance gardening is what those of us who have joined the septuagenarian club need. Gone are the days of toiling in the garden for 6 or 7 hours, hoisting bags of soil, compost and mulch; we can still bend down but getting back up is a challenge. We are sore in places as yet undiscovered and it is all getting to be a bit much.

We'll get someone to help we think, and to that I say "how is that working for you"? But we have spent copious amounts of time, energy and dollars to achieve the garden we are proud of but can no longer maintain to our high standards.

What to do? If you are Dan Cooper, you write a book to help us poor hapless souls learn to maintain our gardens with a minimum of effort.

Dan Cooper is a well known master gardener who has circumnavigated the world four times, a landscape designer who specializes in shade gardens and organic gardening. As well as his principal business of garden design and exotic garden tours, he travels the world taking photographs which are featured in every notable publication on gardening and travel.

He also has a healthy schedule of lectures based in his book "Gardening from a Hammock". He identifies plants that thrive on neglect, are drought resistant and difficult to kill. The book contains the collective wisdom of Dan and his master gardener friends, each of whom has their own unique approach to gardening, all contained in a theme such as sustainability, bold, colour, poetic, broad-leaf and conifer, experimental, small urban, aristocratic, naturalistic, the plant-a-holic and so on.

Many of Dan's plant recommendations have the added value of being of no interest to deer and other woodland creatures who eat our plants as quickly as we can grow them.

A bit of sage advice is to learn the botanical names of plants. This is important because most plants have dozens of varieties and it is easy to plant the wrong one in the wrong place at the wrong time, which causes heartbreaking "fails".

Dan's book is a veritable cornucopia of observations, recommendations and a peek into the life of a master gardener. Merle Burstson says of the Japanese painted fern "each one has a different colour and pattern... I love the texture and form. With something like this growing in the shade, who needs flowers?"

Paul Zammit of CBC and Toronto Botanical Garden fame says "When you grow up, you've got to love your job... when I get home after a full day at work, I go to work in my garden. It relaxes me."

Katy Anderson speaks for the time challenged gardener, "If I get to it, I get to it. If I don't, it's not the end of the world. I am not a fussy gardener, I don't have a Homes and Garden garden.

Marion Jarvie whose aristocratic garden is a matter of pride says "I would never dream of having a plant I wouldn't be proud to own". She rates every plant by several criteria, including interest for more than one season, in more than one area.

This book contains suggestions for every conceivable gardening situation, how to step down the garden from tall to small; under plantings; the nocturnal plants that like deep shade and those who must be in the blazing sun to be happy. It is like an encyclopedia of names, varieties, growing zones, birds of a feather plants that like the same conditions, plants that thrive in arid, sandy, desert like soils; watering protocols; insects and pests and too many

more things to mention. Also, each writer has done a sun/shade split after identifying their favourite low maintenance plants.

Gardening from a Hammock is a treasure trove of information, all aimed at a low maintenance garden...a beautiful low maintenance garden. Just because you are not slaving night and day doesn't mean you won't have a spectacular garden by following this guide.

There is an extra bonus, a separate Botanical Reference Guide which gives you the botanical name, common name, height, spread, zone, detail and bloom time, and uses. Be sure to take it with you when visiting a nursery.



I could go on for pages and pages of low maintenance plants identified in Gardening from a Hammock but the book does it so much better and it is ideal to read the book with the reference guide at hand.

Currently in its 3rd publishing, here are the coordinates:

Buy Gardening From A Hammock by contacting

GreenGardens@bell.net

(and I assure you I'm not on commission, I have dozens of gardening books and this one is a keeper)



~ Robin Y

*Don't forget your
summer gardening
Tools!!*

~~Container Gardening

For the dedicated, it is not too late to plant salad makings and/or herbs this summer to enjoy through August, September and into October.

Some things to work on first:

- Use containers with good drainage
- Use quality potting soil
- Add fertilizer throughout the growing season
- You may have to shade your plants in the heat of the afternoon.

What to grow?:

Spinach:

- Grow in a cool location in the shade.
- Water twice daily
- Ready to eat in six to seven weeks
- Enjoy tossed with strawberries, feta cheese and balsamic vinaigrette.

Leaf Lettuce:

- Plant densely in smaller containers
- Keep cool and moist, water daily, partial sun
- Ready to eat in three to four weeks.

Swiss Chard:

- Grow in full sun, watering daily
- Harvest leaves when they are small, but avoid stripping all the leaves to encourage new growth.
- Enjoy by tossing with toasted almonds, dried cherries and a generous drizzle of lemon vinaigrette for a bitter-sweet taste.

~~ Summer Recipes

And who doesn't love **summer salads**?

Crunchy Asian-Style Slaw

Ingredients:

- 1 lime
- ½ cup roasted garlic & citrus salad dressing
- 3 cups shredded red cabbage
- 3 scallions, thinly sliced
- ½ cup shredded carrots
- bean sprouts, toasted sliced almonds & toasted sesame seeds (optional, but fun!)

Method:

Grate 2 tsp. zest and squeeze 1 tbs. juice from lime into large bowl; whisk in dressing. Toss in both cabbages, scallions and carrots. Season to taste with salt & pepper. Refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving. If using, serve with sprinkled sprouts, almonds and sesame seeds .

Baby Lettuce salad with raspberries, cranberries and feta

Ingredients:

For the Salad:

- 5 oz. baby lettuce or spring mix
- 1 cup fresh raspberries, washed and patted dry
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/3 cup walnut pieces, toasted

For the Dressing:

- 2 tbs. red wine vinegar
- 2 tsp. pure maple syrup
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 4 tbs. extra virgin olive oil
- salt & freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Method:

1. Toast the walnuts 350 degrees for 8-10 min, cool
2. Add lettuce, raspberries, cranberries and feta cheese in large bowl, set aside.
3. Place red wine vinegar, maple syrup, Dijon mustard, olive oil, salt & pepper in a mason jar and cover tightly with a lid. Shake vigorously until emulsified.
4. Pour dressing over salad and toss to coat, top with toasted walnuts.

Summer Salad

~ Clair B.

Start with your favourite chef salad, add roasted sweet potatoes cubed, feta cheese, sunflower seeds and lemon vinaigrette dressing So very refreshing!!

Strawberry Rhubarb Cake ~ Clair B.

White cake. Start from scratch or use a box mix. Add frozen/thawed cubed rhubarb and cubed strawberries gently mixed. Bake as normal until toothpick test shows done. Enjoy!

~~~ Garden Gallery ~~~

Our own **Sandra C.** has submitted her oil painting of the Rudbeckia flowers grown in her 'pallet garden'.

I would love to know more about that method of growing, wouldn't you?

Thank you for sharing, it is lovely!



Bonnie I. has invited us into her extraordinarily landscaped garden near the lake. Pictures taken in late Spring. This is such a unique garden.



~~~ *More Garden Gallery* ~~~

Unless we make a special trip to the Rotary Park, most of us don't get a chance to review the Ecology Garden while it is in full bloom....so Len S. has given us a pictorial insight into the midsummer colourful blooms and lush foliage.



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

I have a redbud tree in my front yard. I believe it is 17-18 years old now. It was absolutely spectacular in bloom this spring. The best it's ever been. I think it's because it is mature now. Also, because it is mature - for the first time, it is producing seed pods galore. They look like snow pea pods except they are pink (although a few are turning tan in colour now). From what I read, they will stay on the tree and ripen in late autumn - I'll try to gather some and germinate them in spring.

I have two cherry trees in the front yard. Again perhaps due to maturity and/or agreeable weather conditions, they produced a bumper crop of fruit this year. We managed to get a few but the birds and small mammals got most of the crop as they take the cherries before they are ripe.

We had a cute 'incident' here this summer. A certain family member (who shall remain nameless) came to visit. Part of our 'bubble' of single relatives. Came in the kitchen door, all excited and said, "I just saw a red mink go around the corner of the house". Three of us said - there's no such thing as a red mink, it must have been a red squirrel. The person said "no, it was much bigger". One person Googled on the cellphone and I looked it up in a book. We both said there is no such thing as a red mink. He was NOT convinced. So ever since when we see a red squirrel we call it a 'rare' red mink.

I love foxgloves but for many years couldn't grow them very well or didn't have a suitable place. Now I've got a good spot behind the garage. For a few years now I've managed to keep the lovely pale yellow Grecian foxglove going. Last year, I started seeds of digitalis 'Berggold' (red foxglove) and put them behind the garage. This year they bloomed deep pink with dark spots. They were a magnificent 5-6 feet tall. Then we had a very heavy rain and most of them were bent to the ground. Went out a couple of days later and the tips were bent/curved upwards trying to reach the light. Another variety I have is called 'Monstrosa' and they have come back reliably for 4 years now. Not as tall as some others but similar form, except that the very top flower is 3-4 times the size of the others. I have them in white and in pink.

With all the rain we've had recently I am finding many plants are much taller than usual. I wonder if some type of nutrients also come down with the rain. You can water the gardens and lawns all you want - but really there is nothing as good as a good rain.

As some of you may know, a year ago, I lost my beloved dog Charlie. For several months I didn't want another dog but then began looking for one. It took about 7 months but finally found a 7 month old female pup, not too far away from my house. Oh my gosh! I forgot how much energy and time a young pup takes. After all, it has been more than 14 years! I can hardly get enough time or energy to tend my own gardens. However, she is helpful too. She digs holes for me! Not where I want them of course. Recently a wise friend told me, never mind, it's just like this for the first year. She is adorable though. The other night I was out with 'Jody' for the last tinkle of the night and she spotted fireflies. At first she just sat and looked. Then she started jumping and trying to catch them. No luck. Then we were near the pond and heard bullfrogs calling. She was intrigued by that sound for quite awhile. Of course, I explained what it was but she got bored and finally did her business.

The bugs are not too bad here this year. I only found one rose chafer this year so very little damage on roses, peonies and clematis. I squish lily beetles as soon as I see them so not too many of those. Rabbits are abundant though. Lots of damage from them. But thank goodness we don't have gypsy moth caterpillars here!

Friday July 16/21: Woke up today and discovered the sugar maple by the pond had split in two. It fell on my recently installed greenhouse. I was so looking forward to having it for next spring. Don't yet know if it can be salvaged. We have to clear away the tree first.

All for now -

~~ Peg H.

~~~ *Little Sprout Corner* ~~~

The results are in!

Which of our Garden Club members do you think these baby sprouts grew up to be?

Two correct guesses by Karen P. and Clair B.

Valerie D.

My baby picture was taken on my first birthday in my Grandma's garden.



One of the first things I did after moving to Colborne from Burlington (where our gardens had filled every inch of yard), was to join the "Hort".

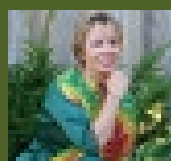
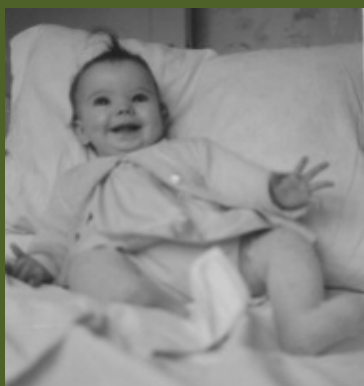
Five years of fun and friendship with fellow gardeners - taking part in AGMs, plant and garage sales, as well as flower and photography shows was just what Jim and I needed in our new community. And a wonderful way to showcase our ever expanding garden!

Classed as a greedy gardener, I love collecting unusual colours and varieties.

No correct guesses.

Corinne H.

A member since 2018, Corinne is the friendly voice on the phone calling the members regarding their well-being, informing them of upcoming events and getting their input to questions regarding the club direction. Corinne also looks after the library for the club. Having a background in landscape design, she has a wonderfully designed & executed landscape and pond on her property.



Two correct guesses by Karen P. and Clair B.

Jim D.

The baby photo was taken at my grandparents farm in the Niagara area.

After 45 years of dragging Valerie and the kids across Canada, there and back again and with retirement eyeing me, Valerie and I decided to make a change....

We moved to Colborne by chance, seeing (on our detoured way to Belleville), a for-sale sign on a beautiful cottage. After some (minimal) soul searching, we made the leap.

Since then I have been active in the Garden Club (past President) and on the Township Heritage Committee as well as being the designated 'hole digger and garden 'expander', recently I've even been allowed to pull weeds... I guess that's called career growth.



~~~ Over the Garden Fence ~~~

(Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)

The Horticultural clubs have been closed to public meetings due to COVID since March 2020. Where possible, there has been some effort made by the individual clubs to keep the club somewhat active during the past months.

Events shown here are planned for 2021 but due to COVID-19 are subject to change.

Brighton Horticulture meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St. 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. No meetings in July, August or December. All meetings are on-hold due to COVID. All events are tentative.

August 14	Annual Flower & Vegetable Show	King Edward Community Centre
Sept 11	Plant Sale - Outdoor Event	Curling Club parking lot; 85 Elizabeth St.
Sept 28	Herbs 101: Design, Create, Enjoy with Kerry Hackett	
	Flower show awards	
Oct. 26	Photo Contest - submit by date shown	King Edward Community Centre
	Favourite Plants - by Anna's Perennials, Anna Mizyn	

Cobourg Horticulture meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Due to the on-going pandemic, this year's speakers will be coming to us via Zoom. CHS members will receive an invitation via email approximately two weeks before each session.

Grafton Green Thumbs meet at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Meetings are tentative and being held via Zoom due to COVID-19.

Sept 10	Summer Flower Show - 6:30 p.m.	St. Andrew's United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd.
	"How Climate Change is Affecting our Flora & Fauna	Speaker: Drew Monkman
Oct. 8	"Garden Invaders & Alternatives"	Speaker: Ontario Invasive Plant Council
	Youth Awards Presentation	
Nov. 12	"Creating Outdoor Wonder:	Speaker: Julie McCuaig, Quinn's Blooms & Greenery

Peterborough Horticulture meets at the Lions' Centre, 347 Burnham St., Peterborough, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Online! Utilizing the Zoom platform for the foreseeable future. The meeting link will be forwarded to all members a day or two prior to the meeting.

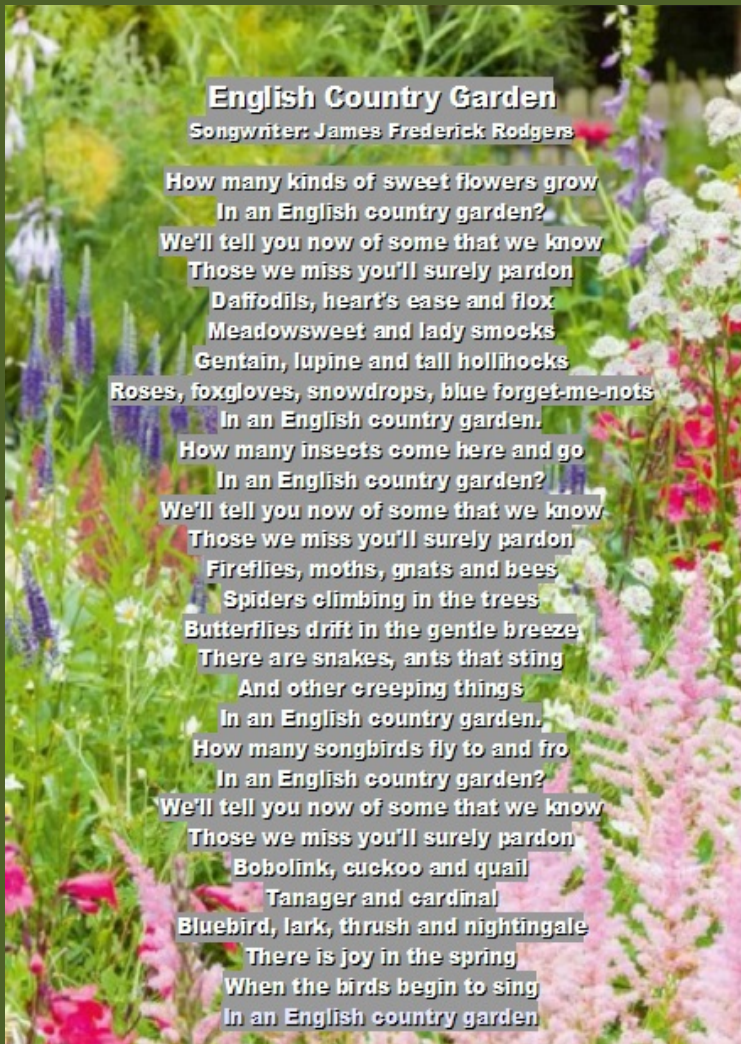
Port Hope Garden Club meets at the Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S., 3rd Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm. All meetings are on-hold due to COVID-19.

~~ Please Join Us ...

Apple Country Garden Club (Cramahe) meets 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Keeler Centre, 80 Division Street, Colborne. All meetings are on-hold due to COVID-19.

on Facebook or online at cramahehort.ca, email at cramahe.hort@gmail.com

Summer Hope Garden Contest	Cramahe Township (by nomination)	Closes Aug. 31
Fall Vegetable and Decorative Flower Show	September 21	
Photocopy Contest	October 19	
Plant Sale	tentative dates Sept 25, Rain Date Oct 2	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



The Apple Country Garden Club

President:	Sharron MacDonald sharronstart@gmail.com
Secretary:	Trish O'Brien twillow_51@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Clair Breton clairbreton@bell.net
Newsletter:	Shannon Shea acgc.gardenshed@gmail.com

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