

The GardenShed

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB
Winter 2022



Park Street East at Elgin, (looking over downtown Colborne)



~ From the Editor

Not the best photograph but I wanted to get a picture from the top of Park Street (Tank Hill) and Elgin Street looking over the town of Colborne one last time before the bulldozers start up and take that wonderful view away for a new subdivision. My thanks to the home owner who agreed to let me into their backyard to take this picture.

How little things have changed over the period of one year. Here we are, still locked down due to COVID, still unable to meet in person and still having to isolate most of the time. There is one good thing though... the good thing is that we have all (hopefully) had our 2 or 3 doses of vaccine and can look ahead to having, at some point, this virus finally disappear into the wind.

In spite of it all, I hope everyone had a good holiday season. Hearty turkey dinners, lots of pumpkin and apple pie and chocolate, lots of chocolate. Actually, we're right in the middle of **chocolate season** right now, which starts with Halloween, continues through Christmas and New Years...then on to Valentine's Day and ends with Easter.

Pace yourselves folks, you've still got a ways to go!

It is a new year so let's make the best of this seemingly never-ending situation and make our plans for a healthy year, a good gardening year, and a good socializing year (though it may be virtual). I mean the socializing, not the gardening!

According to the Farmer's Almanac we should be prepared to "weather the storms" while winter brings us "snowed in, sleeted on, slushed about, soaked and otherwise generally soggy". Yuk!



the Garden Shed

Winter 2022

In our "Hardiness Zone of 6a", winter is a period of rest and recuperation in anticipation of the growing year ahead. But, in this issue we're celebrating some of the flowering plants that keep our homes bright and cheerful during the cold winter months, both inside and out. I thank the all members who have submitted pictures (in the Gallery Section) of some of their indoor bloomers for our visual enjoyment this season. ("bloomers?" who wears bloomers these days?) ha!

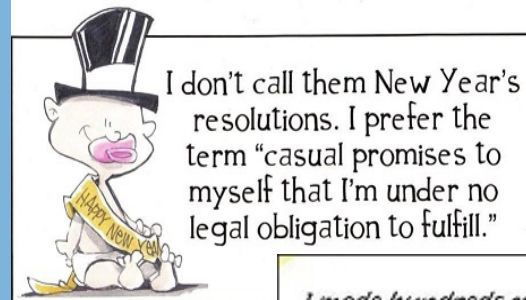
A parting thought from:

Liberty Hyde Bailey, U.S. Scientist (1858 - 1954)

A garden is half-made when it is well planned. The best gardener is the one who does the most gardening by the winter fire.

~ Shannon

It's a New Year, got Resolutions?



I made hundreds of resolutions this year. I figure one or two will stick just by sheer chance!

No matter how badly life treated you last year... Just walk tall with your head held high. This is a brand new Year!



~ From the President

Happy New Year and welcome to another year of lockdowns, another year of uncertainty and more time for staying at home ... a lot!! This year does not seem to be starting out very well, but being an eternal optimist, I am still planning on us getting together in the near future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our membership. You have stood by us for the past two years, paying your memberships and hoping that we would be able to meet. You have shown your trust in the Board and when able, you have helped where help was needed. I must tell you, that we are doing very well compared to some other groups in the District. They are struggling to make their numbers and some groups are on the verge of closing. We are blessed to have such a group of dedicated members who have kept our numbers at the 50 mark and I hope we can soon return your trust by having in-person meetings with the guest speakers that have been lined up for us. Your Board of Directors are still meeting monthly by Zoom to plan the activities for the coming year and we all hopeful that we will be meeting again soon.



The Year Book is on it's way to the printers and should be available in February. At least you will be able to see the programs and speakers that have been arranged for this year and be able to follow the guidelines for the Flower Shows. You will know what flowers you should plant in your garden to be able to enter the shows. If we are not meeting in person, designated spots will be set up for you to pick up your Year Book. An email will be sent letting you know when and where to get your books. Stay tuned for further details.

Canada: Plant RED for 2022 From January 1 to December 31, 2022, The Year of the Garden 2022 will commemorate Canada's rich garden heritage, celebrate today's vibrant garden culture, and



create important legacies for a sustainable future. Planning is already underway for a year of exciting "Live the Garden Life" activities, celebrations, special events and promotions that will take place in communities, schools, businesses, public and backyard gardens in all parts of Canada. Join the Celebration, plant RED for 2022! #YOTG #hopeisgrowing #plantred.

Don't forget that we will be having a "Front Garden" contest again this year to determine who has the best garden depicting the colour red. This will be for Cramahe Township, with one winner in Castleton and one winner in Colborne.

The American-based Pantone has determined that the international colour for the garden this year is Very Peri. This should make one of our members whom I cannot name, but whose initials are Valerie D. extremely happy! We think purple and red go quite well together; what do you think? This will make for some interesting colours in the gardens this year.



On a planting note, now would be a good time to check those dahlia tubers that you have tucked away. Discard any that have turned mushy or have mold growing on them. Any damage on the tubers could affect the others that you have stored.

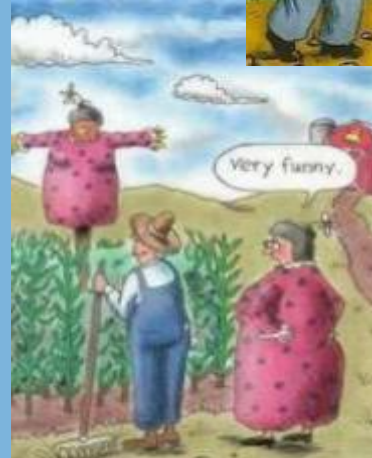
I was reading the Peterborough Newsletter today and one of their members had sent in an article called 'Floral Frenzy'. This got me to thinking and I was wondering how many of the members have this same issue. I would like to put out a challenge to you for our next newsletter. How many different types of flowers do you have represented in your home. Plants, flowers, dried flowers, pictures of flowers, etc. This includes every room in your house and I would like you to let us know how many different types of flowers and plants you have in your home. These flowers can be in pictures, on fabrics (think pillows), on glass, pressed ... whatever. Let's see who can be our "Crazy Flower Lady or Man". Let's see those totals!! You can send your totals to acgc.gardenshed@gmail.com and pictures too, if you like.

Also, in the Peterborough Newsletter they mentioned a number of online webinars that being published on Facebook (see Garden Ontario's Facebook page, or Master Gardeners of Ontario's Facebook page). These might help us to fill in some time while we are stuck at home!

One of the things we can do during the lockdown is go for a walk. We are limited to what we can do right now, but walking is great for our health and it helps improve your mental health as well. Another thing that helps improve our health is laughter. I am sharing some cartoons, again from the Peterborough Newsletter.

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and that you are managing to stay healthy and safe during this seemingly endless Covid nightmare! Until we meet again, stay safe and try to keep your minds and bodies occupied. This too shall pass and we will be in our gardens before you know it!!

~ **Sharron**



Outdoor Winter Blooming Plants

Though a chill is in the air in Apple Country, it doesn't mean the gardening season is completely over. There are plenty of plants and flowers that bloom in winter.

Some perennials, annuals, and shrubs actually bloom in the coldest months of the year. All plants listed here will survive in our Hardiness

Zone of 6a winters. With a little planning now, you can enjoy bright spots of color via flowers in winter when you need it the most.

Remember though, perennials and shrubs need to be planted before the ground freezes so they can get their roots established.

Here are some shrubs and flowers to plant for winter in our zone and how to take care of them for the best results.

Snowdrops (*Galanthus*)

Snowdrops bulbs must be planted in fall for a late winter show. These 3-6 inch droopy-headed flowers will start blooming when snow is still on the ground. For full impact, the snowdrops need to be planted 3 inches deep and 4 inches apart in clusters of 25 or more to provide the best ground covering "carpet". Trim back in spring. They propagate themselves slowly by bulb offsets making them a good investment for a spot in your garden.



Hellebores (*Helleborus orientalis*)

These gorgeous perennial plants, also known as Lenten roses because they bloom from February to May (around the time of Lent). Depending upon the species or hybrid though, this plant can bloom from **late November through winter until spring**. Plant at any time during the year, in shade or partial shade but be careful not to plant too deeply as this can hinder flower production. Make sure the crown of the plant is just slightly buried beneath the soil. Despite their delicate appearance, they're tough as



nails. Note: If ingested, this plant is toxic to humans and pets.

Winter Heath (*Erica carnea*)

The heaths and heathers come from the moorlands and highlands of Europe. Heath and heather are members of the Ericaceous family of plants which include such garden favourites as

Rhododendron, Azalea, Mountain Laurel and Japanese Pieris. There is often confusion between heath and heather. The heaths are generally early spring-blooming, flowering from early March to late May. They have needle-like evergreen leaves and form mat-like growths which may reach to 30 cm. Heather, on the other hand, are summer-fall bloomers, with flowers from late July till frost. The flower colour is the same for both; white, pink, red or purple. The foliage is mostly deep green, but colour-foliaged cultivars exist on both sides.



Winter Aconite (*Eranthis*)

These bulbs have buttercup-yellow blooms that boldly pop up (6 inches high) through the snow from late winter to early spring. They are shallow rooted, producing tubers just below the soil surface, so are also useful for pots and window boxes or plant them in gardens in masses for best effect. For best results, grow winter aconite in sun and in moist but well-drained soil. Plants naturally suit woodland settings. Note: If ingested, this plant is toxic to humans and pets.



Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis*)

This shrub (12 - 15 ft) boasts wispy-looking bright yellow flowers on bare branches in February or March, long before much else is going on in your garden. Their whimsical appearance makes them a fun addition to the landscape. This shrub is not prone to any particular problems and is a blaze of brilliant yellow foliage in the fall.



Camellia japonica (*Camellia japonica*)

Originating from Korea and Japan, these gorgeous shrubs (6 to 12 ft) with lustrous, leathery, evergreen leaves and early-spring lush white, pink, or red 2-3 inch flowers will bloom from fall through winter. With hundreds of varieties, read the plant description or label to make sure you choose one that will bloom in winter.



Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa luciliae*)

These bulbs are native to Turkey and as the name indicates, these star-shaped little beauties may peep through the snow in late winter through early spring. They come in blues, pinks, and whites. Each bulb bears five to ten blooms on thick short brown stems. Plant in rock gardens or at the front of the border. Plant in the fall, locating them in full to partial sun in well-drained soil. Place the bulbs about 3" apart and 2-4" deep.



Indoor Winter Blooming Plants

Bring some colour into your home during the winter months by adding some winter blooming plants to your decor. Houseplants are known as being great air purifiers because they release oxygen into the atmosphere at night and are known to bring a sense of calm, relaxation and peace to any space.

Not listed here but always a favourite is the **African Violet**, a constant and easy-care bloomer. I had one that died of old-age after 40 years of blooming!

The following list comprises some of the easy-care winter-blooming houseplants for you. Care should be taken to water your plants sparingly in winter, keep the temperature in your home moderate (21 degrees C), humid, and place your plant where light is available.

Amaryllis (*Amaryllidaceae*)

One of the most popular winter-flowering houseplants available. It has blooms in bright red, pink or white depending on the variety you purchase. Grow in direct sunlight until flowers appear and then move out of direct sun to prolong the bloom time. Rotate the pot occasionally to prevent the stems from leaning toward the light. Plant blooms 8 to 10 weeks after planting and lasts for about six weeks.

Once the flowering stops, cut off the stalk just above the bulb, remove the bulb from the soil in September and keep in the dark for about 90 days before re-potting.

Amaryllis flowers can become very heavy, causing the plant to fall over. If this happens, you'll need to stake the plant to keep it upright. Insert the support into the soil with care to avoid injuring the amaryllis bulb and use a soft tie to fasten the stem to the stake.



Anthurium (*Araceae*)

Though Anthuriums need to be kept moist at all times, they should never sit in water. This winter indoor plant loves high humidity so increase the humidity by placing the plant on a shallow pebble-and-water-filled tray. It prefers moderate to bright light so if an Anthurium's leaves are dark green it means that they are receiving enough light, if they are light green or yellow it means that they need more light!



Christmas Cactus (*Cactaceae*)

Also known as Thanksgiving Cactus, the Christmas cactus is a popular houseplant that blooms in fall, winter, or early spring with pink or white flowers. The Christmas cactus does well in bright sun to part shade and only needs to be watered when the top of the soil is dry. The Christmas cactus can also bloom multiple times throughout the year, but it can take a little effort to get them to re-bloom. Feed after blooming and place in a cool, dark basement window until new buds appear.



Kalanchoe (*Crassulaceae*)

This evergreen succulent is native to tropical Madagascar, and is a common houseplant grown for its attractive, numerous clusters of colourful flowers in shades of yellow, orange, or red. This houseplant is very easy to take care of and will produce an abundance of long lasting flowers with very little care. It needs plenty of light, a warm room, well-drained soil, little water.



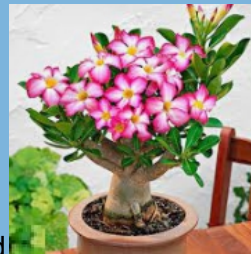
Cyclamen (*Primulaceae*)

This attractive flowering houseplant blooms in winter or early spring and likes cool temperatures and moist soil (water when top soil is dry to your touch), so it's best to keep them near a window where you can get the most sunlight. After blooming, the plant dies back for the summer and loses its leaves and becomes dormant. Continue to water it on a regular basis (every one to two weeks) and when the weather cools down again, you will start to see new growth.



Desert Rose (*Adenium obesum*)

The Desert Rose is a gorgeous flowering plant native to the Arabian Peninsula. It blooms in winter or spring with flowers ranging from pink, white, red, and every colour in between! After blooming, the plant may shed its leaves until new growth appears in the summer. This drought-resistant succulent thrives in full sun, but has varying water requirements depending on the time of year and temperature. During its growing season (late spring and summer), keep its soil moist but never saturated. Check on the soil periodically and allow it to dry out completely before watering. Also, plant your desert rose in a container that has ample drainage holes as it can be susceptible to rot. In the fall and winter months (when the plant typically goes dormant); drastically

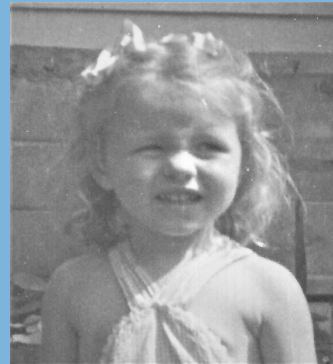


reduce moisture, watering only minimally once a month or so.

Note: The sap of this plant is toxic to humans and pets.

~~ Little Sprout Corner ~~

Which of our Garden Club members do you think this little baby sprout grew up to be??



Member's current picture will be revealed here next issue

e-mail your guesses to:

acgc.gardenshed@gmail.com

~~ Fast Facts on: Snowmen

- A snowman is an anthropomorphic snow sculpture
- There are more than 90,000 YouTube videos to teach you how to build a snowman; someone even patented instructions on the process.
- Snowmen became popular subjects for illustrated print material at the turn of the century, decorating postcards, greeting cards, and magazine covers. Because they could presumably be depicted as stumbling drunks while maintaining an aura of charm, alcohol peddlers frequently used snowmen in print advertisements. After Prohibition ended in 1933, snow-lushes could be seen in ads for Miller, Schlitz, and Jack Daniel's.
- In Japan, snowmen are good luck charms and are constructed with two balls and a lit candle placed in a cavity of its stomach.



~~~ Garden Gallery ~~~

Let's start this season with a little look back at the end of Fall last year.....

Len S. organized the "Fall Cleanup Day" at the Ecology Garden on October 28, they were getting everything ready for winter and another great growing season in Spring and Summer 2022. The club appreciates all who work tirelessly to keep it all growing. Enjoy some pics of a day well spent.



This picture was taken on October 29 of a late-blooming iris grown by our very own June Johnson in her very own garden.

She has gifted it to me and I enjoy it every day, brightening up my kitchen!

There aren't enough beautiful words I can say about my very good friend June.

~~ Kris R.



~~~ *More Garden Gallery* ~~~

My indoor houseplants are mostly a happy lot at the moment, including the collection of things that I bring inside each year: oleander, various ferns, geraniums, spider plants etc.

The stars at this time of year though remain my Thanksgiving Cactus, which true to form sent up a rush of beautiful deep pink blooms at the end of November (American Thanksgiving),.....



and the Clivia, which waits with its lovely offering until Christmastime. I am rewarded with this gift again this year...



As is the case for us all, during the garden season I am outside a lot, tending my seemingly nonstop collection of gardens. It's a labour of love. I know we all get that! Now that the colder weather has returned, I turn my garden ambitions into my artwork. Even though I truly do enjoy many aspects of winter (really!) perhaps I am subconsciously dreaming of being back out in the garden? Anyway, I thought I'd share a work in progress ... untitled as of yet, unfinished ... but a great off-season pastime for a garden enthusiast.

~~ *Ingrid A.*



~~ From One Gardener to Another ~~

Well – here we go again. Another year of COVID. I don't know about you but it's beginning to get to me. Enough already!

First of all, I'd like to say how much I have appreciated our club newsletter each season even when there is practically nothing going on in our horticultural world. I really enjoy the "Little Sprouts" Corner. Have you submitted your photo yet? You should. The little kids are so cute and it's fun trying to guess who they are. Have I guessed anyone correctly? No, not one!

January 3 this year, I looked out one of my windows to see what birds were at the feeder. To my delight, there was my first sighting of a male eastern towhee. He seems to be staying around for now as I see him often, either on the side veranda or in the front yard under the cedars. There is a spot where I put scratch grains for all those birds who like to feed on the ground. I'm hoping a female comes by, they decide to stay and nest on my property.



Apparently they like open brushy places and the edges of forests. I have some of that. Here's hoping!

In December just past, I had another first sighting for me in this area. As I was driving into Cobourg one day, there was a male ring-necked pheasant at the side of the road in Wicklow. The males are gorgeous. Again I was delighted.

Since I came to this area twenty years ago I often wondered why I saw



no pheasants. I thought there was lots of good habitat for them. Long ago when I lived in Oakville we had many pheasants in our back yard. They used to come

up the bank of the *Sixteen Mile Creek* to feed, as my dad used to put seed out for them and other birds. We lived in a wonderful place, no neighbours at the back - just a forested steep bank down to marshland along the river. A marvelous area for a nature-loving kid like me.

John and I had a charming, wonky "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree this year. I harvested it from our own property. Last spring I had three spruce trees which I wanted to remove. Two are growing in a lawn area and are a bit aggravating to mow around. The third was growing in a garden. It had gotten too big and up against another shrub. Neither of them had a good shape. Too flat on one side as not enough light can reach either of the two. Then I thought - why not use them as Christmas trees? So this time, I cut down the one in the garden about two weeks before the big day. Actually, it was pretty good being so flat on one side as I could put it up very close to the wall. Once it was decorated, it was okay. And the bonus was - it lost very few needles. This year I'll prune the other two a bit to make them bush out a little more. They already have better shapes than the other one.

Not much going on in the garden right now but one thing struck me the other day and that is how gorgeous the yucca is in my front yard rock garden. It is the most vivid shade of yellow at this time of year. It may be that it catches your eye because everything else is so dull. I'm glad I put it there. It's outstanding. I believe the variety is called 'Colour Guard'.

All for now.

~~ Peg H.

~~~ *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.

Brighton Horticulture meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St. 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.

All meetings are on-hold due to COVID-19.

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, speakers will continue 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.

All meetings are being presented via Zoom, due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

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. *Membership* has its privileges.

Port Hope Garden Club meets at the Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S., 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm.

All meetings are on-hold due to COVID-19.



~~ Please Join Us ...

on Facebook
or online at cramahehort.ca

... meetings remain canceled due to COVID at the moment....stay tuned.....

Winter-Time

By Robert Louis Stevenson

*Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.*

*Before the stars have left the skies,
At morning in the dark I rise;
And shivering in my nakedness,
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.*

*Close by the jolly fire I sit
To warm my frozen bones a bit;
Or with a reindeer-sled, explore
The colder countries round the door.*

*When to go out, my nurse doth wrap
Me in my comforter and cap;
The cold wind burns my face, and blows
Its frosty pepper up my nose.*

*Black are my steps on silver sod;
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad;
And tree and house, and hill and lake,
Are frosted like a wedding-cake.*

The Apple Country Garden Club

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