

February 2012 Newsletter



*Every gardener knows that
under the cloak of winter lies
a miracle ... a seed waiting
to sprout, a bulb opening to
the light, a bud straining
to unfurl.*

*And the anticipation
nurtures our dream.*

Barbara Winkler



Lanark Orchid

Renals

*Perth & District
Horticultural
Society*

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*District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association*

PRESIDENT'S PEN



What a wonderful pastime armchair gardening is. Looking through magazines at fabulous garden designs and plant groupings we would like to replicate if we had the right property and conditions. Seed catalogues that give us a veritable feast in the current white landscape. Been tempted to try new plants or stick to the old favourites? Wondering where you would plant them, if they are suitable for one's garden, if you have room for one more?

We are having a very unusual winter and hope that all our plants survive and bloom again. I watch a rabbit wander around our garden from time to time and hope that it is not doing too much damage, lo and behold I saw two foxes on the lot opposite. I wanted to put out a sign telling them that there is a nice big fat rabbit in our garden come and get it. You know what they say about rabbits!!!!

We have had some really nice bright sunny days which has enabled us to go for walks in the neighbourhood. These walks bring back memories of neighbourhood parties, golf games and lots of fun things we did last summer, even cleaning windows!!! So as the days lengthen and the sun warms it gives one hope that it won't be too long before the snow drops peek their heads through the lingering snow to greet us.

While we wait for spring to arrive some of our members are working very hard preparing for Seedy Sunday and the Junior Gardeners program in the local schools. Watch for news on these fronts.

Madeline Archer



March Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 13 and will feature Richard Inchley, owner of "Richard Inchley Ponds and Aquaria." The topic will be "Water Gardens" and will provide valuable information on how to add that interesting water feature to your garden. Hope to see you there!

District 2 Annual General Meeting

The Ottawa Horticultural Society is hosting a "Party on the Patio," otherwise known as the 2012 District 2 Annual General Meeting, and all members of the Perth & District Horticultural Society are invited!

A full day of presentations is planned, featuring two exciting speakers, Wel-

wyn Wong and Astrid Muschalla, who will tell us how to design our backyard gardens and choose low-maintenance plants. You are invited shop at the garden marketplace, try your luck at "pick a prize" raffles and meet and mingle with old and new friends.

The party will start at the Hellenic Centre at 1315 Prince of Wales on March 31, 2012. More information is available on their website, www.ottawahort.org, or you can link to them from the D2 website.

Date: March 31, 2012

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Theme: Party on the Patio!

Place: Hellenic Meeting &
Reception Centre,

1315 Prince of Wales Dr., Ottawa

Cost: \$25.00 (includes lunch)

Lets get a good group of PDHS members going. Please see Madeline



President: Madeline Archer

Secretary: Pam Pratt • **Newsletter:** Pam Pratt, Irene Hofmann

Archer or any other Director during the break to register as soon as possible.

Junior Gardeners

Although Janet Cain has completed her term on the PDHS Board, she has graciously agree to continue on as the Junior Gardener Coordinator. This program has grown by leaps and bounds under her leadership and we are grateful to have her. Thanks Janet!!

Plans are already being made for this years' Junior Gardener Program.

The program begins in early April and runs for six weeks. As you know, we have more than 150 students who participate. It is a very popular program with our local schools and young students. In order to have the program run smoothly we need your help in many small ways. Please help by providing cuttings of houseplants rooted in small pots. If you are unable to pot up the plants, please bring them to our March meeting so that Janet can get them potted up. These plants are for each student to take care of, watch and observe over the course of the program, then each student is given a plant at the end.

We are also looking for plastic strawberry containers with lids – these are used by each student as a greenhouse to learn how to grow plants from seeds. We also need clean Styrofoam trays to fit under the strawberry containers. We are collecting tuna and salmon cans which are used as containers for the Mother's Day floral arrangements each student creates. Other items that we need are yogurt containers (500g) with lids, gift bags (8x10) and Canadian Tire money to help offset the cost of soil, seeds, etc. If you are interested in helping enrich young people by teaching them the basics of gardening and have an hour or two to spare once a week, for six weeks from April to mid-May, please see Janet Cain or Kathy Allen. You may also contact Janet directly at 613-264-1065 to learn more about the program. I have been helping out with this program for 2 years now and have enjoyed it tremendously. Thank you.

*Linda Bartlett, Board Liaison for
Junior Gardeners Program*

Found In Our Library.....

The February 2012 edition of "Fine Gardening" is now available in the Library. Please see Kevin Long at the Library during the break.

Tottering in My Garden, by Midge Ellis Keeble

Keeble, a gardener for over 40 years, has established gardens in clay, sand, shade and poor soil. Her book chronicles her various experiences with wit, wonder, humour and very practical advice. She walks us

through dividing perennials, offers a chart for beginning plants from seed, looks at pests as well as beneficial insects, weeds, weather, wind and water, most chapters include "Notes for the Novice" as well. There is also a chapter dedicated to proper pruning. If you wish to learn, chuckle, are interested in getting your hands dirty or are an armchair gardener, this book will delight, teach and entertain for the whole nine yards!

Submitted by Lynda Haddon

Yearbook Committee

The Yearbook Committee has successfully put together our third yearbook. We are now looking for new members to help with the planning of the 2013 Yearbook. New ideas are always refreshing. We will start planning in September. Please see Linda Bartlett for more information or contact her by email at pdhs@ripnet.com or by phone at 613-283-8027.

Website Committee

We now have a functional website which is being kept up-to-date with our guest speakers, local events, OHA events, and other events of interest to Gardeners. The website is a work in progress and we would like to take it to the next level. We would like to form a committee to move forward with this task. So if you have any ideas for the site and/or would like to sit on the committee, please see Linda Bartlett for more information or contact her by email at pdhs@ripnet.com or by phone at 613-283-8027.

Seedy Sunday

The 3rd Annual Seedy Sunday will take place on Sunday, March 4, 2012 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, 26 Beckwith Street E, Perth. This is a sale primarily for seeds and garden related products, but there will be food and drink available for the customers as well as the vendors. There will be gardening related talks and presentations as well. Admission is free. This is brought to you by the Perth Farmers' Market. The PDHS will have a table at this event where we will demonstrate seed tapes and other gardening related tips. We are looking for a few volunteers to sit at the table in one or two hour shifts. If you are available on Sunday, March 4th and would like to help out at this event, please see Linda Bartlett or contact her by email at pdhs@ripnet.com or by phone at 613-283-8027.

Photo Competition 2012

Calling all our fabulous PDHS photographers. We are having our PDHS photo competition again this year

and will display all entries at the December Social. One of the classes in the competition is "Sleeping Beauty" - a picture of your garden in winter. While sitting in your house looking out at the your garden this winter, grab your camera and take a great picture instead of just thinking about it! Do it now or after the next snowfall and save it for submission to the photo competition.

All of the classes for the photo competition can be found in the yearbook and on our website. We also encourage all photographers to enter the District 2 competition in March 2012. See www.gardenontario.org/site.php/district2 for a complete list of classes and rules. The OHA Convention in August 2012 features another great photo competition opportunity. For a complete list of classes and rules for the OHA competition, visit www.gardenontario.org/sho/pho.php.

Treasurer's Report

DECEMBER 1 – 30, 2011

Balance – November 29, 2011 \$ 1,978.65

RECEIPTS –

OHA Grant	\$ 100.00	
Memberships	260.00	
Corporate Sponsorships	<u>200.00</u>	<u>+\$ 560.00</u>

EXPENSES –

Community Projects	\$ 50.26	
Social	276.06	
Yearbook	50.00	
Office Supplies	<u>26.17</u>	<u>-\$ 402.49</u>
Balance December 30, 2011		<u>\$ 2,136.16</u>

JANUARY 1 - 31, 2012

Balance – December 30, 2011 \$ 2,136.16

RECEIPTS –

Memberships	\$ 300.00	
Non-Member	84.00	
Corporate Sponsorship	50.00	
Bank Interest	.01	
Miscellaneous	<u>14.00</u>	<u>+\$448.01</u>

EXPENSES –

Yearbook	\$ 676.87	
Meeting Expenses	27.12	
OHA Insurance	12.00	
Postal Services	<u>12.75</u>	<u>-\$728.74</u>

Balance January 31, 2012 **\$ 1,855.43**

OHA Convention Niagara on the Lake - Don't Miss Out!!

The 2012 OHA Convention will be in beautiful Niagara on the Lake, August 16 - 19, taking place at Niagara Glendale College Campus. A number of Horticultural Society members have shown interest in attending but are concerned about the long drive.

Sheila King, past district director of District 2, has been researching a bus trip to the convention. The bus would leave our region on Thursday morning, August 16 and travel to Niagara, stopping en route for meals. Pick-up points would be arranged according to passenger needs and numbers.

If you are interested in taking the bus, PLEASE REPLY BY **March 3rd** to Sheila M. King, Past District Director D2 OHA at sheilaking.art@rogers.com

Further details about the Convention can be found on the District 2 or OHA website.

Upcoming Garden Events Of Interest...

Peterborough Garden Show

The Peterborough Horticultural Society along with the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners, and Northumberland Master Gardeners will be presenting the Peterborough Garden Show again this year at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Thursday, April 5 to Saturday, April 7. There are 150 vendors and exhibitors including garden displays, floral arrangements, speakers and informative demonstrations, a standard judged flower competition and a children's garden. The show times are Thursday, 5pm to 9pm, Friday, 10am to 6 pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. The entry fee is \$6.00. A few of our members attended the show last year and thoroughly enjoyed it. It is about a 2-hour drive to Peterborough from Perth. Find a few members who are interested in going and form car pools and take a day to enjoy. For more information, please see their website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca

Canada Blooms 2012

Discover North America's Largest Home & Garden Event in Toronto. Canada Blooms: Canada's Largest Flower and Garden Festival is co-locating with the National Home Show from March 16-25, 2012 at the Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto. This year's theme is "City Culture". Here are some of the 2012 Spectacular Features and Show Highlights: 6 Acres of Stunning Creative Gardens in a Dazzling Display of Colour, Texture and Fragrance; Over 200

hours of Free Lectures, Gardening Demonstrations and Talks with the Stars of the Gardening and Horticultural World including one of our Lanark Garden Master Gardeners, Kathy Lang, Canada's Largest Horticultural and Floral Competitions, The "JUNO Rocks" Gardens. For more information, please visit their website at www.canadablooms.com

Successful Gardening Show

The Successful Gardening Show will take place from April 12-15, 2012 along with the International Home and Garden Show at the International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga. The Successful Gardening Show has everything you ever wanted for your home or garden! Stroll through the Garden Marketplace and discover the latest and greatest gardening products, plants and tools. The International Home and Garden Show offers up the latest design trends and colours of the season, the latest go green products and services and ideas to build your dream home or tackle that renovation you have been thinking about. Become inspired and learn the latest tricks, tips and know how from Celebrity Experts. Two great shows, one admission price.

As members of the OHA, we have been invited to participate in Ontario's Largest Floral and Plant Competition! Express yourself in melodies of colour at the 20th Annual Spring Symphony themed OHA flower competition. There is a copy of the Competition Schedule and Entry Form at the membership table. You can also download the schedule and form at www.successfulgardeningshow.ca. Entry forms should be received by April 6, 2012.

There is a group special "VIP Tickets" for groups of 20 people or more at a rate of \$9.00 per person. The "VIP Tickets" allows visitors to by-pass the lines and enter directly into the show. If you are interested in attending this event, please add your name to the list on the membership table. If we get 20 people interested in attending, we will collect the money and order the tickets as a group.

Cleaning Gardening Tools Pays Off In The Long Run

Use rubbing alcohol to wipe down and disinfect pruners, shovels and any other tools that have touched dirt or plants otherwise tools can spread bacteria or other pathogens between plants. Use steel wool to remove caked-on dirt and grime/rust.

Adapted from Fine Gardening, December, 2011

Placing a nylon knee-high stocking over the downspout stops chipmunks and squirrels from having easy access to the house. If the stocking gets clogged

with debris, take it off, shake it out, turn inside out and replace.

Deer and Rabbit Resistant Plants

Crown imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*)
 Spring snowflake (*Leucojum vernalis*)
 Allium (*Allium* spp. and hybrids)
 Vinca (*Vinca minor*)
 Narrowleaf foxglove (*Digitalis obscura*)
 Russian sage (*Perovskia aatariplicifolia*)
 African marigold (*Tagetes erecta*) annual
 Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*)
 Persian lilac (*Syringa xpersica*)

Adapted from Garden Gate, December, 2011

Creative Ways To Add Pizzazz To Your Garden

- Attach old enamel pots, kettles and other interesting 'found' objects to the walls of your garden shed, garage or outbuildings.

- At the dump, keep an eye open for interesting objects such as a porch or bed post to add to the middle of the garden, and then perhaps perch a bird house on the top.

- Old toys and crafts can look good in the garden, e.g. doll carriage, bicycle, etc.

- Throughout my garden I have placed rocks brought back from memorable vacations. Writing on the back in indelible ink where they came from and the date ensures you won't forget.

- Rusted pieces of farm machinery and interesting logs and cedar stumps can be eye catching when placed in the middle of flowers such as phlox, black-eyed Susans, or just because.

- Don't forget the plants themselves. Grouping large sections of say, chickens and hens, adds interest and draws the eye.

- A water feature does not have to be large. Add a small pool, say 2 x 3 x 18" deep and watch the wildlife (frogs, toads, birds of all kinds) take pleasure in your small, but important addition. Their continued action around the pool discourages mosquitoes laying their eggs.

- Got an area that just doesn't seem to want to grow anything? Add a potted plant, or three, the height of which would depend on the area you are trying to fill in.

Have you done something with your garden to make it special? If so, let one of the PDHS Board members know and we can include your idea in an upcoming issue of our Newsletter.

Submitted by Lynda Haddon