



Lanark Orchid

Renals

## Perth & District Horticultural Society

P.O. Box 494  
Perth, ON, K7H 3G1  
www.gardenontario.org

District #2 of the  
Ontario Horticultural  
Association

# September 2011 Newsletter

*If you want to be  
happy for an hour:  
have a glass of wine.*

*If you want to be  
happy for a day:  
spend time with a  
friend.*

*If you want to be  
happy for a year:  
plant a garden.*

*Chinese proverb*

# President's Pen

## Volunteers Make a Difference Every Day!

Most groups, committees and organizations depend upon volunteers to help carry forward their aims and goals. Without volunteer support most, if not all, would be in quite a pickle. To state the obvious, the contributions of volunteers ensure that not only do things run smoothly, but permits involvement to a wider breadth and degree than budgets and/or funding allows. The PDHS is no exception in its reliance on its volunteers. Being a completely volunteer-run organization, we are very appreciative for the assistance and support in the planting, weeding, watering and clean up of many community gardens which have become our pride and privilege to look after these past many years. Our valuable volunteers have been called upon to assist in other areas as well: those fabulous snacks at our General Meetings, the Legion, Crystal Palace, presentation to the students at YAK, Food Bank Garden, advisement on appropriate plants for set locations, to offer advice and feedback when gardening challenges occur. As an organization, we can be extremely proud of how well we are regarded within our community, and how the Town of Perth, its businesses and residents look to us for expertise and input.

Our community's esteem didn't fall into our laps by happenstance, but because of the reliability of the amazing, committed volunteers who continue to work in and grow Perth's private and public gardens, and who are ready to 'go back to school' each year to teach our youngsters about the joys and pleasures to be found in gardening. There are many folks who excitedly wait each year for our annual Plant Sale because they know the quality, quantity and price of our plants are worth their attendance. All of this work, and more, is done by you, our Volunteers.

If you can, please consider answering the call to volunteer when your Board lets you know of an upcoming project. It doesn't have to be a big chunk of time: a half hour or an hour once in a while is all it takes to make a substantial difference in completing a project. Many hands make light work, and the benefits of volunteers coming together to work with each other and Mother Nature is very satisfying. Please don't think "I don't have anything to offer" or "someone else will step forward if I don't." In fact we need anything you can offer and will be glad for it. Come meet new people, learn new gardening techniques and make a difference so that you can proudly let your family, friends and visitors know, "I helped to work on that garden!" Thank you!

See you in the garden, *Lynda*



## Upcoming

- **October 11:** "The Lost Gardens of Heligan." Speaker: John Soar.
- **November 8:** "Simple Seasonal Designs." Speaker: Anne Clark Stewart.

## PDHS Thanks You!

As you know the PDHS Junior Gardeners' program had another successful year, thanks to the many vol-

unteers who were involved, many new this year.

Over 150+ students participated. There were four classes at The Stewart School, two classes at St. John's Elementary and one class at Sacred Heart School in Lanark.

We are taking this opportunity to thank all our PDHS membership who helped with this program in ways big and small. Many thanks to all of



**President:** Lynda Haddon • 613-267-6754 • haddon@istar.ca

**Secretary:** Pam Pratt

**Newsletter:** Pam Pratt, Irene Hofmann

you who collected and donated your Canadian Tire Money. This was such a success that we are asking you to continue doing this to help defray costs for next years' program. Just bring your money to each meeting for the collection jar at the sign-in location. Also a big thank you to everyone who provided seedlings, strawberry containers, meat trays and yogurt containers and all the other supplies required. A special thank you to our dedicated volunteer teachers, who spent many hours preparing for the weekly sessions - Kathy Allen, Margo Fulford, Aileen Conboy, Linda Bartlett, Pam Pratt, Phyllis James, Barb Michie, Joanne Clobridge, Suzanne Bullock, Tineke Doorenbosch, Hope Adams, Joan Battye and Janet Cain.

Last but definitely not least, Janet Cain deserves a medal for her organization and planning over the last six years. As well as volunteering at one of the schools herself, Janet provides all the support necessary to get and keep the program rolling. She ensures the supplies provided by our ever supportive business community are distributed at the appropriate time and has a garage full of supplies and materials needed to ensure a successful year.

The program is very popular and is growing every year requiring more people and more supplies. Lucky for everyone, Perth is supported by a great business community. Many thanks to Canadian Tire for their gift certificate, with which we purchased soil and seeds; Perth Home Hardware for their donation of soil and seeds; Hillside Gardens for pansies and impatiens; Lorena Warnock for hens and chicks used in the container gardens; Sylvia's Flowers, where we purchased wholesale flowers, oasis and ferns for the Mother's Day arrangements, and Brownlee's Metro for seed potatoes.

## June Open Forum and Social Evening

I would like to thank everyone who exhibited their horticultural specimens and floral designs in the June flower show. I was so pleased to see so many exhibits and so happy that there were some new exhibitors, both in floral design and horticultural, enter this show. I would encourage all members to check out the schedules which are in the Yearbook and look around their gardens to see what classes they could enter at future meetings. Every exhibit goes to make a show successful and interesting for all to see.

I would also like to thank everyone for bringing in such wonderful deserts for us all to enjoy.

I hope that the Master Gardeners were able to answer all your questions regarding your plants,

shrubs and trees.

Lastly I would like to thank all of you participating in our pop quiz. I hope that everyone enjoyed this special evening as much as I did.

*Madeline Archer*

## Renai Rennick

If you missed the June 2011 meeting, you also missed a special presentation to Renai Rennick, a long-standing member of the Perth & District Horticultural Society and the Lanark Master Gardeners.

Renai has been a valuable member of the PDHS and Secretary to the Board of Directors for more than fifteen years. In addition to being the PDHS Secretary, Renai has taken on multiple tasks on behalf of our Society. She has been the chairperson, chief organizer and general worker for the PDHS Plant Sale, our major and most successful fundraiser, for more years than we can actually recall. This job entails organizing a publicity campaign, community liaison, committee guidance for venue location, set-up and clean-up requirements and galvanizing the many volunteers before, during and after the event. Her efforts and attention to detail have raised thousands of dollars for our Society over the years.

In recognition of Renai, Lynda Haddon, President, presented her with the President's Award and a lifetime membership to the PDHS.

## Flower Show

### October 2011 In-House Flower Show

Our October Flower Show Schedule is as follows:

#### Section 1: Horticultural Specimen

Class 1 - Last Rose of Summer, 1 stem or spray

Class 2 - Any perennial, 3 stems

Class 3 - Any annual, 3 stems

Class 4 - A collection of gourds (minimum 3)

Class 5 - Squash, 1 cultivar

#### Section 2: Design

Class 6 - "Pretty as a Picture" - a landscape design

Class 7 - "Crystal Palace Market" - a design using flowers, fruits and/or vegetables

All members are encouraged to participate for fun, no matter what your experience level. You may win a ribbon in recognition of your efforts!

**Master Gardeners Invite You To**

## "Trees In The Urban Landscape"

The Lanark Master Gardeners and the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton would like to invite

any interested OHA members to attend an educational event. They have put together a full day of speakers to learn more about "Trees in the Urban Landscape".

The event takes place on October 15 in Carleton Place at St. James Church. Cost for non-MGs is \$25 before Oct 8 (and \$30 for registrations received after Oct 8). The registration fee includes lunch.

To get more information, check out the Agenda and Registration Form on their websites:

<http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca/>

<http://www.lanarkmastergardeners.mgoi.ca>

## Inviting Ontario To Niagara

*The following article is reprinted from the Trillium Magazine, Fall 2011:*

When one thinks of Niagara, visions of Niagara Falls, the wine route, picturesque Niagara on the Lake, the Floral Clock, the Butterfly Conservatory, the Casino, and historic Fort George always come to mind. You can see all of these sites when you come to Convention 2012, but you will need to come early and/or stay late. Niagara is a great tourist destination! The venue for the upcoming convention is the campus of Niagara College in Niagara on the Lake

Convention participants will be able to stay in the college residence. The campus is gorgeous during August. Where else can you go to experience culinary, horticultural, winemaking, and beer making expertise all at one site?

Convention 2012 celebrates 200 years of peace between the United States and Canada. The theme is Gardening Then and Now, 1812 to 2012. The 1812 Rose is the official rose of the convention and the Bicentennial Celebration. Be sure to order yours - it is gorgeous. Our plenary speakers are impressive. Will Healy from Ball Seeds, Trish Symone from Hockley Hills, and Beckie Fox from Gardenmaking magazine are some of our plenary speakers. Seminars, workshops, floral and culinary demonstrations, and tours have been planned to reflect our theme. The competition schedules which all reflect our theme are posted on the OHA website, [gardenontario.org](http://gardenontario.org). It is our hope that when Convention 2012 is over, you will come away with a greater sense of the Niagara area, our involvement in horticulture, and its history, especially the links to the War of 1812. Niagara's biggest industries are tourism, vineyards, and horticulture. District 9 looks forward to sharing all this with you at Convention 2012 on August 16-19, 2012 here in Niagara.

*Susan Lusted, District 9 Director*

## Divide And Multiply Your Phlox

When crowded, the flower heads will gradually become smaller and the leaves will struggle with powdery mildew. To get the best show, divide phlox at least every 3-4 years.

**Dig it out:** Stay at least a foot from the centre of the clump.

**Knock it off:** Shake off most of the excess soil then tear the clump apart with your hands. If the roots are woody or dense, a sharp knife will do the trick.

**Sort the pieces:** Planting 3-5 stems will give the best showing

**Soak it in:** On a cool, cloudy day, thoroughly soak and you're done. If planting on a sunny day, shade the shoots with a board for a couple of days so they won't dry out.

To get a second showing on your existing phlox, when finished cut off the main cluster of flowers just above the side branches. They will then produce smaller flowers for the second showing.

*Excerpted from Garden Gate, August, 2011, Issue 100*

## Labour Free - Self Sown Gardens

If you are thinking of a self-sown garden, here are some suggestions for plants which self-sow, making gardening a simple thing indeed:

- Spider flower (Cleome)
- Flowering tobacco (Nicotiana)
- Love in a Mist (Nigella damascena)
- Perilla (perilla frutescens)
- Poppy
- Amaranth
- Kochia (Kochiascoparia)
- Sunflower
- Golden Feverfew
- Tall Verbena

## Beautiful Daylily

Looking for a fabulous looking, unique, virtually disease- and pest-free daylily? If so, take a peek at Forestlake Ragamuffin (Hermerocallis Forestlake Ragamuffin) Zones 3 to 9. The toothy edges of its 5-1/2 inch blossoms make garden visitors stop in their tracks. The flowers are a light shade of pink and gold with a green throat. It will make a reappearance each year and begin multiplying nicely after about two years.

## Story Told In Daylily Names:

'Cocktail Party' - 'Uptown Girl' - 'Southern Charmer' - 'So Excited' - 'So Lovely' - "Brand New Lover" - 'Romanian Rendezvous' - 'Fun Fling' - 'Amorous and Glamorous' - 'Wine Bubbles' - 'Wild and Wonderful' - 'Rumble Seat Romance' - 'Big Kiss' - 'Too Much Fun' - 'Without Warning' - 'Out of Darkness' - 'Significant Other' - 'Green Eyed Lady' - 'Hey There' - 'Thy True Love?' - 'Screaming Demon' - 'Karen my Love' - 'Pardon Me' - 'Nuclear Meltdown' - 'Love or Else' - 'Shotgun' - 'Moment of Truth' - 'Bam' - "Primal Scream" - 'Journey's End'.

Source: *Fine Gardening*, August 2011 No. 140

## Beware Of Wild Parsnip!

As the wonderful gardeners you are, you are probably well aware of the various dangers associated with wild parsnip. You may have read that the root of the wild parsnip is edible but don't risk it. Reaction to the sap of this plant can be extreme and worse yet it seems to be everywhere you look these days.

While walking by it or worse yet, harvesting it, a few drops of the wild parsnip's sap on your skin can be an experience you will never forget. The sap contains furanocoumarins, a toxic chemical that soaks into your skin and reacts to sunlight (even on cloudy days). The result is painful blistering and dark purple scars that can last for years.

You may not realize you have the sap on your skin. It doesn't sting or burn on contact. The reaction takes some time — even days later. If you do get wild parsnip sap on your skin, or even suspect that you did, the sooner you wash the area the less you will be affected. Even animals are not immune. Horses walking through this plant can develop a severe rash and other animals tender noses can be affected. So take care and be aware.

## What To Do With All Those Tomatoes

I make Roasted Tomato Soup.

You will need:

- 4 pounds of tomatoes, halved lengthwise
- 6 garlic cloves, left unpeeled
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

Arrange tomatoes, cut side up in 1 layer in a large 4 sided sheet pan and add garlic to pan. Drizzle tomatoes with oil and sprinkle ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper.

At this point I put in a container and freeze until I want to finish making the soup.

When you want to eat some lovely roasted tomato soup finish soup as follows:

Cook 1 medium onion, ½ teaspoon dried oregano, 2 teaspoons of sugar in 2 tablespoons of butter in a 6 to 8 quart heavy pot over medium-low heat, stirring frequently, until onion is softened, about 5 minutes. Add tomatoes, garlic and 3 cups of chicken broth and simmer covered for 20 minutes. Puree soup in batches in a blender, then force through a sieve into a clean pot, discarding solids. Stir in ½ cup heavy cream and season with salt and pepper to taste and simmer for a further 2 minutes.

*Madeline Archer*

## Treasurer's Report

July 1 to July 31, 2011		
Balance June 30, 2011		\$9,556.78
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Bank Interest	<u>11.28</u>	
	\$11.28	\$11.28
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Community projects	\$270.18	
Meeting Expenses	31.61	
Miscellaneous	<u>3,802.50</u>	
	\$4,104.29	\$4,104.29
Balance July 31, 2011		\$5,463.77
Bank Balance July 31, 2011		\$4,231.76
Reserve Fund	<u>2,500.00</u>	
		\$6,731.76
Outstanding cheques		\$( 25.31)
		( 972.50)
		<u>( 270.18)</u>
		\$5,463.77

## Evergreens

The ability of evergreens in a garden landscape to add winter interest and texture is fundamental to good landscape design. Varied shades of greens are excellent complements to brighter bolder flowering shrubs providing them with a neutral background to stand out against. In addition, they offer shade to give plants a gentle break from a hot sun. A few weeks before the first frost is an excellent time to plant evergreens, as it gives them time to establish and set roots before the winter. One of the MOST important factors in planting evergreens is to ensure that they are Ontario Grown. Evergreens grown in an Ontario climate are far more likely to survive through the winter than the BC grown ones that often seen in big box stores. That said, it is essential to provide adequate moisture to evergreens before going in the winter freeze up. Soaking all evergreens right through the fall up to the first frost helps prevent dessication from harsh winter winds.

*Adapted from Gemmill's Nursery newsletter*