



The Peony Post



April 2019



Spring has sprung even if the temperature doesn't feel that way right now. Our daffodils, hellebores and all the small bulbs are putting on a brave show to cheer us up in the midst of these grey, rainy, windy days. Now is a good time to have a look in your garden and decide which plants need dividing or which ones no longer give you joy. Of course, you would never throw them out, would you? Save them for our plant sale and help the society to raise some funds.

April Meeting Recap

This was our second annual 'Visitor Day'. The O'Brien rooms were abuzz with 59 people in attendance; twelve of them were 'first timers' or visitors. The good news is that six of them signed up for membership. Success!

Announcements

- Reminder about the District 17 AGM and invitation to attend
- Thank you to Linda Ambos for re-writing some of our website pages. Have a look at the 'new and improved'
- Reminder about the 'Garden Walk Buffalo' bus trip
- Our annual bus trip on July 7th looks very interesting – sign up now
- Awards for our March meeting food show were handed out

Next Meeting

May 14th, 2019
7:30 pm

Feature Speaker

**Karen
Stephenson**

'Edible Wilds'

**Spring Flower
and
Houseplant Show**

Feature Speaker

James Graham – “A Walk down the Garden Path”

James’ fascination with gardening started with a handful pumpkin seeds when he was 5 years old and he has dedicated his spare time to gardening ever since. Of course, when he grew up he needed a day job that actually paid the bills. He spent 30 years as top chef at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, making sure students got well fed on a healthy diet. Even with a big job like that he never lost his love of growing things.

After joining the local horticultural society, he rose through the ranks and eventually became President of the OHA. Listening to James proved that ‘Horticultural Expert’ does not mean stuffy and full of strange sounding words. He presented his views, wisdom and advice about gardening in a humorous and very entertaining way.

Thank you, James, our members and visitors loved every minute of it.

Refreshments

We thank the Pickering Viva Retirement Community for their generosity. Large platters of fruit and other snacks were provided by them. We also thank Elizabeth de Verneuill, Ada Mueller and Vivien Van Gulick for providing that personal touch with their donations of delectable goodies. A reminder for all – please LUG A MUG.

Next Meeting – May 14th

It’s time for our first flower show of the year. Lovely spring blooms will fill the exhibit tables and you can showcase your skill of nurturing your houseplants through the winter. The design section includes a class for a ‘parallel design’ which we learned about at our October workshop. Will you give it a try?

President’s Message

As a Board we have decided to experiment with the name “Pickering Garden Club” in conjunction with the name “Pickering Horticultural Society”. So you will see both interchangeably in our marketing this season. We are trying a few different things to encourage new members and to raise new awareness in Pickering. We would love your feedback.

Update from our Annual District 17 AGM

Good news the new OHA - GardenOntario website is now up and running. It is a great resource for what is happening in the OHA and gardens all over our District as well... Please check it out at www.gardenontario.org

The OHA Board unanimously passed the New Vision, New Mission and New Goals for our Societies.

Vision: Inspire Ontarians to promote and share gardening

Mission: The OHA is a volunteer charitable organization that encourages interest in gardening and related environmental issues with horticultural societies and like-minded organizations by providing leadership and education.

Goal: Provide recognition, awards and grants throughout Ontario

Goal: Develop and support programs for all ages encouraging gardening, community beautification, environmental enhancement and conservation

Goal: Provide resources for horticultural societies **Goal:** Encourage the development of new horticultural societies.

I think the Vision and Mission are areas we can continue to focus on as we plan our future meetings and events. Any related suggestions or ideas are welcome. Let us know.

Our District is also growing we are now up to 1218 members, that includes 196 new members throughout District 17; the fastest growing club is the Cannington Horticultural Society.

The Spring Issue of the Trillium is now available: <https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/trillium-news-2019-02-spring-web.pdf>

Please find attached to this email flyers for our upcoming Plant Sale (please note all the exciting things we are having for our event) and our upcoming meeting. Please print out a few copies and place them around your neighborhood, grocery stores, corner stores etc.

Thanks for spreading the word.

Joanne

Pickering Horticultural Society Plant & Bake Sale

May 11, 2019, starting at 8:00 am at the Gazebo in Esplanade Park

Of course, we greatly appreciate any plants or baked goods you are willing to donate. Please deliver your plants between 7:00 and 8:00 am. Some exceptions: We will not accept goutweed, Tawny Daylilies (ditch lilies) or anything else considered highly invasive.

If at all possible, please have your plants labelled.

In addition to plants, we are selling baked goods, lovingly prepared by our members. We are hoping that this will create some additional interest. After all, who can resist a home-made cookie or a slice of carrot cake?

We hope to see a lot of you there and don't forget to tell your friends and neighbours.

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com

Civic Beautification

This is a very important component of our mandate as a horticultural society. With a new gardening season underway, we are again looking for more volunteers to help with maintenance of the gardens under our care. We usually meet on Tuesday mornings. Working in a group is a lot of fun and somebody always has interesting stories to tell and a few laughs to share. However, if a different time is more convenient for you, you could go any other time. If you are at all interested, let me know and I will send you the proposed maintenance schedule and a map of where to find our gardens.

Sigrid

Calling all Amberlea Area Gardeners. Your neighborhood gardens need a bit of help. The garden organizer, Joanne Miatello will be unavailable to work on the gardens for the next several months as she recovers from surgery.

The Gardens are located on the corners of Stroud's Lane and White's Road and White's Road and Briar Wood Gate. The gardeners work on the gardens together on Thursdays. If you are able to help on Thursdays please let Ruby Jewer know. (gjewer1057@gmail.com) If you live in the area and are able to do some weeding at another time of the week that is convenient for you, and bring a fellow neighbour, that would be appreciated as well.

Joanne



The Peony Post is published by the Pickering Horticultural Society eight times per year. Comments, suggestions or contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor, Sigrid Squire, at asquire8347@rogers.com