



# The Peony Post



March 2019



Yes, the snowdrops are in full bloom, the robins have returned, the snow is mostly gone – it does seem that spring has arrived. Soon we will be thrilled by a colourful show of crocus and hellebores. A word of caution: don't let your enthusiasm run away with you, leave your springtime chores until the soil has dried out some more. Walking on your lawn or planting beds now will compact the soil and ruin it.

## March Meeting Recap

We enjoyed another meeting with 46 people in attendance.

### Announcements

- District 17 Annual General Meeting, April 27, 2019
- Plant Sale, May 11, 2019
- Buffalo Garden Walk trip
- Pine Ridge High School Senior's Dinner, April 24, 2019
- Annual Bus Trip, July 6, 2019

More information about these items follows.

### Feature Speaker – Diane Tait

Diane is a certified herbalist and talked to us about *What Can We Grow to Keep Us Healthy?* Diane's journey of discovery started with quiet walks in the woods when she was going through a particularly stressful time. Gradually she started noticing the plants around her. Her curiosity led her to identifying and then exploring the special attributes of various plants. She then enrolled in a 3-year course in clinical herbal therapy. She now runs courses for people like us who want to find out more about the preparation and use of herbs that we can easily grow in our gardens. We thank Diane for her inspiring talk and the long list of beneficial plants she shared with us.

Next Meeting

**April  
9<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
7:30 pm**

Feature Speaker

**James Graham**

**'Walk down the  
Garden Path'**

Invite someone  
you know to our

**Annual  
Visitor Day**

### Culinary Arts Show - 'A Foodie Celebration'

Once again, our food show was a lot of fun. We had plenty of participation and as usual it was amazing to see the variety of delicious preparations. We are happy to congratulate these recipients for achieving the 'favourite' designation for their entries:

Section A 'Sweet Comfort' – *June Enright* – Coconut Banana Bread  
Section C 'Savoury Snack Attack' – *Vanita Seth* – Indian Stuffed Bread  
Section D 'Flour Power' – *Karen Bardeau* – Lentil Dish  
Section E 'Grandma's Pantry' – *Rosemary Aiken* – Gooseberry/Rhubarb/  
Ginger Preserve

### Next Meeting – April 9<sup>th</sup>

It is time for our second annual Visitor Day. Please convince someone – a friend, your sister/brother/aunt/uncle, a neighbour, someone from your social circle, from your exercise class, a co-worker, a coffee buddy – anyone who is interested in gardening or the environment, to join us for this meeting.

For some fun and the enjoyment of all, we will display some of our skills with houseplants and floral arrangements. This show will not be judged so don't be shy and bring in your favourites. The design section is titled "A Gathering of Friends". This title does not apply to cut flower arrangements only. A group of houseplants, nicely arranged in a planter or dish garden, will also be seen as A Gathering of Friends. We look forward to greeting lots of visitors and the display of your horticultural passion.

### Annual Plant Sale

As usual, our plant sale will be held on **May 11, 2019** at the Gazebo in Esplanade Park. This is the same day as the 'Compost Give-Away' taking place at the recreation complex. We look forward to a lot of participation from you, our members. Your plant donations are vital to make this sale possible and successful. Please keep us in mind when you are spring cleaning your garden.

### Annual Bus Trip

We are going on the road for another 'adventure tour on **July 6, 2019**. We are going to the Warkworth/Frankford area. We will visit Quinte Botanical Garden, True North Daylilies and some private gardens. Lunch will be a Church luncheon in Warkworth. Sign-ups for the trip have already started. If you are planning to go on the trip, please sign up and pay at the meeting in April. The cost is \$85.00 per member, \$100.00 for a non-member. If possible please pay by cheque payable to Pickering Horticultural Society; of course, cash will also be welcomed.

## This and That

**District 17 Annual General Meeting** – this will be held on April 27, 2019, hosted by the Georgina-Brock Garden Club at the Udora Community Hall in Udora. Interesting speakers, a great flower and photography show, a silent auction make for a fun day to spend in the company of gardeners from all over Durham Region. The cost is \$30.00 per person. If you would like to attend, please let Joanne Shaw know as soon as possible.

**On April 24, 2019, Pine Ridge High School** students will present their annual **Community Dinner**. Doors open at 4:45 pm. For \$15.00 you will receive a buffet dinner, door prizes and student entertainment. If you would like to go, please let Barbara Twiner know as soon as possible; attendance needs to be confirmed by Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Barbara will collect your payments at the next meeting. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to Pine Ridge High School.

### In Defence of Daylilies

It has come to my attention that some people look with disdain at daylilies. I am puzzled by this and wonder why this would be. Is it because the ubiquitous “Stella d’Oro” shows up in too many institutional plantings where they get neglected and look very sad? In my opinion, the daylily’s virtues are very similar to our cherished peony but with more resiliency if you want to divide and share them with friends.

- Very hardy in our climate
- Easy to divide with no sulking, even in midseason
- Great colour range – from almost white to deepest black- burgundy and everything in between except for true blue
- Good variety of flower forms – simple, spidery, ruffled, semi double
- Loads of flowers – each individual flower only lasts one day but each stem can produce a good number of flowers.
- A mature plant will produce 20 to 30 stems which really stretches out the blooming period
- clean foliage, seldom attacked by pests

What more could anyone ask for?

