



# The Peony Post

February 2016

[www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com)



As you can see, *The Peony Post* has a new look. This is what happens in the wintertime when there is no gardening to do. In between dreaming of spring to come, we think about improving our act. At the January meeting, Susan Saunders had new yearbooks waiting for us. In February, Joanne Shaw delighted us with new and vastly improved bookmarks.

This made me think that our newsletter could use a facelift as well. Using more of the available word processing possibilities presented me with quite a learning curve and a fair share of trial and error. I am not done learning yet and hope to gradually add more polish to *The Peony Post*.

Sigrid Squire

## February Meeting Recap

Susan made several announcements, the most important of which was that we were voting on a new meeting start time. A voting sheet was passed around giving members the choice between the old time of 8:00 pm or a new time of 7:30 pm. Members voted overwhelmingly in favour of the earlier start time of 7:30 pm.

Other announcements:

- New bookmarks received a round of applause
- Clerking at flower shows – some spots throughout the year are still available
- Thank you to Mary Dawson for her superb job of making sure we have refreshments available to us
- The District 17 Annual General Meeting will be held on April 30, hosted by the Brooklin Horticultural Society. Everyone is encouraged to attend. We will be hosting this event in 2017. We would like to have as many people as possible to see what will be expected of us.

Next Meeting  
March 8, 2016

**NEW MEETING  
START TIME  
7:30 pm**

Come on out and give a warm welcome to our feature speaker

**Kathryn Aunger**

Kathryn will be sure to fascinate us with the ancient wisdom of  
**'Planting by the Moon'**

## Annual Bus Tour

Barbara Twiner informed us that our annual bus tour will take place on July 2, 2016. We will travel around Durham Region, as far as Beaverton. Lunch will be at the Anglican Church in Beaverton. The cost is \$68.00 per person.

Please remember to make your payment as soon as possible. If you like, you may postdate your cheque.

After the announcements it was time for our feature speaker, **Janice Noonan**, to give us tips about improving our photographic skills. Her tips included but were not restricted to:

1. Get in close
2. Use the light to your advantage
3. Know when to use flash
4. Use framing
5. Use the rule of thirds
6. Keep it simple!

These are only half the pointers Janice gave us but in my opinion, they are the most important. I will print them out and keep them with my camera as a reminder. Thank you, Janice.

### Culinary Arts Show

#### ***BEST IN SHOW***

Sweet Comfort:

**Gail North** for her  
Triple Lemon Loaf

Savoury Snack

Attack:

**Karl Schmalz** for his  
Mediterranean  
Bread

Wow, what a feast we were presented with! To all of you who took the time to prepare some wonderful morsels – thank you, thank you. We had a total of 39 entries. It was amazing to realize that no two recipes were the same. Everything tasted good and it was very hard to decide where to spend the ten pennies we had for voting. In the meantime, you have received the collection of recipes and I am sure you will prepare some of them very soon.

### Behind the Scenes

As you may suspect, it takes a team to run an organization; this team is your elected Board of Directors. Not all of you may be familiar with the members that make up your Board. Therefore, over the next few months, we will present a brief profile of each board member. This month we start with our longest serving member, Barbara Twiner.



Barbara has been a member of the society for approximately 40 years. During that time, she has held many positions, including President twice. Her current duties are to book speakers and judges and making all arrangements for our annual bus tour for which we are most grateful. In her 'private' life, Barbara likes hiking, skiing, travelling and visiting with her children and grandchildren in Michigan and British Columbia.

## District 17 Annual General Meeting 2017

Some of you may ask “what exactly is District 17?” Our society is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). The OHA is divided into 19 districts. District 17 has 12 member societies, covering all of Durham Region, from Pickering to Newcastle and north to Beaverton. Each year, one of the societies hosts the Annual General Meeting when representatives from all 12 societies get together. We last hosted it in 2003 and next year it will be our turn again, two years overdue. To make this event something we can be proud of, we are counting on the involvement of a lot of our members. Over the next few months we will be working on some planning; then we will ask for your positive response to help with implementing those plans. This may sound kind scary right now but, trust me, it really can be a lot of fun.

### Up-coming Events – March

**March 5, 2016** - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Environmental Discovery Day, Pickering Recreation Complex. This is a fun family event, exploring environmental initiatives in Pickering

**March 11 – 20, 2016** – Canada Blooms at the Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto  
For more information visit [www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

*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](mailto:asquire8347@rogers.com)