



The Peony Post

February 2017

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



Snowdrops in full bloom, hellebores showing pink fingers, forsythia buds with a yellowish tinge, red tulip noses, cardinals singing their hearts out, robins pulling worms – could it be that spring is close? “Not so fast”, says Mother Nature. “I have a surprise in store for you.” Why is it that every year we get our hopes up and then the unpredictability of March weather surprises us once again?

February Meeting Recap

Once again, we were happy to greet a good crowd. We really appreciated the number of people who came although it was Valentine’s Day and we did not have a speaker for this evening. We extend a warm welcome to *Carol Halliday*, a returning member, and new members *Karen King* and *Carolyn Whiting*.

Announcements

- Happy Valentine’s Day!
- A lot of early returning (or overwintering?) Robins have been seen. What can we feed them while the ground is covered in snow and ice? Suggestions ranged from apples to mealworms (available in pet stores) to suet.
- The new bookmarks are available and members are encouraged to take some and hand them out to interested parties.
- Sign-up sheets for clerking, refreshments and District AGM help were passed around.
- Susan Saunders presented Silke Schick with the long awaited OHA Service Certificate. This certificate is to honour a member for a minimum of 10 years of meritorious service to the Society.
- Barbara Twiner gave us a glimpse of the ‘what and where’ of our bus trip on July 8, 2017. We will be going to the Guelph area and Barbara has already booked a number of private gardens for us to visit.

Next Meeting
March 14, 2017
7:30 pm

**‘The Story of the
Nature of Things
– Past, Present &
Future’**

Robbie Preston

Robbie will help us understand our relationship to our environment and what we can do to keep it healthy.

Food, Food, Glorious Food!

Once again, we enjoyed our Culinary Arts Show. 21 people participated, presenting us with 29 delicious morsels. All of it was so good, it was very difficult to decide where to 'spend' our ten pennies; fortunately, with not having a speaker, we had plenty of time to sample the wares and make our decisions, all while socializing and having a good time.

The favourites?

Savoury Snack Attack – **Bean Dip**, presented by *Ada Mueller*

Sweet Comfort – **Apple & Black Plum Cake** by *Elizabeth de Verneuil*

Unfortunately, we have only nine of the recipes. They will be shared with you very soon.

This and That

Changes to membership list:

Just in case you would like to contact some of our other members, here are some changes/additions you might want to make to the list in the yearbook:

Carol Halliday – email challiday57@hotmail.com

Karen King – email krazykaren644@yahoo.ca

Carolyn Whiting – email carolynwhiting@hotmail.com

Rosemary Aiken - email rosiea@rogers.com

Elizabeth de Verneuil – phone # should be 647-693-2752 (email is correct)

Up-coming Events – March

March 3 – 5, 2017 – Oshawa Home Show at the Tribute Communities Centre – interesting speakers on Saturday and Sunday, including some we are very familiar with: Joanne Shaw (our next President), Trish John (the Feng Shui lady), Dawn Golloher of Gardens Plus, Elaine Davidson (past District 17 Director), Gini Sage (Master Gardener), Paul Oliver of Urban Nature Store.

March 11, 2017 – 10:00 till 12:00 – Altona Forest Hike

March 25, 2017 – 9:30 – 6:00 – Sustainable Pickering Day, Pickering Town Centre

March 25, 2017 – 10:00 – 11:30 – Greening your Grounds with Native Plants – Claremont Field Centre

For more information about the last three events, visit the City of Pickering website calendar

March 10 – 19, 2017 – Canada Blooms at the Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto

For more information visit www.canadablooms.com

The Snowdrop (abridged)

Now – now, as low I stooped, thought I,
I will see what this snowdrop is;
So shall I put much argument by,
And solve a lifetime's mysteries.

A northern wind had frozen the grass;
Its blades were hoar with crystal rime,
Aglint like light-dissecting glass
At beam of morning-prime.

From hidden bulb the flower reared up
Its angled, slender, cold, dark stem,
Whence dangled an inverted cup
For tri-leaved diadem.

Beneath these ice-pure sepals lay
A triplet of green-pencilled snow,
Which in the chill-aired gloom of day
Stirred softly to and fro.

Walter de la Mare (1873-1956)



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