



# The Peony Post

March 2016

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



After admitting my senior's moment of forgetting to send you The Peony Post when I thought I had, I received feedback that Reassured me that at least I had given some of you a good chuckle. It seems that most of you could relate and were relieved to see someone else making a silly mistake. Internet technology is wonderful for communication as long as you don't skip or forget all the little steps required to accomplish your goal.

## March Meeting Recap

We realized too late that our meeting place had been changed from the usual O'Brien rooms to the West Salon for this month. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused you.

We were pleased to see a 'full house' with 42 people attending. We welcome new members *June Enright*, *Linda Nikolau* and *Dasey Wangkhang Silva*. We were also happy to see *Rehana Naqvi* and *Morag Ardron* rejoin our group.

## Feature Speaker – Kathryn Aunger

'Planting by the Moon' sounds very much like gardening with an astrological flavour. Astrology has been dated to at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE, and has its roots in calendrical systems used to predict seasonal shifts and to interpret celestial cycles. Throughout most of its history astrology was considered a scholarly tradition. With the onset of the scientific revolution astrology was called into question and lost its academic standing. Common belief in astrology largely declined.

Then in the 1920's a new study, based on astrology, emerged. It was (and is) called "biodynamic gardening". This concept takes organic gardening one step further. It takes into consideration the four elements of earth, water, air and fire and how these elements are affected by celestial bodies, particularly the moon.

To gain enough understanding to implement biodynamic gardening practices would take many hours of study. We thank *Kathryn Aunger* for giving us a glimpse into this fascinating concept.

Now, if only I could get this brain-worm out of my head: "when the Moon is in the 7<sup>th</sup> House and Jupiter aligns with Mars....." Good memories.

Next Meeting  
April 12, 2016

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

We are looking forward to

**'See How Easy  
Floral Design Can  
Be'**

renowned floral  
designer  
**Trudy Grantham**  
will show us how.

Come on out and  
get inspired by  
Trudy's creations.

### Refreshments

We would like to thank *Sherlene Fernando, Erica Hubbard and Howard Kopstick* for their delicious contributions to our refreshment table.

Your Board of Directors has decided that bottled water will no longer be served. We all know that there is nothing wrong with our tap water. It even tastes better than 'dead' water that has been sitting around in bottles far too long. Water will be available but in a jug from which you can pour as little or as much as you like. If you also bring your own re-usable water bottle it becomes a real win for the environment. You prefer coffee or tea? Lug-a-Mug is the answer. It too tastes better out of a real cup instead of a paper cup.

### Next Meeting – April 12<sup>th</sup>

As mentioned above, Trudy Grantham will be our feature speaker. We have seen Trudy in action before and it will be a real treat to have her visit with us again. Trudy's enthusiasm for working with flowers is obvious and we hope that some of that enthusiasm will rub off on all of us.



### PHS Annual Plant Sale – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

As you know, our plant sale is always very popular. Our biggest worry is always not having enough plants to sell. I am sure all of us are already thinking about changes to make in our gardens. Usually that involves dividing plants that take up more space than we are willing to allow them. Sometimes we have plants we used to like but now would like to replace with something new. Please keep our plant sale in mind when you start digging. More information will be provided in April.

### Easter Gift Plants

With grey skies and Easter on our doorsteps, who can resist buying one of those lovely blooming potted plants that appear in stores at this time? For just a few dollars we can bring instant cheer into our homes. They are called 'gift' plants because they are usually given as a gift (even if it's for yourself) and are considered disposable once the cheer has faded away. As gardeners we like to push our luck and see what happens if we plant them in our gardens. Here are some personal observations which may or may not work for you:

**Potted Spring Bulbs** - The general consensus is that having been forced, the bulbs are ready for their journey to the compost bin. You could try this: As soon as the blooms fade, remove them. Place the pot outside in good light and allow the foliage to die back. Then plant them in an out of the way spot. You may only get foliage for a couple of years but eventually they will recover enough to bloom again.

**Easter Lilies** – When the blooms fade plant it outside. It will most likely bloom next year, not at Easter but at its natural blooming time in the summer.

**Primulas** – Plant outside in light shade. It will stay alive and might even bloom for you in the fall.

**Hydrangeas** – These can be iffy but it's worth a try. It probably depends on the cultivar that was used to force them; some are hardier than others. My own experience indicates that you need lots of patience.

## Behind the Scenes – Susan Saunders



Susan joined our society in 2008. From the beginning she showed an interest in what makes us the function. She volunteered regularly for clerking duties and, outside of meetings, joined the garden maintenance team. She was invited to join the Board of Directors in 2013 and took on the Show Chairmanship. It was a big shock to Susan to be nominated for the position of President at our AGM in 2014. She was gracious enough to accept and we thank her for that. Like a true 'Bluenoser' Susan enjoys life on the high seas, cruising to the far reaches of the world and occasional visits back home to Nova Scotia on the agenda as well.

## Up-Coming Events – April

Since we did not have a 'Seedy Saturday' would like to visit this one in Cardinal Newman High School at (South of Kingston Road)



in Pickering this year, maybe you Scarborough. It is held at Blessed 100 Brimley Rd. South

**April 2, 2016 – 9:30 am to 6:00 pm** – Sustainable Pickering Day – Centre Court, Pickering Town Centre – for more information visit [www.sustainablepickering.ca](http://www.sustainablepickering.ca)

**April 8/9/10, 2016** - Peterborough Garden Show  
For full schedule of events visit [www.peterboroughgardenshow.com](http://www.peterboroughgardenshow.com)

