



The Peony Post

Summer 2016

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



How is your garden doing? Are your plants looking a little desperate? I don't recall a prolonged dry spell like this with record temperatures thrown in as well. The only things that get watered are the planters and annuals; I'm keeping my fingers crossed that everything else will recover when cooler weather and rain return.

We have been busy with a lot of things since the last Peony Post. Here is a brief re-cap:

June 28th Meeting

The meeting was well attended. After a number of announcements by President Susan, Barbara introduced our guest speaker, Jason Eenling. Jason works for Davey Tree Service, a large tree care company who recently opened an office in Pickering. Not only did Jason talk about various problems trees can have, he seemed equally interested in other invasive species threatening our carefully planned environment, such as EAB, dog strangling vine, garlic mustard, Japanese beetles, etc.

We thank Christine Binns, Elizabeth de Verneuil and Jacqueline Smart for the delicious goodies brought in for our enjoyment.

We had 33 entries in our Rose Show. *Susan Saunders* is now the caretaker of the *Red Rose Tea* trophy, while *Vanita Seth* will be busy polishing the *Pickering Nurseries* trophy for the next year.

Annual Bus Tour – July 2nd

We were very happy to see everybody arrive on time and were on our way at 7:55. It was a beautiful, clear, sunny day to admire Durham Region's lovely farmland.

*In pursuit of beauty
We embarked on Barbara's bus.
In search of nature's glory
There were fifty-one of us.*

Next Meeting

**September
13th, 2016
7:30 pm**

Come join us for a fun evening creating your very own mini cactus planter.

It's also our biggest flower show of the year. Show us what has done well in your garden.

Our first stop was at 'Four Winds', a 34 acre property on Reach Street. We admired the 60' deep ravine and an arboretum with unusual and interesting trees. The Colorado White Firs were probably everyone's favourite.

Our second stop was not about horticulture but about art and creativity. We were blown away by the amazing imagination displayed – from concrete sculptures to simple crafts – our heads kept turning in all directions. You do need an open mind though:

***Bits and bobs all on display,
Most seldom seen by light of day
By our unpretentious crew,
We think it only fair to say!***

After visiting Tom & Judy's amazing garden right on the shore of Lake Simcoe, it was time for lunch at Beacan Presbyterian Church in Beaverton. Lunch was wonderful home style food and there was lots of it, capped off with fresh strawberries and cream. A big thank you is due to the Church ladies – it was a real treat.

Six gardens on one street in Beaverton kept us busy. It was lovely to see the co-operation between neighbours, with one garden flowing into the other, with hardly a fence in sight.

The next stop was at the 'Honey Place' with extensive gardens and the main attraction, an apiary. It was a restful place with time to find some shade and relax.

Stop #6 was probably everyone's favourite. From shade to sun, water lilies to gravel beds, it had everything you could wish for. And oh, those cookies! (Recipes are attached)



Our last stop took us to Rick Causton's (our current District Director) garden. It's a large property, most of which Rick is renovating right now. It should be interesting to see it again in two or three years from now.

***The day was filled with garden hopping,
Which precluded sufficient time for our usual shopping.
For this there was no remorse or shadow of sorrow,
This was our best trip ever, with money left for tomorrow.***

Once again, Barbara, we thank you so much for arranging this perfect day for us to enjoy.



Pickering Blooms Garden Showcase

Once again, a number of our members criss-crossed Pickering to look at front gardens and dispense advice or compliments. Some seriously need advice; others are so lovely that we almost wish they were ours. We will now prepare our reports for City staff to send to the owners. Viewing the gardens is always a lot of fun, writing the reports? Not so much. A reminder to all 'mentors' – the report deadline is August 15th.

OHA Convention

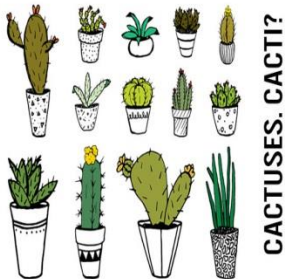
The annual convention of the Ontario Horticultural Association was held in Kitchener, July 29 – 31. Barbara Twiner attended as our delegate. She also had the honour of being one of the flower show judges.

It looks like it was a very busy weekend. Things got off to a lively start on Friday evening with an Oktoberfest band providing entertainment (remember, this was in Kitchener!) and delegates polka-ing. It got everyone in a good enough mood to sit through the plenary session on Saturday morning. These sessions can be very dry when discussions centre on the exact wording of a phrase in the constitution.

Saturday evening brought more laughs by viewing videos of a chicken dance competition, created by various districts. The guest speaker, Dr. Ken Shonk, then talked about the importance of laughter in our lives.

The second plenary session on Sunday morning brought more resolutions to be approved. We are told that the gentleman who went through the constitution to find wording that needed to be amended, spent 483 hours doing so. Wow!

Next year the convention will be in Richmond Hill. With the venue closer to Pickering, overnight stays should not be necessary and perhaps we can persuade more members to represent our society at this event.



Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on September 13th. We are planning to have a hands-on cactus planter workshop. More details about that will be sent closer to the meeting date.

September is the start of our new fiscal/membership year. That means membership fees are due. As mentioned at a previous meeting, due to increased costs we have found it necessary to increase the fees to \$20.00 per year. Still a great bargain!

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