



# The Peony Post

April 2017

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



## The first Dandelion

Simple and fresh and fair from winter's close  
emerging,  
Forth from its sunny nook of sheltered grass –  
Innocent, golden, calm as the dawn,  
The spring's first dandelion  
Shows its trustful face.

Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Reading this lovely poem, it's hard to understand why most people despise this early blooming flower. I suppose, in Walt Whitman's days, people were not as obsessed about having a perfect lawn. I hope that as gardeners we are a little more tolerant. Pollinators have very little to feed on at this time of year. Why not let them feast on the flowers for a little while, then pull them just before they go to seed. And of course, no toxic weed killers.

## April Meeting Recap

Although we had no speaker planned for this meeting, and the meeting took place in a different meeting room, attendance was very good. After a few short announcements, we got busy planting seeds. I hope you will have some success stories and probably some surprises as we had no tags to attach to the cell packs. It was a lovely atmosphere with plenty of chatting and laughs.

We thank Ruby Jewer, Joanne Miatello and Barry Neil for the lovely snacks provided by them. Of special interest were the very pretty fruit skewers brought by Ruby.

Next Meeting  
May 9, 2017  
7:30 pm

**"Newer & Interesting  
Annuals"**

**Jon Story**

Annuals give us what perennials cant: season long bloom for our planters and to take the place of sleeping bulbs. We all have some favourite standbys. Now let's embrace something new.

## Next Meeting – May 9<sup>th</sup>

As mentioned above, our feature speaker will be Jon Story. He will acquaint us with some newer varieties of annuals. Let's wake up our adventurous spirits and try something new this year.

May brings us our first flower show of the year. Please participate! It's so wonderful to see all those lovely spring flowers on the tables. The first meeting I ever attended was in May. The moment I walked into the show room I was hooked. That was 18 years ago and I haven't missed too many meetings since. Perhaps you could bring a friend or two and get them hooked as well.

As usual, please pay close attention to what it says in the show schedule. For example, if it calls for two stems, don't show three stems. If more than one stem is required, try to have all stems at the same stage of development. Something that is often forgotten is: grooming, grooming and more grooming; no dirty spots, no little creepy, crawlies. This also applies to houseplants, and don't forget to clean the pots.

### The Big Event – District 17 Annual General Meeting

This meeting, hosted by our Society, was held on April 22/17 at the 4Seasons Country Club. 130 delegates from all over Durham Region gathered to attend this annual event. Several of them wrote to us to congratulate us on our success.

The flower show was gorgeous with far more exhibits than we had expected. Susan and her team had their hands full, trying to keep it organized.

The table centre pieces, arranged by Mary and Hermie, won raves for their simplicity and elegance.

Our morning speaker, Lizzie Matheson, demonstrated her fantastic flower arranging skills, all the while keeping us laughing with her down-to-earth humour.

18 of our members attended and all of them jumped in and helped wherever help was needed. Thank you for all your help and enthusiasm and teamwork.

There are too many names to mention but one person deserves special applause – **Joanne Shaw**. Joanne was the top-notch organizer who pulled all the loose ends together and made it the success it was. Thank you, Joanne.

## Next Event – Plant Sale, May 13, 2017, Gazebo, Esplanade Park

If you have not done so yet, please have a look in your garden and see what can be divided. The plant sale is our only fund raising event of the year and we need those funds to keep us going. The biggest problem is always having enough attractive plant material to sell. You can help us out by donating plants that have outgrown their allotted space or that you no longer love. If

possible, please have them in pots and, most importantly, have them labeled. Not all plants are easily identified, especially if they are still very small.

The plant sale starts at 8:00 am. If you are donating plants, please get them to us by 7:30 am to give us time to identify, group and price them.

Of course, we would also like you to buy some plants. And please spread the word to all your friends and neighbours and anyone else you think of who could use some more plants in their gardens.

### Public Plantings

You probably already know that we look after various beauty spots in Pickering: City Hall, Liverpool/Krosno, Progress Park and the Bicentennial Garden. We have a great team who meet each Tuesday morning to keep those flower beds looking their best. Unfortunately, our team has shrunk somewhat over the last year, due to various health problems. If you have a couple of hours on Tuesday mornings we would really appreciate if you could join the team. It's fun and good companionship. No experience is necessary. You will learn a lot about the plants and will quickly learn to tell the difference between a 'desirable' and a weed. Please join and give something to the community. The appreciation expressed by residents really makes it worthwhile.



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)