



The Peony Post

Oct/Nov 2017

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



Have you finished planting your tulips yet? If not, don't worry – it's not too late. You can plant them as long as you can get a spade in the ground. Just don't keep them till the spring. They do need 6 to 8 weeks of cold temperatures to develop their roots. The same applies to some smaller bulbs such as crocus, chionodoxa and garlic.

November has come and gone and I wonder: whatever happened to our glorious fall colours?



October Meeting Recap

We were thrilled to welcome a full house with 50 members in attendance. We started off with a lively mini discussion about hydrangeas: when to prune, what to prune, which type to prune, which type to leave alone. I am sure we know now how to keep our cherished hydrangeas happy for another year.

After a few brief announcements, our feature speaker *Cathy Kavassalis* took centre stage. It was an absolute treat to listen to her. Her passion and enthusiasm for gardening and thereby enhancing all life on our planet surely infected all of us. She feels that gardeners provide an essential service. Gardeners are really important for providing food, medicine, beauty, fun, healthy communities and many other benefits. Having given us this giant pat on the back, she managed to instil a sense of wonder about the environment and how crucial our actions as gardeners can be to help protect our natural world.

Thank you, Cathy, for a wonderfully inspiring presentation.



Next Meeting

**January
9, 2018
7:30 pm**

**Photography
Show**

**Guest Speaker
Mary Gawen**

**Topic:
Rain Gardens
What are they?
How to create and
maintain them**

Refreshments

Once again we were very grateful for the lovely snacks, this month provided by Chris Binns, Dawn Lant and Gail North.

The refreshment table is always a popular spot where we congregate and exchange friendly greetings. This is not strictly a fundraiser but we appreciate all donations that help defray the cost of coffee, cream, juice, etc. We thank all volunteers who are willing to sign up for providing these snacks and make our evening even more enjoyable.

Flower Show

As usual, the flower show proved to be very popular. We tend to think of October as the end of the growing season but the show proves the opposite. There are lots of flowers left and ornamental grasses are at their best. Congratulations to all who took the time to bring in exhibits and especially to these '*Best in Show*' winners:

Hermie Schmalz	-	Best Ornamental Grass
Karen Bardeau	-	Best Other Hort. Specimen
Karen Bardeau	-	Best Houseplant
Barbara Twiner	-	Best Collection
Barbara Twiner	-	Best Advanced Design
Sherlene Fernando	-	Best Beginner Design
Karen Bardeau	-	Judges Choice

Next Meeting – January 9, 2018

It's time again for our annual photography show. We hope that the list of interesting titles inspired you to take lots of photos. Please note that there is a restriction of 5 entries per class per exhibitor.

In the design section, just for fun, we give you a chance to experiment with artificial plant material.

Our feature speaker will be *Mary Gawen* of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. Mary will talk to us about '*Rain Gardens*' to promote a better use for all that rain water rushing through our downspouts and into the storm sewer system. Let's welcome Mary and learn how to add another tool to our list of gardening tips and tricks and at the same time help the environment.

In addition, our 2018 Yearbooks will be available to those of you who have already paid your 2018 membership fees.

Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner – November 14, 2017

A good time was had by all who attended our social event of the year. As usual, the food was delicious and plentiful and the *Canada 150* themed decorations were bright and cheerful.

However, the best part was the friendly atmosphere created by you, our members. This welcoming friendliness and sense of community was remarked upon by newcomers to our AGM. I think it's something to be proud of and to be cherished.

Of course, the AGM is not just about fun and games. We also elected the Officers and Directors for the coming year:

<i>President</i>	-	Joanne Shaw	<i>Vice-President</i>	-	vacant
<i>Treasurer</i>	-	Sigrid Squire	<i>Secretary</i>	-	vacant

Directors:

Mary Dawson	Sherlene Fernando	Jane Hiley	Hermie Schmalz
Anne-Marie Pawelski	Susan Saunders	Barbara Twiner	

Please note: **It is very important** that we appoint a Secretary at our next Board meeting in January. So far nobody has come forward to volunteer for this position. Unfortunately, without a Secretary, we cannot apply for our government grant. Would you be interested? If so, please let us know and we will give more details about the requirements.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Some of our volunteers attended this luncheon, sponsored by the Pickering Islamic Centre and organized by Councillor Shaheen Butt, on December 3rd. This was the first time for us and we didn't know what to expect. From first setting foot in the Centre to leaving 2 hours later, we were impressed by the warmth, friendliness, diversity and general sense of a healthy community. Let's not forget the delicious food and the lovely holiday themed decorations. It seems to confirm that Pickering really is a good place to live, work and play.

We now wish you

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.*

