



The Peony Post

February 2018

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



Isn't it wonderful? Only one week to go and we are back to Daylight Savings Time – a good sign of spring to come. We may get up in the dark in the morning, but we will get that extra hour of daylight in the evening. Then just a few days later, on March 20, the first day of spring officially arrives. Of course, that does not guarantee spring-like weather but we can be sure that the worst of winter is finished. Doesn't it make your heart jump for joy?



February Meeting Recap

As usual, our meeting was well attended. We are always happy to see so many friendly faces, especially in the dead of winter when some of us would prefer to hibernate. We would like to welcome new members Janet Bucheler, Shirley Rumball and Linda Ambos.

Announcements

- You are welcome to take some of our new bookmarks and hand them out to people who you think might be interested in our meetings.
- Our meeting on April 10 has been designated as "Visitors Day". We will also be celebrating our 85th anniversary that day. We hope you will bring a friend/brother/sister or anybody else to acquaint them with our Society.
- The District AGM will be hosted by Bowmanville Horticultural Society on April 21, 2018. Instead of a flower show, they will only have a photography show. Please see your Yearbook for the show schedule. The fee to attend is \$30.00. Lee Valley Tools will be conducting a workshop on how to build a 'pollinator condo'. You will have to sign up for it ahead of the meeting. There will be a cost of \$10.00 for supplies.

Next Meeting

**March
13th, 2018
7:30 pm**

**"What to Grow
when all Hell
Breaks Loose"**

This sounds like a very interesting topic presented by
Conrad Richter
of Richter Herbs

Our annual bus tour will take place on Saturday, July 7, 2018. We will be going to the Hockley Valley area where we will visit three private gardens. Lunch will be at “Mrs. Mitchell’s” restaurant. The cost is \$75.00 per member or \$90.00 per non-member. If you would like to go, we ask that you sign up as soon as possible.

- We are planning to expand our offerings at our plant sale this year. Items to be sold could include baked goods, a seed exchange and other garden related items. Exact details will be worked out soon.

Feature Speaker – Conrad Monteiro

Conrad explained to us the ins and outs of landscape lighting. Landscape lighting does not mean just a few solar lights stuck in the ground here and there. It means up-lighting, down-lighting, shadow-lighting, background-lighting. Wonderful effects can be accomplished, especially on large houses. We viewed some fabulous photos of houses on Toronto’s Bridle Path. Some of the ideas would also work very well on our much smaller suburban lots. His main point was that the lighting should be balanced, not just some dots scattered here and there. It definitely gave us lots to think about, especially for those of you who like to spend time outside after dark.

Culinary Arts Show

We had a total of 20 entries from 16 entrants. The food was wonderful and, as usual, it was very difficult to decide where to place our pennies. I do have a few of the recipes and will send them out in the near future.

The winners are:

Sweet Comfort Category:
Karl Schmalz – Easter Bread
Savoury Category:
Peggy Wilmot – Beef Barley Soup

“The Way We Were...”

“An enthusiastic meeting was held in the Pickering school room on Friday evening, April 28th (1933), for the purpose of considering the formation of a Horticultural Society for Pickering. About forty were present.”

Those are the first few lines on the first page of our first minute book. Amazingly, the book has survived for all these years. At our meeting on April 10th, we will be celebrating 85 years of being a successful organization within our community. We also hope to welcome lots of visitors, invited by you, with whom to share our enthusiasm.

This and That

Did you know that the Pickering Soccer Dome has a lot of activities other than soccer going on? 'In Motion' is a low-impact active living program for adults 55+, with a focus on health and wellness education, recreational opportunities and social interaction. Best of all – it's free. 'In Motion' runs on Tuesday mornings from 9 am to 12 pm. The Pickering Soccer Centre is at 1975 Clements Rd.

Did you know that our member Vanita Seth was the winner of the first ever Group Fitness Holiday Bingo Card game. Vanita attended all but one class on her Bingo card, truly capturing the essence of the game which was to challenge yourself and try new classes. She pushed herself to go to those 6:30 am classes and stepped out of her comfort zone to try a few classes she never thought she could do! Congratulations, Vanita – you'll be in great shape for the gardening season.



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