



The Peony Post

Summer 2018

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



From this in April.....



to this in August



Isn't it amazing what happens in our gardens in just four short months? Now we are preparing for another favourite season for many people – autumn, with its lovely colours and crisp, cool days. But let's not talk about winter yet!

Next Meeting

**September 11th,
2018
7:30 pm**

Our speaker will

Sean James

On the topic of

20 Bullet Proof Plants

Sean is greatly admired in the horticultural world and comes highly recommended. We look forward to welcoming him to our meeting.

A brief re-cap of the last three months:

- ❖ June 17th – our public flower show once again delighted visitors to the Pickering Recreation Complex. We had a total of 122 exhibits, including 7 design entries. Congratulations to 'Best in Show' winners Barbara Twiner (3), Hermie Schmalz, Mary Dawson, Sigrid Squire (advanced design), Sherlene Fernando (beginner design). Once again, we thank Chartwell City Centre for their generosity and support by supplying lunch for the volunteers who stayed around to represent our society.

- ❖ June 26th meeting – The Rose & Clematis show was lovely – we had a total of 28 entries. This year’s winner is Ada Mueller for the Pickering Nurseries Trophy. Unfortunately, we had no entries for Red Hybrid Tea roses and if possible, the Red Rose Tea Award will be decided in September. Barbara Twiner had the best clematis.
- ❖ July 9th – our annual bus trip was another big success. Everybody was on time and we left at 8:00 am sharp. We visited four outstanding gardens in the Caledon/Hockley Valley area. One of the gardens was intriguing: the owner did not want his name given out. Apparently he is a famous personality and did not want it known that this is his summer home. Of course, this elicited all sorts of guess work: Doug Ford? Wayne Gretzky? Mike Myers? I guess we’ll never know. Lunch at “Mrs. Mitchell’s Restaurant” was a lovely affair. Good food, good service and a very pleasant atmosphere enabled us to recharge our batteries for the afternoon. Thank you, Barbara for the continuing adventures.

Public Plantings

Our garden maintenance team found it difficult at times to keep the gardens looking their best. Heat and drought are not our friends. Some team members were unavailable due to health problems, others had other commitments; some Tuesdays only three of us were available. In April we got generous loads of compost to spread at the City Hall and Bicentennial gardens. This made us look forward to strong, healthy growth. What we didn’t expect were the unwanted guests such as barnyard grass and lambs quarters. We spent a lot of time just pulling these two interlopers. Our perseverance is more than repaid by the vocal appreciation of grateful residents and fluttering Monarch butterflies.

Next Meeting – September 11th

This will be our first meeting in our fiscal year and the beginning of a new membership year. Your membership fees are due now - \$20.00 single, \$30.00 per household. Please don’t forget to bring your wallet.

Our speaker will be Sean James. Sean has built an international reputation for sustainable landscaping. He is firmly committed to putting his expertise to use in the community by educating on the use of native species and demonstrating the beauty of sustainable gardens.

The September flower show is our biggest of the year. Show us what’s been growing in your garden. Perennials, annuals, roses and vegetables are all represented in the show schedule; everybody should have something to put on the exhibit tables.

If you are planning to participate in our flower arranging workshop in October, please be sure to sign up for it at this meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on September 11th.

This and That

Our Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner will be held on November 13, 2018. This is always an enjoyable social evening. The theme this year will be “Hats Off to You”. Besides the fun, the main reason for this meeting is the election of officers and directors of the society. Once again we ask you to consider joining the board of directors and become more involved in the planning and running of our activities. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to pitch in behind the scenes. From experience I can say that it is very satisfying to be involved rather than on the outside looking in.

Now is the time to plan for activities/speakers for 2019. Please let us know what topics you would like to have addressed.



This award was presented to me on June 12th by Mayor Ryan. It came as a complete surprise to me. I thank the person(s) who nominated me and I thank all of our members to whom I owe the qualities that inspired this award.

Have you heard of a stirrup hoe? When we were at the mystery owner's garden, my husband talked to the gardener to find out how he kept the weeds under control. He showed him the hoe he uses. On the Monday after the bus trip, Al was off to Canadian Tire to buy the hoe. He has been happy with it ever since. We had a large 'jungle area' that needed to be cleared of vegetation in preparation for some grass seed. He now considers the hoe his best gardening friend.



Here are a couple of City of Pickering events you might want to attend:

September 13, 2018, 12:00 noon till 4:00 pm – 55+ Aging Well Expo & BBQ
George Ashe Library & Community Centre

September 20, 2018, 7:00 till 9:00 pm – Pickering Blooms Garden Celebration
City Hall

The events are free but registration is required. For more information, please visit www.pickering.ca and check the events calendar.

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