



The Peony Post

Oct/Nov 2018

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



To shred or not to shred – that is a question circulating at this time of year. Our gardens are covered in leaves – what to do? Pro-shredders like it for adding the result to their compost or leaving it in bags to turn into leaf mold. Non-shredders prefer to leave the leaves whole to provide winter refuge for all sorts of critters and pollinators which benefit our gardens. It doesn't matter which side you are on – just don't drag them out to the road to be collected by our hard working garbage collectors.

October Meeting Recap

A big crowd of 47 members gathered, full of cheerful anticipation for our hands-on flower arranging workshop. They were not disappointed. Flowers were plentiful, containers and floral foam were prepared in advance. Barbara got right down to business and demonstrated the creation of a **parallel design**.



Everybody got to work to create their own masterpiece. The floral material and the containers were the same or very similar for everybody and yet the creativity displayed was amazing. This was especially evident when you were asked to think of a title for your design. Each title was greeted with a round of applause. Everybody had a good time and went home smiling. We hope that this hands-on experience will inspire you to create more masterpieces for our flower show.

Here is a reminder of what a parallel design should be. Keep it handy – you can be sure that a parallel design will show up in the show schedule next year.

Next Meeting

**January 15,
2019
7:30 pm**

Annual Photography Show

What do judges look for?

Barbara Twiner will give us hints and tips for exhibiting in our flower shows.

PARALLEL DESIGN

It is a design in which three or more groupings are placed in a parallel manner with open spaces between the groupings. To give interest, placements should be at various heights. Flowers are grouped, rather than scattered throughout the design. There is great emphasis on texture and form. It is sometimes viewed as a patchwork design, creating areas of contrasting texture and form.



Refreshments

We thank Wendy Kenny, Dawn Lant and Karen McKillop for the delicious snacks provided for our enjoyment.

Please try to make it a habit to lug a mug or water bottle. Thank you.

Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner – November 13, 2018

There must have been many successful Annual General Meetings of our society since 1933. A common interest and passion for gardening are truly bonding ingredients for a gathering of friends, old and new.

This year's meeting seemed to embrace the feeling of community espoused by previous generations as our members showed so much enthusiasm for each other's company. This was supported by an ideal location, a wonderful array of food prepared by our members, and a swiftly flowing agenda ably conducted by our President.

This year's "Hats" theme was cheerfully embraced by all; it created humour and showed a lot of imagination.

The tables were beautifully set with which to welcome the executives from OHA District 17, along with City Councillor Shaheen Butt who was accompanied by his charming sister Sameena, visiting all the way from Reading, UK.

The election of the same slate of Officers and Directors for next year should ensure the dedication needed to continue with the altogether splendid work of the Pickering Horticultural Society.

Sincerely, Al Squire

With open arms, we welcome *Heidi Malowany* to the Board of Directors. Thank you, Heidi, for joining the team. We promise to keep you busy.

Councillor Butt issued an invitation to all volunteers to attend his Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on December 9, 2018, 2:00 to 4:00pm, at 2065 Brock Road (Pickering Islamic Centre). Please let know if you are interested a.s.a.p. as he needs to reserve seats for us.

Next Meeting – January 15, 2019

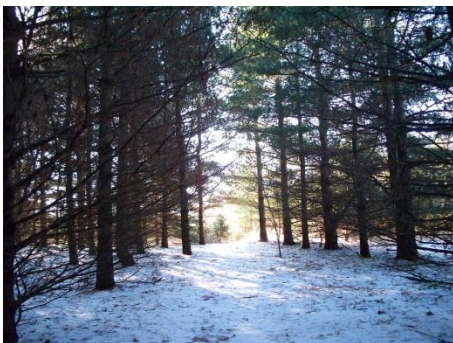
Please note: January 15 is the third Tuesday of the month instead the usual second Tuesday. New Year's Day is on a Tuesday. Therefore everything had to be moved up one week. A new year and as usual, we start it off with our Photography Show. A couple of years ago, Jan Noonan gave us tips for taking good photographs. Here is a reminder:

1. Get in close
2. Use the light to your advantage
3. Know when to use flash
4. Use framing
5. Use the rule of thirds
6. Keep it simple!

Some of you have your camera set to record the date and time on the photograph. This is good for keeping track of which photo was taken when. However, we recommend that you disable this feature for photographs you intend to show. The judge has commented on this a couple of times as it spoils an otherwise perfectly good photograph.

Our 'feature speaker' will be our own *Barbara Twiner*. As most of you know, Barbara is an accredited Ontario horticultural and design judge. She travels all over the GTA to judge for other societies, including at Canada Blooms and the CNE. This evening Barbara will give us hints and tips about the best way to present our exhibits. What do judges look for and how do they decide which exhibits merits first, second or third place? Let's find out and gain some confidence for exhibiting.

Our 2019 Yearbooks will be ready for pick up if you have paid your 2019 dues. If you have not paid yet, this meeting would be a good time to do so.



*Have a Joyous Christmas Season
and a
Happy New Year!*