

# Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

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BHS meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Brooklin United Church; except January, July and December.

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com).

Follow us on facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/bhs1921/>



## Annual General Meeting & Social Nov 22 - 6:30PM - St Thomas Anglican Church

November 22nd will be the Annual General Meeting for the Brooklin Horticultural Society for 2017. At our AGM, we will have an opportunity to summarize the 2017 season, review the financial status of the club, and elect a new Board. It is important that all members of our Society participate and confirm the direction for 2018. Membership registration for next year will be available. The Board is looking for additional members. If you're interested in the future of the Society, or have some ideas about the next few years, come and join us. It's only a few hours a month! Send **Leslie Tate** an email at [ltate@rogers.com](mailto:ltate@rogers.com) or call **905- 626-0787**.

**DESSERT SOCIAL:** This is our annual dessert pot-luck social; something we all look forward to. You are invited to bring a dessert or other snacks, such as cheeses, vegetable or fruit tray, for the buffet table. If you don't have the time to prepare something for the buffet, not to worry, join us anyway. It's a time to enjoy the company of your many society friends. Please arrive by 6:30pm in order to have time to enjoy the buffet before the meeting starts. Help yourselves to the treats once you arrive.

**AWARDS:** Our Show Committee will be presenting numerous Show Awards for those with highest points or best submission in certain categories. Everyone who submitted at least one entry to our shows will receive a cash prize based on their total awards and entries.

**ELECTION:** The Director of OHA District 17 will conduct the election and installation of our officers and directors for 2018. For information about joining the board, please contact **Leslie Tate** before November 22nd.

**LUCKY DRAWS:** Each person will receive a free draw ticket for a chance to win one of many prizes, including seasonal plants. Donations of additional prizes are always welcome.

Join us for the closing social event of the 2017 gardening year at **St Thomas Anglican Church** on **Wednesday, November 22nd at 6:30 PM!** Please note the location and time.





## The President's Message

I love October!! It is sunny and warm outside and the perfect time to start putting our gardens to bed for the winter. It has certainly been a challenging year for gardening. Beginning of the summer saw rain and unusually colder weather, and summer, it seemed, only started in September. My cannas didn't bloom, the vegetable bed was disappointing, and the bunnies ate nearly everything in the garden that wasn't housed in chicken wire. But now I get to enjoy my favourite time of year – Fall! The colour of the foliage is spectacular (albeit a little later this year) and I love the crisp morning weather. The perfect time to sit outside with a good cup of coffee and relax. This is our last edition of the Newsletter for 2017, and Sherry Howard, Barb Panowyk and I hope you have enjoyed reading it as much as we enjoyed putting it together. I would especially like to thank all those who contributed articles making the newsletter such a success.

## Hospitality



Eileen and Audrey cutting pies

As we wind down from another growing, showing and learning season, BHS meetings would not be complete without refreshments. This year we added new food items to help reflect what some of our members grow in their gardens such as

fruits and vegetables. Of course, our refreshment table wouldn't be complete without some of those homemade cookies, sweet loafs, cheese/crackers and sandwiches. My endless gratitude to everyone who graciously signed up to bring these items each month. They were well received by our members.



Marion - "ice cream with your pie?"

To those who helped prepare for our 150<sup>th</sup> strawberry social, you deserve a "red ribbon" for your involvement. Your assistance in purchasing and slicing strawberries, baking shortcakes, serving ice cream was awesome. Also, thanks to everyone who helped in the set up and cleanup that evening and other meeting nights as well.

And not to forget our Pumpkin, Pies and Picture show. What's a fall show without the pleasant taste of seasonal pies. A standing ovation to the those who donated pies and helped in the kitchen that night.

Also, your "Lug a Mug" efforts are saving 1000's of waste products in our landfills. Keep up the good work.

Thanks again for your continued involvement in making our hospitality table a pleasant stop before our meeting.

Audrey Atkinson, Chair of Hospitality

## Park of Reflection

Monday October 16th, was our last gardening visit for the 2017 season. Leslie, Eileen, Denise, Barb, Marion and I were there to put the beds to rest. It was mainly a matter of pulling up the red and white annuals we had planted for Canada's 150th. A task we were reluctant to do as there was still so much colour left in our plantings. We enjoyed the splash of colour these annuals added to the Park so much that we are thinking we might try and sneak a few in next year.

Kathy Allam

## Corporate Members' Events

**Ashburn Country Corner Boutique** - 905-655-0515

Holiday Shopping Events

10% off décor, clothing & accessories

Christmas Open House - Sat Nov 18, 10-5;

Sun Nov 19, 12-5

Ladies Nights - Thurs Nov 30, 6-9; Thurs Dec 7, 6-9, door prizes and refreshments

8990 Ashburn Rd, Ashburn ON

## Next Meeting - Feb 28, 2018

Our next general meeting after the November AGM will be on **Wednesday, February 28, 2018**. Our speakers for the evening will be Roger and Grace Inglis. In early February, current members will receive our next newsletter along with the 2018 membership form.

**Have a safe and enjoyable winter and a memorable holiday season!**

## Welcome, New Members!

**Lidia Abbott**

**Rahe Richards**

**Peter McEwan**

**Mary Thompson**

**Pamela Smythe**

**Brenda McLean**

## Court At Brooklin Flower Arranging

Creativity abound at the Court At Brooklin! On Thurs Sept 28, BHS members Leslie Tate, Audrey Atkinson, Julia Noakes and Sherry Howard lead a flower arranging workshop with the residents. The participants showed up early to admire the show entries from the BHS show of the previous evening and to even stake a claim on a special bloom. Everyone proudly took away a beautiful creation for their room.



## THE BROOKLIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDEN 2007 – 2017 LOOKING FORWARD



*Deana, Leslie, Kathy putting BHS gardens to bed*

The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden ten years in is still thriving and much appreciated by the local community. But it's time for a facelift. Many areas are tangled and overgrown with out of control shrubs and garden thugs. Others present gardening challenges due to poor soil and alternating soggy or drought conditions depending on the weather. In the open areas and along the street side the trees, in particular the maples planted and replanted, have not survived. Simply put our small crew of volunteers do not have the time, strength or equipment to maintain such a large garden – really a small park, without some major changes and more help from the Town of Whitby (ToW) Parks Department. Looking forward to our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, we want our garden park to reflect the best practices and horticultural interests of the membership as well as a drawing card for the community at large. With that in mind Kathy Allam, Leslie Tate and I took a hard

look at the garden on a sunny Wednesday morning in early September. Joining us were Lori Kelm, Town Gardener, Sean Moulby, ToW Parks department and a Town landscape architect.

It was a very productive meeting. We identified the problem areas, made plans for the future and embarked on an enhanced partnership with the Town that should ensure maintenance and planting are both more attractive and doable for our volunteers. Already accomplished thanks to the Town is the removal of truck loads of shrubbery from the front entrance and around the central seating area, opening it up for more exciting planting possibilities. A major swath of the boggy northwest garden has also been removed – trees, plants and large rocks. Plans for the future that will unroll as people power and budget allow, include:

- ⇒ Trees, trees, trees, native shade trees
- ⇒ Seating feature in overgrown southwest corner which is wasted space at the present time
- ⇒ Feature plantings like pollinators, dahlias, peonies – ones that reflect member interests
- ⇒ Focus on annuals – east side front entrance and sundial
- ⇒ Easier maintenance – another water source, storage shed, scheduling, ToW support

Maintaining, planting, designing the BHS Garden is a daunting task. We're hoping that with the initiatives above in partnership with the Town it will become less so. When our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary rolls around we will have a garden that does us proud and represents 100 years of gardening excellence. For more details and to find out how your gardening interest fit into the plans join us at the AGM on November 22.

*Faye Collins, BHS Garden Chair*

## FALL PLANT MOVES

We all love having that Hibiscus covered in tropical flowers all summer but what happens when the weather ceases to be tropical. That Hibiscus and many other tender plants that inhabit our summer gardens must find some way to survive while we go skiing. The simplest way, of course, is to just add them to our compost heaps and buy new ones in the spring. That may be an easy way but as dedicated gardeners it has very limited appeal. We like to believe that we can overwinter them and save buying those new ones. Some exotics such as Dahlias, Begonias and Cannas are easy to deal with. They naturally go dormant and leave us tubers and rhizomes to overwinter. We just wait until the frost has knocked down the tops of those plants and then dig up their storage organs and tuck them into bed for the winter. Most of them don't really need a cold space. They will happily spend the winter in a dark cool corner tucked into some slightly damp peat moss or I use the contents of my paper shredder to provide their winter bed. A temperature between 6 and 10 C seems to keep them happy.

That Hibiscus is another story. They need to be kept alive and growing and that means a temperature that we are comfortable at and sufficient light to keep photosynthesis

functioning. A large south or west facing window is usually required to accomplish this. As living plants we also have to keep them watered and protected from predators. Spider mites and white fly seem to think that Hibiscus is their natural home. The best way to combat them is to try and not bring them indoors with the plant. A few sprayings with insecticidal soap about three days apart while they are still outside is the best plan. I have tried leaving them out until a light frost knock off all the leaves and the bugs that live on them. That worked fine until the year the first frost went to -6 C and killed the whole plant.

There are some other plants that spend the summer outside just resting. Cymbidium Orchids and Phalenopsis Orchids will fill our houses with colourful blooms in the winter if they get the right conditions outside all summer. Both tend to bloom after the start of a cool period so we don't hurry to bring them in until they have experienced a few cool nights. On the other hand we have to watch our definition of cool as none of them are happy if they get frosted. Timing is everything.

The spring and fall movement of our part time houseplants is part of the gardener's circle of life. Ken Brown

## OUR FALL MOVES

*I love colocasia (Elephant Ears) and I grow them throughout my garden. They have HUGE leaves and are quite a showstopper. I have propagated quite a few plants from the single bulb I purchased 5-6 years ago. I dig them up each fall and dry them off for a couple of days. I then brush off the dirt and place them in a net bag to hang up in my basement. I pot them up around the end of February as they are slow to start. So far I have been successful with "overwintering" them this way. Leslie Tate*



*Elephant ears in Leslie's garden*

*The annuals that I bring in every year are geraniums, coleus, and herbs (Lemongrass, Rosemary, and Peruvian Sage). The geraniums and herbs are brought in as whole plants and I pour insecticide soap on the soil the same day they come inside. The coleus is brought in by cuttings although this year I am trying to bring in the whole plant and see what happen. Julia Noakes*

*I purchase various sizes of boot trays, either placed on the floor near a window or on a table to hold several pots of plants. I also keep a supply of brushes - mainly dollar store paint brushes - for any insects that might appear over the winter - brush and crush. Battery powered toothbrushes are good for any scale infestations. Sofie Bigham*

*Before frost I choose healthy cuttings from my Sultana Impatiens. I'm fond of this plant because it has a variegated leaf and pretty pink blossoms that bloom from June to frost. I root the cuttings in water for a couple of weeks in a north window ensuring there are plenty of fine hair like roots before planting in 4" pots with an all purpose light mixture soil. I place them back in the same window, turning the pot slightly when I water once a week. In April I take cuttings and start the process again. Voila...lots of plants that love semi shade/shade. Audrey Atkinson*



*Sultana Impatiens in Audrey's garden*

*I have better luck bringing in whole plants, so choose judiciously, keep them sunny as possible and moderately cool. I then start taking cuttings in the spring. I have also always tried to kick my tropicals, including orchids, outside in the spring. When fall arrives and it is time to bring things back into the house, as a precaution, I treat everything with Ed Lawrence's famous recipe of 40 parts water; 1 part liquid soap and 8 parts rubbing alcohol, spraying it thoroughly over the plants, leaving it on for 10 minutes and then rinsing it off. I only do it once, rather than repeating 3 times over 10 days as you would do if the plant was obviously infected. This process seems to cut down on the wee creatures that I would otherwise find in my house over the winter before I started spraying the plants. Debi Foster*

## HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL GARDEN ART CASTINGS

Audrey Atkinson

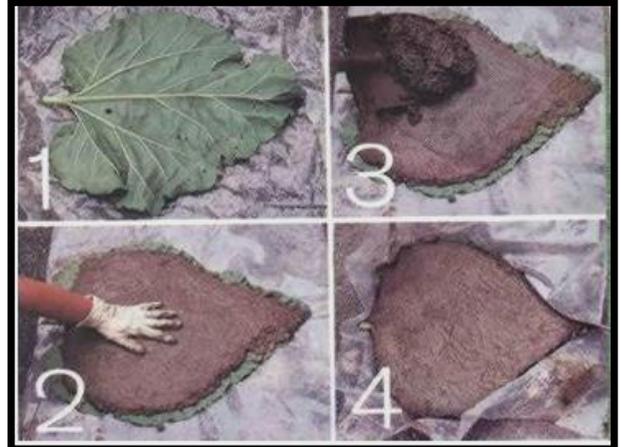
- \* Place wine in fridge to cool.
- \* Gather your patience as this is not a quick DIY project, however, the results are worth the wait.
- \* Watch a couple of internet videos on making cement stepping stones to familiarize yourself with the technique. Don't be overwhelmed; follow the steps below for your first attempt. There is always room to bump it up a notch next time round.
- \* Check out your garden for leaves that are heavily veined (rhubarb, hosta, fern etc.)
- \* Prepare an area that will remain undisturbed for **several days** (garden shed, garage).

**Step 1:** Cut a piece of plastic larger than your leaf & place the leaf, vein side up, in the middle.

**Step 2:** Mix concrete (Sakrete Mortar Mix, Type N) to a stiff (cookie dough) consistency using water & trowel. With gloved hands, move concrete onto the leaf, spreading it **almost to the edge** to a thickness of 1"-1 1/2" pressing firmly to eliminate air bubbles.

**Step 3:** To ensure strength if you are making a stepping stone, cut a piece of chicken wire or drywall mesh to almost cover the surface. Move more concrete onto the wire/mesh to approx. 1"-1 1/2" thick. *Remove wine from fridge and share with your buddies.*

**Step 4:** Gently lift the plastic up around your casting. Secure the sides with a stapler or place earth around the form to support it. Cover with a second piece of plastic for the **first** curing period of **at least 48 hrs.**, then remove plastic and cure for the **second** period of at least **4 days**. You'll be tempted to turn it over, but resist as cracks & crumble can take place and there is no fixing it.



- \* After the **second** curing period, gently turn your casting over and begin to remove the green leaf to reveal your design. You can use a small pick to remove stubborn pieces or use your hose on a jet spray. Dry your casting **in the sun for at least 7 days**. Place or prop up your casting in your garden and admire. Resist stepping on it for **2-3 weeks** if placed as a step-



## More of Our Fall Moves

I try to overwinter some unique coleus and impatiens. The ones you can't get easily. This year, I am trying both earth and water to inspire root growth. Once taken hold, I'll transplant to a decent sized pot and try to get it to thrive. Once they are going, and well into the new year, I start rooting cuttings to propagate multiples. In addition to the coleus and impatiens, I have had a lot of success with spider plants, which I use in pots and in the gardens in the spring. Denise Carter



Brugmansia in Sherry's garden

Early in Sept I plant cuttings of geraniums and coleus and establish them outdoors before bringing them indoors in Oct.

Once the weather cools in Oct I pull up the geraniums, clean off the dirt, trim back if required and then place in paper bags or wrap in newspaper before placing in a box in my basement. At the same time brugmansias start their dormancy in the basement. The leaves will fall off and they're watered once a month. In early April the brugmansias come up from the basement and once they start growing cuttings can be potted up or rooted in water. The hibiscus come indoors early in Sept when



Geranium and coleus cuttings

temperatures are still warm to minimize leaf drop. Before bringing indoors they're watered and washed with soapy water - I also sprayed with Debi's soap and alcohol mix. For large plants I cut them back by a third to minimize whitefly in spring. Sherry Howard

## 2017 Show Results

### April Narcissus Show

Best Narcissus	-	Lenora Wright
Best Specimen (Other)	-	Barb Borchuk
Best Branch	-	Barb Borchuk
Best Container Plant	-	Barb Panowyk
Best Design	-	Julia Noakes
Best Special Exhibit	-	Ken Brown
Best Photo	-	Audrey Atkinson

### May Spring Show

Best Tulip	-	Pat Evans
Best Specimen (Other)	-	Maria Thompson
Best Branch	-	Audrey Atkinson
Best Container Plant	-	NA
Best Vegetable	-	Ken Brown
Best Design	-	Audrey Atkinson
Best Special Exhibit	-	Helen Read
Best Photo	-	Audrey Atkinson

### June Iris & Peony Show

Best Iris	-	Ken Brown
Best Peony	-	Irma Dus
Best Design	-	Irma Dus
Best Specimen (Other)	-	Leslie Tate
Best Special Exhibit	-	Ingrid Janssen
Best Photo	-	Jane McLaughlin

### June Rose Show

Best Rose	-	Ken Brown
Best Specimen (Other)	-	Ken Brown
Best Branch	-	Sherry Howard
Best Fruit/Vegetable	-	Julia Noakes
Best Design	-	Julia Noakes
Best Special Exhibit	-	Jone Webster



### August Annuals Show

Best Specimen	-	Barb Borchuk
Best Branch	-	Barb Borchuk
Best Fruit/Vegetable	-	Ken Brown
Best Collection	-	Valerie Skinner
Best Design	-	Lynda Chapman
Best Special Exhibit	-	Joyce Marsh

### September Autumn Show

Best Specimen	-	Vivian Willerton
Best Branch	-	Barb Panowyk
Best Fruit/Vegetable	-	Lynda Chapman
Best Collection	-	Lynda Chapman
Best Design	-	Audrey Atkinson
Best Special Exhibit	-	Ken Brown

### October PP&P Show

Best Apple Pie	-	Esther Clodd
Best Pumpkin Pie	-	Esther Clodd
Best Preserve	-	Marion Newans
Best Dec. Pumpkin	-	Julia Noakes
Best Specimen	-	Vivian Willerton
Best Design	-	Sherry Howard
Best Special Exhibit	-	Debi Foster
Best Photo	-	Jane McLaughlin

### About the BHS Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly - February, May, August and November. *All photos courtesy of BHS members.* You are invited to submit articles, questions and comments about the newsletter to the **Editors: Leslie Tate** at 905-665-0486, [ltate@rogers.com](mailto:ltate@rogers.com), **Barb Panowyk** at 905-430-2939, [bpanowyk@rogers.com](mailto:bpanowyk@rogers.com), **Sherry Howard** at 905-668-7640, [howard21@rogers.com](mailto:howard21@rogers.com)