



# Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 1 Feb/Mar/April 2011

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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.

Email any board member at:  
[information@brooklinhorticultural.society.com](mailto:information@brooklinhorticultural.society.com)

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



## BHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday February 23, 2011 7:30 PM

Forget the winter blues by joining us for our first meeting of the new gardening year! Bring a friend and come early to renew your membership, as well as catch up with old friends, and make new ones! Don't forget to "lug-a-mug" for coffee and tea while you enjoy some treats provided by the board members.

This evening's special guest speaker is **Alex Henderson**, of The Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington who will speak about **Through the Decades at The Royal Botanical Gardens**. Alex was educated in England and Sweden and spent several years on staff at Kew Royal Botanic Garden in London England. He arrived at The RBG in 2006 and as Curator of Living Collections/Horticulturalist works with 38 different plant collections including many of our club favourites - lilacs, peonies, irises and roses. Alex is responsible for developing, maintaining and managing plant collections, display gardens and public exhibitions. His talk will introduce us to the proud history of one of Canada's great gardens and to its evolution as it adapts to environmental demands and current gardening trends and practices.

The membership dues remain at \$15 per member, or \$22 per family of two (living at the same address). This membership fee entitles you to the BHS Yearbook, the Newsletter, access to great guest speakers at 10 meetings during the year, not to mention eligibility to participate in our flower, vegetable and design competitions. Last, but not least, membership also entitles you to a 10% or better discount at many local nurseries.

You will find a membership form enclosed with this newsletter: complete it and bring it with you, OR make your cheque payable to Brooklin Horticultural Society and mail it with the form to: Dena MacDonald, 9575 Baldwin Street North, Ashburn, ON L0B 1A0

We look forward to seeing our returning members and welcoming new members and guests.

## 90 YEARS & STILL GROWING Anniversary Celebration — September 28

Mark your calendars now for September 28th. BHS is hosting its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. We want to see all our members come out to enjoy this upcoming event.

The Anniversary Committee has been busy planning many special activities that will take place throughout our big year: a new heritage garden to be created in the BHS Garden, special speakers at our General Meetings, tree plantings and more. Listen for more news about these exciting events at our monthly meetings.

Your Anniversary Committee is Dena McDonald, Faye Collins, Shelly Patrick, Cassandra Patrick, Mary Ellen Simerson and Kathy Allam.

**Check out our Anniversary Logo at the top of the page!**

## Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday March 23	<b>SEED SWAP AND GET GROWING FORUM</b> Seed sellers, gardening experts and plant nurseries Durham Master Gardeners, Show Committee, Civic Beautification
Tuesday April 26	<b>3rd ANNUAL PRUNING DEMONSTRATION</b> Durham Master Gardeners, BHS Garden Park, Montgomery & Carnwith, 6:30 PM Bring your secateurs or garden clippers and garden gloves.
Wednesday April 27	<b>THE NARCISSUS SHOW</b> <b>Guest Speaker: Ken Brown, Whitby, <a href="http://www.gardening-enjoyed.com">www.gardening-enjoyed.com</a></b> <b>Topic: Bulbs... A Constant in the Garden</b>
Saturday April 30	<b>DISTRICT 17 AGM AND FLOWER SHOW</b> Hosted by the Orono Horticultural Society at the Orono United Church, 111 Church St. North, Orono. Registration Fee: Early Bird by April 8 is \$25, or \$30 at the door - includes hospitality, luncheon, show entries, and speakers <b>Henry Lorrain</b> "Hybridizing Daylilies for a Northern Climate", and <b>Marjorie Mason</b> "Plants in Pots—Anything Grows". For more details and show schedules, check your BHS Yearbook, or visit <a href="http://ohadistrict17.50webs.com/AGM.htm">http://ohadistrict17.50webs.com/AGM.htm</a> .
Saturday May 14	<b>BROOKLIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PLANT AUCTION</b> Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin, 10 AM Auctioneer Extraordinaire: <b>Ken Brown</b>

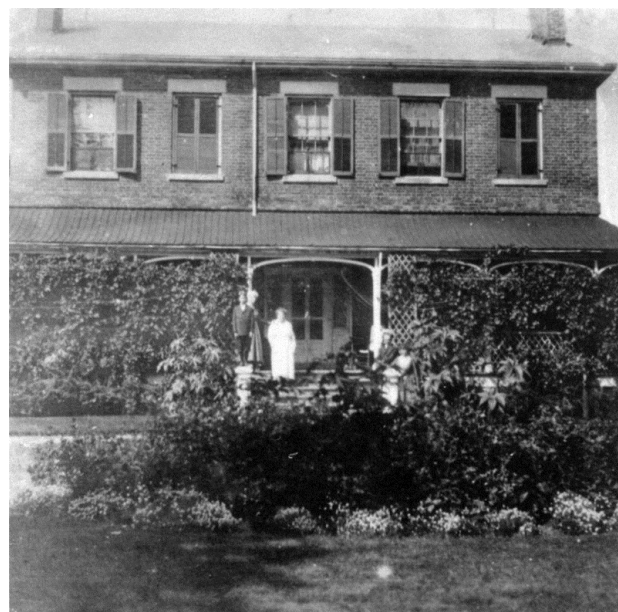


### Volunteers Needed in the Greenhouse!

It's that time of year again, when we need volunteers to come out to Kingsway Greenhouse. It's a great way to see work in progress at a nursery and all the different varieties of plants for ideas for you own garden. We are currently working on our planters for Brooklin and Whitby, along with hanging baskets. The Brooklin planters (total of 22 and Whitby 15) will be filled with yellow flowering maple surrounded by purple trailing lantana. Other tubs will contain New Zealand flax and will be accented with pink ivy geraniums and lime green potato vines. We are also going to use bronze cannas for their colour, surrounded by red dragon wings. The baskets for both Whitby and Brooklin have dipladenias with a variety of ivy geraniums, scaevola, and variegated ivies. These are just a few of the plants that will be used. If you would like to come out, I can be reached at (905)430-0416 or [nanah@sympatico.ca](mailto:nanah@sympatico.ca).

*Eileen Humphries*

### The Grange, Whitby 1921



Residence of Frank Beecroft on Pine Street.  
There were lush gardens even back then!  
Photo from <http://images.ourontario.ca/whitby>.

## Other Events of Note

March 16 - 20

### CANADA BLOOMS - Flower and Garden Festival "Rhythms"

Visit a paradise bursting with six acres of stunning gardens in full bloom, hundreds of vendors, and much more at Canada's largest and most prestigious flower and garden festival, celebrating its 15th year. With different stages going non-stop, the show offers over 200 hours of seminars, workshops, and demonstrations in five days from some of the best garden experts in North America including our own **Ken Brown** speaking on Vertical Gardening. Admission: \$18 (Seniors \$16) or \$14 after 5.00 pm. Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place.

[www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

March 27: 9 am - 4 pm

### ONE-DAY HOSTA FORUM, Royal Botanical Gardens

Five fabulous speakers, light lunch, beverages, home baking, and door prizes. Topics: Hostas in the English Garden, Flip This Garden, Photographing Gardens, The Book of Little Hostas, and The Beauty of the Woodland Garden. Ticket: \$55.

Contact Cindy Deutekom at [cindydeutekom@netscape.ca](mailto:cindydeutekom@netscape.ca) or 905-986-4363.

March 31 - April 3

### 19th ANNUAL SUCCESSFUL GARDENING SHOW

A part of the International Home & Garden Show, featuring the Gardener's Dream Marketplace, the Ontario Gardener Seminar Stage, the OHA floral design and plant competition, and much more. Toronto International Centre, 6900 Airport Road. Admission: \$14 (\$10 Seniors) [www.internationalhomeshow.ca](http://www.internationalhomeshow.ca)

Fri April 8: 6 - 9 pm

Sat April 9: 10 am - 6 pm

Sun April 10: 10 am - 4 pm

### PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW "For the Love of Gardening"

Peterborough Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road. Vendors, speakers, displays, workshops, and floral show. Admission \$6.

[www.peterboroughgardens.ca/showhome.html](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca/showhome.html)

April 16: 10 am - 5 pm

April 17: 10 am - 4 pm

### 8th ANNUAL SCUGOG SPRING GARDEN SHOW

Scugog Community Recreation Centre, 1655 Reach Street, Port Perry

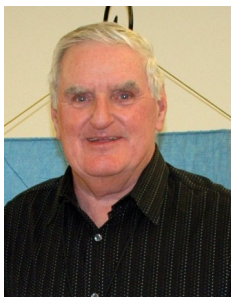
Vendors, flower show, demonstrations and speakers including Denis Flanagan, Beth Cook, and Sonia Day. Admission: \$5/day [www.pineridgegardenclub.ca](http://www.pineridgegardenclub.ca)

### Garden Plans for 2011

I've already been cruising the seed catalogues, deciding on new and interesting plants for the coming year. There is so much to choose from! I am also going to enlarge the garden to accommodate them all. I'm trying a daylily - it's a black variety (black flowers are my favorite). I will also do more containers because they are so versatile - you can move them around to different locations, group them with other containers or have them stand alone.

*Connie McEllistrum*

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our members to another eventful year with the Brooklin Horticultural Society. 2011 promises to be a very busy year! This is our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Numerous events have been planned for your enjoyment and to increase your knowledge in the garden. Kathy Allam and her committee have been working very hard to make this event a success and a year to remember.

I would like to welcome the new members to the board of directors: Eileen Humphries, Julia Noakes, Connie McEllistrum, Lisa Lynch and Hans Paats. I would also like to thank Kim Pileggi, Cheryl Penner, Margret Mossman and Neil Wick for their hard work and dedication to the BHS in previous years.

We have up-dated our web site! Check it out at [www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com). Shelly Patrick has worked very hard to fine tune the site, making it very informative and helpful to our members in keeping up to date on events planned for the society throughout the year.

*Fred Haggerty*



## BHS Board for 2011



**Back row:** Fred Haggerty-President, Jone Webster-Past President, Brian Gower-1st VP, Lisa Lynch, Julia Noakes, Margret Mossman (resigned), Eileen Humphries, and Hans Paats

**Front row:** Kathy Allam-Secretary, Mary Ellen Simerson, Aldine Wick-Treasurer, Dena MacDonald-2nd VP, and Connie McEllistrum

## SPEAKER'S CORNER

We are hoping that our 2011 speakers line-up will continue to inspire, educate and meet the gardening needs of all members. This year there is a historical theme running throughout the series in keeping with The Brooklin Horticultural Society's 90<sup>th</sup> year. Each meeting will focus on some aspect of gardening history and two will not follow the traditional one speaker, one topic format: one features a variety of speaker-experts, topics and workshops; the other a piece of theatre brought to you by **The Pickering Museum's Backwood Players**. We have also brought back perennial favourites **Ken Brown** on 'Bulbs...A Constant in the Garden' and **Frank Kershaw** on 'Great Historic Gardens of Ontario' and are introducing some great guest speakers new to our society. We have booked and confirmed **Alex Henderson** on The Royal Botanical Gardens' historic collections, **Elaine Davidson** on herbs - a combination of use history and hands on, **Paul Bolland** from The Potting Shed on a history of colour use in the garden and **Darren Heimbecker** from Whistling Gardens on the creation of what he's calling Canada's newest horticultural playground. And we end the year with something completely different we're sure you'll enjoy...**Bill Lishman**, Father Goose, will bring a presentation he's taken all over the world that connects back to his own rural roots and the farm where he was raised on Westney Road in what is now Ajax. Some were your recommendations, some were my finds and some were requests for come backs. As always we appreciate your feedback and suggestions for future speakers and meeting topics and workshops. Check the front page for information on our February speaker. Following are the next two meetings for 2011.

The March 23rd meeting - **The Annual Seed Swap and Get Growing Forum** will consist of a variety of mini-talks, information sharing sessions and volunteer opportunities...yours to pick and choose. Again, it being our 90<sup>th</sup> year, there will be an opportunity to both hear about and purchase seeds - annuals, perennials and our flower, the sunflower that would have been found in the gardens of members past, from The Cottage Gardener Heirloom Seedhouse and Plant Nursery, enter a design contest for the heritage garden we will be planting at the BHS Garden and/or visit The Show Committee tables for tips on how to best show your blooms and be ready for our special 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show at The Harvest Festival in September. As well, you can "Ask a Master Gardener", Durham Master Gardeners, sign up with John Van Ekeren for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual pruning demonstration and workshop and get some seed starting tips and what's hot for 2011 from Sofie Bigham. Other tables will include The Whitby Ajax Gardening Project, located on Lakeridge Road and now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, The Ontario Daylily Society, Civic Beautification, our own gardens, The Butterfly Meadow and The BHS Garden, some local nurseries yet to be confirmed and others TBA. So don't forget to bring your seeds to swap and some extra cash for that packet of seeds, plant or new product you cannot do without. It's a not to be missed meeting.

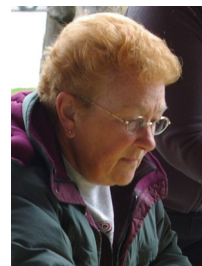
For **The Narcissus Show** on April 27<sup>th</sup>, what could be more appropriate than to have our own and always entertaining **Ken Brown** come and talk to us about Bulbs...a constant in all our gardens from 1921 to 2011. You already know, but it bears repeating that Ken is a well-known horticulturalist, writer and photographer who is and has been involved in every aspect of gardening indoors and out. He is in great demand on the garden speakers' circuit, not just for his expertise, but for his

*(Continued on page 6)*

## 2010 BHS AWARD WINNERS

### LIFE MEMBER AWARD—BETTY VAN BUUREN

Betty has been a member of our club for over 30 years. She served on the board for 15 years in total and held the position of Secretary for 6 years. She was First Vice President, President in 1986 & 1987 and then Past President. She volunteered on civic beautification, shows, yearbook and draws. Every year since 1980, Betty has been a Plant Auction Cashier. With this award, Betty received a lapel pin and free membership for life.



### PRESIDENT'S AWARD – KATHY ALLAM

As a new member, Kathy made an incredible contribution to a number of committees in 2010. All summer long, she could be seen volunteering with civic beautification and the BHS Garden Park. She helped out at Harvest Festival, sold draw tickets at general meetings, and single-handedly organized our assistance at the fall bazaar for The Court in Brooklin senior's residence. She joined the board in 2010 and took on the onerous role of Secretary. She was so enthusiastic about our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that we had no choice but to make her chair of the organizing committee.

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD – MARY ELLEN SIMERSON

Mary Ellen started volunteering as soon as she joined the club in 2002. She received a President's Award the next year when she added Hospitality Chair and board member to her commitments. She has been a member of the show committee since joining and has been Show Chair for the past three years. She also volunteered with our schools program and chaired the Harvest Festival committee. She has served on the Town's Whitby in Bloom steering committee since its inception. She volunteers at the BHS Garden Park. Mary Ellen has served on the board for all but one year since she joined and has held the positions of first and second Vice President. She researches recognition awards for our members, makes a flower arrangement on short notice, and opens her gardens to visitors. She has won numerous showing awards and recently qualified as a Show Judge.



### SHOW AWARD WINNERS:

BHS Award for Highest # of Points	-	Sophie Bigham
Marg Davis Award, 2nd Highest Points	-	Ken Brown
Mary Housego Award, 3rd Highest Points	-	Mary Ellen Simerson
Windermere Award, Highest Points in Design	-	Vida Ycas-Abell
Fred Daw Award, Highest Points in Vegetables	-	Valerie Skinner
Rose Bowl Award, New Exhibitor with highest points	-	Kathy Allam
2nd place	-	Sherry Howard
3rd place	-	Patricia Budrow
Iris Trophy, Best Iris at the iris Show	-	Ken Brown
Denny Peony Award, highest total points in Peony classes	-	Ken Brown
Marg Beath Rose Award, highest total points in Rose classes	-	Sofie Bigham
Best Decorative in Annuals Show (August)	-	Connie McEllistrum

### Garden Plans for 2011

This year I would like to try container gardening. Since my garden beds are very small and already contain perennials, container pots might be an alternative. I'm checking the internet which has lots of ideas for planting and how to grow one or several vegetable plants, which is plenty for two people. I'm also looking at container planting for herbs tucked in with flowers.

*Eileen Humphries*

### Garden Plans for 2011

I am hoping to get my vegetable garden going again this year. It has been occupied for a few years by various garden plants that were waiting to find their ultimate showplace elsewhere in my gardens, but I just could not get it all done. So hopefully this is the year.

*Brian Gower*



Spectacular Fall perennials at the August 2010 show.

### **SPEAKER'S CORNER** *(Continued from page 4)*

contagious enthusiasm and sense of humour. In his talk Ken will take us back to some old favourites including a little mop-head narcissus Rip Van Winkle we have chosen as our anniversary flower and will be purchasing in bulk. He'll introduce us to what's up and coming in the bulb world and he'll bring along favourites from his own garden assuming the weather cooperates. Ken will also have order sheets so you can pre-order the latest and greatest that we'll be selling at our Harvest Festival Bulb Sale. If past talks are any indication, you will want to be there, so mark your calendar and don't forget to bring something from your own garden for our first show of the year.

*Faye Collins*

## **GROW & SHOW 2011**

To celebrate the BHS 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, your show committee has made a few changes to the show schedules for 2011. Each show has had a "Heritage" section added to encourage you to 'grow & show' some of the flowers that might have been in bloom back in 1921. You can enter as many different cultivars as you wish in these classes. There is also a "Heritage" design class in each show.

The "Anniversary Show" will be held on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Brooklin Harvest Festival. Entries will be received on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and will be judged on Friday evening so the show can be open to the public all day Saturday. All societies in District 17 will be invited to participate in this event. This Anniversary Show will replace the regular August and September shows.

We'd like to encourage everyone to show something this year. Old blooms or new blooms are welcome. If you have the name, please include it, but if you don't, bring it along anyway. Someone in the group may know what it is. Help us continue this fun educational experience.

If you are new to showing, there is a page on "Preparation of Entries for Exhibiting" with instructions of how to prepare, condition and groom your entries. BUT.....don't let all these instructions put you off. Many a red ribbon has been won by picking a bloom at the last minute and plunking it on the table.

Speaking of plunking.....our "Pick & Plunk" classes, under Special Exhibits, have been a great success. If you haven't already, please give it a try..... garden grown plant material picked and plunked creatively into a container of choice...."keep it simple".

Any questions? Please give us a call.

Judi Denny, Show Chair 905.263.4765  
or email: [mjdenny@sympatico.ca](mailto:mjdenny@sympatico.ca)

Sofie Bigham	905.655.5929
Ken Brown	905.665.9411
Sherry Howard	905.668.7640
Mary Ellen Simerson	905.655.4927

### **OHA Convention** **July 15 - 17, 2011** **Radisson Hotel, Sudbury**

**A Growing Experience—from the Ground Up**

For more info, go to [www.agrowingexperience.ca](http://www.agrowingexperience.ca)

### **Ask A Master Gardener**

**by Kim Pileggi,**  
**Durham Master Gardeners**

**Do you have a gardening question?**  
**Send it to [pileggiv@rogers.com](mailto:pileggiv@rogers.com) or ask Kim at a monthly meeting.**

**About the BHS Newsletter** This newsletter is published three times yearly—February, May and August. You are invited to submit articles, questions and comments about the newsletter to the **Editor Jone Webster** at 905-666-2489 or [brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com](mailto:brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com) or [newsletter@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com](mailto:newsletter@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com).