

Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 18 Issue 1 Feb/Mar/April 2016

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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. The November meeting is at St. Thomas Anglican Church.

Email any board member at: information@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com. Visit us on the web at: www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

POLLINATOR GARDENING Wednesday February 24, 2016 - 7:30 PM

Join 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 or tea while you enjoy some treats.

There has been quite a bit of focus in the media in the last few years on the plight of pollinators in North America. From Monarch butterflies to honeybees, we have been inundated with news, both good and bad. But what can a home gardener do to help? There is a tremendous amount of power in gardening and even though each of us has a small patch of land, the combined efforts of gardeners can have a significant impact.

Ingrid Janssen, a Durham Master Gardener, garden business owner and a BHS member will be introducing you to our local pollinators and explaining the simple things that you can do to encourage and support them on your property.

Our membership dues are still only \$20 per member, or \$30 per family of two (living at the same address). This membership fee entitles you to our yearbook, the quarterly newsletter, great speakers and topics at 10 meetings during the year, as well as eligibility to participate in our flower, vegetable and design competitions. Another great benefit: membership entitles you to a 10% or better discount at many local nurseries, garden shops and other retailers.

A membership form is being emailed to you, or it can be downloaded from our website. Bring the completed form with you to the February meeting. If you can't come to this meeting, you can bring it to a future meeting or mail your form with a cheque payable to Brooklin Horticultural Society to: **Leslie Tate**, 30 Erickson Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 8Z4

**Happy 2016 to our returning & new members!
Guests are always welcome!**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 95th year of the Brooklin Horticultural Society! It promises to be an exciting and rewarding year. We have many special events planned to augment our regular season for our members and our Corporate Partners, celebrating our longevity and our Society's commitment to the communities of Brooklin and Whitby.

We have a terrific speaker season ahead of us. With the enthusiastic support of Whitby in Bloom, we are able to invite high-profile well known individuals for our spring series. We will continue to capitalize on the talent within our own Society to share their knowledge in other general meeting presentations. And we are organizing a special and exciting celebration

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Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday Mar 23	SEED SWAP AND GET GROWING EVENING Guest Speaker: Mark Cullen , Gardener, Horticultural Consultant, Author, Media Commentator Topic: The New Canadian Garden Speaker co-sponsored with Whitby in Bloom . Please donate a non-perishable food item.
Tuesday April 26	8th ANNUAL PRUNING DEMONSTRATION Durham Master Gardeners, BHS Garden, 113 Carnwith Dr. West, 6:30 PM Bring your secateurs or garden clippers, and garden gloves. Rain date: May 3
Wednesday April 27	THE NARCISSUS SHOW Guest Speaker: Paul Zammit , Director of Horticulture, Toronto Botanical Garden Topic: Small Space Gardening Speaker co-sponsored with Whitby in Bloom . Please donate a non-perishable food item.
Saturday April 30	DISTRICT 17 AGM AND FLOWER SHOW "Humour in the Garden" Hosted by Brooklin Horticultural Society at Westminster United Church, 1850 Rossland Road East, Whitby. Registration Fee: \$30 advance payment to BHS by March 23, or \$35 at the door. Includes hospitality, luncheon, show entry, silent auction and guest speakers. For more details and show schedules, go to www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com .
Saturday May 28	BHS PLANT SALE Donate your plant divisions. Buy new garden plants. Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin, starting at 9 AM

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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for our 95th year anniversary with our September meeting.

This spring we begin our 95th anniversary year events by hosting the **District 17 Annual General Meeting** on April 30th. Eleven other horticultural organizations in Durham Region will come to join us and share our creative talents, the friendship of similar passions, and to elect a District 17 executive. Among the highlights of the meeting will be two very special speakers, taking on the subject of "Humour in the Garden".

BHS welcomes **John Simerson** to the Board for 2016 and recognizes the long standing efforts of **Aldine and Don Wick** who have retired from the Board, but certainly not from the Society. Aldine served 22 years on the Board as Treasurer. Don continues his role on the District 17 executive. I look forward to their contributions to all of our events, and continue to rely on their talents to help the Society execute its programs successfully.

One of the challenges facing BHS, and many of the other Societies and Garden groups in District 17, is our demographics. It's a challenge to younger adults to find the time to join with enthusiasm a horticulture group, or explore gardening in depth. Family demands, work and commuting time, and a myriad of sports programs available to satisfy the

body leave little time for engagement in the joy of gardening: choosing, planting, growing and celebrating the magnificent opportunities of the horticultural world.

This year I would like the Society to focus attention and energy on doing those things we do best: **sharing, teaching, participating and providing**. We can **share** our knowledge, expertise and energy within the communities in which we live, and with the programs we support, such as the Brooklin Horticultural Gardens. We will **teach** and educate our members and all those of our community, through those who are professionals, leaders, and communicators in the Horticultural field. We must become a regular and visible **participant** in the cultural celebrations that Brooklin, the Town of Whitby, and other significant service groups offer, demonstrating our range of talents and skills to enhance the richness of our communities. And finally, we must enhance our opportunity to **provide** for purchase and in other means, at our Plant Sale, our general meetings and plant exchanges, high quality, unique and substantial plants. We need to make our Plant Sale a featured and anticipated annual event.

2016 promises to be an exciting 95th year, with lots of opportunity for all to volunteer, participate, attend and enjoy. I look forward to sharing this season with you, at the Brooklin Horticultural Society.

Hans Paats, President

Other Events of Note

Feb 20
10 am - 4 pm

GET THE JUMP ON SPRING, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave E. Toronto. Annual horticultural open house, presented with OHA. Floral design competition, live displays, gardening advice, talks and demonstrations. Visit specialty vendors, artisans, Jump Café, and the Garden Shop. Free admission, free parking. (\$2 donation appreciated)
<http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/>

Sunday Afternoons
Mar 6 - Apr 10
2 - 3 pm

RICHTERS SEMINARS - Various speakers on topics relating to herbs and gardening.
Mar 6 - Jeff Mason on **Hot Herbs for the Perennial Garden**
Mar 13 - Koidu Sulev on **How to Plan and Plant your Herb Garden**
Mar 20 - Travis Philp on **Forest Gardening in an Urban Setting**
Apr 10 - Marjorie Mason on **Potager Gardening**
Richters Herbs, Goodwood. Admission Free. Lectures are podcast one week later.
www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=/events/events.html

March 11 - 20
10 am - 8/9 pm
Sun, Mar 13: 10 - 6
Sun, Mar 20: 10 - 5

CANADA BLOOMS "It's a Party!", Enercare Centre (was Direct Energy), Exhibition Place. Canada's largest flower and garden festival co-located with the National Home Show is celebrating 20 years. See 25+ feature gardens, learn from free seminars, workshops and presentations, hear speakers including **Mark Cullen, Frank Ferragine, Paul Zammit, Marjorie Mason, and our own Ken Brown**, enjoy the Toronto Garden Club's floral competition; and shop for your gardening needs at Garden Marketplace. Admission to both shows: \$20 (Seniors \$17 & Students \$16). Save \$3 by ordering online in advance. Register online for tours and specialty workshops. www.canadablooms.com

Mar 13 & Apr 10
1 - 4 pm
Sale - May 1: 11 - 3

ONTARIO ROCK GARDEN & HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
Mar 13 - Jerry Kral from Rochester NY on **Rocking with Rocks**
Apr 10 - Malcolm McGregor on **A World of Saxifrages**
May 1 - Super Plant Sale, 11 am - 3 pm
Toronto Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave E. Toronto, www.onrockgarden.com

Fri April 8: 5-9 pm
Sat April 9: 10 am-5 pm
Sun April 10: 10 am-4 pm

PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW, Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road. 130 garden-related vendors and exhibitors, speakers including **Carson Arthur, Jeff Mason, the Cooks and the Westlakes**, demonstrations, garden displays, gardening advice clinic, floral design competition, and interactive Children's Garden. \$8 daily, \$12 weekend.
www.peterboroughgardenshow.com



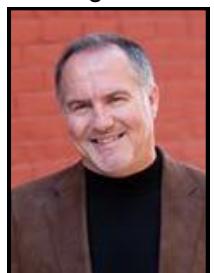
BHS members enjoying the November AGM & Social



95th ANNIVERSARY!!

September 28, 2016

BHS is hosting a 95th Anniversary celebration in September. This will be a very unique event with special guests and treats. Our guest speaker for the fun-filled evening is local celebrity **Neil Crone**. Neil is an actor and writer. He has performed in dozens of television and radio commercials, TV shows (*Little Mosque on the Prairie*) and is the voice of numerous animation characters every Saturday morning. He's a Second City veteran improviser, host, stand-up comic and winner of a Canadian Comedy Award. In his other life, Neil is an award-winning weekly humor columnist for our local *'This Week'* news-papers. His books include *Enter Laughing* and *Semi-Colon*. Neil is a cancer survivor and National Spokesperson for both the Colo-rectal and Colon Cancer Associations. As a motivational speaker, he focuses on the power of laughter in healing.



BHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2016



L to R: Denise Carter, Eileen Humphries, Past President Kathy Allam, Faye Collins, Margaret McGibney, President & Treasurer Hans Paats, First VP Jane Austin, Second VP & Secretary Leslie Tate. Absent: John Simerson

NEW BOARD MEMBER - John Simerson

John joined the board in January 2016. As a resident of Brooklin for 19 years, he is the official grass cutter, weed whacker and shovel expert for his wife of 36 years, Mary Ellen. As many of you know, they have a large variety of peonies, daylilies, trees, shrubs and flowers growing on their large rural property. John likes to grow his own vegetables and garlic. Over the years, he has attended many events sponsored by the BHS with



Mary Ellen and finally succumbed two years ago to becoming a member. Starting in March, you will find John in the local Lowes and Home Depot stores answering questions on fertilizer, grass seed and weeds for Scotts Canada. John invites you to ask him any questions on lawn care or visit him in the stores. His experience and knowledge will be a great addition to the BHS board.

Welcome to the board, John!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR ALDINE WICK



Aldine has been a member of the Board for over 25 years and a BHS member for nearly 50 years. Her contribution to the Board as Treasurer extended for 22 years. Her decision to retire from the Board was not her first choice, and the Board will miss her input and her contribution. She will continue to play a part in many of the Society's programs and the general meetings, and we will continue to value her participation in the Society going forward.

Congratulations & Thanks, Aldine!

OHA Convention, Kitchener

July 29 - 31, 2016

Theme: 'Experience the Grand'

http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/up_conf.php

2016 GARDEN DATES

Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden

Join our garden work crews even if it's just for an evening or two throughout the season. And by the way, your spouses are welcome, too. Check the schedule below.

Faye Collins, 905-655-9695
madgardener23@hotmail.com.

See you in the Garden!

Tuesdays from 6:30 PM to dusk:

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
June 7, 14, 21, 28
July 5, 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
September 6, 13, 20, 27

Saturday Sessions:

May 14 - 10:30 to 1PM
June 11 - 1 to 3:30 PM
October 15 - 10:30 to 1PM
October 29 - 1 to 3:30 PM

Whitby in Bloom Speakers

We thank **Whitby in Bloom** for again co-sponsoring well-known speakers for our spring meetings. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the local food banks.

THE NEW CANADIAN GARDENER, Mark Cullen March 23, Seed Swap and Get Growing

Based on the new best seller, Mark's new book *The New Canadian Garden*, Mark explores the changes in methods and attitudes towards the gardening experience over the past generation. He peppers his colourful and fast moving presentation with personal anecdotes, practical gardening tips and over 100 colour images of gardens from across the country. Finally, Mark provides his own look in the crystal ball and speculates on how the Canadian home garden will look in another generation. It promises to be an informative and fun evening....with a surprise or two!" He will be selling his books with a twist - 'a gift with purchase' that he is quite excited about.



SMALL SPACE GARDENING, Paul Zammit April 27, The Narcissus Show

Paul, a graduate of the University of Guelph, is the Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden. He is an energetic and passionate speaker who has presented across Canada



and in the United States, and recently, in Germany, Switzerland and Bermuda. He has appeared both on television and in print. In 2014, Paul lead a 10 day garden and food tour on the island of Sicily. Paul's container designs have also been showcased several times in assorted gardening magazines. Based on his many travels and years of hands-on experience, Paul believes a small garden has large potential. Join him for an energetic presentation where he will share tips and tricks of making the most of small spaces, including growing some tasty edibles.

CONTAINERS - BREAKING THE MOLD

Vicki Taylor-Scott May 25, The Spring Show

Thinking outside the usual constraints, from one crack(ed) pot to another - the possibilities are endless and the ideas are something to behold. Magazine-worthy to committable offenses, Vicki will take you on a journey that will make you laugh, shake your head or leave you inspired to go home and just break the mold. Vicki always educates but also entertains with her light and humorous presentations.



**Save the Date: July 16, 2016
Whitby in Bloom Garden Tour**



More BHS members enjoying the November AGM & Social



SEED SWAP - MARCH 23

Don't forget to bring your extra seeds, summer bulbs, tubers, rhizomes and cuttings to the seed swap at the March meeting. You'll help out other gardeners and maybe take home some goodies yourself! Remember to label your donations.

Help Save the Bees!

Bees are in crisis and you can help support their recovery with "**Solitary Pollen Bee Nests**". It's easy to do: just place a few solitary bee nests around your garden in early spring and summer. Now watch for the gentle solitary bees. Be patient because it may take a few weeks for the bees to locate the nests. BHS will be selling Solitary Pollen Bee Nests over the next few meetings for just \$20 including instruction booklets. For more information, go to www.pollenbeenenest.com or ask **John Simerson** for more info at 905-655-4927, john.simerson@sympatico.ca.



RECYCLE BOOKS & MAGS

February & March Meetings

Bring in your gently used gardening books and magazines to exchange for some new reading material!

PRUNING DEMONSTRATION - April 26 - 6:30 PM

The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden was established in 2007 and over its nine years has evolved into a garden and green space that represents us and a gathering place for the community...children, babies in strollers, dogs, teenagers, adults of all ages relaxing, reading, coaching kids in pick-up baseball games, and of course admiring our work and asking gardening questions on Tuesday evenings. In a word or two, a working garden, ever evolving.

It's our 95th year as a society and if you haven't visited the garden yet, it's time. And of course you can come volunteer; extra hands are always welcome, or come get some on-site help or advise for your gardening concerns. There is

always a fellow gardener available on Tuesday evenings including a Durham Master Gardener or two who just happen to be part of our regular work crew. Or, come any day and stroll at your leisure, relax and enjoy.

This year we will again kick-off the 2016 gardening season with our 8th Annual Pruning Demonstration on Tuesday, April 26 (rain date May 3) from 6:30 to 8PM. There will be four Master Gardeners on site to show you the hows, wheres, whys and whats of pruning. Everyone is welcome!

Hopefully, you will consider joining our work crew for an evening or two starting Tuesday May 3. **Faye Collins**, 905-655-9695, madgardener23@hotmail.com.

'HUMOUR IN THE GARDEN'

Sat. April 30, Westminster United Church, Whitby

BHS is hosting this year's District 17 AGM on Saturday April 30 at Westminster United Church, 1850 Rossland Road East, Whitby. Cost of attending is \$30 paid to BHS by March 23, or \$35 at the door. (Advance registration is preferred.) Fee includes welcome and break hospitality, lunch, show entry, and speakers. A Silent Auction will be available. Cash or cheques only please.

TRISH SYMONS will be speaking on *The Joys & Hazards of a Large Country Garden*. Speaker, photographer, writer, floral judge and instructor, Trish enjoys teaching classes and workshops, and speaking on gardening topics. On a 166 acre farm on the Niagara Escarpment, she creates between 50 to 100 planters each year for her decks and walkways. She hosts garden tours through her 3 acre garden to help promote diversity and organic gardening.



DAVID HOBSON's topic is *A Look at the Lighter Side of Gardening* - images and stories highlighting the fun and follies of gardeners, from gardening garb and garden pests to garden goofs and garden greats. Guaranteed to be entertaining, even informative. He is the weekly garden columnist for *The Waterloo Region Record* and *The Guelph Mercury*, and a contributor to *Grand* magazine. He is creator of the *Garden Humour* website and the author of two books of garden fiction: *Soiled Reputations* and *Diary of a Mad Gardener*.



Review the Show Schedule on our website for information about entering exhibits to the Flower Show. All photographs for the competition should be forwarded to Mary Ellen Simerson by April 15. www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com

We hope that you will join us!

2015 SHOW AWARD WINNERS

BHS Award for Highest Number of Points

Margaret Davis Award, 2nd Highest Points

Mary Housego Award, 3rd Highest Points

Windermere Award, Highest Points in Design

Fred Daw Award, Highest Points in Vegetables

Rose Bowl Award, New Exhibitor with Highest Points

Mary Ellen Simerson

Kathy Allam

Sherry Howard

Sofie Bigham

Kathy Allam

Audrey Atkinson & Marion Newans

Ken Brown

Mary Ellen Simerson

Sherry Howard

Audrey Atkinson

Mary Ellen Simerson

Iris Trophy, Best Iris at the Iris Show

Denny Peony Award, Highest Total Points in Peony Classes

Marg Beath Rose Award, Highest Total Points in Rose Classes

Best Decorative in Annuals Show (August)

Jone Photography Award, Highest Total Points in Photography



Mary Ellen with BHS Award

About the BHS Newsletter This newsletter is published quarterly - February, May, August and October.

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.