

# Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 20 Issue 1 Feb/Mar/Apr 2018

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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.

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com)  
Follow us on facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/bhs1921/>



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

## ***“Making of a Country Garden Update”*** **Wednesday February 28, 2018 - 7:30 PM**

Is it over yet – winter, that is!! It's definitely been a long winter and most of us can't wait to get back to our gardens. Although we're still a few weeks away from spring why not join us for our first meeting and perhaps we can garden vicariously through Brian McLatchie and Diane Stackhouse's presentation on the latest in their making of a country garden.

Brian and Diane have lived on their 2 acre property, near Port Perry, for 45 years and have been gardening for 25-30 of those years. The property consists of a series of gardens including the Barn Garden which comprises a patio and gardens in an enclosed stone barn foundation. All the gardens have a sampling of dwarf conifers. There is a relatively small vegetable area planted with garlic, onions and peppers. Their goal is to have a relaxing garden where one can enjoy just walking about.

So come on in from winter, bring a friend, catch up with old friends and make new ones! Come early to renew your membership. 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, and it can also be downloaded from our website. Bring the completed form with you to the February meeting and meet our new membership convenor, Eric Tuinman.

Don't forget to 'lug-a-mug' for coffee or tea while you enjoy some treats too.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Brrrr! It has certainly been a cold winter so far. But, at least we have snow. Just seems to make the winter a little more interesting doesn't it? However, if you are like me, a certain amount of restlessness is now creeping into my day. I am already imagining what I am going to do in the garden. What changes I can make, new plants I can try – I know I can fit in a few here and there! The winter also gives me time to reflect what worked and didn't work in my garden. I certainly would like to plant more dahlias this year – started a couple of years ago with a few of Jone's plants and I am now smitten!! I would also like to incorporate more “garden art” into my garden. Sensing a few road trips this year to scour some antique barns and see what I can come up with. And, of course, I am looking forward to the start of our meetings – we have quite the list of interesting speakers this year. Can't wait! See you soon!

Cheers,  
Leslie Tate, President

## 2018 BHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top L to R: Past President and Treasurer Hans Paats, Julia Noakes, Secretary Eileen Humphries, 2nd VP Denise Carter, 1st VP Jane Austin, D17 Director Rick Causton, Bottom L to R: Jan Illing, President Leslie Tate, Kathy Allam

## HOSPITALITY

As a trial in 2017, new healthy food items donated by BHS members, were added to our monthly hospitality table. Comments throughout the year from members were quite favourable, therefore we will continue to offer a similar selection of fruits, vegetables, cheese, and sweets to kick start our monthly meetings in 2018. Thank you to all the BHS members that donated tasty items in 2017 for our refreshment table. If you would like to bring a food item, please see the sign-up sheet at the hospitality table. It will be available at our February 2018 meeting and thereafter. Items do not have to be homemade or grown in your gardens; store bought is just fine. You will receive a friendly reminder by email or by phone one week in advance.

**Please be mindful when bringing items for the hospitality table that the church is a Peanut & Nut Free Zone.**

Coffee, tea & water will always be available. In order to help keep BHS costs minimal a small donation would be appreciated for your beverage & snack.

Also, to save our landfills please continue to **"Lug a Mug"**.



**Audrey Atkinson, Hospitality Chairperson**

## MEET SOME OF OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Julia Noakes** – While I am a new board member for this year, many of you already know me or perhaps remember when I previously served on the board and looked after hospitality - years ago! My gardens are small but mighty. I have tried to fit in every type of garden possible. Full sun, shade, vegetable, water, etc. I am trying to incorporate edibles into all my gardens. Every year I plant my driveway urns with edibles and love to watch people walk by, stop, and then ask me "What is that?" I can usually see they are intrigued by what I have done, and most don't realize everything in the urn is edible. One of my favourite hobbies is to compete in the design category at our flower shows. I look forward to this year's shows to see who will try their hand at the competition.

**Jan Illing** – "My garden consists of perennials (brown-eyed Susan, bee balm, cornflower, obedience, turtlehead) all in honour of feeding bees and butterflies. I love plants that have a long flowering period. My daylilies and obedient plant, with their vibrant colour, add an artistic flare to the perennial bed. A vegetable garden keeps me going with various types of lettuce, celery, spring onion, beets, garlic, and tomatoes. Celery and green onions are continually replenished with the same roots throughout the season. The yield of my red currant bush for 2017 was made into jelly and used as pectin in other jams. The spruce tree in my yard acts as a shield for feeding birds in the cold months of winter. I can hardly wait till I see my display of tulips and poppies in spring.

## BHS Board Committees

We are pleased to welcome some new committee chairs/co-chairs/members:

Membership	Eric Tuinman
Corporate Members	Jane Austin, Margaret McGibney, Jan Illing
Publicity	Lisa Ruck
Volunteers	Julia Noakes and Eileen Humphries
Plant Sale	Leslie Tate, Kathy Allam, Denise Carter

## Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday Mar 28	<b>SEEDS, MAGAZINE, BOOKS, ETC., RECYCLE</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Charlie Dobbin</b> Topic: <b>"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"</b> Speaker co-sponsored with <b>Whitby in Bloom</b> . Please donate a non-perishable food item.
Saturday April 21	<b>DISTRICT 17 AGM AND PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW "Blossoms and Bees"</b> Hosted by <b>Bowmanville Horticultural Society</b> . Location: Faith United Church, 1778 Nash Rd., Courtice Keynote speaker <b>Denis Flanagan</b> - <b>"Tales of a Transplant"</b> and choice of workshop (Lee Valley Bee House - \$10 supply fee) or speaker <b>Fred Archibald</b> - <b>"Blossoms, Bees and Apple Trees"</b> . Also includes hospitality, luncheon, and show entry. Hospitality at 8:30am, meeting begins at 9:30am. Registration Fee \$30 in advance to BHS by March 28, or \$35 at the door. More details and list of photo classes on Brooklin Horticultural Society website.
Tuesday April 24	<b>10th ANNUAL BHS PRUNING DEMONSTRATION with DURHAM MASTER GARDENERS</b> Location: BHS Garden, 113 Carnwith Dr. West 6:30 PM. <b>Rain date: May 1</b> , Bring your secateurs or garden clippers, and garden gloves. Contact Faye Collins 905-655-9695 <a href="mailto:madgardener23@hotmail.com">madgardener23@hotmail.com</a> for registration/further information.
Wednesday April 25	<b>THE NARCISSUS SHOW</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Denis Flanagan</b> Topic: <b>Easy Care Plants for the Urban Garden</b> Speaker co-sponsored with <b>Whitby in Bloom</b> . Please donate a non-perishable food item.
Saturday May 26	<b>BHS PLANT SALE</b> Location: Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin 9:00 am. Please donate your plant divisions. Come out and buy some new plants. Contact Leslie Tate, Kathy Allam or Denise Carter for more information.



### Congratulations Audrey!

Audrey Atkinson was awarded The President's Award at our November 2017 AGM.

### RECYCLE BOOKS & MAGAZINES - Feb 28 & Mar 28 Meetings

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

#### SEED SWAP - Mar 28

Bring your LABELLED extra seeds, summer bulbs, tubers, rhizomes and cuttings.

### WANTED - Gardens To Tour and Coordinator

We'd love to see your garden. Please let us know when we can come over. Would you and another member(s) like to organize some BHS member garden tours. Contact Leslie Tate ([Ltate@rogers.com](mailto:Ltate@rogers.com)) if you would like to help.

### Thank You!!

Thank you to everyone who brought goodies to the Nov 2017 social. \$105.00 was donated to the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign from the proceeds of the purchased treat plates.

### Brooklin Horticultural Society Bursary Winner

**Congratulations Amy Boekman**, student of the Durham College Horticulture Technician Program.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are looking for members who would be interested in assisting with some of our Committees:

**Show Committee** – assist in setting up or taking down, clerking during the shows.

**Corporate Partners** – October/November – visit local businesses to renew memberships; sign up new members. February – help deliver yearbooks to Corporate Partners.

**General Membership** – assist on Membership Desk

If you could help out with any of these Committees, please advise our **volunteer convenor, Julia Noakes**.

## TILLANDSIA FUN

During the long cold days of winter, I often find myself wandering through the isles of the local nurseries to see what is growing and immerse myself with all things 'green'! On a recent trip to the nursery I purchased an 'air plant' or tillandsia to add to my collection of indoor greenery at home. I selected a tall tillandsia which has a healthy bloom stalk and a small purple flower. Intrigued by the soilless 'low care' plant, I decided to do a little internet research to learn more about this genus. There are approximately 650 species of evergreen, perennial flowering plants in this Bromeliaceae Family.

Most tillandsia species are epiphytes, plants that normally grow without soil while attached to other plants. Some tillandsia are aerophytes which means that they have no roots and often grow on shifting desert soil. Most species absorb moisture and nutrients through their leaves from rain, dew or decaying leaves, aided by the hair like structures on their leaves called trichomes. Here a few 'fast facts' that I learned during my internet research. Most air plants benefit from a weekly submerging in fresh water, preferably in the morning. They have a silver tone that turns more green when submerged or spritzed with water. They can be spritzed a couple of times a week. Let them dry well in between waterings.

Small tillandsia can be mounted on wood, popped into sea-shells or small glass bulb vases. Tillandsia inspire creativity in display. Clips and wires are often used to hang them. Bright windows with east or west exposure are best for optimal

light. Tillandsia prefer warmer temperatures but can survive in cooler ones.... easy care!

When a large tillandsia produces a new plant or a "pup" as they are called, one should wait until the pup has grown to a fairly good size before removing it from the mother plant. A simple twisting motion can be used to separate the two plants.

Spanish Moss is a popular tillandsia that is often used to embellish floral designs.

Most nurseries carry a variety of tillandsia. Have fun and get creative with these easy care interesting plants!

*Barb Panowyk*



*L to R, airplant with bark in vase, airplants on driftwood*

## 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.

On **March 28**, BHS presents **"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"** with internationally known horticulturist and landscape designer **Charlie Dobbin**. Charlie is the host of "The Garden Show", a popular Saturday morning radio show on The New AM 740. For the past two decades Charlie has become well known for her professional gardening seminars and demonstrations as well as her many publications in various horticultural magazines and newspapers. In 2002, Charlie started her own design and horticultural consulting company, Garden Solutions by Charlie Dobbin. Charlie is an instructor of horticultural courses at both Durham and Humber Colleges. Some of her past prestigious positions include Horticultural Director for "Canada Blooms" from 2006-2012, and Volunteer Judge for the



"Communities in Bloom" Program. It is with great anticipation that we welcome Charlie to our BHS meeting in March.

On **April 25**, **Denis Flanagan** presents **"Easy Care Plants for the Urban Garden"**. Denis is currently the Manager of Membership Services and Toronto Chapter of Landscape Ontario. He sits on many horticultural boards including The Toronto Botanical Garden, Canada Blooms, and the CNE. Denis appeared on many popular gardening television and radio shows including HGTV's "One Garden, Two Looks" and "Indoor Gardener". As a former instructor at several community colleges and a valuable nurseryman and landscape designer at Sheridan and Weall and Cullen nurseries, Denis has been sharing his horticultural expertise for over 30 years, always with a wonderful sense of humour! He continues to promote the joys and benefits of gardening through the "Green for Life" program of Landscape Ontario. We are certainly looking forward to an entertaining evening full of tips and advice on how to make our own gardens flourish with "Easy Care" Plants.





## Join Us on Garden Nights

The **Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden**, established in 2007, has evolved into a garden and green space that represents our Society and a gathering place for the community. Join our garden work crews, even if it's just for an evening or two throughout the season (spouses are always welcome!). **Weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00pm to dusk and some Saturday sessions.** Please contact **Faye Collins, 905-655-9695** [madgardener23@hotmail.com](mailto:madgardener23@hotmail.com).

In 2016 the Brooklin Horticultural Society started upkeep of the **Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection (Cullen Central Park)**. This park was created by Wounded Warriors Canada to honour and support Canada's ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members, Veterans, First Responders and their families. It is a quiet, peaceful spot well-enjoyed by visitors. Please contact **Kathy Allam at 905-430-7213, [kathyallam@hotmail.ca](mailto:kathyallam@hotmail.ca)**.

### VISIT A CORPORATE MEMBER

**Words on Wood** - Hand-painted rustic wooden signs, farmhouse and rustic décor pieces. Workshops for adults and children, [www.wordsonwood.net](http://www.wordsonwood.net).  
109 Brock St. South, Whitby, 905-493-1506



## Other Events of Note

Sat Feb 17  
10 am - 4 pm

### GET THE JUMP ON SPRING & SEEDY SATURDAY

Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave E. Toronto.  
Annual horticultural open house, presented with OHA. Floral design competition, free talks and demonstrations, gardening advice, 30+ exhibitors, seed swap, seed purchase from local vendors, Café and Coffee Bar, and the Garden Shop. Free admission and parking (\$2 donation appreciated) <https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/jump-on-spring/>

Sunday Afternoons  
Feb 4 - Apr 22  
2 - 3 pm

**RICHTERS SEMINARS** - Free Admission to various topics relating to herbs, health and gardening. Richters Herbs, 357 Durham Regional Hwy 47, Goodwood ON  
Mar 4 - Diane Tait on **Steams, Baths and Kitchen Remedies**  
Mar 18 - Daisy Moore on **Fave 15 Culinary Medicinal and Aromatic Herbs**  
Mar 25 - John Redden on **Herbs and Cancer**  
More seminars at <https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=Events/events.html>.

March 9 - 18  
10 am - 8/9 pm  
Sun, Mar 11: 10 - 6  
Sun, Mar 18: 10 - 5

**CANADA BLOOMS "Let's Go To The Movies"**, celebrating the grandeur of the Silver Screen at the Enercare Centre Exhibition Place. Canada's largest flower and garden festival co-located with National Home Show. See 25+ feature gardens, free seminars, workshops and presentations, speakers including **Mark Cullen, Frank Ferragine, Denis Flanagan, Marjorie Mason**, and our own **Ingrid Janssen**, Toronto Garden Club's floral competition, and Garden Marketplace. Admission to both shows: \$20 (Seniors \$17 & Students \$16) or save \$3 online. Register online for tours and specialty workshops. [www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

Fri April 13: 5-9 pm  
Sat April 14: 10 am-5 pm  
Sun April 15: 10 am-4 pm

**PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW, "Come Grow With Us"**, Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road. Over 100 garden-related vendors and exhibitors, speakers including **Dianne & Gary Westlake, Jillian Bishop, Ken Brown, Dan Cooper**, demonstrations, garden displays, gardening advice, floral design competition, and interactive Children's Garden. \$10 daily, \$15 weekend pass. Save \$1 ordering online. [www.peterboroughgardenshow.com](http://www.peterboroughgardenshow.com)

## PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

We all love our gardens and having photographs of our hard work to enjoy and share with each other can go a long way to getting thru these cold winters. Here are a few ideas you can use to improve those treasured images.

1. **Work with the light:** Beautiful sunny days are not necessarily great for picture taking. Harsh contrasts of light and shadow often detract from showing off the best of your blooms and beds, so go out and shoot on overcast days, or even in a light rain. If you can't wait for the weather to change, try early morning or early evening when the light is low and soft.
2. **Eliminate distractions:** Watch what's in the background of your subject. Choose angles to shoot that don't include the hydro lines, downspouts, stray branches, clashing colours of other blooms, and other things that draw the viewer away from your centre of interest. Try framing your overall garden images without including the sky. Bright, bald sections of white draw the eye and make everything else darker and harder to see.
3. **Simplify, simplify, simplify:** Less is usually more - don't try to include everything. Decide what is important and work your composition to keep that your centre of attention.
4. **Use selective focus to eliminate distractions and provide emphasis:** If you want to isolate a subject, find an angle that allows you to separate your bloom or bug from what's behind it, and use a sufficiently wide aperture to make the background nice and fuzzy. For patterns, like studies of a hosta leaf, the whole thing is important so use a small aperture to ensure everything stays in focus.
5. **Improve your compositions:** Good composition is essential to interesting photographs. Composition refers to the way you arrange the visual elements of design; line, shape, color, light, texture and pattern. Look for, and emphasize them whenever you take a photograph. Follow the lines. The best images encourage the viewer's eye to move thru and around your composition. Diagonal lines, especially curving ones, are effective at creating an illusion of depth and pulling the viewer into your garden. But other lines can work against you, like a wall in the middle will visually stop your eye, or others can pull your focus right out of the frame or distract from your centre of interest. Don't plonk your subject in the dead centre of the frame. The viewer's eye goes there and stays there... end of story (yawn!). Be aware of the space around your subject and use it to enhance it. The strongest points in your photograph lie at the intersection of imaginary lines dividing the frame into threes in both direction, the famous "rule of thirds". Active subjects, like insects, birds and kids need room to move. Your image will be more effective if you give them a bit more space in the photo in the direction they are headed.
6. **Explore your subject:** Don't just settle for one image of your subject. Investigate it from all angles and don't be afraid to get down low or in close. Try techniques that you haven't used before.

Above all, have fun!!

Nancy Mungall (*Photography judge for our October Pumpkins, Pies and Photography Shows*)

## You Be The Judge

Here are some of the winning photos from the Oct 2017 show. Now that you've read Nancy's photo tips, you be the judge.





## Sat Apr 21 - D17 AGM Photo Classes

For those of you participating in the photography competition, all **photo entries to be received no later than Mar 23, 2018; no late entries will be accepted.**

**Mail entries to: Susan Pleasance, 301 – 200 Mason Dr, Whitby ON L1N 2B1. Before delivering – phone (905-493-3122) to confirm time & attendance at home.**

Rules and regulations of the competition are available on the BHS Website: <http://www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com/show-committee-schedule.html>.

### **“Blossoms and Bees”**

**Ph 1** When the flower blossoms, the bee will come.  
(©Srikumar Rao)

**Ph 2** Create a buzz

**Ph 3** Life's sweet moments

**Ph 4** Work together

**Ph 5** Bee yourself

Echo's of Winter – floral and fauna – any season

**Ph 6** A rose e'er blooming (©Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)

**Ph 7** A blossom bright (©Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming)

**Ph 8** Dancing and prancing (©Jingle Bell Rock)

**Ph 9** Cuddly as a cactus (©Mr. Grinch)

Echo's of Winter – landscapes – any season

**Ph 10** Bearing fruit (©Mary, Woman of the Promise)

**Ph 11** Over hills and everywhere (©Go, Tell It on the Mountain)

**Ph 12** Heaven and nature sing (©Joy to the World)

**Ph 13** In the meadow (©Winter Wonderland)

Echo's of Winter – nightscapes – any season

**Ph 14** The stars are brightly shining (©O Holy Night)

**Ph 15** All is calm, all is bright (©Silent Night, Holy Night)

**Ph 16** Dancing in the night (©Do You See What I See?)

Echo's of Winter – scenes of winter only

**Ph 17** The world in solemn stillness (©It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

**Ph 18** Jack Frost nipping (©The Christmas Song)

**Ph 19** Let it snow! (©Let It Snow)

**Ph 20** Treetops glisten (©White Christmas)

**Note:** Focus should be on Botanical/Zoological/Nature oriented content.

## NEW BHS PHOTO CLASS IN OCT SHOW!!!!

There will be a new photo class in the October Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures show where the winning photo of a bloom(s) will make the perfect cover of the yearbook in the following year. See the yearbook for more info.

Don't forget that there are also photo classes in the April, May and June Iris and Peony shows. So start going through your photos or get your camera out and start taking pictures.

## You Be The Judge - cont'd



## 2017 SHOW AWARDS

BHS Award for Highest # of Points	Ken Brown
Marg Davis Award, 2nd Highest Points	Sherry Howard
Mary Housego Award, 3rd Highest Points	Julia Noakes
Windermere Award, Highest Points in Design	Julia Noakes
Fred Daw Award, Highest Points in Vegetables	Ken Brown
Rose Bowl Award, New Exhibitor with highest points	Marion Thomas, Barb Panowyk
Iris Trophy, Best Iris at the Iris Show	Ken Brown
Denny Peony Award, Highest total points in Peony classes	Ingrid Janssen
Marg Beath Rose Award Highest total points in Rose classes	Ken Brown
Best Decorative in Annuals Show (August)	Lynda Chapman
Photography Prize, Highest total points in photography	Debi Foster



Clockwise from top right, Judi presenting to Marion and Barb, Ken, Lynda, Ingrid, Debi and Julia

## LET'S SHOW!

Our first show will be the Narcissus Show on Apr 26. Here are some tips to help you prepare for the show:

1. Do not show foliage with narcissus
2. Types of narcissus include (also shown in show schedule for April Narcissus Show)

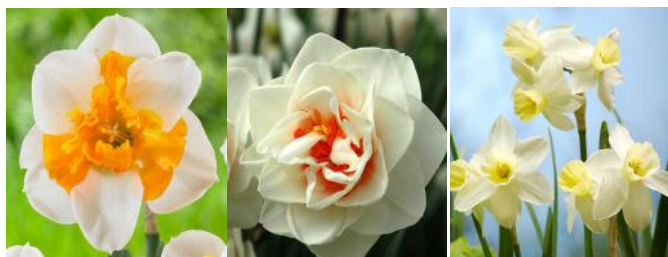
**Trumpet** - cup is as long as or longer than petals

**Large Cupped** - cup is more than 1/3 of, but less than or equal to the length of petals

**Small Cupped** - no more than 1/3 length of petals

3. The classes are OPEN, so you can enter two different cultivars in a class.
4. Groom, Groom, Groom!  
Above all, have FUN!

**Did You Know** that narcissus are divided into 13 types/classifications, including the three types mentioned above? Test your knowledge. Can you identify: a Jonquilla, a split corona, a double?



## We Tweaked Our Show Schedule

- Please check before bringing in your entries that the specimen is LESS than the maximize size specified - when the show schedule says UNDER 30" we mean it! Your entry will not be judged if it doesn't meet the requirement.
- You showed us, so we gave it to you! You've been bringing in tropical specimens and wondering which classes they belonged. We've now created a class for tropicals in the June Rose show, and the Aug and Sept shows too. Definition of a Tropical has also been added to the 'Definition of Terms' in the yearbook.
- For the Dahlia growers, we've allowed unlimited entries in the Sept show dahlia classes.
- Check out the exciting new photography class in the October show. The winning photo will be the cover of the yearbook and bookmark in the following year.

**Ensure your entries are on the tables no later than 7:15pm.**

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