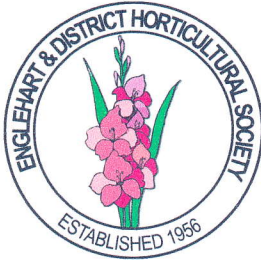




'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
May 2017



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

General meetings:

3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church basement

- *Speakers, workshops, demonstrations
- *Civic Improvement
- *Youth Involvement
- *Displays and Competitions
- *Environmental Stewardship

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A Word From The Editor

It's vegetable gardening time again and it seems like yesterday I put my garden to bed for the winter! Some of our members are experienced 'old hands' and others are beginners, with questions they need to be answered. I'd like to share a couple of hints with you that I've found helpful, things I've learned from experience, from other gardeners, and from an article from Family Food Garden. I call it:

Getting the Most from Your Garden

➤ **Start with great soil:** Some gardeners, especially beginners, have a great first year growing food but problems start to develop the next year because due to poor soil nutrition. Although it helps to have prior knowledge, learning what your crops need to grow healthy food makes a huge difference to the yield of your garden. It can cost some money to create great soil but once you learn to compost or have a worm bin (vermicomposting), begin to save dried leaves, trade with someone for decomposed manure, or find someone giving it away, you're on your way. (con't. on page 4)

Mark It On Your Calendar:

- May 17:** General Meeting
- May 26:** Set up for Plant and Bake Sale
- May 27:** Plant and Bake Sale
- June 10-17:** Horticultural Week

Looking Ahead

For all of our members with children or grandchildren, please don't forget that we in our Society encourage our youth to get involved with horticulture. The Youth Garden Competition will be held once again this year and we will also be holding youth competitions during some of our monthly meetings. If you have a child, grandchild, or even a young neighbour, please spend some time with them teaching/assisting them and encouraging them to enjoy gardening. More information on the Youth Gardening Competition is on page 3. Also-have you heard about the community garden, sponsored by the Girl Guides, coming to the uptown park? We have donated money to help their effort. Please contact Ashley Fehr if you can help her out (705 471 5242), especially on June 14, from 5:00-7:00 pm at the park.



Carrie Anne Field at the April Meeting. What fun we had!

Looking Ahead

To help celebrate Canada's 150th birthday this year, I'm putting out a challenge to everyone. Why don't we all plant at least one container of plants using the colours red and white... it could be a white pot with red geraniums, a red pot with white asters and red salvia, any colour container with red and white flowers. Perhaps you'd like to incorporate some red/white accents in the pot - branches, ribbons, and so on. Wouldn't it be great to see at least one in every yard, sitting on a deck, hanging from a tree branch, etc.? Get planning now...and encourage your friends and neighbours!



OHA/District 12 News:

Our two delegates and seven other members of our Society attended the District meeting last month in Kirkland Lake. Business was carried out in the morning, with lots of interesting reports of activities in other societies in the area. Rose Odell, OHA vice president, presided over the elections...all incumbents and convenors were acclaimed. There was a silent auction, free draws, delicious snacks and lunch, and lots of opportunities to socialise and learn from others. One speaker told us about the role of the MNR and individuals in maintaining a safe and healthy environment; another spoke about his experiences with keeping fish and plants in an aquaponic relationship. Our society did well in the competitions, and we all wish to express our thanks to the Kirkland Lake Society for the great day.

Picture: l-r Bruce Wilson, Amy Vickery Menard, Barb Stark, Joyce Smith, Rick Heaslip, Ginny Montminy; Eileen Fisher, Bonnie Warner in front (missing Rosemary Campbell).



Reports from Your Directors

Social: Convenor Mary reminds Jean Bott that she is the hostess this month and Rosemary Campbell brings the gift for the free draw.

Programme: The programme committee reminds people that this month we are going to enjoy a 'make and take' this month. Deb Murray will lead us in making a treat for nesting birds. We'll be using a small basket to provide birds with natural nesting material. Deb asks that everybody try to bring along string/plain raffia (not coloured)/pet hair, etc. to stuff and hang for the birds to use to make a home. The cost will be \$3.00 to pay for the baskets. Eileen and Bonnie will also be speaking about hardy spring perennials for use in our gardens. The competitions this month will be based on Spring Blooms: Class 1: 3 tulips Class 2: 3 daffodils Class 3: blooming perennial (1 stem) Class 4: 'Spring Beauty' - a floral design using 3 blooms and foliage, accessories permitted. *Please bring them in a little bit early to fill in your tags and place the entries.*

Plant and Bake Sale: Convenor Jean Bott asks that people bring their contributions to the sale on Friday, May 26 between 1:00-4:00 pm. (the closer to 1:00, the better.) We could also use your help to set up and cover the tables, help with the pricing, etc. Remember, we're looking for annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, vegetables/fruits, houseplants, and baking to help make this another successful sale. Jean also reminds us that small boxes/pop flats, and plastic bags are appreciated. Remind your friends and neighbours about this great opportunity to do some shopping, get some real bargains, and support the Society.

Peonies (Continued from April)

“My peonies didn’t bloom or didn’t bloom well this spring. What have I done wrong?”

You may not have done anything wrong. Maybe it’s the plant itself or the situation the plant is in. But check to see if you can answer these questions:

1. Is the peony plant still immature? Peonies usually take several years of growing before they are strong enough to bloom.
2. What is the soil level above your plant like? Peonies planted too deeply will not bloom. The crown (where the growing buds emerge from the roots) should be only 1½ to 2” (4 – 5 cm) below the soil surface.
3. Is your plant old and too crowded? September is the best time to divide your peony plant to avoid losing blooms. Each plant should have 3-5 eyes (growing points).
4. Is it getting enough sun? Perhaps a tree or building is shading it. Replant it in September in a sunnier spot.
5. Is the soil ‘hungry’? When was the last time you added organic material or fertilizer to the soil in which the peony is planted?

Youth Gardening Competition

The Englehart Horticultural Society is sponsoring a Garden Competition for students this summer. It will be divided into two sections: Grade One to Five, and Grade Six and Above.

Here are the rules to follow:

- The garden can be any size. It can even be part of a larger garden, but should be set apart somehow, so the judge can see which part is yours.
- You must plant and care for the garden yourself, including weeding it. Neatness is very important, as well as the condition of the plants.
- Your garden can be all vegetables, all flowers, or a mixture of both.
- Garden accessories are permitted.

The gardens will be judged in the second week of August.

Please call Mrs. Warner (544-8916) or Mrs. Fisher (544-8074), before August 5th, to let us know that you wish your garden to be judged. There will be money prizes, as well as a trophy awarded for the first place winner in each division.

We hope you will enjoy growing and caring for your own garden, and will enter the competition. But remember, this is a competition for you, not your parents, so you must look after the garden, although they can give you advice.



Hardening Seedlings

If you started some seedlings indoors and are anxious to get them outside...be careful! At least a week before you actually plant them in the garden, start bringing them outside, gradually increasing their time spent outdoors. Don’t plant them in direct sun immediately; under a tree or in direct sun for only a short time each day will help them acclimatise. Keep them well watered and avoid areas with strong winds, bringing them in at night for the first few days or covering them well if frost threatens. Good luck and watch those babies...don’t rush.



Plant of the Month

Trillium

The provincial emblem of Ontario, the trillium grandiflorum, grows in rich, damp woodlands and is easily identified by its three white petals, three sepals, and three green leaves. The flowers turn pink with age and form large deep red seedpods. In a garden trilliums prefer a semi-shaded area with lots of organic material. /remember, you should never pick trilliums, as the plant is then unable to make food as the leaves are also gone. There are other trilliums which we can grow in the north-the nodding, the painted, the red, and luteum (yellow).



Getting the Most from Your Garden (con't from April)

➤ **Best yield per square foot:**

With some crops you only harvest one (for example a cabbage or cauliflower), then you pull up the plant. Other crops offer continuous harvests for months. Here are the crops that offer a greater yield in the given growing space which means more harvests for you and more dollar value for your garden. Other crops also don't take up much space and you can fit a lot into a small area.

Peas, carrots, cucumbers, herbs, kale, zucchini, baby greens, tomatoes, and beans are vegies which either produce more than one 'head' and/or take up less space.

➤ **Grow expensive crops**

Many crops cost more than others. For example carrots, even organic tend to be cheapish at the store, but add up the cost of fresh tomatoes or peppers and you're definitely getting more dollar value from your garden. Here are some of the crops that cost a lot at the store: *tomatoes, peppers, berries, baby leafy greens (mescluns, arugula, spinach...) organic broccoli & cauliflower, winter squash (cheap per/lb but heavy so they add up fast!), lettuce, herbs, garlic.* Why don't you try a few?

Congratulations to April's Competition Winners

Class 1: **1st:** E. Fisher **2nd:** C. Black **3rd:** M. Schippers
Class 2: **1st:** A. Vickery Menard **2nd:** E. Fisher **3rd:** J. Bott
Class 3: **1st:** M. Schippers **2nd:** E. Fisher **3rd:** C. Black
Class 4: **1st:** M. Henhoffer **2nd:** E. Fisher **3rd:** L. Peeling
Don't forget to enter into our May competitions. It makes our meetings interesting, challenges our creativity and skills, and starting this month, will make us some money!

Poetry and Prose

Follies

*Shaken, the blossoms of lilac and
shattered the atoms of purple.
Green did the leaves
Darker the bark
Longer the shadows,
Sheer lines of poplars shimmer
with masses of silver
and down in a garden,
old with years
and broken walls of
ruin and story,
Roses rise with red rain-
memories,
May! In the open world
the sun comes and finds
your face,
Remembering all.*

Carl Sandburg

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