

Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Vol 20 Issue 4 Nov /Dec 2018

Inside this issue:

AGM & Social	1
President's Message	2
BHS Garden	3
Fall Cleanup	3
Overwinter Annuals	4
Fall Pruning	5
Fall Seed Planting	6
Growing Garlic	7
2018 Show Results	8

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.

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



Annual General Meeting & Social Nov 28 - 6:30PM - St Thomas Anglican Church

November 28th will be the Annual General Meeting for the Brooklin Horticultural Society for 2018. At our AGM, we will have an opportunity to summarize the 2018 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 2019. Membership registration for next year will be available. If you're interested in the future of the Society, or have some ideas about the next few years, please consider becoming a board member. It's only a few hours a month! Send **Leslie Tate** an email at 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 2019. For information about joining the board, please contact **Leslie Tate** before November 28th.

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 2018 gardening year at **St Thomas Anglican Church** on **Wednesday, November 28nd** at **6:30 PM!** Please note the location and time.





The President's Message

As you may remember from the last newsletter, I was starting to create a "beautiful" English Cottage Garden. As this will be my last newsletter message, I thought I would bring you up to date on my endeavours. First, it was just too darn hot and humid to do much gardening. I really do hate the heat!!! I also realized that this type of garden takes a LOT of water, especially because I am gardening on a slope. After listening to our speaker in August, I must admit to really liking her way of thinking. Low maintenance shrubs. As gardeners, we are always changing things up.... maybe a new plant to try or a garden design that just isn't working. But I think that is all the fun – trying something new and different. So, my work continues, and the challenge is there for new plants, new beds and, a whole new season. You never know, I just may be at a point next year to participate in the Members' Open Garden Tour, so you will be able to see my trials and tribulations.

This is our last edition of the newsletter for 2018 and we hope you have enjoyed reading them. If you have any ideas for future articles, or would like to help with the Newsletter, we (Sherry Howard, Barb Panowyk, Leslie Tate) would love to hear from you. Cheers!

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.

Hospitality

Thank you to everyone who donated food items for the hospitality table this year and those who dropped a bit of "shine" into the donation box. Your donations big/small make a huge difference.

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

Also, your "Lug a Mug" efforts are keeping waste products out of our landfills. Keep up the good work. Your continued involvement in making our hospitality table "the best in show" in the foodie category is truly appreciated by all BHS members.

We are looking for a few volunteers to help briefly in setting up for our November AGM on Wednesday, November 28, 2018. If you can spare an hour please contact me at 905.666.2178 or email me at audreyatkinson487@gmail.com.

Audrey Atkinson, Chair of Hospitality

Next Meeting - Feb 27, 2019

Our next general meeting after the November AGM will be on **Wednesday, February 27, 2019**. In early February, current members will receive our next newsletter along with the 2019 membership form. The 2019 speakers will be announced in the new year too.

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

Park of Reflection

The season at the Park has wrapped up for the season. The annuals have been pulled, the beds tidied up & most of the perennials have been left as is. Not only are the birds enjoying the coneflower, but chipmunks too. As a crew, we are meeting to plan for next year; what plants to replace, more annuals or not, etc. My thanks to the crew for their commitment & pleasurable company: Leslie Tate, Eileen Humphries, Mary Thompson, Marion Thomas, Barb Panowyk, and Paul Cloutier.

Kathy Allam

THANK YOU

A special thank you to **Barb Borchuk** and **Lil Stillar** for once again manning the draw ticket table this year. Your help is very much appreciated by all.



District 17 AGM 2019

Just a note to let you know that the **District 17 AGM** for 2019 will be hosted by Georgina Brock. Keep checking our website for the show schedule and Photo competition (to be posted when available). More information on the AGM will be available in 2019.

Welcome, New Members!

Judy Kisbee
Wilma Van Berkel

Joyce Reid

Notes From The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden



Although there is still much to see, do and enjoy, Tuesday evenings in the BHS garden have wound up for another gardening season.

Thanks to our stalwart volunteer work crew, the ongoing support of the Town of Whitby (ToW) gardeners and Parks Dept., and the weather goddesses, our garden has been an unqualified success. The annuals shone and the shrubs, perennials, bulbs, native plants and ornamental grasses performed spectacularly. Yes there were challenges such as a long dry cold spell that held back the annuals and some of our native plants and perennials, and extreme summer heat that sapped our energy.

Aside from our regular grooming and planting sessions, the work crew interacted with the park users. We greeted many dogs and even cleaned up a muddy standard poodle who had gotten into the holding pond across the street. We gave

transit directions. We gave gardening tips and plant identification. We shared some cleome with a newly arrived Afghani family. We accepted countless thanks, comments and appreciation from community members out for their evening walks. One woman even stopped her car at the corner of Carnwith and Montgomery to compliment the beautiful plantings and our efforts while I was on my knees, bottom out, weeding the entry bed.

All things considered, it was a great spring through to fall in our newly revamped garden. And thanks to the ToW Community and Marketing Services, Parks Division, when we return next spring we will be greeted by an amazing variety of newly planted trees (this October)... 26 deciduous and 11 conifers.

So if you are driving by between now and next spring, stop and take a walk through our park. Consider joining us for gardening season 2019 every Tues evening, May through September, Wed mornings, the occasional Saturday or Sunday or whenever you can fit it into your schedule.

Faye Collin, BHS Garden Co-ordinator

Brooklin Harvest Festival

The Brooklin Harvest Festival was held on Saturday, September 15th and BHS participated. A big thank you to **Julia Noakes** for putting this together – she scheduled demos and had handouts available. **Jane Austin** and **Leslie Tate** also participated to help answer gardening questions and hand out information about BHS. A long and hot day, but it was fun!

Julia Noakes has kindly allowed us to include the contents of her 'Autumn In The Garden' handout in this edition of the newsletter - **Thank you Julia.**



FALL CLEANUP

Fall is a great time to plant trees and shrubs, cut back perennials, remove annuals and get your lawn healthy for next spring. Remember to keep watering. Trees and shrubs that are deprived of water now will be easily stressed in the winter. Below is a handy guide to fall clean up tasks.

Julia Noakes

September:

- * Collect seed and herbs for drying.
- * Add compost or manure to garden beds.
- * Cover water features with netting to collect falling leaves.
- * Check houseplants for pests, then start to move indoors.
- * Plant new trees and shrubs, to give them at least six weeks before frost.
- * Plant spring flowering bulbs.
- * Clean bird feeders, gardening tools.
- * Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.
- * Bring in any clay pots.
- * Fertilize your lawn.

October:

- ◇ Transplant shrubs or young trees to new locations.
- ◇ Cut diseased areas out of perennials. Do not compost.
- ◇ Rake and compost any fallen leaves.
- ◇ Clean up garden debris. Remove all vegetable plants and fallen fruit.
- ◇ Remove dead annuals from the garden, after a frost.
- ◇ Cut back perennial foliage to discourage overwintering pests. Leave flowers with seeds for the birds.
- ◇ Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.
- ◇ Dig up tender bulbs such as dahlia, canna and gladiola. Wrap them in moist material and store in a cool, dark space.
- ◇ Divide spring and summer blooming perennial plants.
- ◇ Wrap screening around fruit tree trunks to protect from small animals.
- ◇ Mulch rose bushes.

Overwintering Some Of Our Favourite Annuals

With autumn arriving and the nights cooling to single digits, it's time to plan cleanup of the annuals. Some people simply throw everything in the compost and buy new again in spring. Many of us however, delight in saving our favourites for the following year. Plants like dahlias, begonias, geraniums (pelargoniums) and coleus are good candidates to overwinter. Overwintering may include repotting as an indoor plant, taking cuttings or letting plants go dormant.

Begonias



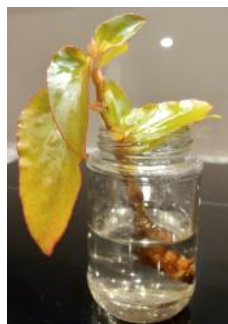
Tuberous begonia, left; Rex 'Shadow King Pink', right

Begonias are definitely worth saving, especially tuberous and Rex varieties as they are more costly. The tubers of **tuberous begonias** must go through a dormancy period which means storage in a cool, dry, dark place. Once tuberous begonias experience the first light frost they will be a soggy, withered 'mess'. Dig

up the tubers, cut off the stems and allow them to dry for a couple days. Do not let the tubers freeze and if need be dig them up just before frost hits. Brush off the excess soil then wrap them loosely in newspaper before placing in a box in a cool place like the basement. Alternatively place them in peat moss in a box. Make sure they are labeled. If your tuberous begonia plant was newly purchased, the tuber will likely be very small so carefully remove the soil until the tuber is revealed. The Boliviensis begonias also have tubers.

Rex begonias do not go dormant. However, dependent on growing conditions in your home, their growth can slow

significantly and leaves may be lost. If your plant has been outdoors through the summer, repot before bringing into your home to eliminate insects. Grow rex begonia in medium to bright filtered light and water when the soil just dries. Rex begonias like humidity but not wet feet so don't overwater or else it will rot. To add humidity, sit the pot on a tray with water and pebbles.



Cutting in water

Other varieties like the **wax and dragon wing** types can be brought indoors, however my experience with them is that they are messy with leaves dropping and eventually they become very leggy. Because they are usually inexpensive to buy, I prefer to let them die in my planters, then throw them in the compost. If you really want to grow them indoors, I suggest taking cuttings.

Cut just below a node, healthy stems of 4-6 inches (2-3 nodes). Remove the flowers and the leaves on the lower half of the stem, and then place the stems in a jar of water. Once roots reach a few centimeters, pot up the cuttings in potting soil. Keep the plants in bright filtered light and water when the soil just dries.

Sherry Howard

Coleus

It is fairly easy to over winter your favourite coleus plants which can be both rewarding and economically satisfying! There are a few options for your consideration.

Repot and Bring Indoors: When the temperatures start to cool off, and definitely before the first frost, it's time to pot up any coleus plants that you would like to have in your garden again next season. You can dig up the whole plant and re-pot it in a suitable container with well draining soil. Trim back the plant to a favourable size to reduce shock. Let plants acclimate for about a week prior to moving them indoors. Place them in a sunny location such as a south or southeast facing window. Water only as needed and use half strength fertilizer once a month. Pinch back new growth to maintain desired shape and a bushier appearance.

Cuttings: You can also take cuttings from your coleus plants and insert these directly into damp potting soil or peat moss. Rooting hormone can be used but this step is not entirely necessary since coleus plants root readily. Place cuttings in bright, indirect light for about 6 weeks at which time they should have enough root growth to be transplanted into larger pots. Now these plants can be moved to a sunny window location, watered and fertilized as above. Coleus can also be rooted in water. Place cuttings in a clear vase so you can watch for root formation. Once the roots are well established you can pot up the cuttings in well draining soil and water as necessary. Fertilize with half strength 'all purpose' fertilizer once a month. Good luck!

Barb Panowyk



Cuttings in water, top; cuttings directly planted in potting soil (without rooting hormone), bottom

Overwintering Some Of Our Favourite Annuals - cont'd

Geraniums (*Pelargoniums*)

There are several ways to over-winter geraniums (*Pelargonium*) in our climate.



Cutting prepared with rooting hormone

Cuttings - This takes the least amount of space, and can increase your stock of plants, although the plants themselves won't be as large as the originals at the start of the new season.

Cut a 3-4" long tip of a healthy growing stem just below a leaf node (where the leaf grows from the stem). Remove all but the top two or three leaves and any flowers or flower buds. This is usually done in September but can be successful if the plant itself is healthy. You can dip the cut end of the stem in a rooting hormone but, again, this isn't essential to success. Put the cut end into a well-drained potting soil. A 4" pot will be enough for up to 4 cuttings. Then place the pot in a bright window. Water when soil appears dry. If the plant remains green, it will likely have rooted.

You can also simply place the cuttings, prepared as above,

into an opaque container of water. Roots will emerge after a few weeks, and then you can pot the cuttings up.

Store in original container - If you have plenty of space and a bright, cool window, you can bring your plants indoors in their original pots. Cut the plants back by half to keep them compact (you can treat some of the off-cuts as above if you want more plants). Expect to lose some leaves due to the change in growing conditions. Water them occasionally, but not until the soil looks dry. In late February, as daylight increases, you can begin to fertilize with a one-quarter-strength liquid fertilizer.

Store in paper - Unpot your plants and shake the soil off the roots. Wrap them in newspaper - some people also place the wrapped geraniums inside a cardboard box. Place the wrapped plants in a cool (not freezing) room. A couple of times during the winter, inspect the plants. You can give the roots a good soaking at these times and discard any stems that have clearly become too dry.

Pelargoniums – which are tender perennials that Canadians treat as annuals – are remarkably resilient. With very little effort, you can keep them from year to year.

Leslie Tate

Storing Dahlia Tubers

Since dahlia tubers are expensive to purchase, storing them for the next growing season is a great way to stretch your investment in them. The first hard frost will kill the plant foliage. Wait a week or so to let the tubers go dormant, but before hard frost freezes the ground. Then cut off the dead foliage and dig the tubers up being careful not to damage them. Clean or wash off the dirt and cut off any stringy roots and older rotten tubers. If you have several varieties, keep the name tags with the respective tubers. Dry the tubers. I put them on newspaper on a table in the garage.

Place one or two tubers of the same variety in a plastic grocery bag with some shredded newspaper to absorb excess moisture. You can write the name of the variety on the bag. Do not fully seal the bag so that air can flow through. Loosely place the bags in a cardboard box, or storage container with holes or openings for ventilation. Store the containers in a cool dark dry part of the basement (or garage if it does not freeze). Check the tubers for mold or dryness periodically during the winter and cut off or discard any bad tubers. In April, the tubers will be sprouting and waiting for you to pot them up.

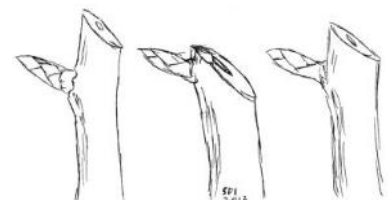
Jone Webster

FALL PRUNING

A good starting point for pruning any plant is to remove dead, diseased, or damaged stems as soon as you see them. Dead stems attract insects and invite diseases to develop.

Also remove crossing branches, water sprouts (vigorous upright growing shoots that form on trunks or side branches), and suckers (vigorous shoots that develop near or from below ground).

In the case of **hydrangeas, the varieties mophead, lacecap and oakleaf should not** be pruned in the fall. Prune them midsummer otherwise you remove the flower bud. All other hydrangeas can be pruned in the fall. Always cut on a diagonal so that water runs off of the opening.



Julia Noakes

FALL SEED PLANTING

Many of us think of seed planting as spring time activity but many of the flowers we try to seed in the spring benefit from being planted in late fall after the killing frost as you're planting your bulbs.

Here is a list of fall planting seeds:

◆ Alyssum (many species)	◆ Daisy, Painted Chrysanthemum coccineum	◆ Penstemon Penestemon
◆ Bachelor Buttons	◆ Delphinium	◆ Pincushion Flowers Scabiosa
◆ Cornflower Centaurea cyanus	◆ Flax Linum grandiflorum	◆ Pinkball Thrift Ameria Formosa
◆ Bee Balm /Monarda	◆ Foxglove Digitalis	◆ Poppy Papaveraceae
◆ Black Eyed Susan/Rudbeckia	◆ Lady's Mantle Alchemilla	◆ Prairie Coneflower Ratibida columnifera
◆ Blanket Flower/Gaillardia	◆ Larkspur Consolida	◆ Rose Campion Silene
◆ Blue Flax/Linum perenne lewisii	◆ Lavender Lavandula	◆ Snapdragons Antirrhinum
◆ Bells of Ireland Moluccella	◆ Lobelia Lobelia	◆ Sweet Pea Lathyrus odoratus
◆ Calendula Calendula	◆ Love-In-A-Mist Nigella damascene	◆ Sweet William Dianthus
◆ Columbine Aquilegia	◆ Milkweed_Asclepias	◆ Virginia Stocks Matthiola maritime
◆ Coneflower Echinacea	◆ Nasturtium Tropaeolum	◆ Wallflower Cheiranthus cheiri
◆ Coreopsis Coreopsis	◆ Pansy Viola	
◆ Cosmos Cosmos		
◆ Cupid's Dart Catananche caerulea		

How to sow

Dig the earth to loosen the soil in area. Sprinkle seeds over area, compress area, do not bury. Place marker indicating what you have planted for next spring. Let nature do her thing. In spring, after the last frost, begin to water area where the seeds are located.

GARLIC VARIETIES

What type of garlic should you plant? There are three types of varieties of garlic: Softneck, Hardneck/Stiffneck, and Great-headed (Elephant). Most types are about 90 days to harvest, once growth starts.

Hardneck varieties grow one ring of cloves around a stem, there is not a layer of cloves as there is in softneck varieties. They are extremely cold hardy, but do not store as well or long as other varieties. Flavor is milder than softnecks. Common hardneck types include Korean, Dujanski, Siberian, Music, Chesnock Red, German Red and Spanish Roja. These varieties produce tiny bulblets at the end of a tall flowering stalk in addition to a fat underground bulb of cloves.

Softneck varieties, like their name suggests, have necks that stay soft after harvest, and therefore are the types that you see braided. Especially recommended for those in warmer climates, as it is less winter-hardy than other types. Strong, intense flavor. They tend to grow bigger bulbs because energy is not being diverted to top-set bulblets like hardnecks. Softneck varieties include Silverskin, Inchelium Red, California Early and California Late.

Great-headed (Elephant) garlic is not recommended if you're looking for a garlic taste. It's less hardy, and more closely related to leeks than other varieties. The flavor is more like onion than traditional garlic. Bulbs and cloves are large, with about 4 cloves to a bulb.



From top to bottom: hardneck garlic, softneck garlic, elephant garlic

Planting Garlic



Garlic can be planted in the spring as soon as the ground can be worked, but fall planting is recommended for most gardeners. Garlic roots develop in the fall and winter, and by early spring they can support the rapid leaf growth that is necessary to form large bulbs.

Ensure soil is well-drained with plenty of organic matter. Select a sunny spot. A sandy, clay loam is best. In heavier soil, plant it in raised beds that are two to three feet wide and at least 10 to 12 inches tall.

In areas that get a hard frost, plant garlic as early as 6 to 8 weeks before the first expected fall frost. before the ground freezes. The timing may vary with local climate; the aim is to give a long enough period before the ground freezes for the plant to develop good roots, but not enough time to for it to form top growth before freezing temperatures set in. In northern climates, planting is usually between September and November. In southern areas, February or March is a better time to plant.



Lime the soil if you haven't done so recently. Before planting cloves, work a couple tablespoons of 5-10-10 complete fertilizer, bone meal or fish meal into the soil several inches below where the base of the garlic will rest. Select healthy large cloves, free of disease. The larger the clove, the bigger the bulb you will get the following summer.

Break apart cloves from bulb a few days before planting, but keep the papery husk on each individual clove.

Do not plant cloves from the grocery store. They may be unsuited varieties for your area, and most are treated to make their shelf life longer, making them harder to grow. Instead, get cloves from a mail order seed company or a local nursery.

Place cloves 2 - 4 in. apart and 2 in. deep, in their upright position (wide root side facing down and pointed end facing up). Plant in rows spaced 10 - 14 in. apart. A single 10-foot row should yield about five pounds of the fragrant bulbs. In the spring, as warmer temperatures come, shoots will emerge through the ground.

Julia Noakes

Harvest/Storage Of Garlic



Harvest from fall plantings will probably be in late July or August. In Southern climates, it will depend on your planting date. The clue is to look for yellow tops. Harvest when the tops begin to yellow and fall over, before they are completely dry.

It's time for a sample! Lift a bulb to see if the crop is ready. The garlic head will be divided into plump cloves and the skin covering the outside of the bulbs will be thick, dry and papery. If pulled too early, the bulb wrapping will be thin and disintegrate. If left in the ground too long, the bulbs sometimes split apart. The skin may also split, exposing the cloves and causing them not to store well. Dig, don't pull! We often dig up a bulb before the tops are completely yellow (in late June or early July) as some garlic types will be ready earlier. Careless harvesting can ruin a fine crop of garlic.

To harvest, carefully dig up the bulbs with a spade or garden fork. Lift the plants, carefully brush off the soil, and let them cure in an airy, shady, dry spot for two weeks. We hang them upside down on a string in bunches of 4 to 6. Make sure all sides get good air circulation. Be careful not to bruise the garlic or it won't store well.

The bulbs are cured and ready to store when the wrappers are dry and papery, and the roots are dry. The root crown should be hard, and the cloves can be cracked apart easily. Once the garlic bulbs are dry, you can store them. Remove any dirt and trim off any roots or leaves. Keep the wrappers on - but remove the dirtiest wrappers. Remove the tops and roots.

Bulbs should be stored in a cool (40 degrees F), dark, dry place, and can be kept in the same way for several months. Don't store in your basement if it's moist! Do not store garlic in the refrigerator! The flavour will increase as the bulbs are dried. Properly stored, garlic should last until the next crop is harvested the following summer. If you plan on planting garlic again next season, save some of your largest, best-formed bulbs to plant again in the fall.

Julia Noakes

2018 Show Results

April Narcissus Show

Best Narcissus	-	Barb Borchuk
Best Specimen (Other)	-	Marion Thomas
Best Branch	-	Maria Thompson
Best Container Plant	-	Marion Thomas
Best Design	-	Audrey Atkinson
Best Special Exhibit	-	Bonnie Berry
Best cutting/seedling	-	Rahe Richards
Best Photo	-	Debi Foster

May Spring Show

Best Tulip	-	Ken Brown
Best Specimen (Other)	-	Eugene Gmitrovizc
Best Branch	-	Marion Newans
Best Container Plant	-	Audrey Atkinson
Best Vegetable	-	Ken Brown
Best Design	-	Julia Noakes
Best Special Exhibit	-	Eugene Gmitrovizc

June Iris & Peony Show

Best Iris	-	Ken Brown
Best Peony	-	Irma Dus
Best Design	-	Eugene Gmitrovizc
Best Specimen (Other)	-	Irma Dus
Best Special Exhibit	-	Jane McLaughlin
Best Photo	-	Debi Foster

June Rose Show

Best Rose	-	Ken Brown
Best Specimen (Other)	-	Debi Foster
Best Branch	-	Sherry Howard
Best Fruit/Vegetable	-	Ken Brown
Best Design	-	Helen Read
Best Special Exhibit	-	Eugene Gmitrovizc

August Annuals Show

Best Specimen	-	Audrey Atkinson
Best Branch	-	Marion Newans
Best Fruit/Vegetable	-	Ken Brown
Best Collection	-	Rahe Richards

September Autumn Show

Best Specimen	-	Rahe Richards
Best Branch	-	Marion Newans
Best Fruit/Vegetable	-	Ken Brown
Best Collection	-	Val Skinner
Best Design	-	Debi Foster
Best Special Exhibit	-	Marion Thomas



Sept Autumn Show Best In Show Winners: Marion Thomas, best special exhibit; Rahe Richards, Best specimen; Marion Newans, best branch; Debi Foster, best design; Ken Brown, best vegetable

About the BHS Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly - February, May, August and November. You are invited to submit articles, questions and comments about the newsletter to the **Editors: Leslie Tate** at 905-665-0486, ltate@rogers.com, **Barb Panowyk** at 905-430-2939, spanowyk@rogers.com, **Sherry Howard** at 905-668-7640, howard21@rogers.com