



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 18 Issue 3 Aug/Sept/Oct 2016

Inside this issue:

August 24 Meeting	1
BHS Meetings & Events	2
Plant Sale Report	2
General Meetings	3
President's Message	4
WIB Tour & Barrel Sales	4
WW Park of Reflection	5
2016 OHA Convention	6
New Members	6
BHS Garden Dates	6

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.



'Planting a Spectacular Spring Garden Now'

August 24 @ 7:30 PM
Dugald Cameron, Bulb Expert



Knowledgeable gardeners know that Daffodils and Tulips are best planted in the fall, but few know the incredible variety of other bulbs, or how to enjoy them, where they look best, or much about them at all. So why not try something new? This talk will introduce you to the latest and some overlooked bulbs and plants that are best planted in the fall to give you a spectacular spring show next year.

Dugald developed a passion for gardening as a young boy in his grandmother's garden. In 1983, he with two partners started **Gardenimport**, a mail order nursery because they could not find the quality or selection of plants they wanted for their own gardens. The business was closed in December 2014 after 32 years of success.



Dugald was on the board of directors at The Toronto Botanical Garden from 1996 to 2009. He speaks on many subjects to Horticultural Societies in Southern Ontario, occasionally sits in for Ed Lawrence on CBC's Ontario Today, was the first president of the Greater Toronto Bulb Society, and is a member of numerous horticultural societies. His current gardening passions are tuberous Begonias, Clematis, Daffodils, Eremurus (*look it up!*) and Tulips.

Come, enjoy the talk and make a list of must-have bulbs for next spring!
Guests are always welcome so bring a friend.
Arrive early for draw tickets and refreshments (please lug-a-mug).

This is our **ANNUALS SHOW** - phlox, zinnias, asters, dahlias, flowering branches, vegetables, and floral collections and designs. Check out the show schedule on pages 44 - 46 of your yearbook. Pick some entries for the show and you'll earn cash (at the AGM in November), just for showing. You'll earn more money, as well as bragging rights if your submissions win placement. Show entries must be tagged and placed before 7:15PM. **GOOD LUCK!**

Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday 24 August	August Meeting & The Annuals Show Guest Speaker: Dugald Cameron , Former Owner of Gardenimport Topic: Planting a Spectacular Spring Garden Now
Wednesday 14 September	Autumn Meeting (No Show Today) Guest Speaker: Bill McNamara , Quarryhill Botanical Garden, California Topic: Plant Hunting in China
Wednesday 28 September 7:00PM	95th Anniversary Celebration Keynote Speaker: Neil Crone , Actor, Comic, Writer, Local Columnist An evening of celebration with food, friends & entertainment. Reserve your place with a free ticket from John Simerson.
Wednesday 26 October	Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures Show Guest Speaker: Steven Biggs , Farm, Food & Garden Writer, Toronto Topic: Grow Gardeners - Kid-Tested Gardening with Children
Wednesday 23 November 6:30PM	Annual General Meeting & Social Dessert, Entertainment, Awards & Elections Location: St. Thomas Anglican Church, 101 Winchester East, Brooklin

2016 Plant Sale

This year's plant sale took a new direction as we focused on vegetable plants grown for us by Kingsway Nursery. This proved to be very popular with the public and we quickly sold out of most varieties. We also invited other vendors of agricultural-based products to join us in order to offer more to the buying public. Sales of honey, sprouts and sprout kits, preserves, garden decor items, bags and aprons were brisk.

Thanks to **Jenny Lynn Gasperek's** generosity, with copious help from **Faye Collins** digging and other board members assisting, we were able to realize considerable sales of a wonderful selection of daylilies. The dahlias from **Jone Webster** and **Sue Green**, **Faye Collin's** heirloom tomatoes and **Don Wick's** Delphiniums were also very popular and contributed greatly to making our sale a success with sales in excess of \$2000. Many thanks to those **board members** and **club members** who contributed so generously to making it a great day.

It is not too early to start thinking about next year's sale. As you peruse your garden this summer, take note of any plants that you will be dividing in the fall and plan to pot up a few extra for next year's sale. If we all do a little bit, we can have another successful sale.

Margaret McGibney



October 26 Meeting Grow Gardeners - Kid-tested Gardening with Children

Steven Biggs, Farm, Food & Garden Writer



Get kids gardening! Got a fussy eater? Kids often eat the vegetables they grow. And parents of little gardeners often get more time to spend in their gardens. Kids thrive in the garden, whether they're poking seeds into the ground, peering at purple flowers, or giggling at a wriggling worm. If you want to get kids gardening but don't know how to

start, or if you want new ideas, this talk is for you.

Steven's daughter Emma will accompany Steven for this evening. Emma co-authored with Steven the book, *Grow Gardeners: Kid-Tested Gardening with Children*.

As an urbanite with an agricultural science degree and work experience in the agricultural sector, Steven makes sense of farm, garden and food issues for the urban public, and writes about urban food thinkers, trends and happenings for the farm sector. For over 20 years, Steven has worked in greenhouse and nursery production, plant propagation, biological controls, horticultural supplies and farm marketing.

Find out more at StevenBiggs.com, GrowFigs.com, GardenCoachesChat.com, and GrowGardeners.com.

September 14 Meeting (Note this Special Date & Meeting) Plant Hunting in China

Bill McNamara, Quarryhill BG, California

For more than 100 years, the most prolific source of flowering plants in all the world lay at the heart of Asia, mostly in three Chinese provinces. It was an area drained by five mighty rivers, including the Yangtze-Kiang and the Mekong. The surrounding highlands offered extreme variations of climate, eternal snows, towering watersheds, and flat, dry plateaux. This region was sealed off from the rest of the world from the 1930's until the 1980's. Today, there is a sense of urgency to re-explore this vast and unique "Plantsman's Paradise" for the temperate world. Large areas are being logged at an unprecedented rate. The social and economic pressures of the local population are creating massive urban and agricultural expansion. This leads to habitat destruction, which leads to plant extinctions. A partnership including Quarryhill Botanical Garden has made a series of expeditions to Asia for the purpose of research and conservation. This presentation is that story.

Covering the valley and southern slope of a mountain in Sonoma County, Quarryhill is a world-class Asian botanical garden, featuring one of the largest collection of documented, wild-collected Asian plants. Founded nearly 30 years ago as a private research garden, it contains full-sized trees and temperate Asian plants, including many rare and endangered species.

Bill McNamara has botanized extensively in the wilds of Asia in order to discover plants for research and conservation. He joined QBG at its inception and was made executive director in 2007. He has received numerous awards over the years for his contribution to horticulture and research. Visit www.quarryhillbg.org for more information.



Hospitality

Many, many thanks to those ladies and men who contributed 'tasty goodies' for our monthly meetings. There is nothing like a beverage, cookies and good conversation for a great evening.

Also, thanks for the cash contributions. The money goes to off-set the cost of running our hospitality program.

Eileen Humphries



2016 Member Garden Tours

BHS members have hosted two garden visits this year. The first on the holiday May weekend at **Grace and Roger Inglis** in Port Perry showed off their wonderful Lilac collection and gardens. The second at **Mary Ellen and John Simerson's** Brooklin country garden showcased the last of the Peonies in June. In July the WIB garden tour included the properties of **Helen Read, Faye Collins** and **Sofie Bigham**. With August being so dry, we have not scheduled any tours. Members wishing to open up their gardens in September, please call John Simerson at 905-655-4927.

General Meetings

May 25: Vicki Taylor-Scott -

'Containers - Breaking the Mould'

'Don't be afraid to have fun' when creating planters, says Vicki. She showed us 'clay pot people', and 'moss-covered' pots created with yogurt. Her containers include wooden stumps, plastic bottles, hypertufa creations, pumpkins, tea tins, tool boxes, old chairs, cowboy boots, and many more re-purposed items. Fill the containers with perennials, vegetables, tropical plants, and water ponds, in addition to various annuals. Vicki is happy to share her instructions for making garden containers and art. Contact her at 519-265-5589 or vtaylorsscott@gmail.com.



June 22: An Information Panel

'Answers to your Gardening Questions'

Faye Collins introduced the knowledgeable members of the panel: **Sofie Bigham**, a prolific gardener and 'plantaholic'; Durham Master Gardener **Gini Sage**, an expert on trees and vegetable gardening; and Master Gardener **Sherry Dodson**, specializing in native plants and sensory gardens. There were many questions from the audience covering scorched tree leaves, how to keep bulbs for forcing, best soilless mix for seeds, and to mulch or not to mulch. There were many questions about dealing with pests in the garden including chipmunks, rabbits, and insects. Favourite tools of the panel members included the hula hoe, telesco weeder, and garden bandit which are all stirrup-shaped, hand-held hoers, and a winged weeder, shaped like an arrow.



Faye with the expert panel: Sherry, Gini and Sofie

President's Message



The weather this summer has managed to overshadow the political comedies elsewhere. A dry May was followed by an unusually dry June. July repeated 2015 with only marginal or localized rainfall. August continues the hot weather, extending to 30 the number of days over 30C. I have come to realize that although I have a high level of heat resistance, I have become drought intolerant!

There's an exciting fall season just ahead for the Brooklin Horticultural Society. We have special events set

for September, between our regular August and October General Meetings. Unique speakers, a chance to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the society and special guests to join in all our events make September a month to put BHS as a must do. Details for these events are included in this newsletter.

With some normal 'diversity' in our late summer and early fall weather, it's a chance to enjoy all that gardening and the Brooklin Horticultural Society have to offer. See you there!

Contract me at thehaque5@yahoo.com or 905-655-3846.

Hans Paats

2016 WIB GARDEN TOUR

The weather this year was perfect. The garden visitors continued to tour past 4 pm in many gardens and the homeowners were generous and eager to have them do so. There were 2,995 garden visits. The Food Bank donations totaled more than \$200 and 1050 pounds of food.

It was a pleasure to get together at **Sue and Bryan Green's** home for a pre-tour social, and most generous of them to open their home and garden. Volunteers had the opportunity to meet the home owners in whose garden they would be sitting. Thank you also to those directing traffic and to the knowledgeable garden experts who helped out in the larger properties. WIB could not hold this tour without the volunteers.

As we go about our town, please keep eyes and ears open for other gardens to include in future tours. WIB welcomes your input.



GARDEN TOUR PHOTOS



WIB RAIN BARREL SALES

The rain barrel sale was a new undertaking for WIB this year. After a slow start, 52 were sold. Some purchasers bought multiple units for all down spouts. Our weather this summer has not filled the barrels as hoped but they have certainly saved what rain we had. This was an opportunity to also educate the public about rain barrels, our environment and resource management. The profit from this event was donated to the Salvation Army food bank.

Spring Fair Parade Float

A float was created to show the whole town of Brooklin that we are celebrating our 95th Anniversary



of beautifying this community. Spearheaded by **Lenora Wright** and **Helen McConnell** with assistance from **John and Mary Ellen Simerson**, a float depicting the fair theme 'Wagon Wheels and Ferris Wheels' was designed. Many thanks to **Sandra Jackson** for assisting with signage for the float.

A well-earned **First place ribbon** was won for "**The Most Eco Friendly**" category.

DRAW TABLE

Thanks to all the many great donations for draw prizes this season. Always the first to be selected are the abundance of great plants, like dahlias from **Jone and Sue Green**, tomatoes from **Faye**, daylilies from **Jenny Lyn** and a myriad of offerings from **Don**.

The Spring Special Draw prize winners were:

- **Linda Lawton** - rain barrel, and
- **Marilyn Trunks** - garden obelisk.

The draw raised \$150, a nice addition to our receipts.

Hans Paats



Hans with Linda, winner of the rain barrel, and Marilyn with her prize, a handmade garden obelisk.

BHS Takes on the Upkeep of the Park of Reflection



Unveiled on November 1, 2014 in Cullen Central Park, the Wounded Warriors' Park of Reflection is a memorial dedicated to all of Canada's uniformed service personnel including Canadian Armed Forces members and First Responders, who became ill or injured in the line of duty, and their families. The park's design symbolizes their journey back to health and represents the sacrifice those in uniform and their families have made for the peace and security of Canada. It is a place for all Canadians to visit, reflect, and remember the cost of service and its impact on families.

The design of the park consists of a large circular plaza composed of a double-path labyrinth, an inset garden,

and sitting walls with a central sculpture. The labyrinth and sculpture represent the journey taken by our ill and injured – from physical, emotional or mental trauma back to their families and community, toward increased self-reliance, self-awareness and confidence.

The objective of the park is to provide a space that relates to the visiting ill and injured, and their families with representation of experiences they have endured. Secondly, the park communicates to members of the community about their obligation to support our ill and injured service personnel in their time of need and journey in healing.

This season, BHS has taken on this Park as part of our Civic Beautification program. It is a low maintenance garden, requiring an hour's visit once a week by a few volunteers. We have offered to do both a fall and spring clean-up of the beds, as well as keep up with any pruning that may be required. We are excited to have suggested a special planting next year in recognition of Canada's 150th Anniversary.

2016 OHA CONVENTION REPORT

Don and I just returned from a very successful 110th annual Ontario Horticultural Association convention in Kitchener. As representatives of BHS, we voted on no less than 25 resolutions, mainly housekeeping changes for the Board of Directors. There initially were a few questions from the members which subsided when they found out the high number of resolutions to vote on. All of the agenda went very well and most of the time was ahead of schedule.

We mingled with representatives from other clubs from all over Ontario and heard about their successes and events. One person that I met was from Kapuskasing; a 12 hour drive.

Since the first speaker on Mennonite life was absent, **Mark Cullen** who was present on behalf of the 'Highway of Heroes' program gave a very interesting and humorous talk which carried on during lunch hour. The OHA achieved their goal of collecting \$27,000 to donate to the 'Highway of Heroes' program - a plus for OHA.

Every afternoon there were seminars on various topics. I went to a very interesting demonstration of Ikebana, a Japanese floral design method by **Myra Takasaki**, a local arranger. I also heard a talk from **Thelma Beaubien** on 'Gardening for Butterflies', including attracting, rescuing and raising. Her garden has evolved over the years into a butterfly haven.

Don heard a talk by **Bob Wildfong** entitled 'Seed Saving for Heritage Gardens' on the importance of maintaining a diverse gene pool. He also heard **Roger Tschanz** speak about the University of Guelph's Trial Garden Program. Roger remembered Don from years ago when he visited Guelph. Don also went to a talk on 'How to Make Propagation Profitable' by **Lester Fretz**. He encouraged societies to grow plants from cuttings for their plant sales simply by following his advice. Don is happy to share the information with anyone who is interested.

Although we didn't go to the Oktoberfest dinner on Friday evening, we were able to hear the German music by the Om-pah band where everyone danced until 10 pm.

Lisa Stockwell from Grand River Conservation Authority explained how the Grand River has changed over 15 years from almost a sewage ditch to a vibrant living river of national significance.

Saturday night after a wonderful dinner, the speaker was **Dr. Ken Shonk**, a retired family doctor. He was extremely hu-

morous and had everyone laughing with doctor-type jokes. He says laughter is the best medicine. Everyone would be healthy if they killed themselves laughing for an hour per day.

BHS received first prize (and \$18) on our newsletter thanks to **Jone Webster**. Our posters earned second prize, and two items got honourable mention - bookmark and schedule of shows.

On Sunday morning, the rest of the resolutions were taken care of and the elections took place. The officers are: President **Suzanne Hanna** from Sault Ste. Marie, and Vice President **Rose O'Dell** from District 4 (Haliburton).

A tree was planted on Sunday afternoon in memory of three past presidents who passed away during the year.

The 111th Convention will take place at the Sheridan Hotel in Richmond Hill on July 21 - 23, 2017. The theme is 'Green from Shore to Shore'. Save the date and plan to attend.

Welcome, New Members!

Cathy Ambler	Lisa Ruck
Peter Blair	Lisa Smith
Teresa Blair	Joan Thomson

Hope that you are enjoying our programs!

2016 GARDEN DATES

Now that the weather is getting cooler, please join us at the Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden on Carnwith at Montgomery to help us maintain the beauty of the flower beds! Bring a friend and your favourite garden tools. Contact **Faye Collins** for more information at 905-655-9695, madgardener23@hotmail.com.

Tuesdays from 6PM to dusk:

August 23, 30

September 6, 13, 20, 27

Saturday Sessions:

October 15 - 10:30 to 1PM

October 29 - 1 to 3:30 PM

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.