



# Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

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## Inside this issue:

Aug 23 Speaker	1
President's Message	2
BHS Meetings	2
WIB & Plant Sale Reports	3
RHS Chelsea Flower Show	4
Nova Scotian Treasures	4
MOSAICANADA 150	5
Growing Tree Peonies	5
It's Showtime!	6
Mother Nature is Fickle	6

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@brooklinhorticultural.society.com](mailto:information@brooklinhorticultural.society.com). Visit us on the web at: [www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com)



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

## “Grow Me Instead”

Colin Cassin

Wednesday August 23, 2017 - 7:30 PM



Invasive earthworms.....dog strangling vine.....giant hogweed!! These may sound like the stars of a B rated sci fi horror film but these are real invaders right in our backyards. Join us this evening to learn about these and more from Colin Cassin. While completing his BSc and MSc degrees, his research topics have included invasive species research (both terrestrial and aquatic plants and invertebrates), plant-enemy interactions, and methods in restoration ecology. Colin joined the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OPIC) in 2015 and currently coordinates the Early Detection and Rapid Response Network of Ontario, an invasive species monitoring and control program. Learn about the “[Grow Me Instead](#)” program that promotes the use of native species rather than the problematic invasive garden plants.

## Park of Reflection & Whitby in Bloom Garden Tour



The Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection was in its full blooming glory for the day of the Whitby in Bloom Garden Tour on Sat Jul 15. The coneflowers were peaking and the daylilies were opening everywhere. The red and white annuals planted by BHS added pops of colour throughout the gardens. Over the course of the day, there were almost four hundred visitors to the Park. Surprisingly, many

did not know about the Park nor did they realize that Cullen Central Park is a public park for all to enjoy. One of the last visitors of the day was the designer of the Park who was most pleased to see how beautiful the park looked.

Thank you to the BHS members who volunteered at the Park on the day of the tour: Kathy Allam, Eileen Humphries, Denise Carter, Marion Thomas, Lea Kitchen and Leslie Tate.

## Summer Time Garden Touring

For many of us gardeners, summer time is about looking for new inspiration for our gardens by touring those of others. In this issue 3 of our members describe their unique garden tour experience. Eileen Humphries attended the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show. Leslie Tate attended MOSAICANADA 150 where horticultural sculptures reflect Canada's 150 years of history, values, culture and arts. Sherry Howard toured the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens and the Halifax Public Gardens. If you're staying home this summer, see what's blooming at the BHS Garden Park or check out the Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is hard to believe that August is here – I just don't know where the time goes. I do hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and, especially, celebrated Canada Day with family and friends. All the demanding work gardeners do during the spring have now paid off and we can, hopefully, take some time to sit back and enjoy our gardens. Of course, there is always that specific plant that catches our eye at a garden centre that we just must have in the garden. I guess we never stop, do we?

Leslie Tate, *President*

## IN MEMORIAM



**Lucy Eileen Slute** - Eileen joined BHS in the 1980's and was a member of the Board for 12 years. She was also a proud member of the Show Committee, winning many awards over the years including the Best Iris Trophy – a flower she loved. She was given the President's Award in 2002.

She helped celebrate the club's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by joining us and riding in the Brooklin Fair parade on the BHS float. She played the piano while we sang O Canada. In the midst of all this she was one of the original 15 members who started the Brooklin Master Gardeners, later known as the Durham Master Gardeners.

Our deepest condolences to the Slute Family.

## Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday Aug 23	<b>THE ANNUALS SHOW</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Colin Casin</b> Topic: <b>Invasive Species</b>
Wednesday Sept 27	<b>The AUTUMN SHOW</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Edith George</b> Topic: <b>Heritage Trees</b>
Wednesday Oct 25	<b>Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Gary &amp; Diane Westlake</b> Topic: <b>Some Of Our Favourite Gardening Mistakes</b>
Wednesday Nov 22	<b>THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &amp; SOCIAL</b> Dessert, Entertainment, Awards, Elections 6:30pm at St. Thomas Anglican Church, 101 Winchester East

## Join Us On Garden Nights

The **Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden** - Work on this garden takes place on Tuesdays from 6:00pm to dusk. Help is required with the weeding, planting and general upkeep. If you are not available Tuesday evenings but can help out on other days, please contact **Faye Collins**, 905-655-9695 or [madgardener23@hotmail.com](mailto:madgardener23@hotmail.com).

**Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection (Cullen Central Park)** - If you would like to join us at the Park, please contact **Kathy Allam** at 905-430-7213 or [kathyallam@hotmail.ca](mailto:kathyallam@hotmail.ca). We meet weekly on Mondays at 8:30am.

### Sept 27 Meeting Heritage Trees Edith George



Edith George is a proclaimed tree-hugging Torontonion. She is an advisor to the non-profit The Ontario Urban Forest Council (founded in 1963) and a past director on the board of the Weston Historical Society. She travels all over the Province of Ontario answering the questions, "What is a heritage tree?" and "Why is it important to protect them?" Edith has been passionate about discovering the cultural and historical significance of many heritage trees including the great red oak in her neighbourhood. Her online column "Natural Roots" features various significant trees in Toronto.

### Oct 25 Meeting 'Some of our Favourite Gardening Mistakes' Gary & Diane Westlake



Gary was a Director on the board of Master Gardeners of Ontario. Dianne is the Coordinator for the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners and Dianne and Gary are the Editors of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Newsletter. Gardening is an intellectual and creative hobby that also gives us an opportunity for some exercise. The care and design of gardens is so complicated, that no gardener will ever totally master it and the people who try are interesting to spend time with. There is no better thing to do as you get older.

## MEET SOME OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Hans Paats, Treasurer

I joined the Brooklin Horticultural Society following my retirement from General Motors in 2009. I was interested in the speaker series, and was impressed with the depth of knowledge in the membership of the organization. I signed up, and was soon asked to join the Board. In the following years, I've served as Secretary, Vice-President, Treasurer and President, and con-

tinue as Treasurer.

When it comes to Horticulture, I have many gardens at home: vegetables, perennial and landscape. I don't specialize, but I love growing hot peppers in particular and shrubs in general. This year, I've added eggplant selections, just to get a feel for their features and growing habits. I continue to expand my use of containers to grow my vegetables. One new garden is made up of skids set on landscape fabric, with a variety of containers placed on top. I love to experiment for myself. It's the learning and educational experience that thrills me most.

### Whitby In Bloom

Whitby In Bloom was fortunate to have a beautiful sunny day for the annual Garden Tour on Saturday July 15. By the end of the day there were 6648 total visits to the 10 locations. Donations of 430 lbs (185 kg) of non-perishable food items and \$530 cash benefited the Salvation Army food bank. A huge thank you to all our volunteers. We could not do this without you.

*Jane Austen*



### GRAND CHAMPION!!!

Congratulations Judi for winning the big one at the 2017 Oshawa Peony festival. Her winning peony was Eliza Lundy.



### Congratulations Winners

Barb Borchuk - Garden Obelisk

Mary Zito - Rain barrel



### WE NEED YOUR HELP

As a volunteer-run organization, BHS needs volunteers to assist in a variety of ways. We are **looking for people to join the Board of Directors**. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month except July. If you would like to take a more active part in your club, please consider joining the board.



**BHS Annual Plant Sale**

The annual BHS Plant Sale was held on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2017. The sale featured cannas from the Town of Whitby and vegetables from Kingsway. Faye's heirloom tomatoes and daylilies, Jone's dahlias, and Don's perennials were very well received and added greatly to our sale. We had a very popular "Ask a Master Gardener" table manned by Ingrid Janssen and a display of floral design headed by Sherry Howard. This also garnered a lot of interest and gave

people another view of BHS. The Lakeridge Community Gardens, the organic honey people and Simon's garden art rounded out the event offerings.

*Margaret McGibney*

### OHA Convention 2017

The 2017 OHA convention, hosted by District 5, was held Jul 21-23 at the Sheraton Parkway North in Markham. The convention had an environmental focus with the theme Green from Shore to Shore. This was reflected in the topics of the guest speakers: Paul LaPorte "Biodiversity With Native Plants", Scott Maclvor "Green Roofs, Wildlife & Design" and Carson Arthur "A Greener Future: Why Maintenance Gardens Are Not Helping The World Around Us". The seminars also followed the theme. A few examples of the topics included: "Habitats, Green Links & Environmental Gardening", "Build a BeeHouse", "Permissible Pesticides", and "Ways to be a Responsible Partner with Mother Nature". During the business portion of the meeting a total of twenty-five resolutions were brought forth and voted on.

This was my first time attending the convention. My only regret – I didn't stay overnight. Somehow, you miss out on the fun stuff, the chance to socialize, and to make more gardening friends. Next year, the event will be held in Kingston and I definitely, will make the most of that by staying to enjoy the whole show.

*Kathy Allam*

### Welcome, New Members!

Laurie Beier	Anya Bungay
Lisa Colacito	Paul Cloutier
Benjamin Dykeman	Simon Gilchrist
Meagan Maher	Julianne Mulgrew
Mary O'Rourke	Maxine Vallance

### We have 202 members!



*Denise Carter at denisesnow-carter@gmail.com or 905-665-5019.*

**If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, contact Membership Chair,**



## RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

This May my husband and I took the castles and gardens tour in England. The highlight of the garden tour had to be the Chelsea Flower Show. The weather was so co-operative with temperatures in the mid to high 80 degrees and blue skies. The streets and stores of Chelsea were decorated. That was a flower show in itself.

The Grand Pavilion housed over 200 exhibitors. The first look was just amazing and it just left one speechless. Where do you start? The exhibitors were from various nurseries and horticultural societies each having a booth to showcase their specialties. We saw lupines, hostas, daylilies and of course David Austin roses to name a few. The exhibitors were judged on quality, design for colour and texture, use of props, and originality. The exhibitors were only too anxious to talk about their plants. Lots of information were passed on to the public.

The floral designs were held in another pavilion. The designs were amazing, some being three to four feet in height. The competition was open to both clubs and individuals. Outside

the Grand Pavilion there were shops to pick up gardening supplies, seeds, and gardening books. Scattered around were “fresh gardens”. What could be done with a very small amount of space? These were also judged and The Royal Bank of Canada won gold for depiction of Canada from East to West.

Having heard so much about the Chelsea Flower Show, so glad we got a chance to see it. We were there for over 6 hours and I know we didn't see it all. Another time!

*Eileen Humphries*



*Sights to behold at Chelsea Flower show*

## NOVA SCOTIAN TREASURES

Nova Scotia may evoke many things sea related, like the Bay of Fundy, Peggy's Cove, the Cabot Trail, and whales but it also has its horticultural treasures. During the latter part of June, I was able to check off my list of gardens to visit, the Halifax Public Gardens and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens.

Halifax Public Gardens is a 16 acre Victorian era garden created in 1867 and Canada's first public garden. Although my husband and I visited on a dreary, showery afternoon, once past the ornate wrought iron gates we were awed by the lushness of the magnificent mature trees, flowering rhododendrons, shrubs and lawns. I was most taken by the flowering sieboldii magnolias and golden chain trees. The historic bandstand and Queen Victoria Jubilee fountain were surrounded by serpentine, scroll and carpet beds planted in annuals that were just starting to fill in. My favourite vistas were the plantings of Japanese maples, chain trees, rhodos, hostas, iris, and Solomon seal surrounding the stream and ponds by the main entrance. This garden is definitely worthy of its 2017 Garden Tourism Award as a top 10 North American Garden Worth Travelling For.

Accolades too have been deservedly awarded to Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, most notably, 2015

Garden Tourism Canadian Garden of the Year. This garden, which opened in 1981, is a historic garden in that it portrays Nova Scotia's history with various themed gardens reflecting over 400 years of agricultural and horticultural methods of the people who lived here. I had so many wonderful impressions of these beautiful gardens. Blue iris and pink pond lily blooms dotted a luxuriant palette of textured greenery at the pond by the entrance. The fragrances and colours of the roses were a feast to the senses and we stopped to smell them as we wandered through the rose maze and beds of over 2000 plants from more than 270 cultivars. The spring blooming shrubs and trees were a sight to behold – flowering dogwoods of pink and cream, cloud-like fringe trees with white frilly blooms, white wisteria-like blooms of Kentucky yellow wood trees, magnolia-like flowers of Venus sweetshrub and brilliant rhododendrons. The perennial beds were awash with colour from pink meadowrue and purple baptisia. A small collection of peonies caught my eye as a specimen of Judi's award winning Eliza Lundy was in bloom. Also worth noting was the Victorian garden of annuals which would be magnificent later in the summer. I highly recommend visiting these gardens - there is something for every gardener.

*Sherry Howard*



*l to r, sieboldii magnolia, bandstand and rhodos in Halifax Gardens, fringe tree and venus sweetshrub in Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens*

## MOSAICANADA150 – Gatineau, QC (Jacques Cartier Park)

While visiting family in the Ottawa area, I had the opportunity to go to the Mosaicanada150, described as “a spectacular horticultural celebration celebrating the art of mosaiculture and a tribute to Canada's 150 years of history. Canada's 10 provinces and 3 territories, as well as First Nations Québec and Labrador, unite to present 33 masterful works over five historical sectors. The horticultural friendship uniting Canada with Shanghai and Beijing has also led to coloured works of art which will delight your eye.” And a spectacular garden it is! The sculptures are enormous and completely made up of plant material. It is a leisurely stroll which takes about two hours but well worth the visit – and it’s free! I was particularly amazed that, even with the amount of rain Ottawa has

received so far, the plants and flowers were doing so well. I imagine with a few weeks of drier weather, they will look even better.

Also, if you are in Ottawa overnight, go to Parliament Hill for the 10:00pm “History of Canada” which is projected onto the Parliament Buildings. There were a lot of people crowded onto the Hill, so try to get there early. The best part is the finale - the National Anthem - and everyone sang as loud as they could. Very moving and makes you proud to be Canadian!

*Leslie Tate*



## Buying, Planting and Growing Tree Peonies

There are three types of peonies commonly available. They are tree peonies which grow as woody shrubs, herbaceous peonies which die back in the fall and grow anew each spring from the roots, and finally Itoh or intersectional peonies which are an inter-species hybrid of tree and herbaceous peonies and have some characteristics of each.

The large papery flowers of tree peonies appear earlier in the spring than most herbaceous peonies and some are delightfully fragrant. Tree peonies can be grown from seed, however it may take 5 to 8 years before flowering. It was discovered that grafting the scion of a tree peony onto a piece of herbaceous peony root provided a more effective way to propagate them quickly. The tree peony scion is sustained by the herbaceous root until it develops its own roots. Most tree peonies sold

commercially in Canada and the United States are grafted.



Finger indicating planting depth

The best way to purchase a tree peony is bare root from a peony grower. The [Canadian Peony Society](#) website lists a number of vendors. If you do buy a tree peony from a local garden centre they are typically sold

in a pot in the spring. Make sure the peony you are buying is a healthy specimen and there are no rogue shoots of herbaceous

peony growing along with the tree peony. Learn to identify the difference between the stems and leaves of the two types of peonies.

Plant your tree peony in a spot protected from wind and providing some afternoon shade. Amend the soil in the planting hole with compost or organic matter such as leaf mold. Place the tree peony in the hole so that the graft will be at least 6” below the surface of the soil. The leaves of the tree peony may barely show above the soil, but that is fine. The deep planting will encourage the tree peony scion to develop its own roots along the length of the buried stem and will deter the herbaceous root from growing any rogue shoots. In my Canadian hardiness zone 6a/5b garden I provide my newly planted tree peonies with protection in the winter. I use Styrofoam rose cones, but a plant cage filled with leaves will also work. In the spring, I remove the protection and wait for the magic to begin. I have had blooms on most of the plants in the first year after planting. Some of them have died back to ground level but have regrown from the buried stem. If you do see rogue shoots of herbaceous peony remove them immediately. Select and plant your tree peony well and you will enjoy the lovely blooms for many years.



Tree peony with deep red stems and darker leaves of herbaceous peony

*Ingrid Janssen*





Pat Evans we hear you're practicing for the Aug show - in July!

## It's Showtime!

Two of our biggest shows of the season are coming up, the Annuals Show on Aug 23 and the Autumn Show on Sept 27 and therefore lots of opportunities to show us what's in your garden or practice your design skills. Here are some tips that you may consider for preparing your entries:

1. In showing **daylilies**, you **do not need** to include **foliage**.
2. In showing **dahlia** blooms don't forget to **include foliage**. The foliage does not have to be attached to the bloom stem.
3. Where only 1 bloom is required, consider removal of additional side buds, (eg., as in roses, dahlias) as any bud that shows colour is considered to be a bloom.
4. To condition dahlias, roses and rudbeckia, place the stem ends in 5 cm of boiling water for a minute or two before placing in cold water.

AS ALWAYS, HAVE FUN!



Congratulations to Ingrid, Jane, Ken, Irma, Helen and Leslie

## Mother Nature - She's So Fickle!



Last year the challenge was drought. This year it has been buckets of rain almost daily through most of June and July creating almost bog-like conditions in many areas of the Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden. The heat, the rain, the park's heavy clay soil, and the bi-polar weather has presented new challenges for our small band of dedicated volunteers. For several Tuesdays, it was simply too wet to garden. The upside is the lush grass, large colour saturated daylily bloom and an incredible stand of cup plants and echinacea. Driving along Carnwith, the sweep across the park and around the southwest perimeter is spectacular and much appreciated by the community members who use our park. The downside has been bedding plants, cannas and newly planted perennials that just cannot get a foothold because of soggy roots and the need for almost constant weeding. The trees, especially the maples, are still recovering from last summer's long dry spell. Vandalism has been a minor problem with tree limbs broken off, plants trampled and blooms picked.

That said, the efforts of our small work crew including Leslie, Eric, Deanna, Anne and myself, has managed to keep things under control although we really could use a significant increase in volunteer numbers to keep such a large area in top shape. I encourage BHS members to drop by to see what we are up to and up against and if possible, to give us some of your time. Come by any Tuesday evening through to the end of September.

Faye Collins - BHS Garden



## 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)