



Uxbridge Horticultural Society



"We Bring Gardening Down to Earth"
www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com



"Your Local Garden Club News"



The Year of the Tulip - photograph by Karen Vanderlee

April 2018 - Series 15, Volume 1

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Thank You to Our Sponsors

Most of our wonderful sponsors are again back this year, and we would like to express our sincere appreciation for their ongoing support. For a complete listing of our sponsors, please visit our website and click on the "Sponsors" tab.

This year we welcome five new sponsors:

- Colucci Window Cleaning
- CSN-Collision Centre
- Divine Sisters Metaphysical Store
- Community Cleaning Ltd.
- Lawson Home Improvement

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

A very warm welcome to all returning and all new members! We are so very pleased you have joined us for the 2018 gardening season.

Thanks to the hard work of **Pam** and **Rose**, once again we have a superb line-up of speakers each month – starting this month with **Conrad Richter** of Richter's Herbs who will be entertaining and informing us with the topic of "*Plants Have Rights Too.*"

At our April meeting, you will receive our 2018 Yearbook and bookmark, both of which, thanks to **Yvonne**, are once again incredibly beautiful and informative. I urge you to please go through this Yearbook carefully, taking note of each month's activities, as well as the special events such as the Yearbook Photo Contest, the Annual Photo Contest, the rules and guidelines for flower, vegetable and design showing, our sponsors, and a lot of other great information.

This year's Society Seeds are the Marigold, French Tarragon and Turnip. Thank you to **Angie** for putting these together. Please see page 3 for further details.

As we all eagerly await warmer weather, I wish you a very happy spring as we look forward to another great gardening season. And don't forget to send me any pictures you take of tulips this spring (your own or others). I will publish them in our newsletter throughout the year as there is space.

Sandee

Upcoming Events

- **April 11:** Guest Speaker: **Conrad Richter**, Richter's Herbs Topic: "*Plants Have Rights Too.*"
- **May 9:** Guest Speaker: **Paul Oliver**, Urban Nature Store Topic: "*Birds.*"
- **May 27:** **Plant & Bake Sale** – parking lot of H.H. Goode & Sons (Brock Street West)
- **June 13:** Guest Speaker: **Dan Cooper**. Topic: "*Gardening from a Hammock.*"

Monthly Flower Shows

We have some of the best flower, vegetable and design shows of any gardening clubs we know. And that's not just us bragging. The judges of our shows (who are professional judges and not members of our local society) often tell us how great our shows are. And that is all thanks to you, our members.

We encourage you to review your Yearbook to see what flowers, herbs, vegetables and design themes are scheduled for each month. For example, Narcissus (daffodils), Tulips, Pansies and Primula are just some of the flowers on the May show schedule. Towards the back of the Yearbook you will find the Show Directives as well as a very helpful section on how to prepare and show your flowers and plants. **Yvonne**, who manages our shows, is also a great source to draw on if you are unclear or have more specific questions.

So please review the Yearbook and make plans to bring in your beautiful blooms, vegetables and designs and show them off in our monthly shows.

Starting Seeds Workshop

A great way to kick-start the growing season – and at the same time, get to know some of your fellow horticulture members better.

We will be holding a **free Starting Seeds Workshop on Sunday, April 15th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Rose and Rod Sherrard have graciously offered to host it at their place.

You will get helpful tips and suggestions on starting both the Society Seeds as well as other seeds. This is a great opportunity for you to bring your questions re starting your own seeds and get answers and growing tips.

More information, including location directions, will be available at our April 11th meeting.



Our Website & Twitter Account

We have a robust website full of great information about the Uxbridge Horticultural Society, our meetings and event, pictures, archived copies of our newsletter and links to other related websites. We are very grateful to **Monica Draper** for setting up and managing/administering our website on an ongoing basis. Please check it out at: www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

We also have a Twitter account which you can find on Twitter: @uxbridgehort
Even if you do not wish to participate on Twitter, there is a wealth of information and great gardening accounts to follow. Just to suggest a few: @RichtersHerbs @WhistlingG @MG_Ontario @RBGCanada @MarkCullen4 @gardenmaking @CDNgardening and many more.

2018 Society Seeds

The Uxbridge Horticultural 2018 Society Seeds will be available to members when you receive your Yearbook, with the exception of the 2018 Herb – French Tarragon – which is a plug and which will be available to members only at the May meeting. If you will not be able to attend the May meeting, please arrange for someone to pick up your plug for you.

Annual Flower:

Marigold – Garland Orange – Tall African Type.

Long flowering season on tall, strong, wind-tolerant stems. Huge double deep orange blooms. Easy to grow. Detailed, coated seed. 28” to 60” tall.



Herb:

French Tarragon

The true tarragon, which does not propagate from seed. Dark green, shiny leaves possess distinctive flavour. Grows to 36”. Requires light, well-drained soil, in a sunny location.



Vegetable:

Turnip – Purple Prince – Fast maturing summer turnip.

This globe-shaped summer hybrid has beautiful bright purple shoulders and white bottom roots. Foliage is suitable for greens.

Harvest when roots are 6” or smaller. 55 days to maturity.



Plant and Bake Sale

Our **Annual Plant and Bake Sale** is scheduled for **Sunday, May 27th** this year. Please note that this is a change from previous years when the sale was held on a Saturday. Also, please note the change of venue: this year we are holding the sale in the **H.H. Goode & Son parking lot, located at 125 Brock Street West.**

As you are tidying up your gardens this spring and/or dividing plants, please pot up those you no longer want for the plant sale. They need to be marked as to what the plant is, a picture if possible, and any brief information that would be useful to a buyer, i.e., sun/shade, moist/dry soil, etc.

Your baking contributions would also be much appreciated – pies, tarts, loaves and cookies sell particularly well. Further details re packaging and drop-off will be in the May newsletter, closer to the sale date.



History and Meaning of the Tulip

The Tulip is a member of the Liliaceae (Lily) family, Genus Tulipa. They are a spring blooming perennial bulbiferous geophyte. Although they are technically a perennial which should rebloom year after year, this is not always the case. So, most tulip enthusiasts treat them as annuals and replant them each year.

There are 15 groups of tulips – examples include Single Early, Triumph, Fringed and Lily Flowered. I will be describing a number of these in each of the newsletters leading up to the fall so when you go tulip bulb shopping, you will be able to choose based on your preferences and requirements.

Although Tulips are almost always associated with the Netherlands, their origin was actually the Ottoman Empire (better known today as Turkey). (Tulips are native to Central Asia and Turkey.) They were imported into Holland in the 16th Century, and very quickly became wildly popular. Today, Holland is the world's largest producer of tulips (more than 3 billion annually) – huge fields are dedicated to their cultivation.

The Tulip's history in Canada dates back to the end of the 2nd World War. During the War, Dutch Princess Juliana and her family were forced to flee as Holland came under occupation. Canada was an allied country and they were welcomed, living in Ottawa for the duration of the war. In 1943, Princess Juliana's third daughter, Margriet, was born in Canada. In 1945, the Canadians played a significant role in the Allied liberation of the Netherlands, for which the Dutch were eternally grateful.

After the War, the Netherlands expressed their gratitude to Canada by sending 100,000 tulip bulbs to Ottawa. After that, the Gift of the Tulips became an annual tradition, and the Dutch Royal Family, together with the Dutch citizens, each send 10,000 tulip bulbs to Ottawa each year.

The Tulips are planted in two flower beds – one at the Ottawa Hospital (in honour of the birth there of Princess Margriet) and the other in Commissioner's Park. They are planted in many shades, including pink and purple which were Princess Juliana's favorite colours.

It is generally agreed that the meaning of Tulip is "perfect love". Different colours of tulips symbolize different things: red – true love; yellow – expression of cheerful thoughts and sunshine; white – message of forgiveness; variegated – beautiful eyes; purple – royalty.

The Canadian 2018 Tulip Festival in Ottawa will be held May 11th – May 21st.



Photo courtesy of Angie Andruss

As I wrote this newsletter, I came across this quote and it just seemed so very appropriate.

"March is a month of considerable frustration – it is so near spring yet across a great deal of the country the weather is still so violent and changeable that outdoor activity in our yards seems light years away."

... Thalassa Cruso