



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

December 2018 - Series 15, Volume 9

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Potluck Reminder

A quick reminder that our annual Potluck at this month's meeting **starts at 6:30!!** You are most welcome to bring your significant other or a friend, and don't forget your place setting.

2019 Executive

Please note that the Executive for 2019 will be inducted at the December meeting after the Potluck Dinner. If you are interested in being on the Executive next year, please advise **Rick Causton** prior to the start of the meeting.

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

It's hard to believe that the 2018 gardening season is behind us and here we are in December getting ready for Christmas!

Yvonne has done a wonderful job of the bookmarks for 2019! **Thank you Yvonne!!** Please ensure you pick up a couple of bookmarks at the December meeting and share them with friends.

Our Speaker line-up for the 2019 season is once again fabulous, thanks to **Rose Doyle** and **Pam Kuiper** who work hard to ensure we have interesting, educational and fun speakers every month. Our 2019 season starts with our first meeting on April 10th. Guest speaker, **Dr. Ellen Chin, Chiropractor**, will get us ready to take on another gardening season the proper way so that we don't injure ourselves in our enthusiasm to "get into the garden".

The **Uxbridge Fantasy of Lights** in Elgin Park, run by the **Optimist Club of Uxbridge**, in underway as of December 8th and it is incredible! Please make sure you take in this beautiful and magical display of lights right here in Uxbridge, open every evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through to January 5th, 2019.

It has been another great year for our Club and on behalf of the 2018 Executive, I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for joining us and being a part of our gardening family! We wish you and your families all the very best of the season, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe and Healthy New Year!

Sandee

Upcoming Events

- **December 12th:** **6:30 p.m. Christmas Potluck;** Award Presentations; Installation of Officers
- **April 10th:** First meeting of the 2019 Season
- **April 27th:** Annual General Meeting – District 17

Thank You Christiana

Christiana Carter has been the President of the Uxbridge Horticultural Society for 5 years, since 2013. We would like to express our sincere thank you to **Christiana** for her dedication, hard work and contributions to ensure that we have a robust, informative and above all enjoyable, Garden Club.

Christiana will be stepping down from her position as President at the end of this year.

Thank you again, Christiana!

Instagram Account

In addition to our Twitter Account, next spring we will be adding an **Uxbridge Horticultural Society Instagram Account**.

For those of you unfamiliar with **Instagram**, it is a social media application for photo sharing. The point is to make connections with people and organizations and share photos. In our case we would share photos with other garden clubs, gardening experts, and just generally people who are interested in gardening, flowers, floral design, etc. We have one of the best Flower Shows of many garden clubs, and we can highlight this through the sharing our photos on social media.

Please note we will NOT share photos of any individuals without your prior permission, and if you don't want your photo shared, we certainly understand and will not do so.

Memberships of those garden clubs who are participating more actively on various social media applications have seen an increase in membership as many people who may not otherwise be aware of the club, find it on social media. Also many gardening experts use social media so it also enhances our ability to recruit great speakers for our meetings.

Instagram is a very easy application to use, even for the social media neophyte. As an individual, you can join to enjoy many great photos and not have to post any yourself. So don't let that scare you off. You can also consider it a wonderful way to impress the heck out of your children, grandchildren, family and friends!

November Meeting Format

We had a tremendous turnout for our November meeting. Thank you to everyone that attended and we hope that your friends and family that came enjoyed the evening as well!

We have had a great deal of positive feedback about the format of the evening and we plan to continue with this format every 2 or 3 years. We would very much welcome any suggestions or comments you may have regarding both the format and frequency of this type of event.

Thank you to all of the **Sponsors** that attended: ***Curves, Deborah Kennedy Naturopathic Medicine, Ron Noble Insurance, Tin Mill, Today's Natural Solutions, Village Cupcakery***; and in particular to ***Woods Clothing*** for the great fashion show and ***Divine Sisters Metaphysical*** for the very interesting and educational talk.

And thank you also our very talented members – ***Merna Arens, Christiana Carter, Stephanie Davidson, Sandra Handscomb, Mirela Lazaroiu, Denise Minns, Kathleen Ravitch, Diane Spencer, Shawnette Turner-Vickers, and Gail Wood***. Your crafts and handiwork is amazing!

The delicious sandwiches that we enjoyed were prepared by ***The Tin Mill*** and desserts by the ***Village Cupcakery***.

2019 District 17 Annual General Meeting

For anyone that may have missed it in last month's newsletter, a reminder that the **OHA District 17** (which we are a part of) **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, April 27th**. This meeting will be held at the Udora Community Centre and the Agenda includes a Flower and Design Show, Silent Auction, Photography Competition, Two Keynote Speakers – "Your Garden Wakes Up for Spring" and "Sacred Plants – Spiritual and Medicinal Uses", Luncheon and Snacks and Vendors.

Our Club will again pay half of the registration cost for the first 25 of our members to sign up for this meeting. As the registration cost for the day is \$30.00, our Club will pay \$15.00.

As pre-registration is required, please advise **Debbie Watson by the end of February 2019** if you would like to attend.

We hope you will join us! Always a fun and interesting day!

2019 Flower – Hydrangea

Our Flower of the Year next year is the **Hydrangea**. And I plan on filling you in on all varieties of Hydrangeas and general Hydrangea care information, starting with our April newsletter. However, as some varieties are best pruned in late winter, I thought I would address those in this newsletter so if you have those varieties, you have the opportunity to deal with them before the warmer weather starts.

The basic rule of pruning hydrangeas: **WHEN TO PRUNE DEPENDS ON WHEN IT SETS IT'S FLOWER BUDS!** Hydrangeas that flower on new wood flower on the current season's growth, so these can be pruned in late winter before they wake up for the spring. Examples of these are:

Panicle hydrangeas (*H. paniculata*) – *Bobo, Little Quick Fire, Little Lime, Limelight, Pinky Winky, Fire Light, Vanilla Strawberry* and others

Smooth hydrangeas (*H. arborescens*) – *Incrediball, Incrediball Blush, Invincibelle – Limetta, Mini Mauvette, Wee White, Ruby, Spirit and Spirit II* and *Annabelle*

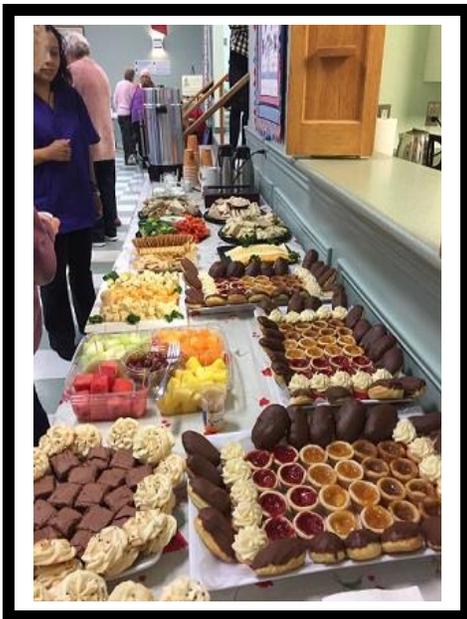
Note: The '***Endless Summer***' variety produces flowers on both old and new wood. It will bloom in early spring on the old wood and then some blooms will appear later in the season on new wood.

Hydrangeas that flower on old wood should NOT be pruned in late winter. The timing for pruning these is right after they bloom – without delay. Many gardeners say that even August is too late to prune and pruning these in the fall will leave you with a bloomless hydrangea next season.

However, if you are not sure whether your hydrangea blooms on old or new wood, it is best to leave it completely unpruned and watch what it does and when it blooms next season. Make note of the timing and that should tell you when you can safely prune it the following year.

***"May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas which is peace;
The heart of Christmas which is love."***

... Ada V. Hendricks



Top left: *Christiana & her beautiful knitting*
Top right: *Woods Clothing Fashion Show*
Above left: *Refreshment Table*
Above right: *Gail Wood's crafts*
Right: *Kathy & Debbi at Woods' table*



Have a wonderful Christmas everyone! See you in the spring!