



Uxbridge Horticultural Society



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



"Your Local Garden Club News"

The Year of the Hydrangea - photograph by Sandee Basten-Snell

December 2019 - Series 16, Volume 9

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December Meeting / Potluck

A reminder that our December 11th meeting is a **Potluck starting at 6:30 p.m.**, followed by the presentation of awards and installation of officers for 2020.

Please remember to bring your place setting, cutlery and mug/glass, along with a favorite potluck dish, and your significant other or a friend.

And we look forward to seeing everyone's **UGLY** (or fancy or funny) **CHRISTMAS SWEATERS!**

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

As I write this last newsletter of 2019, we are heading into what promises to be a white Christmas season! We have already received higher than normal snowfall amounts and the snow continues to fall. A great blanket for our sleeping gardens!

We have had a very successful and enjoyable year! We welcomed 18 new members; our flower shows were once again beautiful to behold, with a record number of new members showing; our refreshments always delicious and plentiful; speakers engaging, entertaining and informative; and our garden volunteers continue to keep the Uxbridge gardens that we look after attractive and welcoming to both residents and visitors! Thank you to everyone!

Pam and **Rose** have again lined up outstanding speakers and interesting topics for the 2020 Season. Thank you for your suggestions – please keep them coming. We strive to bring in speakers and topics that are of interest to you, our members.

The first newsletter of 2020 will be coming out at the end of March so please keep an eye out for that.

On behalf of the Executive, I would like to wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season! May you be blessed with good health and surrounded with the love of family and friends!

Sandee

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 4th
Wednesday, April 8th
Saturday, April 18th

Introduction to Vegetable Gardening Workshop, Greenbank Community Centre
First Meeting of the 2020 Season; Guest speaker: **Julia Dimakos** Topic: **"How to Maximize your Harvest through Succession Planting"**
District 17 AGM hosted by Pine Ridge GC, Blackstock Community Centre

November Meeting Update

At our November meeting we tried a new format – a **Silent Auction**. It turned out to be a fantastic success, thanks to the incredible generosity and talents of many of our members. We have received such positive feedback from so many of you that we are going to make this an annual event. Thanks to our members, the Silent Auction raised just over \$1,500.00.

One of the comments that some of you raised was that there wasn't sufficient time to browse the tables and go back, if necessary, to revise your bids. So we will revise the timing somewhat to allow for more time for the Silent Auction.

If you have any further comments or suggestions, please speak to **Mirela Lazariou** (or anyone else on the Executive) and we will definitely take these into consideration in planning.

Thank You Volunteers

The success of any organization is directly attributable to the involvement and support from its members. We are very fortunate to have so many members that go above and beyond in contributing to the success of our Garden Club. I would like to thank **EVERYONE** that contributes throughout the year, in small to large ways, and let you know that your time, efforts, assistance, suggestions and friendship are very much appreciated!

From those who volunteer in the Kitchen; the Garden planting, clean-up and maintenance; to those who organize, run and participate in our special events such as the Plant and Bake Sale, the Photo Contests and the Silent Auction to name just a few; to those who solicit and encourage sponsorships for our Yearbook; who participate in the monthly flower, design and vegetable shows; provide comments and suggestions to improve how we organize and run our meetings and events; and to those on the Executive – **THANK YOU!**

I realize that there are so many of you to thank, and that in singling out individuals, I run the risk of inadvertently omitting some people. So, I apologize in advance if I have left out anyone.

On behalf of the club, I would particularly like to recognize **Rick Causton** (Past President & current District Director) and **Agnes Croxford** (gardens and garden maintenance); **Yvonne de Ruiter** for organizing and managing our monthly flower shows, **Kathy Van Hesewijk** for coordinating the Kitchen activities, **Rose Sharrard** for our bookmarks and Yearbook, and President **Pam Kuiper** and Secretary **Rose Doyle** for their organizing and management of our speakers and oh so many other things.

Spring Workshop

A reminder that the hands-on **"Introduction to Vegetable Gardening"** workshop will be held Saturday, April 4th, 2020 at the Greenbank Community Centre. This is a 3-hour workshop run by Master Gardeners and will cover all topics related to vegetable gardening, from soil and soil preparation to garden design to choosing, planting and germinating seeds. The cost of the workshop is \$30.00 and will conclude with a Potluck lunch.

This is a great opportunity to get a head start on your vegetable garden, get some great tips and have a lot of fun doing it. As the workshop will be held before our first meeting in April, please register and pay with me (**Sandee**) at our December meeting.

2020 AGM – Pine Ridge Club

As a reminder, the 2020 AGM is being hosted by the **Pine Ridge Garden Club**. “Salute to Spring” is the theme and will be held on **Saturday April 18th** at the Blackstock Recreation Centre, 3440 Church Street in Blackstock. The cost is \$30.00.

Events include Morning Hospitality, Luncheon, Flower, Design and Photo Competitions with guest speakers both morning and afternoon.

Please advise and pay **Debbie Watson or myself** at next week’s meeting if you plan on attending.

2021 AGM – Uxbridge Horticultural Society

Yes that’s us!! We are the hosts for the 2021 AGM.

We are very excited to have secured the beautiful, spacious and accessible Leaskdale Presbyterian Church in Leaskdale as our venue. Excellent catering has already been arranged, as have the setup/take down/custodial and audio-visual services.

We will be looking to add some of our members to the planning group for our AGM next spring. We are looking for your ideas and suggestions for themes, flower design and photography categories, as well as suggestions for special guest speakers and topics. There are two group sessions – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Ideas for sessions can be special guest speakers or workshops. Additionally, local vendors and craftspeople are invited to set up a table or booth so we will also be looking for suggestions for potential vendors. Please give some thought to this over the winter months!

Uxbridge Fantasy of Lights

Each year the Optimists Club sponsors (and does a lot of the work) to bring the **Uxbridge Fantasy of Lights** in Elgin Park to the public during the Christmas Season. Many of our Uxbridge and area businesses, churches, organizations and individuals contribute their wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season through the set-up of individual displays throughout the Park.

You can drive through (entrance is off Elgin Park Drive across from the Wooden Sticks Driving Range) and you can walk through the Park and in along the beautifully lit winding pathway through the middle of the park.

Admission is free but all donations to the Optimist Club are gratefully accepted. **The Fantasy of Lights** runs every evening from Saturday, December 7th to Sunday, January 4th, 2020.



Above photos courtesy of Optimists’ Fantasy of Lights: www.uxlights.ca

2020 Season

Once again, **Pam** and **Rose** have been very successful at lining up some outstanding speakers and presenters for us for next year. Just a sampling of the speakers and topics we can look forward to include:

April – Julia Dimakos – “How to Maximize your Harvest through Succession Planting”;

May – Deborah Pearson – “Connecting Polar Bears and Carrots”;

August – Andres Kimsto – “Cannabis”; and

September – Martin Galloway – “Your Garden Wakes up for Spring”.

We will, of course, have our beautiful flower, design and vegetable shows each month, as well as special events and our always delicious refreshment table. The new **Ontario Judging Standards Book** is now available at a cost of \$10.00. The standards therein are the ones the judges will be using starting in 2020. Please see **Yvonne** to get a copy of the new standards book.

At our last meeting in November where we outlined our costs for speakers, venue, flower show judges, etc., we advised that we were faced with considering an increase in the annual membership fee. A motion was made by one of our members to raise our **annual fee to \$30.00**. This motion was passed by the membership. We endeavour to keep our costs to a minimum but speaker and judge fees in particular are rising and in order to bring you the best quality speakers, presentations and events, we do need to pay the going rates. The annual fee of \$30.00 will be effective April 1, 2020.

Our **Plant and Bake Sale** is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 31st. We are hoping to hold our **Members Only Garden Tour** in 2020, pending sufficient interest and gardens.

We are currently in the process of securing sponsorships for our **2020 Yearbook**. If you know of any businesses or organizations that might like to have their business advertised in our Yearbook, please let Mirela know and we will arrange to contact them. The cost for sponsorship is \$40.00!



Pictures from our November meeting Silent Auction tables
Below right: A great crowd!



"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens - the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye."

- Katherine S. White