



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

November 2019 - Series 16, Volume 8

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Silent Auction – November Meeting

We have had a great response from our members regarding the Silent Auction next week at our November meeting.

Please invite your friends and family to join us for this meeting, enjoy our guest speaker **Karen Durnin** and learn about “Gardening for the Birds”, participate in the Silent Auction and mingle with fellow members and their guests.

Pam will be managing the Silent Auction. Please see her if you are bringing additional donations. Silent Auction purchases can be paid in cash only please.

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

What a surprise waking up to all that snow last Thursday morning! We knew it was coming but ever hopeful that it would take it’s time. It sure was pretty though!

This month’s newsletter has lots of information on upcoming events and planning activities. There are AGM notices for both 2020 and 2021, a special workshop planned for April 2020, our Silent Auction at this coming meeting (please bring a friend), a Pop-up Seed Exchange at this month’s meeting (as requested by members) and a reminder on the format and timing for our December meeting.

As well, details and photos about our work on the Children’s Garden are included. A special thank you to **Rick Causton, Agnes Croxford, Angie Andruss, Chris Broughton** and **Joyce Brown** for all your hard work on cleaning out and replanting the garden.

On behalf of the Club, I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to **Agnes, Rick** and everyone who volunteered a lot of time and effort planting and maintaining the gardens! You did a great job folks!

Don’t forget this month’s Silent Auction and Seed Exchange. (Last minute donations gratefully accepted.) We look forward to seeing you all and your friends/family at the meeting.

Sandee

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 13th: Guest Speaker: **Karen Durnin**, Master Gardener Topic: “Gardening for the Birds”; Silent Auction; Refreshments

Wednesday, December 11th: 6:30 pm **Christmas Potluck**; Award Presentations; Installation of Officers

December Meeting

A reminder about the format of the December meeting. We have **a potluck dinner starting at 6:30** and we invite you to bring favorite dishes and/or desserts. Following the potluck dinner, we will present awards for the various activities and contests throughout the year, as well as install the officer group for the coming season.

Spouses, significant others and friends are invited to join in. **Please bring your own plate(s), cutlery and glass or mug, depending on your beverage preference.** Coffee and tea will be available, set up by our wonderful kitchen volunteers.

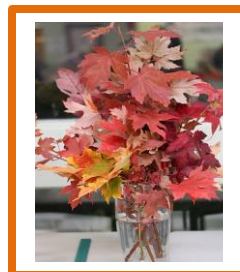
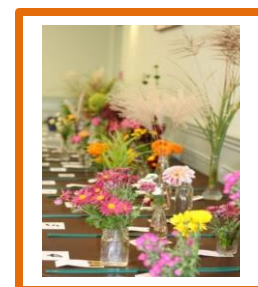
We will also be selecting an ***UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER*** winner so get out the ugliest, shiniest, brashest Christmas Sweater that you have and come grace the evening festivities with it.

October Flower Show Results

Joyce Brown took first place this month with 75 points, second place by **Angie Andruss** with 51 points, and third place by **Rose Sharrard** with 32 points.

They were followed by **Ena Wassenaar** (24), **Kathleen Ravitch** (14), **Nancy Vincent** and **Connie Wells** (10), **Denise Minns** (5), and **Yvonne de Ruiter** (4).

Best Chrysanthemum went to **Ena Wassenaar**.



Pop Up Seed Exchange

At the suggestion of some of our members, we are setting up a table at the November Meeting for a **Pop-up Seed Exchange**. If you have any seeds you would like to bring that other members may want, please bring them to the November meeting, labelled as much as possible with regards to preferred growing conditions and a photo.

You are also welcome to help yourself to any seeds you would like that other members brought in. You don't have to have brought some to take some. I will be at a table for the **Seed Exchange** set up.

At the end of the meeting, we ask that you please check and take home any of the seeds you brought that remain.



"No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds – November"

... Thomas Hood

Garden Maintenance Volunteers

A huge thank you to all those who helped to plant and maintain the gardens over this past summer.

As usual, the weather added some challenges, but overall the gardens looked amazing for the entire season and there were many compliments, and thanks, from the community.

Job well done – once again!

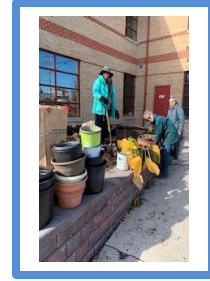
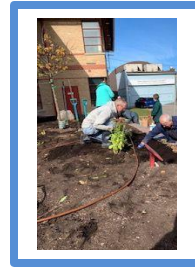
Agnes Croxford

Children's Garden Update

The Redbud tree has now been planted in the Children's Garden at the Library and **Rick, Agnes, Angie, Chris and Joyce** have replanted all of the plants we had kept from the garden as well as spring bulbs. (I got to "supervise".)

The balance of the plants and shrubs, along with annuals, will be planted in the spring. The Dinosaur steps, made by **Sharon and Angie**, will also be laid down in the spring. And we are on the lookout for a piece of wall art suitable for a children's garden, crafted by someone who is a local artist.

We are very excited by this project and are very anxious to bring it to fruition in the spring. We have had a lot of great comments and interest from the public about this garden, and are proud that, as a Club, we are supporting the enjoyment of our community gardens!



2020 AGM – Pine Ridge Club

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.

These AGMs are interesting, a lot of fun and a great chance to meet and mingle with gardening enthusiasts from other District 17 Clubs. Please advise **Debbie Watson** as soon as you can but no later than December 2019 meeting if you plan on attending. \$30.00 payable to Debbie by the December 11th meeting.

2021 AGM Committee

We are the hosts for the 2021 AGM and planning is already well underway. We will be looking for some additional volunteers to help with this event which will be held in Uxbridge, venue to be confirmed.

The AGM date is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 24th, 2021.

Introduction to Vegetable Gardening Workshop

We are excited to announce that this coming spring, on Saturday, April 4th, 2020, we will be offering a three-hour workshop, run by **Master Gardener Gini Sage** and some of her fellow Master Gardeners. The workshop will run in the Uxbridge area – venue to be confirmed. The cost for this workshop will be \$30.00.

This three-hour workshop will start with an introduction to soil, what it is, how to test it and how to amend it. Then we will cover the vegetable garden design and layout including square foot gardening design, siting and exposure, starting vegetables from seed, selecting what vegetables to grow and companion planting. The hands-on activities include soil texture tests, planting seeds in peat pots and germinating in plastic bags, as well as a square foot gardening design activity. Most of the materials for the workshop are included in the price.

The workshop will conclude with a potluck lunch.

This is a great opportunity to get some additional knowledge and tips from starting a vegetable garden and/or seeds to getting the best out of your vegetable garden.

The sign-up sheet for this workshop will be available at both our November and December meetings and we would request that you sign up if you are interested so that Gini and her Associates can plan accordingly for the number of participants and we can arrange a suitable venue. **Please see me (Sande) at the Seed Exchange Table at the November meeting or at the December potluck to sign up.** Payment is due at the December meeting as the workshop will be held prior to our first meeting in April of 2020.

Late Fall Gardening Suggestions

Had you put your garden to bed before the snow and cold arrived last week or were you, like many, caught off guard with a few more things to finish up in the garden before winter. Here are a few suggestions if you are still keen on working in your garden.

- You can still plant bulbs as long as the ground is not frozen
- Get those leaves on your lawn raked up or mulched in (need to mulch finely) to the lawn or (less finely but still mulched) into your gardens
- Dig up any remaining root crops you still have in your garden
- Now that the leaves are off most of your trees and shrubs, have a good look at them and decide what needs pruning in late winter. I mark mine with a bit of spray paint or bright nail polish so when I am ready to prune, I already have the branches marked
- If you are really keen, you can work the soil and prepare a planting area for early spring seeds such as peas, etc.
- Until the ground freezes, keep watering your trees and conifers – it's a long winter and ensuring they get enough moisture will reward you with healthier trees in the spring.
- Compost your fall mums and other fall plants – get your containers ready for Christmas planters
- Get out your snow shovels and place them where you can easily access them