



Omemee Blooms Garden Club



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Change! Change! Change!

Welcome back everyone! We are now into a brand new year and your Board of Directors have some wonderful things planned. We have added a few changes to the program and we hope that you will find them as exciting as we do. Let me go through some of these changes with you,

A New President: after five long and very busy years, Heather Grassie has “re- gifted” the President’s gavel. We thank her so very much for her leadership and her volunteer service. Heather never sat back and delegated. She was always there, right in the centre of the action helping out and often keeping us laughing! I (Carol Mitchell) am stepping back in to give her a much needed break. I feel as if I have some very large shoes to fill. With your help I will try to keep our group one in which we are proud to belong. Thank you Heather! We will however, need a new president in the near future. If you are interested in learning the role, please let us know.



A New Name: The Omemee Blooms Garden Club

Our next biggest change is that we would like to re-brand (change) our name. For years, there has been a feeling that “Horticultural Society” was too formal for today’s very informal gardening style. Many new gardeners are afraid that they don’t know enough about gardening to join a Horticultural Society. At a higher level, The Ontario Horticultural Association also feels this way and the OHA is in the process of rebranding their name to something more people friendly. This will be a long, involved process for them but it is much easier for us at the grass roots level. In fact, many of the Toronto District Societies have already changed their informal name to “Garden Group”. So, at the Feb General meeting our Board is presenting a motion to create a by-law stating that The Omemee and District Horticultural Society be informally called the Omemee Blooms Garden Club. (We used “Blooms” in order to automatically tie into our website.) For legal occasions, we will always be a Horticultural Society but for our yearbook, rack cards, newsletters, and any advertising, we can use “The Omemee Blooms Garden Club.” A friendlier face we hope!

Rack Cards: Many thanks to Jamie Mitchell, for designing our beautiful new rack cards which will be passed out to you at the potluck and will be available at all future meetings. They will be stored in the library Hort bookcase. Please take some and help to promote our garden group by passing them out to your friends, neighbours and local businesses, church groups etc. This is a positive way to get our name out in the public. The cards will inform new gardeners of our meeting topics, times and location. make sure your friends and neighbours get one.



A Facebook Presence:

It is a proven fact that if we want to encourage younger members to join, we have to stay with the times. So, social media is in our future. Many Societies are already on Facebook and I personally love to read their posts. They are colourful, informative, educational, and current.

A huge thank you to Jenn Routledge who has volunteered to maintain our Facebook page. I am excited about this move into the future.

There isn't a lot there yet but it will get better with time and more posts. Check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/omemeebloomsclub/?fref=ts>

Membership: *Needed: New Members:* Our number one goal for 2016 is a membership drive. We are doing our best to shake things up and to encourage new gardeners to join our group. So be prepared to give us a helping hand. More to follow on this topic.



Lug A Mug: Don't forget to bring your mug to each meeting. Get a ticket and possibly win a prize! Help us help the environment.

OUR FEBRUARY POT LUCK!!! Don't miss it!

Our First Meeting of the Year! A February Kick Off!

Date: Sat Feb 20th



Back by popular demand - **a Saturday afternoon meeting and pot luck lunch.** No night time driving. Join us for some fellowship, laughter and lots of good food!

Please bring your cutlery, plates and mug along with a generous portion of your favourite dish. Tea, coffee & water are provided.

Time: Social @ 11:30 and eat at 12:00 Speaker: 1:00 ish

Place: Trinity United Church

Don't forget to renew your membership. Donna and Darlene will be welcoming you. Single:\$20 Family: \$25



You will also receive your amazing 2016 yearbook and rack card. See you there!



Coming this month: Margaret Burley from Burley's Gardens

Burleys, a local business, has been in business for over 25 years. It started with rare and unusual Ontario grown perennials, David Austin roses, shrubs, hard to find annuals, unique giftware and is now expanding into rare and unusual exotic plants. Open year round at 2604 Television Rd Peterborough and on the Garden Route Tour.

Margaret, who will be speaking right after the pot luck, is going to be bringing a wide selection of Orchids/ African Violets/ air plants and Carnivorous Plants. This will be a show and tell presentation. The orchids are outstanding with many genera (varieties) to make for a meeting not to be missed, for those interested in African Violets, all are named varieties from mini to standard. Many of the plants may be purchased at the end of meeting so bring some extra cash and treat yourself to a slightly belated Valentine's Gift!



In Memorium

We were saddened to learn of the death of one of our long time Life Members. Milburn Jones joined our group in 1982 when meetings were quite different. He had many fascinating and often humorous stories to tell about his 33 years. He was a strong supporter and played an active part in the formation and success of our society. Thank you Milburn for all you contributed during your life time.

Our 2016 Yearbook:

The new yearbook will be available at the Feb. meeting to all paid up members! Thank you to Diane Webber for heading up this creation and to all her helpers for getting this great yearbook together once again. It really is amazing!

Sign Up For Snacks



Everyone loves the wonderful monthly snacks, provided by our members, and the hot or cold beverages which are always so wonderfully displayed by Barb and Trixie. It adds a great start to our pre-meeting social times. When Barb sends around the sign up sheet to volunteer for providing these snacks - please try to help out.

A Word From our Plant Sale Committee

I don't know about you, but I am already sorting thru new seed catalogues (and magazines, both new and old) and getting ready to get my hands dirty! We have a couple of new gardening projects in the planning stages for this year – it's very exciting.

Of course, we are already planning our plant sale for 2016. Once again we will be holding the sale on the long weekend in May, so be sure to mark Saturday May 21 on your calendar!!! Please note – we are changing the location of our sale to the Omemee Legion. We feel this venue will suit our needs well, and it is a great location – it is the big white building located close to the river, right on the main street of Omemee. The sale will run from 9am to 11am – come early for best selection, and don't forget to bring containers / totes to carry home your purchases.

Again this year, we will have three special geraniums and two carefully chosen annuals as plants of the year. Add in hundreds of perennials, vegetables, shrubs, grasses – another great sale is promised.

Keep watching this site for updates – see you on May 21!

Barb Morrison - plant sale chairperson



So What Has Been Happening in Omemee?



Winter Planters

Once again Donna Hunter and her crew of volunteers decorated the main street planters for the winter season! They looked bright and cheery to all who walked or drove through the village. Thank you to all who helped gather greens or decorate the planters.

New Re-cycled Lumber Benches
Aron and Ron Muscutt helped to install the two new recycled plastic benches at the Legion garden. No more maintenance or bringing them in for the winter!! They look lovely!



... for more photos of activities see next month's newsletter!

A Face Lift for Two of our Gardens



Marina Bed
- Before
- After



Beach Bed
- Before
- After



Out and About in Surrounding Communities!

A Day for Gardeners - March 19th

Choose 3 of 6 courses: Garden Design, Starting & Saving Seeds, Health Benefits of Gardening, Basic Botany, Shade Gardening, Soil Ecosystem. \$30.00 includes lunch - Hosted by Peterborough Master Gardeners. Registration Forms available at peterboroughgardens.ca

Peterborough Seedy Sunday - March 13th 1-5pm

George St. United Church, 534 George St N. Peterborough. Drop by to trade or buy seeds & to get inspired for spring! FREE!

Peterborough Hort - February 24th - Square Foot Gardening, Gladys Fowler. 7:00 Ptbo Library

Lakefield Hort - Tues Mar 8th 2016 - Invasive Species in the Garden. Emily Johnston 7:30 Marshland Centre

Lindsay Hort - Mar 15 -Blue Scaping - Landscaping for Storm Water, Holly Shipclark. St Paul's Anglican Church. 7:30. .

Spring into the Garden Lecture Series - Northumberland Master Gardeners - \$15 per night or \$40 for all four. March 14th, 21st, 28th, April 4th in Port Hope

Speakers are Bonita Ford , Permaculture in the Garden. Marion & Louis Damm, Growing and Enjoying Thornless Succulents. (That is our meeting night) Maureen Hulbert, Renovating your Garden. Trish Symons, Where have all the Flowers Gone.

There is at least one car load from Omeme going on the 3 nights. We carpool and share for gas. If you would like to join us, see Carol or Heather.

April 8 to 10th: Peterborough Garden Show

"The biggest and best local garden show in Ontario, Canada."

The Peterborough Horticultural Society, and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners invite you to the 2016 Peterborough Garden Show. The 2015 show was a great success with nearly 8000 visitors and 175 booths of vendors and exhibitors all with gardening-related products and services spread over two arenas. Proceeds from the show are used for scholarships and beautification projects.



Advance tickets are available from Joan Harding or Heather Grassie at the next 3 meetings. You'll breeze through a separate "advance tickets door" if you have your pre-purchased ticket! The Peterborough Garden Show is always a wonderful way to start the growing season. Tickets for this show are \$8. Buying ahead of time avoids long line-ups on the day of the show. New this year are weekend passes for \$12.00. They will only be available at the "advance tickets door."

We would be remiss not to thank our Speaker Committee & our Web Master!

A huge thank you to Sue Lajeunesse and Barb Morrison for organizing our 2016 speakers. It was a huge job and we do thank them! We have speakers, demos, garden hints and another wonderful On Site Visit. See the back of your yearbook, rack card, or our website: www.omemeblooms.ca to see the list. Well done Sue & Barb.

Also a huge thank you to Kim Gunn who is once again acting as our amazing Webmaster. We have an award winning site and it is a huge job to keep it updated. Thank you Kim!

