

# Omeme & District Horticultural Society



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## Newsletter

Issue #2  
March 2013

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### February Meeting:

It might have been cold outside, but inside our meeting hall it was warm and buzzing with excitement. The red & pink clothing, the festive decorations and the enticing food table added to the Valentine theme. We were delighted to have Pat and Hugh Burritt drop in for the evening (since they were in the area visiting family)

The Plant of the Month was won by Trixie White. Norma Evans was the lucky winner of the Lug-a-Mug prize and Aron Muscutt, Betty Bunkiewicz, and Suzanne Seryck won door prizes. To end the business section, Mary Read, Donna Hunter, Carol Mitchell & Heather Grassie presented a short skit entitled "Getting Ready". This presentation pointed out ways that we could be getting ready for our spring plant sale, even now, in Feb.

Our speaker, Anna Mizyn, was no stranger to most of us. Her beautiful photos took us back to the hot days last summer when we were wishing our own gardens were more drought tolerant. Anna showed us many hardy varieties that I'm sure will be in demand when we do a day trip to her gardens next summer. Anna invited us to visit anytime, with no intention other than to enjoy her gardens.



However, there won't be many of us who will be able to resist taking home at least one little lost plant, or maybe a few plants will just happen to follow us to our cars!

*Why don't you ever iron a four-leaf clover?  
You might press your luck.  
- Elaine Valvezan*

### Coming Up in March:

Our March meeting is the day after St Paddy's Day so we hope everyone will get in the spirit and wear something green, (Maybe some of our members will introduce the new "Green Team" garden shirts.)



The speaker for the evening is another familiar garden friend - Dawn Tack from Gardens Plus. You can visit her website at <http://www.gardensplus.ca>



Dawn is the owner and operator of Gardens Plus located in Donwood 2 kms east of Peterborough. Dawn's nursery offers a unique experience with award winning display gardens up front, green houses and stock beds out

back and even a mail order option. Gardening Life magazine rated the Nursery one of the 'Top 40 in Canada'! Dawn's focus is on growing easy care perennials so you can enjoy your gardens not just work in them. Her specialty is Hosta, Daylilies, Coneflowers and Coral Bells. Dawn is going to speak about "Exciting New Perennial for 2013" Dawn's talks never fail to present new information in a lively and often humorous way.

So remember to skip dessert so that you can have a treat from our snack table; lug your mug; and remember to honour the Irish and join in the spirit. See you there!



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*Greetings from  
"Our Pres"*



March arrived like a lamb! All the signs of spring are here. Snow is melting, days are longer, birds are twittering, maple trees are running with sap, kids are out riding bikes and several gardeners attended the Seedy Sunday event in Peterborough. Hibernation is OVER.

The Plant Sale committee members are dusting off their notes as well as getting their 2013 "To do" lists ready.

Wearing our winter coats seems to be too cumbersome during the warmer days. More pairs of gloves are being stuffed into pockets.

The District 4 Spring Get-Together, Canada Blooms, nurseries re-opening all help to confirm that March has arrived and the vernal spring equinox is not far behind.

March is also a month where we celebrate all things green. We need a boost of energy as we all adjust to the time change. At the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, do wear something GREEN and bring your St. Patrick's Day arrangement for the March competition. (See page 12 of the yearbook).

Speaking of green my money plant still has no currency. I put a pot of Shamrocks (OXALIS REGNELLII) with green leaves and white blooms, near it to give it a hint. A bit o'Irish luck can't hurt. Maybe a little leprechaun might turn it into a pot o' gold. Again, I'll keep you posted.

Dawn Tack's presentation will inspire us to get excited about the new perennials for 2013. If you have to dig out some established perennials in your garden to plant new ones, PLEASE keep the May 11<sup>th</sup> plant sale in mind. Dawn has been very supportive of our Hort. Society. Come out and give her a warm Omemee welcome!

(Snowbirds, we still miss you. Surely you are starting your flight home?)

*Heather*



## Monthly Competitions:

Don't forget about our monthly competitions! You don't need to be experienced to enter. These mini competitions are offered so the inexperienced members as well as more experienced can try their hand at an arrangement. It is easier to do **one**, than to cope with **the many entries** of a larger show. Following the judging, the judge will give tips on how to achieve a 1st place entry.

**Design:** a "St Patrick's Day" arrangement incorporating house plant material

**Photography:** "Shadows & Silhouettes"

The photographs are judged by the members so be sure to get a button from our Greeters, and cast your vote **when President Heather gives the okay.**

We want to make sure all photos are on the table before voting begins.

## Lug-a Mug:

If you bring your mug, make sure you get your ticket for a possible door prize!

## District 4 Happenings:

Your District 4 Board has been very busy planning two new and exciting events with speakers.

(a) Spring Get Together: It's happening at the Peterborough Library this Saturday, Mar 16<sup>th</sup>. The topic is "Getting Zip Into Your Meetings" or "Making Your Meetings Rock!" It runs from 1 until 3:30 at no charge. Heather is planning a morning visit to Griffins prior to the meeting. If you are interested in attending, contact her. Sounds like a fun day!

(b) The Spring Annual General Meeting: This is on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Port Hope. The speaker is Ken Brown. Some of you may remember him when he spoke to our society on Iris many years ago. (Remember the silver iris that everyone fell in love with!?! - Heather thinks it was 'Eldorado') It is an all day event including lunch. The cost is \$20 and if you are interested in going, please see Barb Morrison or Heather.



**Memo to: All members of Omemee Hort Society**



**Regarding: UPCOMING PLANT SALE**

**When? May 11, 2013  
Omemee Curling Club**

**Why? Our biggest fundraiser each year!!**

**What? We need lots and lots of plants!!!!!!**

- **Plants grown from slips, cuttings, seeds**
- **Vegetables and fruit plants sell well**
- **Start checking your garden now –**
  - **What needs dividing?**
  - **What would you like to replace?**
- **Pot up your plants as early as possible**
- **Ask you neighbors if they have plants to donate**

**What else? Again this year, we will have pots available, as well as potting stations, labeling stations etc.**

**Req'd: We need lots of volunteers again this year – diggers, potters, helpers for set up of the plant sale, the actual sale, etc. We'll have a volunteer sign-up sheet at the next general meeting.**

**What else? See the April Newsletter for more in-depth information regarding labeling, potting, etc.**

**Contact: If you would like to be on this year's plant sale committee, or if you have suggestions, or if you would like more information, just call Barb at 705-745-8738.**



*Barb Morrison  
Plant Sale Chair*

**Peterborough Garden Show**  
Don't forget the Peterborough Show is fast approaching - April 12th - 14th at the Evinrude Centre. You don't want to miss it so mark your calendars now! Advance tickets are available from Joan Harding, at our meetings. \$6 for a full day of fun! Buy now and avoid standing in a line to buy a ticket on the day you go. There will also be a shuttle bus available. For more information go to: [peterboroughgardens.ca](http://peterboroughgardens.ca) You can also get a rack card from Joan at our March meeting.

**The Judged Flower Show:** Our society has the responsibility of organizing this part of the Peterborough Show. We need volunteers to work a 2 hour shift on either Fri, Sat, or Sun. You circulate, visit with the people who stop in and hand out tickets for the People's Choice Award. You also watch that no one "pets the plants". It is not a difficult job. It is actually a lot of fun and you also get free admission to the show. A sign up sheet will be passed at the March meeting or you can just phone Donna 705-799-6656.

**Design Competition:** There are no houseplant entries this year but there is one design category which is meant for Horticultural members only, (no students can enter this one). The category is "Spring Fling" a design of your choice. Purchased plant material can be used. So try your hand and create an entry. Just phone Donna and let her know that you are entering. If you need someone to take it in, we have members going.

**Volunteers needed!**  
We are always looking for volunteers to help on committees, for small short term jobs, or to serve on our Board of Directors. It is a certain way to make life long friends, to learn a lot about gardening, and to have more fun than you ever imagined!

Currently we are looking for:

- someone to come in early and start the coffee
- a person or people to help set up the snack table
- people to clean up the snacks at the end of the evening
- anyone interested in becoming a Director



## Griffins' "Spring Fling"

Those who were at our on-site meeting at Griffins' three years ago, will remember all the lovely plants. Griffins are hosting a "Spring Fling" on March 16th. The actual flier was sent to you by separate email earlier this week. If you decide to attend, please note that if you give them our hort society name when you cash out, 10% of any purchase will come back to our club in the form of a gift card. Often, this gift card has been used to purchase the door prizes at our pot luck supper. Even if you don't want to buy anything, a visit to their greenhouse is like a breath of spring!! Look for the Spring Fling details in the separate email or visit their website: [griffinsgreenhouses.com](http://griffinsgreenhouses.com)

## Message From Blossom Hill

We received a message from Joe and Hazel Cook, members of our society, to tell us that their 2013 catalogue is now complete and has been uploaded to their website. If you contact them they will happily answer any questions or can send the catalogue to you by email. It won't be long until peony season, so plan to visit them when the peonies and/or delphinium are in bloom! Their contact information is:

Phone: (705) 742-9923  
[www.blossomhillnursery.com](http://www.blossomhillnursery.com)  
[info@blossomhillnursery.com](mailto:info@blossomhillnursery.com)

## New Garden Signs! Wow!



Here is a preview of the new signs which will soon be placed in the gardens that we maintain. A huge thank you to Joanne Windrem for organizing this project. They are beautiful Joanne.  
PS They are on heavy metal legs which will be driven well into the ground to discourage vandalism.

## Up & Coming Events:

### Local Horticultural Society Meetings:

**Bobcaygeon:** Mar. 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church - Rock Gardening, Linda McLeod

#### Lakefield

Tues. April 9th at 8 p.m. Lakefield Marshland Centre: - Xeriscaping, Paul Zammit - Cost \$5, tickets may be purchased at Avant Garden Shop

#### Lindsay

Tues, Mar. 19th at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Parish Hall (45 Russell Street West) Spindle Tree Gardens, Susan Meisner & Tom Brown

#### Peterborough

Wed. Mar 27th at 7:00 at the Peterborough Library: Wetlands, Their Function, Importance & Restoration, Doug Kennedy

## Garden Shows and Events in Southern Ontario:

Garden Show Season is here - so check out these events and mark your calendar.

**March 16, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., OHA District 4 Spring Get Together** at the Peterborough Public Library.

**March 15-24– Canada Blooms** at the Direct Energy Centre Exhibition Park, Toronto. For more information go to <http://www.canadablooms.com/>

**April 12, 13, 14th -Peterborough Garden Show:** Evinrude Centre \$6

**Saturday, May 4th -Lindsay's Seedy Saturday:** at Queen St United Church (usually in the morning but TBA)

**May 25th -June 2nd - Gardens of Lindsay Open House (originally the Lindsay Lilac Festival)**

*Thank you! Thank you!*



A great big thank you to Ken Hunter. He has made 3 new wooden signs to advertise our plant sale. We now have a total of 8 beautiful signs. Isn't it wonderful having such talented people in our group! Thank you Ken.

