

# Omeme & District Horticultural Society



## Newsletter

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### Our March Meeting:



All we needed was the rainbow with the pot of gold to complete our March Irish meeting. The beautiful decorations; the laughter; and the many shades of green increased the fun. 35 members, two new members and several guests braved Mother Nature's latest snow & wind to join in the fun. Along with other announcements, we were reminded of the upcoming plant sale with humorous little tips from the skit entitled "Radio R-E-A-D-Y. "

For the winners of the Photography and Design competition, check out Christa's Flower Show Report on Page 3. Congratulations to all who entered!

The lug-a-mug winner was Darlene Hunter, the Plant of the Month was won by Jill Cockerell and other lucky prize winners were Fran Sobrian, Lynda Krishnan, Jill Cockerell, Christa Marton, Trixie White, Helen Abrams, Mary Read, Barb Morrison and Kim Gunn.

The speaker for the evening was (recent bride) - Dawn Golloher (Tack).

Dawn's lovely photos of new additions to the plant market, left us making "wish lists" for the upcoming gardening season! After hearing many people comment



that they had never been to "Gardens Plus" and would love to visit ... I think I hear an upcoming day trip in the making! Who's interested! :)

*The above photo is of Dawn and Heather in their Irish green.*

### Our April 15th Meeting:

Are your photographs just so-so? Do you wonder how you could improve? Then come out to the April meeting and "Put the WOW into your photographs". If you aren't a photographer, you will enjoy seeing Walter's beautiful photos. We have seen Walter several times due to our Photography Competitions but it has been a few years since he spoke to our group.



Walter has been involved with Photography jointly with his wife Peggy for over 40 years, having owned their own studio and lab. More recently they have transitioned into the digital world which has opened up a wider palette to express their varied interests. Walter is a Certified Photographic Councillor, he has taught photography at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Lindsay through the Continuing Education Department, and he has been a guest speaker and judge at many Horticultural and Photographic Societies. We welcome Walter back and look forward to his talk.

**Upcoming Workshop:** Walter has offered to do a hands on workshop in a garden, helping and correcting our efforts with garden photography. This will be a small group and there will be a small fee. Watch you newsletter for a mid to end of June date.

### Planning Ahead:

June is our Silent Auction month. We will be having an auction of garden related items (or other special things) **and** a plant auction. So keep us in mind as you spring clean. Save any items that we can use, and plan to find one special plant for our auction. This is a fund raiser for our club. It helps to subsidize members attending District functions.

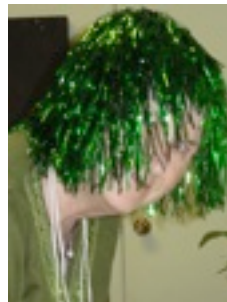


Photo: Christa Marton ready for St Paddy's Day!



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## Annual Plant Sale: May 12th

### Wanted: Plants! Plants! Plants!

Our annual plant sale is less than five weeks away and we need your help! This is our main fund raiser of the year and the money raised is used for Village Beautification and for the Speakers and activities provided at our monthly meetings! Having a successful plant sale keeps our registration fees down and allows us to provide an interesting program for you. To do this we need your help.

1) We need as many plants as we can get! Please when you are out in your gardens, start digging and potting up as soon as possible.

2) We also need plants grown from slips, cuttings, or seeds. If you are starting plants or seeds, do a few extra for the sale. Vegetables/Fruit plants such as tomatoes, peppers, herbs, rhubarb, & strawberry runners always sell well.

3) Gardeners love spring!! As you walk around your gardens to see what is coming up, make a list of what you have that needs dividing. A prepared list will save time when it comes time to dig and you won't miss any. If you need help digging and potting up your plants, please email or phone either Barb Morrison or Carol Mitchell and we will arrange help.

4) Labels: try to give as much information as possible. An easy way is to print them off on your computer (label size). That way you can copy & paste multiple labels and save writing the same thing on several identical plants. Just tape or stick them on the pot or a tongue depressor (dollar store or see Cathy Sheehey for sticks). Even easier, email Cathy Sheehey, Carol Mitchell or Barb Morrison with a list and number of plants and we will print the labels off for you. We are purchasing blank labels in bulk, so if you would like some, call or email us with an estimate of how many you need. We will also have them at the April meeting.

6) Pot up plants as early as possible. They look better and sell better if established several days before the sale.

5) For more invasive plants & fast spreaders: **please label them as such.**

7) Ask your neighbours if they have any plants that they would like to donate (If they can't dig them, contact Suzanne 277-9590 or Colleen Hughes 799-6486 & we will send someone out to help out)

8) Try to plant in 6 inch or larger pots. People want instant colour and large sells before small. We can also charge more.

9) **Special plants: If you are sending in plants that are special – i.e. named varieties, more unusual plants or a division of a plant that you purchased for more money – make sure we know!! Those plants are marked with a higher price.**

10) Pots: We have a supply of pots of many sizes at Ruth Arndt's. If you need pots, call, Carol or Barb and we will see that you get some.

### We need volunteers:

to help at potting stations at various times over the 2 weeks prior to the sale – if you don't have many plants of your own to dig, you could help pot up plants from larger gardens. Please give your name to Barb or Carol so they will know who is available.

Fri. May 10th: to help set up at the Curling Club -come anytime between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sat May 11th: to help at the sale on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> from 8-10 and/or 10-12

Sat May 11th: to help with cleanup from 10:30 till noon -we need fresh bodies for this part!

### Other Ways you can help

- to put up posters, (-contact Barb if you can)
- provide a wagon (we need lots! Drop it off Thurs p.m.)
- collect low trays/boxes (the type of boxes that fresh fruit come into the stores, (drop off Fri or Sat early)
- come at 10:30 Sat the 11<sup>th</sup> and help clean up! Those that have been working for all 3 days are all very tired by then

Please try to help out, we will have a volunteer sign-up sheet at our next Horticultural meeting.

Barb Morrison -Plant Sale Chair

705-745-8738

email: [plantsale@omemeeblooms.ca](mailto:plantsale@omemeeblooms.ca)

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The Roses are Here:

The Bare Root and the Potted Roses, ordered last year are here! They can be picked up at the meeting on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you ordered a rose and won't be at the meeting, please phone Mary Reed (799-7968) to make arrangements to pick it up at her home.



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## Greetings from Our Pres”



On April first, Mother Nature tricked us once again, with snow flurries.

We are definitely in that in between season where we are tired of being indoors and it is not yet nice enough to be outside puttering.

The spring bulbs are bravely poking upwards and telling us along with the birds that they too are getting impatient for some warmth. The “Snow birds” are home expecting it to be warmer.

The Peterborough Garden Show happens in April and it brings such anticipation and excitement to get out to the Greenhouses to shop.

Speaking of Greenhouses, Omemee Heights Greenhouses opens on Sat. Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Omemee plant sale committee has been busy organizing for the May 11<sup>th</sup> sale. Volunteers please sign up at the Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Get your cameras at the ready. Or better yet, snap some photos to have them ready for your own critiquing after you hear the wonderful “how to tips” from photographer Walter Cracknell, our speaker for this month.

Some of our board members have retired and moved away and now we are looking for new members. Please speak to me and join us at a meeting to see what the executive Board does for the Omemee Horticultural Society. We have lively, enthusiastic meetings and accomplish many tasks. We all love plants and gardens and growing things and the energy of the group is very stimulating.

My houseplants have continued to grow with the lovely sun. Added to the collection are Campanula Wonder Bells, Iron Cross Oxalis and an Easter Lily.

I am giving up on my Money Plant. From a closer look at the tag, I see the words, “For decoration only” and I am concluding from that phrase, that the “Pachira Aquatica” is not a currency producer. It is just a pretty face!

## The Green Team is Going into Action!

### CALLING ALL GARDENERS



Gardening in the village will start again very soon and we would like to welcome everyone to come out and help beautify the village. We will garden on Thursdays again this year. Joanne Windrem will lead the morning group Thursdays at 9 a.m. and Aron Muscutt will lead the evening group Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome regardless of your gardening experience. For those of you who are unable to come out on Thursday and would still like to help with the gardening, you could choose a garden from one of the nine that the Omemee Horticultural Society plants and maintains and help out on your own on the best day and time for you.

If you can help out Thursday mornings email Joanne at [jwindrem3@gmail.com](mailto:jwindrem3@gmail.com) with your name

If you can help out Thursday evenings email Aron at [amuscutt@hotmail.com](mailto:amuscutt@hotmail.com)

If you would like to help out at another time on your own in one of the gardens, speak to Aron or Joanne and they will give you direction on what needs to be done in the gardens.



Joanne & Aron, Gardens Co-Chairs  
*Gardening is fun, great  
exercise and a wonderful way  
to make new friends! Sign up*

*today! Join the Green Team!*

### Flower Show Report:

Winners of the March competition for design called “St Patric’s Day” were: 1st Diane Webber, 2nd Donna Hunter, 3rd Heather Grassie. People’s Choice for the photography category called “Shadows and Silhouettes” went to: 1st Diane Webber, 2nd Aron Muscutt, 3rd Christa Marton. Don’t forget that these monthly competitions are your chance to practise honing your skills outside the stress of big shows, yet the prize money paid is the same. You’d be surprised how the pay-outs add up! On April 15<sup>th</sup> we are looking for a miniature design in a shell (see pg 12 of your yearbook) and the photo category is called “Look What’s Coming Up”. There should be lots of wonderful photo shoot opportunities for that category at this time of the year!

*Christa Marton, Flower Show Chair*



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## Up & Coming Events:

### Local Horticultural Society Meetings:

#### Bobcaygeon:

May 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church - Thinking Outside the Planter Box, the Westlakes

#### Lakefield:

Tues. June 18th at 8 p.m. Lakefield Marshland Centre: - Rose Show

#### 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

#### Millbrook:

Wed. May 1st at 7:30 p.m. St Thomas Anglican Church, Manor Dr. \$2 Admission at door. French Hybrid Lilacs & [www.WarkworthLilacFestival.ca](http://www.WarkworthLilacFestival.ca)

#### Peterborough

Wed. May 22nd at 7:00 at the Peterborough Library: There are No Houseplants, Ken Brown

### Upcoming Plant Sales

**Sat. May 11th - Omeme Hort Sale -Omeme Curling Club - 9 - 11:30 a.m**

**Sat May 4th -Peterborough Hort Plant Sale - Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St 9 a.m. - 11**

**Sat May 18th- Lakefield Hort Plant Sale - Cenotaph Park 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Sat May 25th -Lindsay Hort Plant Sale -at the Lindsay Lilac Open House- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Sat May 25th -Bobcaygeon Hort Plant Sale- Bobcaygeon Fair Grounds- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

### Garden Shows and Other Events:

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

**April 17 – Millbrook Tool Sharpening Fundraiser**  
-poster to follow by email

**Saturday, May 4th -Lindsay's Seedy Saturday:** at Queen St United Church

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



MASTER GARDENER  
CORNER

by Sue Lajeunesse

### **GROWING COOL-SEASON VEGETABLES**

Are you just itching to get into the garden because I sure am. Are your hands twitching just to get in that good old fashioned soil? Well, do I have a suggestion for you. How about starting the season extra early with these frost-tolerant cool-season vegetables?

If your soil is workable, it is not too early to get started on your vegetable garden. Cool season crops include lettuce and other greens. Why not try planting them in a container, an old wagon might be a good idea? That way you can pull it up close to the house making it very convenient to walk out and get a handful.

Cool crops such as broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower, radishes, turnips, onions and carrots take a bit of frost and many do poorly in warm weather, but this year don't wait until after the last frost to plant them, get in there early. Have you started a square foot garden? How about planting a couple of square feet with a couple of the cool-season veggies? As soon as you see them in the garden centers, start planting. Be sure to follow spacing recommendations and plant in a full sun location. Planting pre-grown seedlings is the quickest way to get a jump on a spring veggie garden, but some plants such as lettuce, radishes and turnips germinate and grow so rapidly, it's easier to sow them directly in the ground.

Some cool season crops are finished by June. When you pull them out, you may still have time to plant warm season crops like tomatoes, peppers or beans in their place.

So be daring this year, get out there and plant early. You may have the biggest carrots to show in the flower show or imagine having a huge cabbage or turnip to show. Christa, our flower show coordinator, would be very happy with you so give it a try, I am. The seeds are ordered and the ground is thawing. What more could a person on this earth want?

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*Just a reminder:* Our May Meeting will be on site at "The Greenhouse on the River" Peterborough - details to follow. There will be no meeting at Trinity Church. Details to follow!

