

Omemeë & District Horticultural Society



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Newsletter

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Here's your.....

Words from *the Pres.....*



Spring officially arrives on March 20th, and yet Winter is hanging around like "a skunk at a tea party". The brilliant sun on the dazzling snow banks would provide us more cheer and comfort if the weather was warmer

and we could see the snow diminishing. "Our Changing Seasons" is the topic of our guest speaker Drew Monkman at the March 17th meeting. How appropriate! We are ready for change!

All the seasonal events like the District 4 Spring Get Together, the "Spring into the Garden Series", Canada Blooms, Seedy Sunday and nurseries re-opening all encourage us to crawl out of our winter hibernation and into the warmth of Spring.

Even the time is anxious for the change as we spring forward to daylight saving time.

Some gardeners are busy planting seeds and rooting plant slips/cuttings. "Slips and Bloomers" at the May sale is something to look forward to!

In 2013, the creative Plant Sale Committee urged us to "Get Ready for the Season" by doing the following things: 1. Put extra prepared food in freezer, 2. Get back into an exercise regime to strengthen your muscles, 3. Look at the photos of your garden and then decide which plants to divide and finally, 4. Check your tools for their sharpness. With all this pre-planning we will have no excuses! We will be ready! Let's celebrate on Mon. Mar.17th at the Omemeë Hort. Meeting. Please wear something green (even if you are not Irish). Bring a design or a photo for the competitions. No matter the temperature you will always be warmly welcomed in Omemeë.

Happy 75th Anniversary!

Snow birds you are missed. But, unless you bring warm weather with you, wait a bit longer before winging your way northward!

Heather

Coming This Month :

On March the 17th, we welcome Drew Monkman. Drew is a naturalist and a local author who loves all aspects of the natural world, especially as they relate to seasonal change. Drew will be talking about "Our Changing Seasons" as observed in the Kawarthas.



Don't miss this chance to hear a local writer speak about his environmental passion. Drew will have some of his books for sale that evening so bring your cheque book because they are wonderful. Find out more on his site:

<http://www.drewmonkman.com/>

Also Happening...

The March "**Monthly Design Competition**" is: St. Patrick's Day" - your interpretation.

"**The Monthly Photo Competition**" is "The Omemeë Dam" (see pg 12 & 13 of your yearbook for more information)

Have you renewed your membership for this year? In recognition of the first meeting held on March 13, 1939, all paid up members will receive a special 75th anniversary gift.

See you on Monday... and remember to bring a friend. We welcome guests at no cost. Remember: No gardening experience necessary!



Last Month's Meeting (Feb)

Our "kick off" potluck for our 75th Anniversary celebration was a huge success so much so that we are contemplating starting every year with a potluck. The potluck was very well attended including one member of our junior garden club who enjoyed arts and crafts as part of the day. The tables were adorned with carnations and "snow man soup" mugs created by our president Heather Grassie. Good food and good company made an enjoyable day. We were fortunate to have many members from other societies join us. Our guest speaker Cathy Dueck entertained and educated us with her talk on "Homes for the Homeless", homes and habitat for the birds and bees. What a great party to Kick off our 75th Anniversary celebration!

Coming in April :

Everyone loves Clematis with their vibrant colours. How would you like to learn how to propagate your own new plants! Join us in April, when our favourite Clematis expert , Peter Keeping, shares his knowledge and his passion. Peter will also be at the

Peterborough Show so be sure to visit his booth.



Sue introducing Peter at last year's Peterborough Garden Show.

Here's What's Happening Out & About....

Local Hort Society Meetings:

Bobcaygeon: Mar. 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church - History of Gardening in Canada, David Jewell

Lakefield:
Tues. April 8th at 7:30 p.m. Lakefield Marshland Centre: - Beauty and the Eats, Charlie Dobbin, Cost \$5, tickets may be purchased at Avant Garden Shop

Lindsay
Tues, Mar. 18th at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Parish Hall (45 Russell Street West) Oakridge Dahlias, Marion Jean

Peterborough
Wed. Mar 26th at 7:00 at the Peterborough Library: Daylilies. David Retallick, davidsgardenservice.ca

Garden Tours Anyone!!!!

Here are some "Save the Dates" for your calendar.

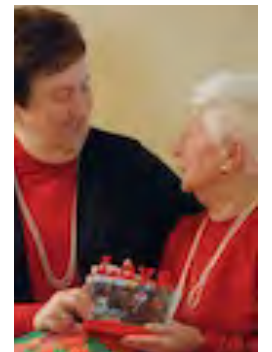
June 21st - Peterborough Master Gardeners Tour

June 22nd - The Heart of Northumberland Big Brothers, Big Sister's Tour

July 5th - "Omeme Blooms" Garden Tour

July 12th -Bobcaygeon Garden Tour

July 12th -Campbellford Garden Tour



The Peterborough Garden Show:

Don't forget the Peterborough Show is fast approaching - April 11th - 13th 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. \$7 for a full day of fun! Buy now and avoid standing in a ticket line on the day you go. (You will have a special entrance door.) Avoid the parking hassle. There will be a shuttle bus every 15 minutes from the Kinsman centre. It is wonderful! For more information go to: peterboroughgardens.ca You can also get a rack card from Joan Harding at our March meeting.

Volunteers Needed for Show:

The judged flower show (which we organized in past years) has been discontinued this year. Instead, our group will be responsible for setting up and decorating one of the 2 rest stations on the exhibit floor. We would like to have some of our members continually manning that station throughout the show. These members will publicize our garden group's anniversary and hand out fliers for our upcoming plant sale and our garden tour. Donna will be asking for volunteers for 2 hr shifts at the March meeting. If you can help out, please sign up.

Message From Blossom Hill

We received a message from Joe and Hazel Cook, members of our society, to tell us that their 2014 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
info@blossomhillnursery.com

*Don't forget to
"Lug a Mug"*

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



Griffins' "Spring Fling"

Those who were at our on-site meeting at Griffins' a few years ago, will remember all the lovely plants. Griffins are hosting a "Spring Fling" on March 21st & 22nd. 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!! They will be serving cookies and lemonade and you can wander through the greenhouses full of new young plants in their new pots. Visit their website: griffinsgreenhouses.com

District 4 Happenings

Your District 4 Board has been busy planning new and exciting events.

- **Spring Get Together:** was held last Sat, March 8. Members enjoyed Helen Scutt's talk on increasing our memberships and making our members feel included and welcome.
- The Spring Annual General Meeting: will be held at the Norwood Legion on Saturday April 5th -9 a.m. to 3:30. The guest speaker will be Paula Anderson, speaking on growing fresh vegetables. The cost is \$20 which covers a lovely meal at noon. If you would like to join us for a fun filled day with gardeners all anxiously waiting to get their hands in the dirt, contact Heather. It promises to be fun.
- The June Celebration: will be held the Naval Club on June 11th. The theme is "Hawaiian" so start planning your costume!
- The OHA Convention - July 18th - 20th in Cornwall. We have 4 members planning to attend. We'd love to have



We welcome the following new members who joined at our February meeting. Please show them an Omeme welcome! Sharon & Chris Cooley, Kathy Hewitt, Helen Cliff, Lorraine Lachapelle, Inge Buchardt, Catherine Burgin, Sue McDermid, Gladys Fowler, Sally Rye and Norma Mills. Welcome All!



more. Contact Heather if you are interested.

Annual Plant Sale: May 10, 2014



Hi everybody – guess what, it's plant sale time!!! Yes, it's still about two months away, but let's all start thinking and planning about how we can make this the best sale ever! Consider starting some extra seeds, and maybe take some extra slips and cuttings. This is the main fundraiser for our club, so the more effort everybody puts into the selection, quality and quantity of plants, the more we will benefit.

The next column in the April newsletter will remind you about labeling, potting up plants from the garden, special plants, volunteers required etc., but for now let's concentrate on getting those extra plants started in the house. Vegetables and fruit such as tomatoes, peppers, rhubarb and strawberry runners are always in big demand and sell well. Pot up all of your dahlia and canna tubers, and donate what you can't use yourself. All started bulbs are big sellers.

We need lots of volunteers for this event – please donate your time, and sign up to help. The plant sale itself requires people on Thursday evening for a couple of hours, Friday for set-up, and on Saturday, the actual day of the sale. We always have fun!

Also, we are always looking for boxes (for taking purchases home) so start saving!

I am the Plant Sale Chair this year – please feel free to contact me at any time by phone (705-799-8738) or email (lakehouse54@bell.net) with suggestions.

Regards,
Barb Morrison



Master Gardener Corner

by Norma Evans

NEW PLANTS FROM CUTTINGS

- Choose plants that are healthy and take cuttings from new growth if possible.
- Cuttings need to be taken about 1/4" below a node. Use sharp pruners or scissors and take cuttings that are approximately 4" to 6" long.
- Remove lower leaves and flowers or flower buds. Two or three top leaves are usually sufficient.
- the growing medium needs to allow for easy root growth. Sand, peat moss, vermiculite or a mixture of any of these will work.
- Before "planting" your cuttings, you can give them a bit of encouragement by dipping the ends in root hormone if it is available or you can soak your cuttings for an hour or two (or three) in a weak fertilized water mix, preferably seaweed fertilizer.
- Cuttings like to be warm in a moist atmosphere. Spray frequently or provide a plastic bottle or bag "hat". (see photo below)
- A mini greenhouse can be fashioned from a large drink bottle. Just cut the top (down 4-5") to make a hinge & a top that opens for planting
- Do not expect every cutting to root so expect some duds.

Queries to Norma Evans 705 799 7137.

Here is a photo of Norma's plastic bottle greenhouse.

