

Omemeë & District Horticultural Society



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Newsletter

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705-745-8738

Words from *the Pres*



This year, 2014, our Omemeë Hort. Soc. is celebrating **75 years**, our Diamond Jubilee Year. So far we have hosted 2 amazing occasions, the kick off Potluck in February and the cutting of the Anniversary cake at the March meeting. Members have received a 2014 keepsake yearbook and a lovely terra cotta 75th mug.

April brings much anticipation and excitement as we plan for the **Annual May Plant Sale on May 10th**. We need all members to dig up and plant and label pots of perennials with as much info as possible. (*height, colour, sun or shade and behaviour (i.e.) clumps or spreads*). Please pot the plants 7 to 10 days before the sale to have them looking their "spiffiest". *6 inch pots or larger sell the best.*

Save these 2 dates **Sat. June 28th** for the **Anniversary Dedication Ceremony** of the 2 Garden Sculptures and **Sat. July 5th** for our **FIRST** ever "**Omemeë Blooms**" **Garden Tour**.

Please take some flyers and pass them out to advertise the **Plant Sale** and the **Garden Tour**. The Anniversary Committee has been working very hard to make this a most memorable year. **YOUR** support in promoting and helping at events is needed to make this 75th year a special milestone in the history of the Omemeë Hort. Soc. We do **NEED** your help to get the **Village Gardens** looking their best for June 28th and July 5th.

T. S. Elliot wrote "**April is the cruellest month**" and for 2014 that is so accurate! However, being the eternal optimist that I am, I know things will change and the positive spirit and energy that the Omemeë Hort. is known for will endure and we shall "spring forth" in triumph!

Coming This Month :

Our Anniversary April Meeting features another long time favourite - this time a Clematis expert, Peter Keeping. Peter, along with Sheila his wife run Peter and Sheila's Country Garden in Bowmanville, Ontario. Peter is a clematis enthusiast and member of the International Clematis Society. He travels to the UK annually to search out and bring back the newest and best clematis available.



Peter first got interested in Clematis in 1982, after being given two as a birthday present.

Peter has an amazing clematis collection! In 1999 he moved his 150 varieties to a new home in Bowmanville. He now has close to 400 varieties! He imports new varieties in addition to growing from seed and cuttings.

Peter and Sheila open up their garden to the public, by appointment, and have had many bus tours and private tours. Omemeë members have been known to visit this garden as part of their daytrips! Many members have shopped at Peter's booth at the Peterborough Show and you can't be a serious gardener without at least one of his varieties! This will be a wonderful meeting to see and learn all about growing and even propagating these beautiful plants! I'm sure that Peter will also share valuable tips on pruning and fertilizing these must-have plants.

Don't miss this meeting! Skip dessert and join us at 7 p.m. for coffee/tea and a snack. Be sure to bring a friend! (or maybe two or three!)



Look What Happened in March:

On March 17th our meeting hall was bursting with chatter, laughter, and loads of Irish Spirit in every format and shade of green imaginable! Each of the 46 members was warmly greeted by Suzanne and Anniversary gift mugs were distributed with a "Happy Anniversary" greeting from Carol. Donna and Darlene were kept busy renewing memberships. We are now up to a 2014 membership of 62 paid up members. Heather opened the meeting with an Irish Blessing.

Anniversary Highlight: Carol shared highlights from the minutes of the very first meeting held in March 1939. We noted the technical improvement from the lantern slides of the past to the wonderful digital projector used now. Then Past Presidents Norma and Carol cut the anniversary cake "75 years of Growing".

Drew Monkman's presentation took us on a visual trip through the seasons in the Kawarthas. We especially enjoyed the pictorial hope of spring in the near future. The cheerful chirping and peeping sounds of the spring frogs and birds (from his computer presentation) was a wonderful reminder of things to come.

Remember to join us in April to hear an old favorite, Peter Keeping, share his knowledge on Propagating Clematis.

Our Monthly Competition Results:

We had some lovely designs in our March Monthly Competition: Thank you to all who participated!

1st Roberta Fuller, 2nd Annamarie O'Neill, 3rd Norma Evans, Honourable Mention: Mary Read

Special Category: 1st – Diane Webber

We had very close results in the photo competition, judged as a People's Choice:

1st Annamarie O'Neill & Christa Marton, (tied), 2nd Carol Mitchell (with one vote less) Well done everyone!

Are You Going
to Enter the
April
Competition?

Photo: "A traditional farm"

Design: "Easter" a horizontal design - see pg 7 of yearbook for an illustration

March Door Prize Winners: Susan Morrison, Annamarie O'Neill, Marion Wellman, Roberta Fuller, & Jennifer Lumley.
Ron Muscott won the Lug-a-Mug draw.



A MESSAGE FROM THE GREEN TEAM

This is it, the event you have been waiting for! The sign up sheets for **Gardening in the Village** will be circulated at the April meeting. This year 2014 is the **ODHS 75TH ANNIVERSARY** and many events are taking place in the village. We want the village gardens to be especially beautiful this Anniversary year. All dates marked with ***** on sign up sheets are dates that we will need the most people out to help. Please sign up for these shifts or perhaps the whole season if you have time. No experience is necessary and we encourage everyone to take part. **Please bring your event calendar with you to mark the days/evenings that you are volunteering. See you in the gardens!!**

Tulip bulbs for Forcing

This message is for everyone who took tulip bulbs home for forcing. **April 19** is the day to bring your pots of bulbs that have been in cold storage to a warm sunny location. Bulbs should flower 2-4 weeks after bringing into the warm sunshine. Hopefully we will have many pots of tulips ready to bloom for the **plant sale May 10th**. If you have the time perhaps you might want to put a colourful wrap on your pots for extra buyer appeal for the plant sale.



Annual Plant Sale: May 10th

Wanted: Plants! Plants! Plants!

(Oh oh, so far the weather has not been co-operating, but have faith - spring will come, and we will have a fabulous plant sale! Sale date is May 10, and that's only about 5 weeks away. 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.
- 5) Pot up plants as early as possible. They look better and sell better if established several days before the sale.
- 6) 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 to help.)
- 8) Try to plant in 6 inch or larger pots. People want instant colour; large sells before small; & we can 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. **This year there will be a separate table showcasing the unusual and special plants offered for sale.**

10) Pots: We have a supply of pots of many sizes at Ron Muscutt's. If you need pots, call, Barb/Ron, (277-3327) Carol (799-6282) or Barb (745-8738) 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 9th: to help set up at the Curling Club -come anytime between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sat May 10th: to help at the sale on the morning of the 11th from 8-10 and/or 10-12
- Sat May 10th: 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 10th 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: lakehouse@eastlink.ca



The Peterborough Garden Show

A huge thank you to everyone who helped set up and man our Rest Station at the Peterborough Show. We enjoyed talking to fellow gardeners and we handed out many flyers advertising our plant sale and our Garden Tour!



Garden Tasks for April:

Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

- Prepare annual beds for planting.
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees and pest-prone shrubs (non-freezing temperatures, before buds open)
- cut ornamental grasses. Remove debris from perennial beds
- top dress perennial beds with compost
- gradually remove protection on rose bushes. Apply dormant oil before buds break. Move dormant bushes if needed.
- Direct seed cool weather veggie seeds (peas, spinach) & frost resistant annuals (larkspur, sweet peas)
- Repair lawn with compost, seed, rake and (late April or May)
- Plant/move shrubs, trees, hedges
- Mow lawn only if necessary
- Set up rain barrels
- Open pond

The District 4 Annual General Meeting:

On March 5th, the District 4 meeting was held in Norwood. 86 delegates from 15 of the 17 societies in our District were represented. Omeme had six members attending. The day was fun filled and lively.

Following a short business session, the 2014 Board was elected as follows: Director: Rose Odell, Assistant Directors: Dianne Westlake, Carol Mitchell, Diane Hearse, and Dennis Miluck. Appointments were Secretary: Bev Silk and Treasurer: Lesley Hollick. Financial Reviewers: Diane Morrison, Carol McArthur

This was followed by a craft session where everyone made a glass mushroom for their garden. There was much laughing and visiting going on at the tables!

Following lunch, Paula Anderson entertained us in a way unique to Paula. She left us all wanting to run out and start a veggie garden full of healthy foods!

Our Norwood hosts had an amazing display of items for auction. Omeme and Ennsimore must have had lucky 4 leaf clovers in their pockets because nearly every one of them went home with a prize!

It was a wonderful day filled with learning, crafts, laughter and friendship. If you have never attended a District 4 Event, you should try one!

The District 4 June Celebration:

The next District 4 event will be the June Celebration held on June 11th. The theme this year will be Hawaiian so start thinking about a costume that you could wear. The talk will be on Orchids. Even the food will be theme oriented! There is no business that day - just some special awards and lots of friendship. Save the date and plan to attend!



Slow Release Fertilizer Anyone?

Aron Muscutt our resident Horticulturalist is taking orders for anyone wishing to order a quantity of 14-14-14 Nutricote (140 day control release) fertilizer. Nutricote is often called Smart Cote (Plant Prod. Canadian Made) Osmocote (Scotts Brand USA Made)

For those of you who are not familiar with this fertilizer, it was originally developed for Bonsai trees in confined pots. The problem with being in such a small pot was the lack of nutrients absorbed by the trees. The nutrients would easily wash out of the soil and the liquid fertilizers might burn. The Japanese developed a pellet type fertilizer that slowly released the fertilizer according to the weather conditions. When hot and dry, the pellet pores close, reducing the amount of fertilizer needed. When moist from rain, the pores open and release small amounts of fertilizer. The growers started using this fertilizer in the hanging baskets, barrels and planters as a time saver. Aron uses this in his perennial gardens as he is on sandy soil.

The Green Team are ordering a large quantity to add to the village beds, since they have had no fertilizer in several years. We are also ordering it for the planters. If we order a large enough quantity, we can avoid a shipping charge. We have decided to order several bulk bags and repackage into smaller quantities for sales to our members. You can pre-order a large bag now or purchase a smaller quantity at a later meeting. A 50 pound bag costs \$129.00 plus eco fee. 5 pound bags will be available (price sold per pound, to be determined when we receive the final bill.

More information will be sent via e-mail as soon as we have definite prices.

Workshop Anyone?

Edible Tree Grafting Workshop: There are more ways to produce healthy edible trees than planting seeds. Join Andy Harjula and Green Up to learn more about grafting. Cost \$10
Sat April 26th - 1 to 3:30 378 Alymer St N
Register, email: workshops@greenup.on.ca

Happy Easter Everyone !!!

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

Local Hort Society Meetings:

Lakefield:

Tues. May 12th at 7:30 p.m. Lakefield Marshland Centre:
- Wetlands & Marshes, Doug Kennedy

Lindsay

Tues, May 20th at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Parish Hall
(45 Russell Street West) -What is City of KL Flora Project,
Ann Barbour

Milbrook Garden Club

Wednesday, May 7th at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church
Hall, Manor Dr, Millbrook – Wilson Blueberries
www.wilsonfreshblueberries.ca - \$2 Admission at the door

Peterborough

Wed. Apr 23rd at 7:00 at the Peterborough Library:
What's New for 2014, Victoria Whitney

May 28th, Herbal Lore & Remedies, Claire Sullivan & Jill
Cockerell

Garden Tours Anyone!!!!

Just in Case you missed them last month 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

Another Workshop:

Beginner & Intermediate Bonsai

Workshops: with Kevin Yates.

Each session includes one tree. Extra tree stock and bonsai supplies will be available for sale.

Cost: \$35 per workshop or \$60 for full day.

Beginner Workshop: 10 - 1

Intermediate Workshop: 2-5. (suitable for persons with previous experience or who have completed the morning session)

1899 Ashburnham Dr

To register, e-mail: Workshops@greenup.on.ca