

Omeme & District Horticultural Society



President: Heather Grassie
705-328-0342

Newsletter

Issue # 10
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<http://www.omemeblooms.ca>



Secretary: Barb Morrison
705-745-8738

Here we are at the end of our 75th Anniversary year! And what a year it has been! Your Executive and Board Members have worked very hard on the many activities and we hope you took advantage of as many as possible. Now we can head into the next 25 years!

Coming This Month :

Our November 17th meeting looks like an evening packed full of exciting things!

Photo Show: As you enter the door, you will see the set up for the Annual Photography Show. **Have you chosen your photos for this amazing competition?** Help us make this the best show yet! Categories are listed in your yearbook and on page 2 of this newsletter. Please try to find at least one category you can enter. The points earned in this show, go toward next year's trophy. **Tagged entries must be placed between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.**

As part of the November business meeting, the winner of the Trophy for the year of Nov 2013 to Oct 2014 will be announced. There will also be a presentation of Service Pins for all members achieving either 5 or 10 years of service.

Snacks: In the lower hall, our wonderful volunteers will have an arrangement of tempting snacks. I'm sure **our Friendship Award Winner Barb** will have the table beautifully decorated for the season! Thanks Barb, for all that you do. Also a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed the snacks over the past year. They have been delicious! Omeme is well known for their wonderful snacks!

Also say thanks to another wonderful volunteer. **President 's Award Winner Trixie** is the lady who makes sure the tea is hot and the coffee is ready! Trixie...you are very much loved and appreciated!

The actual meeting will be of two parts - a very short AGM, followed by announcements, and then

on to our wonderful, not new to anyone in Omeme - Hazel and Joe Cook.

Speakers: Joe and Hazel did their first talk in front of our members in 2003. (I remember that talk because it was my first meeting as President of this group. Besides...who could ever forget Joe! LOL) Since most of our current Board Members began around that year, we felt it was a fitting conclusion to our 75th Anniversary Year. We are recognizing favourite speakers that are not only members but are near and dear to all of us in Omeme.

Joe and Hazel Cook have operated a family owned business, Blossom Hill Nursery since 1994, specializing in the hybridization and propagation of British Delphinium elatum. A second passion has resulted in an extensive peony collection of over 600 varieties including species, tree, herbaceous and intersectional peonies. The Cooks are propagating the peonies, including grafting 100 varieties of tree peonies. They also breed and plan to register their own varieties in future years. This is a lengthy process taking many years.

So please join us for "Blossom Hill, Then and Now"

To Kick Off our 2015 Season:

Back by Popular Demand: **A February Kick-Off Pot Luck luncheon** at 12 noon on either the Saturday before or after Family Day. We are aiming for the 21st at Trinity Church if the hall is available on that date. Stay tuned! We will let you know as soon as the date has been confirmed.



Congratulations to Some Special Members:

Joe, Hazel, and Amy Cook began their Blossom Hill Nursery in 1994. Since then, it has "blossomed" into a business recognized all across North America. Just a few weeks ago Blossom Hill Nursery received a Peterborough Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence award for BEST Micro Business. Congratulations to the Cooks from all your friends in the Omeme Horticultural Society!



Our 2014 Photography Show:

On page 13 of our yearbook, you will find the list of categories for our November Show. You will also find the Photography rules. Please read them and try your hand at entering. It has been wonderful to see so many new exhibitors in our monthly competitions. Let's make this the best show yet. **NB Tagged exhibits must be placed between 6:30 and 7:00 pm (Judging begins at 7)

1. "Up Close & Personal" macro photo close up
2. "Play Misty for Me" your interpretation
3. "Reflection"
4. Photographers Choice
5. "Rocks": series of 4 photos

Also check out the list of categories for 2015 and plan to take some appropriate photos - especially "Cold Season Beauty" a series of 4 photos - Unfortunately that season will soon be upon us!

Our Design Category:

"Christmas" an arrangement/wreath/swag etc using mainly natural materials. Decorations, ribbons & candles are allowed. So start your decorating early!

The Fall "Junior Gardener Day"

On Oct 18th, the Junior Gardeners met at Trinity Church for an afternoon of crafts and gardening ideas.

The Children created a Halloween craft, A Christmas craft, a pine cone feeder and a pressed flower wall hanging.

They learned about collecting flower and vegetable seeds and how to label and store them. There were various seeds to take home to plant next spring.

Another lesson was about house plants – how some can grow in water while others are started by cutting or splitting. Some can go outside from summer till fall. The Juniors planted spider plants to take home.

Cookies and drinks were enjoyed at break time.

The large planter at Foodland was cleaned out ready for winter decorations

We packed a lot of information into the two hours and everyone went home with a bag of goodies.

Thank you to all those who helped. I think we all enjoyed ourselves.

Linda Jenkins & Heather Grassie

Youth Leaders

Committee Reports for 2014

This week, all members received a copy of this years audited financial statement, and the committee reports of the many activities that happened in 2014. Please read these over before the meeting on Monday. You will be asked to accept the Treasurer's Audited Statement as well as the President's Report and the Committee Reports. By sending these out ahead of time, you have time to examine them prior to the meeting. This allows you to vote intelligently and it also saves time at our Annual General Meeting since the reports will not have to be presented orally.



Last Month! Our October Pot Luck

Our Fall Potluck was held October 20th at Christ Church Anglican with 57 people in attendance. The potluck committee chaired by Joanne Windrem met at the church at 4pm to make the preparations for a fun evening. The tables were decked out in a fall theme with scarecrows, maple leaves in fall colours, and pumpkins hollowed out and filled with yellow and orange Kalanchoe and ornamental peppers.

As usual our potluck table was laden with the most delicious hot and cold dishes. The lucky folks that got to go to the dessert table first were met by a scrumptious array of treats. Our members are all very good cooks as well as being outstanding gardeners and the dinner was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

President Heather Grassie opened the business portion of our meeting and introduced our visitors, Rose O'Dell District 4 Director, Bev Silk District 4 Secretary, John Sellers District 4 Past Director, James Graham Past President of the OHA, Betty Mitchell President of Lindsay Horticultural Society and Mary Anne Martin our soon to be Ward 14 Councillor for the City of Kawartha Lakes. Our visitors were each presented with a beautiful floral arrangement from the gardens of Hazel and Joe Cook of Blossom Hill Nursery.

President Heather then presented carnations to the life members, and the President Awards to Trixie White and Barbara McGregor. Carol Mitchell was presented with the Zufelt Award for achievement in horticulture. Our newest award in memory of Ruth Bailey "For Friendship and Gardening" was presented to Barbara Muscutt. James Graham presented Linda Jenkins with her 20-year service pin. President Heather was presented with a fall bouquet of flowers for her excellent leadership during this very busy 75th Anniversary Year.

The guest speaker for the evening was James Graham Past President of the OHA who delighted us with his humour and vibrancy with his talk "A Walk Down the Garden Path."

Everyone went home with a smile and one lucky diner at each table took home the pumpkin centrepiece. A draw took place for two beautiful mums and an Amaryllis and the evening drew to a close. We will all be anticipating another feast and fun time at our February Potluck.

Joanne Windrem, Chair

Service Pins to be Presented:

The OHA has now made available, Service Pins for 5, 10, 15, & 20 years and we would like to use them to recognize our members. Since this is the first year for these pins, we have to play catch up. (i.e. some members may have 7 years of service but will still get their 5 year pin and a 10 year pin in 3 years.) Linda Jenkins received her 20 year pin at the Pot Luck. (we have no 15 year recipients) Heather will receive her 25 year pin at the June Celebration next year. Congratulations to all of these members!

Ten Year Pins:

1. Germaine Kleiss,
2. Brenda Latulippe,
3. Jennifer Lumley,
4. Eila Martin,
5. Roger Martin,
6. Barbara Morrison,
7. Cathy Sheehey

Five Year Pins

1. Evelyn Doleman,
2. Joyce Forward,
3. Kim Gunn,
4. Ann Hannah,
5. Linda Krishnan,
6. Colleen Hughes,
7. Gaynor McMullen,
8. Chris Miller,
9. Aron Muscutt,
10. Barbara Muscutt,
11. Ron Muscutt,
12. Marion Philip,
13. Gord Read,
14. Mary Read,
15. Suzanne Seryck,
16. Enid Skuce
17. Marion Wellman,
18. Trixie White,
19. Joanne Windrem,
20. Audrey Wristen

The winter planter
elves!



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Decorated for the Winter Season:

If you haven't been through the village lately, please do so. The gardens are all neat and tidy and the winter planters look amazing!!! Thank you to Joanne's green team for the work on the gardens, and to Carol & Darlene's helpers for emptying the summer planters! Those canna bulbs were huge! Also a pat on the back to Donna Hunter's willing workers! They then transformed the planters to amazing creations. If you have priced winter arrangements at nurseries, you will know the worth of each of those planters! They look amazing! Thank you to all the helpers! Have a great winter season.

District 4 Fall Seminar:

The District 4 Fall Seminar was held in Lakefield on Sat Oct 25th with 7 Omemee Hort members in attendance. It was a wonderful day - with draw prizes, door prizes, great food, and wonderful fellowship. A great time was had by all. ...and of course Heather, once again won a draw prize!! (and yes, so did Linda Jenkins!) Norma Evans was presented with an Orchid by the Lakefield Society as she performed her last official duty as a judge. She has officially retired. Both judges Norma and Ruth will be missed.

Retirement Party for Gerald McGregor

On Sun Oct 19th the Omemee Hort headed up a tribute to former Councillor McGregor who had retired after 17 years of service. Friends, co-workers and community members gathered to thank Gerald. There were many wonderful tributes and comments of gratitude to Gerald, for his tireless efforts, both in and out of Council chambers, on behalf of the village and all its inhabitants. Of course behind every great man is usually a great woman, as it is in this case. Many thanks also went to Gerald's wife, Barbara for her constant support. She also served 6 years on council. Barbara was presented with a bouquet of flowers. The good news is that now that Gerald has retired, he and Barbara can become members of our Society without a conflict of interest. We welcome both and especially to Barbara who began her membership by agreeing to let her name stand on our proposed Slate of Officers as a new Board of Director. Thank you.

The Proposed Slate of Officers 2015

President: Heather Grassie
Past President: Carol Mitchell
Vice President (1) Joanne Windrem
Vice President (2) Diane Webber

Directors: (one year)

Sue Lajeunesse
Barbara Muscutt
Gaynor McMullen
Jen Routledge
Donna Hunter

Directors two years

Christa Marton
Mary Read
Chris Miller
Joan Harding
Barbara McGregor

Youth Leader: Linda Jenkins

Honorary Directors: Ruth Arndt, Brigitte Losberg, Pat Burritt, Norma Evans

Archivist: Carol Mitchell

Appointments:

Secretary: Barb Morrison
Treasurer: Darlene Hunter

Appointed Auditors: Jill Cockerel and Suzanne Castell

We welcome both Barbara McGregor and Joan Harding who have agreed to let their names stand as potential Directors on our 2015 Board.

Good Bye Ruth!

Our Horticultural Society extends best wishes to Ruth Arndt, one of our long time life members. Although we were sad to see Ruth leave, we wish her and her husband well in their new, smaller, home that will be easier to maintain. Ruth served on our executive for most of her years in Omemee. She was responsible for helping and caring for the village gardens for many years. She was a Master Gardener and a Qualified Judge. A going away party was held for Ruth at the home of Sue & John Lajeunesse.

If there are any further nominations for any of the positions, contact Carol or Heather. You can also nominate from the floor at the AGM.

