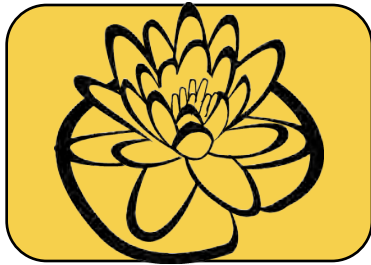


# Omeme & District Horticultural Society

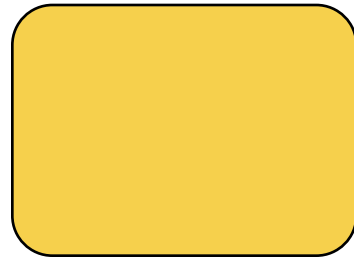


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## Newsletter

Issue #4  
April 2014

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Secretary: Barb Morrison  
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### Words From Your Editor:

Welcome to Spring Everyone! It has been a long time arriving but hasn't the past week been beautiful? I spent this afternoon pruning my pussy willow bush. Those soft grey flowers are certainly a well known herald of Spring. I never feel that spring is here until I pick a bouquet for my house. The first flowers of spring are certainly appreciated. Pussy willows, Snowdrops, Crocus ... All so beautiful. A new season, new life, new beginnings! With a new season comes some new changes. Since so many are now reading our newsletter on a computer screen, rather than in print form, it was suggested that possibly, a one column format would be easier to read than scrolling up and down the two columns. So here is my new change for spring. Please let me know if this format is helpful.



*Carol Mitchell*

### Words From Your President



"Happy Snert Removal"- This is my new word for April 2015. I am "pinching" it from an article Vikki Whitney wrote in her latest e-mail newsletter. We can welcome the warm April showers to clear away the "snert". This is found in the snow and dirt piles that only the spring rains can clear away! It is a new sign of spring like snow drops emerging and snow birds returning. Keep alert for the Snert removal! It's happening at my house!

Eight weeks ago I cracked a bone in my wrist. I am healed and ready for some physio and strengthening. My goal is to be able to use my "Hori Hori knife" to work out in the gardens in May! So much to do, I need to be strong!

April brings much anticipation and excitement as we plan for the Annual May Plant Sale on May 16th. 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". Six inch pots or larger sell the best. The success of our past annual sales has been reflected in the generous contributions of members. Thank you in advance for your support!

As your April speaker, I hope to convince a few more of you to grow Glorious Canna Lilies. Having now reached my 71<sup>st</sup> birthday, I am also sharing some hints and tips from my point of view, to make gardening easier as a senior. Meanwhile "Keep alert for the disappearing Snert."

*Heather Grassie*





Many, many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who took time out of their busy lives on Easter weekend to once again give back to the community. The Peterborough Garden Show and the Floral Competition which was presented by the Omeme Horticultural Society welcomed Spring in grand style.

“For the Love of Gardening” had everything imaginable for gardeners of all ages. Those requiring more knowledge in the horticulture world had many topics to choose from; starting your own seedlings to

inspirations from gardens around the world. Our future young adult gardeners competed in a Floral Competition & shared their unique talents. Very young children learned about bees & pollination. It was a shopper’s paradise with lots of “garden retail therapy” so most of us came home with lighter pocketbooks.

Most important of all, our volunteers shared their friendliness & helpfulness in getting people where they needed to go. Year after year, people say we have the best volunteers anywhere!

Thank you for whatever part you played in making the Garden Show another success. We couldn’t do it without you!

*Donna Hunter & Joan Harding*

## Rain Barrel Fundraising

Why use a rain barrel? See [www.rainbarrel.ca/benefits](http://www.rainbarrel.ca/benefits)

Join one (or more) of the rain barrel sales events to be held in Peterborough in the Spring of 2015, share with your contacts and invite your friends. You'll get a great product and help a non-profit group too!

Friends of Honduran Children April 22 <https://www.facebook.com/events/1407594629555862/>

Holy Cross EcoSchools April 22 <https://www.facebook.com/events/416838905164316/>

St. Teresa's May 2 <https://www.facebook.com/events/1426070831030810/>

Kawartha Church May 9 <https://www.facebook.com/events/948667828498003/>

And you can find them all online at <http://goo.gl/CuWpB7>

These rain barrel sales support several causes.

Rain barrels are \$50 each and must be ordered online. Only items ordered in advance are guaranteed to be available at the sale.

Distribution will take place on April 22nd, May 2 or 9th at the times listed on the sales.

Rain Barrels are also available from any City Of Kawartha Lakes Service Centre.





## The Master Gardener Corner

### APRIL GARDENING THOUGHTS

*Norma Evans MG*

It's clean-up-time in the garden. And we are going to enjoy every minute of it. If you have hostas that were befriended by slugs last year, take a minute to get the jump on these creatures before they start slugging it out. A spray bottle with 1 part household ammonia and 9 parts water is an easy tool. Just squirt the ground wherever you have had hostas with slugs. What you want to dispose of is those "pearl" babies just waiting to grow up and chew. A second treatment when the hosta "noses" start appearing will not go amiss. LABEL THE BOTTLE. This mixture will not damage plants--only those slugs looking for free room and board.

This year I finally found carrots and beets on seed tapes. There were Nantes and Chantenay carrots and .Early Wonder beets. They were about \$4.00 or a bit more but there are 500 plus seeds on strips in each packet. They were located at the very top of the rack -- in a slightly longer packet that said Seed Tape in smaller letters. If you are interested, I suspect you should shop early and look carefully. Never did like thinning carrots.

Do remember about the "early birds" of the seed world: Peas, Spinach and Kale. These seeds can go in the ground as soon as it is workable. On the very odd occasion you will have to replant if there is a heavy rain before they germinate---happened twice in about 30 years. At the same time, you can plant garlic (untreated bulbs available at market). Garlic is better planted in October but a goodly crop can still be harvested when corms are planted early in the spring. May 24 or after is the traditional planting day but many veggies can go in the ground a few weeks before such as Broccoli, Radish, Lettuce, Onions, Carrots and many more soooooo get your salad fixings in early and --Happy Gardening

**Queries to Norma Evans 705 799 7137**



## 2015 O.H.A. Bulb Fundraiser Sale

Our gardens are finally starting to show some colour. Don't you just love those first flowers of spring? District 4 is sponsoring a sale of bulbs to plant this fall for bloom next spring. Order now and get the bulbs in the fall. All packages cost \$7 but the number of bulbs per package varies. A portion of each sale comes back to our group. **Payment must accompany your order. In a separate e-mail, I am sending photos of the bulbs, a written description and an order form. (you also got this back in Feb)** Gaynor will have a table set up on Mon. See her (with your money) to order. Cheques should be made out to the Omeme & District Horticultural Society. Check your garden to see where you could add some wonderful colour. Please watch for the "Bulb Order" email, check it out and be ready to order on Monday or after that, contact Gaynor directly.

As I was walking through my gardens I spotted the brilliant variegated leaves of my "Red Riding Hood" tulips already up. Even without any bloom they were lovely. They are definitely my favourite bulb. If you don't have some, try them! And now you have "Carol's Pick of the Month" - just like in the seed catalogues. Trouble with squirrels? They don't like the taste of daffodils so try the Jack Snipe miniatures. Have a great spring everyone and enjoy your gardens.



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## Meetings:

### Last Month:

Our March meeting was another huge success. Bev and Paul Williams from Bethany, are always favourites. This time, Bev had us captivated with her amazing creations made from gourds. Those who wanted to try their hand at growing their own gourds, went home with an assortment of seeds. Donna still has some if you missed out last month.

**Results of the Floral Design Competition: “Easter Bonnet”:** 1<sup>st</sup> Linda Krishnan

**Results of the Photo Competition: “Camouflage”:**

1<sup>st</sup> Diane Webber 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Cook 3<sup>rd</sup> Christa Marton 4<sup>th</sup> Annamarie O’Neill

**Draw Winners:** Lug-a-Mug: Barb Muscutt, Plant of the Month: Trixie White

Welcome new members: Susie Rice. & the McGregor family - Barbara, Gerald, Keegan & Casey.

### Coming in April:

This month we have a special treat. Our speaker will be our very own Heather Grassie, fondly dubbed “Omemees Canna Queen”. As you may have guessed - Heather is going to talk to us about her passion for growing those majestic plants - The Canna Lilies. Heather is an avid grower of cannas and is very knowledgeable about this subject. She will talk about the many varieties available, as well as how to grow them and store them over the winter. Don’t miss this presentation. There may even be some “give away” bulbs for you to try! So grab a friend, skip dessert and come on out for some good snacks, fun with other friendly gardeners, and lots of laughter!

April Competitions: (pgs10 & 11 of yearbook)

**Design: “You Create a Title” - arrangement of your choice with a title card displayed** (Now this sounds like fun!)

**Photography: “Evergreen, ever beautiful”**

**Next Month:** our on-site meeting. This time we are off to the Peterborough Millennium Park with Cathy Dueck. Mark your calendar!

**Ella & Milbourn are long time Life Members of our gardening group! Let’s help them celebrate!**



Milbourn & Ella Jones, have extended an invitation to help them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at Royal Gardens, 1160 Clonsilla Ave, Peterborough. Tuesday May 19, 2015. 2 - 4:30 P.M.



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## Plant Sale Time Again!

### Wanted: Plants! Plants! Plants!

This year's sale is approaching quickly! 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 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 Barb or Carol 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.
- 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) Try to plant in 6 inch or larger pots. People want instant colour; large sells before small; & we can charge more.
- 8) **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) 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 Heather so they will know who is available.
- Fri. May 15th: to help set up at the Curling Club -come anytime between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sat May 16th: to help at the sale on the morning of the 11th from 8-10 and/or 10-12
- Sat May 16th: 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 16th 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

