



# Omeme Blooms Garden Club



Issue #7/8  
July/Aug

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Coming This Month: \*\*\*AT THE LEGION

## FAVOURITE OR MUST HAVE PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

Join us on Monday August 15th and hear about Favourite “**Must Have**” Plants. We have asked several of our fellow gardeners to pick **one** plant that is his/her favourite. (Some couldn't do it so they chose two!) Maybe it is because of the size, or the colour, or the drought tolerance! Join us and perhaps you will find a plant that you ‘**must have**’ for next year! The Adult Program will follow the Junior Presentation (at approx 8:30)

## Also that night: OUR AUGUST FLOWER AND VEGGIE SHOW

See page 15 -18 for the 81 different categories that you can enter. If everyone could enter 2 or 3 plants, that would make a lovely show. With the drought, and heat, nothing is looking very good this year so do your best. Let's try to make this a great show!

**This all happens at the LEGION!**



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**This year - 2016, is the 70th Anniversary of our Youth Group and they are ready to celebrate!**

Youth Awards will be presented at 7:30. This will be followed by entertainment featuring balloons!

This promises to be fun for the young and the young at heart! Don't miss it!  
Be sure to have an Anniversary cupcake at snack time!

**This all happens at the LEGION!**

### Time Frame for this meeting:

**Juniors** place entries on Sunday from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

**Adults** place entries on Monday between 1:00 & 3:30

**Show open to the public:** 6:30 - 7:30

**Youth Awards and Entertainment :** 7:30 - 8:30

**Adult Program “Must Have Plants”:** 8:30 - 9:15

**Clean Up:** 9:15 All help appreciated



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## TREE DEDICATION AND GARDEN PARTY

As part of our Garden Ontario Week event, the Omemee Blooms Garden Club held a Tree Dedication at the green space on Mary Street behind the Omemee Post Office on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. It was followed by a Garden Party at the renovated Tri-School Garden on Rutland Street. Omemee Blooms was given money from OHA District 4 to plant a tree. It was decided to dedicate the tree to Gerald McGregor, a former Councillor, for his support and tireless work in securing funding from the City of Kawartha Lakes for the beautification of the village.



An Exclamation London Planetree was researched and chosen by Aron Muscutt our club horticulturist. This tree was chosen for its superior adaptability, hardiness, disease resistance and unique upright dense habit. This tree works very well in an urban site for its tolerance of poor soil, and drought.

The mature size of this tree is 60 feet high by 45 feet wide. As a young tree it can grow three feet per year. Gerald was instrumental in procuring approval of a planting site. This tree will be a showpiece for years to come.

The Exclamation London Planetree has medium green foliage with deeply palmate lobed foliage that cloaks the tree all summer but the outstanding feature of this tree is the attractive exfoliating bark even at an early age. The mottled brown, green, and tan bark peels off in large plates revealing patches of interior bark in varying shades of cream to white.

Aron and Ron Muscutt planted the tree on May 25<sup>th</sup> with the generous assistance of Darren James Construction, his machinery and several workers. Due to the extreme drought it was necessary to water the tree every day after planting.

Thank you to Barbara McGregor and Ken Hunter for keeping the tree watered.



Following the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony, guests socialized at a wonderful garden party, with refreshments and a delicious cake, decorated with a London Planetree. The Vice President of the Ontario Horticultural Society, Rose Odell, and Assistant Director of District 4, Pam Chellew honoured us with their presence. Greetings with regrets were received from Councillor Mary Ann Martin.



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## JUNIOR BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Ten children from four to eleven years of age, turned out to plant our Butterfly Garden Container outside Foodland Grocery Store.

We talked about annuals, perennials, mulch, soil, water and dead heading. It was noted that the plants might have a hard time this year due to the hot weather and lack of rain.

Research has found that kids who get their hands 'dirty in the garden', benefit in many ways: including improved learning outcomes. Inspired by what they grow, little gardeners also learn to make more positive food choices.

**Linda Jenkins, & Heather Grassie**  
**Youth Group Leaders**

*Our youth group meets 4 times a year: At a Spring Activity Day; When planting the Butterfly Garden Container; For a Fall Activity Day; and to Participate in our August Flower and Veggie Show. If you have a child or grandchild, or maybe a neighbour who might be interested in joining this group, watch our website [www.omemeeblooms.ca](http://www.omemeeblooms.ca) in the Youth Group Section for more information next spring.*

### **SAVE THE DATE: FOR OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON BUFFET**

**Our efficient Social Director Barbara has booked a lovely lunch buffet at Chemong Lodge. So save the date Thursday December 9th at 11:30 a.m. Significant others are welcome.**



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## EXPERIENCE THE GRAND - THE 110TH OHA CONVENTION

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 19 & HELD IN KITCHENER

This year's OHA Convention was a blast! We had 8 members attend as delegates. They were, Carol Mitchell, Heather Grassie, Joan Harding, Barb McGregor, Sue Lajeunesse, Joanne Windrem, Diane Webber and Linda Jenkins. Omemee had more delegates than any other society. Yea!

On Thursday evening, we had the opportunity to visit Langdon Hall, one of the top restaurants in Canada. We had a tour of the grounds, and an opportunity to visit the vegetable gardens. We then received canapés and a house made mocktail inspired by the ingredients from the garden. This was followed by 3 course dinner. The food was amazing! The outdoor part of the evening (a guided walk through Rockway Gardens) was cut short by a very loud thunderstorm.

The next 2 1/2 days held business meetings in the mornings, followed by a key note speaker before lunch. After lunch we either joined one of the many bus tours or we stayed at the hotel and listened to the many amazing speakers. One of the bus tours took us to Whistling Gardens - a real favourite! There was also a show competition which included flowers, photos, poetry, art work and a display of yearbooks. There was also a Youth Competition.

Friday night highlighted a traditional Oktoberfest which included a meal, music from an 'Oomph' band and a huge silent auction! Several of our Omemee members came home with something new.

The highlight of the evening was the showing of the 'Chicken Dance' contest submissions. Of course, District 4 had an entry highlighting several Omemee members! Seeing that 'Dance' on the 3 huge projection screens in the hall was something else! We all laughed until we cried. In the end .... WE WON! If you haven't seen this dance, it is on our Omemeeblossoms FaceBook Page or contact Carol or Heather and we can send you the link. It is VERY funny!

Saturday was the banquet and awards night. Afterwards, we gathered in one of the rooms for a party.

Amid all of this, a few of our members managed to see the Kitchener Market and did some shopping. Needless to say - once again a few plants and garden art objects managed to follow us home. It was a very full weekend but we all had a wonderful time! Plan to join us next year when the convention is in the Toronto Area.

### " STILL STANDING " IN OMEMEE

This TV episode which was filmed last summer is finally ready to be shared. The Omemee episode is being aired on Tuesday August 23rd, at 9:00 p.m. on CBC. It is my understanding that our Councillor Mary Ann Martin is arranging a large screen showing of it in the Coronation Hall, complete with refreshments. Sounds like a party to me! The Coronation Hall has limited seating - first come basis. I will have Donna send out confirmation of that by email or we may know more about it at our meeting on Monday. *Carol*

*My husband said that if I buy one more plant  
he will leave me!  
Darn! I'm going to miss that man.*



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*In Spite of the hot weather and a total lack of rain - our  
pubic gardens and  
planters have continued to look great this season!  
Hats off to our Green Team!*

### **A SUMMER REPORT FROM OUR GREEN TEAM!!**

This has been one of our more challenging summers, trying to keep the gardens green. We have been very fortunate to have Ken and Darlene Hunter who have been very dedicated volunteers. They have been continually watering the planters, gardens, and our new Exclamation London Planetree.

We have a small but very dedicated group of volunteers who have devoted their time to beautifying the village. We did not engage in making any new gardens this year but instead we have concentrated on maintaining the village gardens that we have previously created. The gardens have had the shrubs and trees trimmed with the help of the very experienced and efficient Aron Muscutt.

The gardens have been mulched with natural cedar mulch so we can suppress the weed growth and to retain moisture. It has been several years since we mulched and we are hoping this will reduce our workload as well as improve the health and aesthetics of the gardens.

If you have not mulched your own gardens, you should consider doing so to reduce your water needs as well as inhibiting weed growth. Be sure to use natural cedar mulch rather than the dyed mulch which contains many elements you don't want in your gardens as it is made from all sorts of scrap wood and then dyed. You never know what harmful things you are putting into your soil by using this dyed mulch.

I hope that everyone has noticed our Exclamation London Planetree planted in the green space behind the post office. Aron Muscutt researched, purchased, transported, planted and staked this tree. We are so fortunate to have our own very knowledgeable horticulturist in our club. Darren James Contracting, very generously supplied two men and the machinery to plant the tree. We are fortunate to have local contractors who are willing to work with Omeme Blooms to beautify the village.

OHA District 4 supplied the funding to each society in District 4 to plant a tree. Gerald McGregor, a former councillor was instrumental in obtaining City permission to plant our tree in the green space behind the post office. Gerald has been very supportive and worked very hard during his term in office to obtain funding for Omeme Blooms to beautify the village. For this reason the tree was dedicated to Gerald at a dedication ceremony during Garden Ontario Week. You can read about the dedication in this issue of the newsletter.

I appeal to all the membership to come out and help in the gardens and take part in the beautification of the village.

*Joanne Windrem, Master Gardener  
& Chairperson Omeme Blooms Garden Committee*



