



# Omeme Blooms Garden Club



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## *A Message from the Editor:*

Well, we can't complain about the shortage of rain this spring! Everything is lush, green and twice as big as normal. Everything looks so healthy! This month's newsletter will be shorter than usual due to the fact that I would rather be outside in my gardens than sitting at a computer! As gardeners you will all agree! So, enjoy your gardens and don't forget to join us at Trinity this coming Monday - social time at 7:00, meeting starting promptly at 7:30. Come at 7 to see the flower show exhibits and find out how your entries did! See you there! Carol

## **This Month's Speaker - Monday June 19th**

Due to a family commitment, we made a switch in our speaker program for this month. Instead of Mj Pilgrim's "Garden Speak" we will be hearing from Cauleen Viscoff, a Master Gardener with the Peterborough group. Cauleen is speaking on a topic that is very much in the minds of environmentally aware gardeners. How do we manage the great quantities of water that can fall on our property. How do we keep precious rain water from running into the ditches or down the sewers. With a summer like 2016's, we want to keep every drop on our property. With a spring like this one, we also want to keep the water away from our foundations and any place that could cause flooding. So join us to hear Cauleen's very time appropriate talk on 'Rain Gardens'. Starting at 7:30

June also means flower show time! Check out pages 13 to 16 of your yearbook. There are 38 different categories that you could enter. Let's make this a wonderful show. If every person enters 1 or 2 things, that would happen. Enter even more categories and you could win prize money that would allow you to purchase a new plant!!! Roses, Iris, Peonies, violets, Clematis, hosta leaves, and many other perennials are on the list. Or, try your hand at a design! Photography: This month's topic is "What a View!" Everyone that takes photos will have one that fits that category!

So....come on folks! Choose 2 or 3 and bring them in! Exhibits must be placed between 4:30 and 5:30. The judging begins at 5:30. Then come at 7:00 to see a beautiful spring show!!



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## Our On Site Visit to Burley's Garden Centre:

Our May meeting was a lively one. We met at Trinity Church and car pooled to the garden centre. Others met us there. It was a cool evening but the rain stopped long enough for our meeting! Marg Burley told us a little about their home/nursery and then set us free. Small group guided tours went through her home which is really no longer a home, but rather a green house of beautiful tropical flowers in every room! She told us about the various plants and their propagation and growing conditions. We were all very envious of the beautiful specimens that she grew. Many of our members also toured the tent holding hundreds of cute additions to a fairy/elf garden. But most popular of all were the tables of lovely new perennials. Even those of us with relatively full gardens, found that one or two "**must have**" plants "**followed us home**" !!! "Bad Plants" !!!

It was a wonderful evening and I think everyone went home happy! If you missed this meeting, try to join us next year. We visit garden attractions that you may not be aware of, and we always have fun!



### Membership

Donna reports that our membership is at 71, one up from the previous month. Keep inviting your friends, especially those who are interested in gardening.

### Sunshine Committee:

Mary Read has been busy sending cards. Here is her report:

Cards sent in May. A Thank you to Trixie White for all the things she does for us, and Russ Willer for his downsizing garden donations. Also a

Thank you to Costco produce dept for keeping us boxes for the sale. In June Barb Muscut took over the job temporarily and sent a card to me (for what ever is wrong with my knee) as well as a get well greeting to Gaynor after her surgery. I appreciated her help. I then sent a Sympathy card to Barb Morrison at the loss of her mother. I also sent Evelyn Doleman a get well card as she had major surgery last week. Evelyn is staying in Rubidge Hall for a week recuperating and is doing well. *Mary Read*



### Remember to Lug Your Mug!

Also, please contribute generously to the Beverage Fund which supplies cream, sugar, milk etc and the balance goes to the Junior Gardener's Snack Fund!



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## A Message From Our Green Team:

The planting of the annuals took place May 25<sup>th</sup>. There was 10 volunteers planting plus Cathy and Brian Sheehey who picked up plants from Omeme Heights. We put our “adopt a garden” project into operation and it seemed to be very successful. A person from each garden armed with their plant list picked up their plants at Omeme Heights and headed off to their “adopted garden” to plant.

I would like to be able to find 2 more persons that would be responsible for either the sign beds at the East and West end of the village or the Curling Arena. At present Heather, Joanne and Carol are looking after the Coronation Hall plus these other two gardens. Please contact Joanne Windrem if you are able to “adopt” one of these gardens. [jwindrem3@gmail.com](mailto:jwindrem3@gmail.com)

Unfortunately we had several shrubs that did not survive the winter and will be replaced. Barbara, Ron, and Aron Muscutt have removed the dead shrubs and we just have to find and plant a replacement. Thank you Muscutts!!

Barbara Muscutt has volunteered to repaint the iron work and black planters at the Legion and Aron has volunteered [or did Barbara volunteer him?] to trim the shrubs in the gardens.

Thank you to everyone who came out to plant and are continuing to maintain your garden. I think the “adopt a garden” is going to be very successful.

*Joanne Windrem, Chair*



As our contribution to Garden Ontario Week, Omeme Blooms Garden Club installed 3 new signs to identify (1) Gerald’s tree D4 tree, (2) the iron obelisk in the LCBO bed and the (3) the Iron Tree at the Coronation Hall. Check them out when you are in the village.



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# LASAGNA GARDENING

by Joanne Windrem MG



## What is Lasagna Gardening

It is an organic layering method to create a better soil while keeping your gardens neat and attractive. It is easy, and time saving, without removing the sod, or digging or tilling. Close plantings and generous amounts of mulch reduce watering and weeding

## GETTING STARTED

### Site Selection

Choose a location that gets about 6-8 hours of sunlight a day. With less sunlight, yield and flowering will be less than optimum. Avoid a low spot where the water pools after a heavy rain as soggy soil will rot your roots. Think about the wind. A little wind is good but too much draws water out of the plants and causes them to wilt as well as knocking over taller plants.

### Decide what to grow

A single lasagna garden can serve many purposes. You can combine vegetables, herbs and flowers or you may want to start small and stick to one theme.

### Take a soil test

Take a spoonful of soil from a number of areas around your yard and mix them together and that will give you a fair sample of your soil. You can purchase a home soil test kit from the garden centres or you can send it off to a lab for testing which will give you a more in depth analysis but can be costly. I don't think that you need the in depth analysis here but it would be good to know the PH of your soil so you could amend it if needed.

### Gather the lasagna ingredients

The key ingredient is organic material. For lasagna gardening we are interested in organic mulches which cover and protect the soil and release material that feed the earthworms and other helpful soil organisms. In turn the organisms release nutrients in a form that the plant roots can absorb. Organic mulches feed your soil and your soil feeds your plants. Your lasagna garden will be full of earthworms that are digesting the layers of the lasagna garden and depositing worm castings a humus rich soil amendment.

## Organic Materials Checklist

- Animal manure [not dog and cat]
- Compost from household scraps [not bones, fat, meat or fish as it smells and calls critters]
- grass clippings
- shredded leaves
- peat moss or alternative- coir, wood chips or bark
- hay or straw
- wood ashes-chopped corn cobs
- newspaper

Newspaper is one of the best mulches but take out the glossy and coloured pages

Save your kitchen scraps in a covered pail and you can add them to your lasagna garden your building.

You will have to purchase your peat moss and perhaps some bone meal for phosphorus and blood meal for Nitrogen



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**Once you have your site picked, soil tested and your mulch materials gathered you can start layering your lasagna garden**

**METHOD**

ON TOP OF THE SOD place wet newspaper in a thick layer being sure to overlap so all the sod is covered. [Tip: Soak newspaper in a large plastic tote with handles so you can drag it along. This works well]

Next- add a carbon layer which is going to be peat moss 2-3" deep

Next- a high nitrogen layer of grass clipping, kitchen waste or manure or a mix of each 4-8" deep

Next- another layer of peat moss and alternate organic mulch with peat moss and finishing with peat moss until garden is 18"-24" high.

Then this is where you could add your bone meal or wood ash for phosphorus and potassium.

You can cover your lasagna garden with black plastic and cook it for 6 weeks or go right ahead and plant right away.

For plants and seedlings just separate the layers with your hands to make a hole and pop the plant in and pull the mulch back around the plant .If planting seeds just sprinkle a layer of compost or peat moss on top, plant seed, and cover with another light layer of peat moss or compost. When seedlings are at the two leaf stage pull the mulch up around them.

*.....and happy gardening!*

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**Out And About:**

Wed June 21st - District 4 June Celebration

Sat. June 17th - Lindsay Hort Celebration Day - Downtown Lindsay

Sat July 8th - Bobcaygeon Garden Tour - See Heather for tickets \$15

July 15th -Activity havenGarden Tour - \$20



*Happy  
Canada Day  
Everyone!*

