

GROWING TOGETHER



Cobourg Horticultural Society Newsletter

Autumn Edition 2015

WHEN DOES **FALL**, ACUALLY FALL, FOR YOU?

- Written by Martha Baldwin



A picture of one of the maple trees on the boulevard in front of my house - each year, a blaze of colour and a keen reminder that fall may just be the best celebration of all seasons. While the calendar may indicate the fall equinox as September 23, I watch for the signs in my garden to quietly tell me that it's finally Fall. For example, the dahlias planted last Spring steal the show in my beds; the evening darkness settles in before 8pm, (or eventually 7pm), the squash vine takes over my vegetable patch, bearing fruit for a Thanksgiving meal and there are the hardy chrysanthemums overflowing at every store. Soon my rake comes in handier than

ever before and thankfully, I can give the lawn mower a bit of a rest. The cooler, crisp air, the smell of fresh apple cider and the sights and sounds of migrating birds and butterflies, encourage all of us to slow down after a busy summer. Our Society was certainly active this summer and this season's edition of "Growing Together" looks back on many of those events and activities featuring some beautiful photos taken by members, including the talented Elizabeth LaFontaine. Our feature article by member Trish Whitney, provides a look at some intriguing Youtube videos that allow us to experience gardening from afar; and a great suggestion for a cold and rainy day when it's more inviting to stay indoors. Heidi Behan from Moore's Orchards who spoke about "Everything You Want to Know about Apples," kicked off our fall speaker series during the September 2 meeting and our upcoming fall and final 2015



UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPEAKER SERIES

October 7, 2015

Marion Jarvie

Gems of Ontario Gardens

*Awards Presentation

.....

November 4, 2015

John Vandenburg

Pruning Techniques for Trees and Shrubs

* Also Our AGM

.....

December 2, 2015

Eileen Holton

Christmas Decorations Demo

* Also our Greenery Exchange

*speakers promise to keep you intrigued and inspired. Don't miss our Flower Show Awards on October 7 and our Annual General Meeting on November 4; a great opportunity to provide your input and suggestions to ensure our club remains relevant for you!
Happy Fall!*

UK Gardening Programs: A Gardener's Delight

Written by Trish Whitney



Last winter I spent hours watching BBC2's Gardeners' World on YouTube. There were 30 half-hour programs each of which showed Monty Don working in his garden at Longmeadow performing a seasonal task. One of the other presenters would then visit other gardens in Britain to focus on a particular plant or garden design. The shows are beautifully filmed and always interesting.

A recent show is at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e1SQxm9NQc>

I also watched 10 hours of the "**Chelsea Flower Show 2014**" while on my treadmill. I'm sure I saw more than if I had been there! For someone who stays here in winter these programs make it better.

For an hour video of the Chelsea Show watch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMz6cgnc8f0>

Another of my favourite gardening shows is "**Love your Garden**" narrated by Alan Titchmarsh. The show is a weekly produced by ITV in the UK. Again most recent shows are available on YouTube.

Many of you might also enjoy watching **Titchmarsh's one-hour visit to Prince Charles** amazing Highgrove garden.

Viewing online you get to see far more than if you went on a tour. Prince Charles, as you likely know, was an early convert to organic gardening and he has been very successful. Of course having twelve full time gardeners is an asset!

The video is at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbJgNXgppkI>

You must watch these shows on your computer through **YouTube** rather than by accessing the BBC website; the BBC won't send to viewers outside the UK.

For the best viewing experience you can purchase a Chromecast or Apple TV device for about \$100 and enjoy the gardens on your big-screen TV.

Shutter Bug Shots



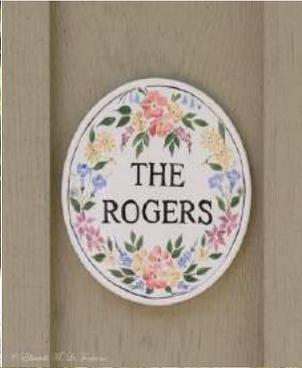
Some photos recently taken during a Sunday afternoon watching the monarch butterflies resting in the verbena bonariensis

Photographer: Ken Whitney



Members Mini Garden Tour & Tea Party - Sunday July 19

Photos Courtesy of Elizabeth La Fontaine



Fall Gardening Checklist



(Source: Landscape Ontario)

With the cooler Fall weather upon us, it's time to get outside and prepare your garden for the onset of a Canadian winter (sorry, yes winter). Maybe you haven't spent that much time in the garden over the past few weeks, with kids going back to school, or some time off at the cottage, but there are a lot of little tasks that need to be done in preparation for winter. Fall is a great time to plant trees and shrubs, cut back perennials, remove annuals and get your lawn healthy for next spring. Below is a handy guide to Fall clean up tasks.

September

- Collect seed and herbs for drying
- Add compost or manure to garden beds
- Cover water features with netting to collect falling leaves
- Check houseplants for pests, then start to move indoors.
- Plant new trees and shrubs, to give them at least 6 weeks before frost
- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Clean bird feeders, gardening tools
- Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes
- Bring in any clay pots.
- Pull weeds before they go to seed to reduce the number of weeds next year.
- Fertilize your lawn

October

- Transplant shrubs or young trees to new locations.
- Cut diseased areas out of perennials. Do not compost.
- Rake and compost any fallen leaves
- Clean up garden debris. Remove all vegetable plants and fallen fruit.
- Remove dead annuals from the garden, after a frost.
- Cut back perennial foliage to discourage overwintering pests.
- Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes
- Sharpen lawn mower blade and pruners.
- Trim tall grass away from trees and corners of your home to discourage small rodents
- Dig up tender bulbs such as dahlia, canna and gladiola. Store in a cool, dark space.

November

- Fertilize your lawn
- Divide spring and summer blooming perennial plants.
- Turn off outside water connections. Drain garden hoses.
- Buy bulbs to force for winter
- Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes
- Wrap screening around fruit tree trunks to protect from small animals
- Mulch rose bushes
- Clean fallen leaves in downspouts and gutters



New to my Garden - by Trish Whitney

This year I bought five pots of foxgloves at Sheridan Nursery in Whitby. These **Camelot Mix Foxglove** were \$9.99 per pot. Most foxgloves are biennials and bloom only in the second year. However, the card in the pot says: "This unique selection blooms in the first and second year with tall, dense flowers spikes of rose, white and lavender with distinctive spotted throats." Mine bloomed abundantly for more than two months in their first year. I'll be interested to see if they do the same next year.

Blue Marvels (*Salvia nemorosa*) grown by Heritage Perennials and purchased from Cannon Nursery in Trenton are the best that I have found. The flowers are larger than most Salvia and it is a prolific re-bloomer.

Another great addition to my garden is ***Clematis Integrifolia Juuli*** which I got from Peter Keeping in Bowmanville. It is a Type 3, non-clinging and relatively short at about 4 feet. Planted in full sun it is a great bloomer with abundant lavender-blue flowers. It likely would be good in a patio pot or scampering through your flower bed.

• August 15, 2015 •

Our Information Booth at the Cobourg Market



Many thanks to:

Alexis Fentie, Sarah Holland, Ann Hancock, Diana Tipoff, Jennifer Darrell, Anne Parks and Martha Baldwin... who volunteered their time to host our information booth and promote our club to Market goes on a beautiful Saturday morning in August!





Dog Strangling Vine – Written by Yvonne Michalski

Dog Strangling vine, or swallowwort is a member of the milkweed family and a native of Eurasia. This vine was introduced to Northeastern America in the mid 1800's, before we knew better, for use in gardens. This invasive, aggressive and poisonous perennial has moved into Ontario recently and has especially settled into our area. It does not strangle dogs but it does strangle forests and gardens, forming dense mats and climbing up trees and shrubs, essentially suffocating them.

Furthermore, Monarch butterflies, already threatened, lay their eggs on this vine as it is related to milkweed, the main food source of this stunning butterfly. The larvae die as this plant is toxic, not just to butterflies but also to grazers. Deer won't touch it and so there is more pressure on native plants species to be eaten. Our Ganaraska Forest, among many others, is being consumed by this vine.

This plant is extremely difficult to destroy as pulling it up just stimulates the vine to produce more roots. I grub the odd one out anyway and just remove stuff as it appears. It does, however, respond to End All for poison ivy if you must control a large patch. This should be applied earlier in the season and it will require more than one application. At this time of year, when plants are slowing down this no longer works as well because plants have stopped growing. So, what to do...?

Controlling this plant is all that we can do at best and especially at this late time of year. But, as I write, it is in seed, the seed pods clearly visible and easily cut off. Vigilance in our gardens, our communities and our town, as well as spreading the word is more than worth the effort, to save a few Monarchs and other native species each year.



Contact us!

Cobourg Horticultural Society

Box 312, Cobourg, Ontario

K9A 4K8

Email: cobourg@gardenontario.org

Website: www.cobourggardenclub.org