



## GET A HEAD START ON THE **BEST** GARDENING SEASON YET!

- Martha Baldwin, CHS Member

So here's the plan... I'm going to finally have my best season of gardening, ever! I've booked some time off work and made a timeline to really tackle the "nice to do's" that I have never had the time (or patience) to do in the past, like test my soil for pH levels, aerate my lawn and start early vegetables seeds in preparation for more planting later next month. It's going to be great to get a head start. If you are also eager, try the following tips for some early preparations that will bring benefits to your garden all year long:

**1. Soil Testing:** Soils with a pH below 6.2 will benefit from the addition of lime. Dolomite is the finest grind, and is ideal. Lime should be added several weeks before planting. Hydrated lime, or "quick lime", is not ideal, as it can change the soil pH so rapidly that plants may be damaged. Soil pH can be determined by using a soil pH test kit, available at a

good gardening centre, or online through mail order.

**2. Aeration** involves "perforating" the soil with small holes to allow air, water and nutrients to penetrate the grass roots. This helps the roots grow deeply and produce a stronger, more vigorous lawn. The main reason for aerating is to alleviate soil compaction. The best time for aeration is during the growing season, but ideally, aerate the lawn with cool season grass in the early spring. You can rent an aerator or borrow or share the costs with a neighbor or friend.

**3. Plant early spring vegetables:** Soil is ready for gardening once it is free of ice crystals and crumbles easily. Soil that is too wet is easily compacted, reducing beneficial soil aeration. Common early spring crops are peas, spinach, lettuces and leeks. For a prolonged harvest, plant several varieties,



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### OUR SPRING MEETINGS

**Wed. Apr 6:** *Gardening as Ecosystems* - **Martin Galloway**

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**Wed. May 4, 2016:** *Weather and Your Garden* - **David Phillips**

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**\*\* Our Spring Mini Flower Show!**

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**Wed. June 3:** *Toronto Botanical Garden; An Insider's Perspective* - **Paul Zammit**

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### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Saturday May 21 – 9am**

*Our Annual Plant Sale!*

Cobourg Columbus Centre

each with a different maturation date. Follow these crops with broccoli, cabbage, radishes, kale, turnips, new potatoes and onions. **Happy Spring!** Page 1

## What is “Guerrilla Gardening?”



“**Guerrilla gardening**” is a term used to describe the unauthorized cultivation of plants or crops on vacant public or private land.

For some, Guerrilla Gardening is a political statement about land rights or reform, but for others, it is primarily an opportunity to beautify and improve neglected, barren or overgrown spaces, which may result in community improvement.

To learn more about this movement in Canada, checkout this link to an article found in an earlier edition of:

*Canadian Gardening Magazine*

Online Link:

<http://www.canadiangardening.com/gardens/specialty-gardens/guerrilla-gardeners-waging-war-on-ugly-spaces/a/36586>

## A TREE FOR EVERY HERO



Ontario’s Macdonald-Cartier Freeway, better known as Highway 401, is the main transportation corridor linking Windsor with Quebec City and crosses through some of the most densely populated areas in Canada. In 2007, a 170 kilometer portion of the highway stretching from CFB Trenton to the Don Valley Parkway (and later Keele Street) in Toronto was designated the Highway of Heroes, reflecting its use as the route for funeral convoys carrying fallen Canadian Forces service men and women from CFB Trenton to the coroner’s office in Toronto. This designation honours those men and women who have made such a vital contribution to our way of life, and offers a wonderful opportunity to tell the story of Canadian Veterans. Our goal is to implement a **large-scale planting program** and create a series of elements along the roadway that will remind those who pass by of the great debt we owe these courageous Canadians.

For many people, their first impression of Southern Ontario will be shaped by what they experience along the Highway of Heroes. For someone driving down the Highway from the vantage point of a car, this experience involves a linear progression through a defined landscape at a high rate of speed. In designing the Living Tribute, we can have a profound impact on what reaction is realized through the careful manipulation of the surrounding landscape. Understanding this will allow our designers to effectively place trees and landscape features in such a way as to block or distract the viewer from undesirable views and enhance attractive ones. Our objective is to maximize the positive view experience and leave an overall good impression. Using some of Canada’s most outstanding and attractive trees, including those that bloom, bear fruit and change colour, experts will prepare the ground, select appropriate species for the right soil and plan a watering and maintenance program for the first two years. As this project develops there will be ample opportunities for Horticultural Societies and individuals to participate.

Why Trees? The response seems obvious: to boost oxygen levels, reduce carbon dioxide and to soak up floodwater and toxins in the air and to beautify and offer a long-lasting tribute in our country.

In the meantime please visit [www.hohtribute.ca](http://www.hohtribute.ca) for additional information about how the Tribute is unfolding.

## Feeding Wildlife in Cobourg



**A Perspective Written by:  
Yvonne Michalski**

Kudos to our Mayor Brocanier for once again opening the thorny goose issue in the newspaper, *Northumberland Today* on February 4, 2016.

Feeding wildlife, except, maybe for backyard bird stations, is never a good idea. A small group of vocal minority animal lovers fed the geese last winter and the rest of Cobourg residents and their families must continue to live with the fallout of their actions. *E.coli* levels in tested beaches in the City of Kawartha Lakes registered dangerously high counts of goose fecal matter and had to be closed to the public. Placing wolf figurines, a band-aid measure, I might add, along the shores of said beaches, was a temporary deterrent to the geese. The high school playing field in our town at the West Beach is a monoculture of grass and an open buffet to the geese, as are our lawns, especially those that slope down to the water. The feeding must stop. We do not intentionally feed the coyotes,

the raccoons and the any other wild residents of our town. Geese have great memories and remember even a crust of bread for years. They have managed for thousands of years without our handouts. Secondly, there has to be a paradigm shift in attitudes regarding perfect lawns and clear, open spaces. We can no longer enjoy our monoculture lawns the way we once did and must modify the environment. The manicured lawns, the clear view and the feedings have created a haven for these invasive and now also health threatening creatures. Canada geese have no natural enemies once they are grown. We have created these problems and here are some suggestions for discouraging the pernicious geese.

Like so many of us, we are Toronto ex-pat's. I recall before the waterfront initiative was begun, trying to dodge the slippery feces and enduring the stink while walking the dog along the boardwalk in the west end of Toronto. Toronto continues to do a great job of deterring geese and beautifying the waterfront. The City of Toronto has built up the shoreline with native shrubs, wild grasses and sedges that are not appealing to geese. We already have this wild and bird-friendly environment west of the marina right here in Cobourg. The indigenous shrubs and trees

have cut the geese's line of vision, making them feel unsafe as they cannot see enemies. On Toronto Waterfront, the same holds true with shrubs, trees and wild grasses, as well as gardens of insect friendly wild flowers. Paths of pea gravel and boulders decorate the shore and create a shore scape for people, the odd fox, some beavers and migrating birds but not for geese.

And finally, we are learning to coexist with our wild brethren. We all know that these animals are here to stay and have a right to be here. However, to rescue our beach and make it safe for our residents and for our economy, we need to continue to change the waterfront so that it is no longer appealing to geese by removing the food and by modifying the environment. If I may quote the sage Mayor Hazel McCallion who once remarked, "*The waterfront is for people, not geese.*"

### **For a link to the article in Northumberland Today:**

"COUNCIL CORNER: Mayor shares news from the Town of Cobourg"

<http://www.northumberlandtoday.com/2016/02/05/council-corner-mayor-shares-news-from-the-town-of-cobourg>



## Scott's Gardening Service

**My goal is to provide environmentally conscious clients of Northumberland County with fresh, affordable produce straight from their backyard!**

A vegetable garden can provide an amazing focal point to your property. Fruits and vegetables can be handpicked right from your garden and thrown into your salad or stir fry at a moment's notice. Your produce is organic, nutritious and you know exactly where it came from.

**Scott Dowle,**

*B.Sc and Diploma in Ecosystem Management*

**For services inquiries please call me at: (905) 269 6410**

## It's Almost Time for .... Our Annual Plant Sale!



**Saturday May 21, 2016**

The annual Cobourg Horticultural Society Plant Sale is on Saturday May 21. It is always our biggest fundraiser of the year, entirely from the sale of donated perennials, shrubs, trees, herbs, vegetables, books, manuals, and gently used garden tools and treasures.

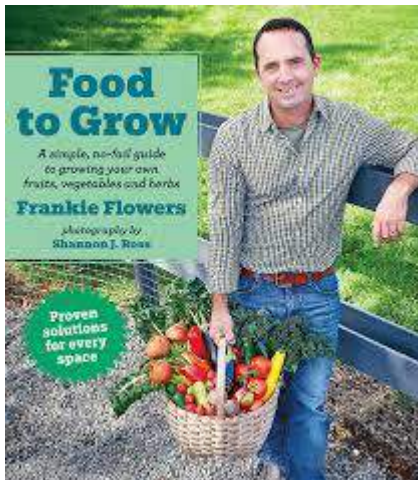
It is notably a popular event on the calendar for many in our community, as they know they can buy really well seasoned, local plants at modest prices, hence the line-ups outside the Columbus Centre each year!

All members are encouraged to dig, separate, and pot up plants for the sale. Please help promote the event by distributing flyers to your neighbours, family and friends.

If you have attended the Plant Sale in the past, you know that it is a very busy event and all over in a couple of hours! We rely on volunteers to make it happen, so please consider volunteering your time or talents!

For more information, please contact:  
**Marion Castleton (905) 342-3813**





**“Frankie Flowers”** is coming to Cobourg!

.. A Fundraising Event for the **Cobourg Community Garden**

**Saturday June 25, 2016**

Door Open at 1:30pm, Speaking Engagement at 2:00pm, Book Signing at 3:00pm

**Cobourg Community Centre**



Frank Ferragine AKA **“Frankie Flowers”** is arguably Canada's most popular and trusted gardening authority and weatherman. Frankie has written 5 books about gardening, including power plants, container gardens and plants that cannot fail.

He is often featured at Canada Blooms.

Now is your chance to join him in an hour long presentation about gardening trends & tips!

We will also be hosting, a local “one of a kind” products and produce Market from the Northumberland Area where local product samples and information booths will be set up.

Advance Tickets Online during week of **April 11, 2016:**

[www.facebook.com/cobourgcommunitygardengroup](http://www.facebook.com/cobourgcommunitygardengroup)

Tickets will be **\$25** and the first 100 tickets purchased will receive Frankie's book for **free**

(a \$30 value) that they can have autographed.

## Plant Sales in Our Community



Plant Sales hosted by local gardening clubs and community groups are a great budget-friendly alternative for finding some healthy and unusual plants for your garden! So, mark your calendar for the following ones planned in our community; a great way to show your support!

(...and be sure to get there early for the best selection!)

**Saturday May 14, 2016 – 8:30am**, Port Hope & District Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale  
Port Hope Town Park/Fall Fair Centre, 81 McCaul Str., Port Hope.

**Saturday May 14, 2016 – 9:00am**, Grafton Horticultural Society Plant Sale  
Alnwick Haldiman Arena, 10766 Cty. Rd. 2 Grafton (sale takes place indoors).

**Saturday May 14, 2016 – 9:00am**, Peterborough Horticultural Society Plant Sale, Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbooke Str. West, Peterborough.

**Saturday May 21, 2016 – 9:00am**, Cobourg Horticultural Society Plant Sale, Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Str., Cobourg.

**Thursday May 26, 2016 – 1-4pm**, Port Hope Community Health Centre Plant Sale (a variety of veggie and herb plants), 99 Toronto Rd., Port Hope.

**Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29, 2016 – 9:00am**, Cramahe Horticultural Society: "The Garden Shed Market Place" takes place during the ANNUAL APPLE BLOSSOM TYME FESTIVAL.

## OPEN HOUSE at the Town of Cobourg GREENHOUSE!



We are excited to invite all residents to our Greenhouse Open House on  
**Saturday, May 14** from **9 a.m. until 12 noon**

Come and see what flowers are being grown this year, how the Greenhouse operates and learn about what it takes to make Cobourg truly "blossom".

Everyone who attends will be going home with their very own starter flower!

**Location:** Thompson Street, just off of Normar Road, east end of Cobourg.  
 (By the Water Pollution Control Plant)

For more Info: 905-372-1438

## Canada 150 in 2017



We have been invited by the **Town of Cobourg** to plan a special event to help celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday! The Executive Board of the Cobourg Horticultural Society proposes that we participate by producing a **larger Summer Flower Show** with some special elements, such as a panel to answer gardening questions, photography, and flower arranging demonstrations. A members vote will be taken at our April meeting and will help us to determine if we would like to apply for special funding. To encourage more members to enter items in the Canada 150 flower show, we would pair novices up with experienced members to help them prepare entries. We can also practice this year in preparation for next. Be sure to watch for more exciting information throughout 2016 on how you can get involved in organization for our club's role as Cobourg celebrates **Canada 150 in 2017!**

## *What's New for Spring 2016?*

Look for the following new perennials to try in your garden, this Spring!



### *Morning Sunrise Dahlia Blend*

This cheerful blend of orange hued dahlias is sure to brighten up anyone's morning! Featuring collarette, spider and pompom types, each of these varieties has been chosen for their rich orange, red and sunny golden-yellow combinations.



### *Black Form Iris*

Svelte, graceful and velvety flowers are the blackest violet-purple you can imagine. Adds a contemporary, interesting air to any setting. Plant these water-loving plants in a sunny, boggy area or near water for low care.



### *Bundle of Joy Iris*

What a perfect name for this unusual Siberian Iris. Bundle of Joy has double flowers with layers of ruffled violet-purple petals. Stunning when paired with yellow shades, Bundle of Joy is an easy care and disease free Siberian Iris.



### *Delft Blue Hardy Geranium*

This charming hardy geranium is covered in dainty white flowers with elaborate lavender-blue flames and splotches. Deadhead after the first flush of blooms in early summer for season-long colour. An excellent choice for the front of the border and for container plantings

*Source: Veseys Canada, 2016*



### **Cobourg Horticultural Society**

Box 312, Cobourg, Ontario

K9A 4K8

Email: [cobourg@gardenontario.org](mailto:cobourg@gardenontario.org)

Website: [www.cobourggardenclub.org](http://www.cobourggardenclub.org)