

# GROWING TOGETHER



Cobourg Horticultural Society Newsletter

Spring Edition 2017

## GREEN WITH ENVY FOR MY OWN GREENHOUSE

- Written by Martha Baldwin



I've always wanted my own greenhouse: a small hobby size house made of a metal frame and glass, with a door big enough to walk inside. It would be positioned at the one end of my yard, or better yet, close to the house for easy access. It would have shelving for seed trays, wracks to hang baskets and a potting table. I would start as many seedlings of annuals as I could cram into the space and nurture my dahlia bulbs or tender perennials while the snow was still on the ground. I would be the envy of the neighbourhood and perhaps even save money. Each year I contemplate finally indulging in my desire, justifying the cost of it as being the price for a hobby that I love and who can put a price on love, right? But then again, love (or I mean a greenhouse) does take work, and

at a cost of \$3500 (for the model I have my eye on), I would have to plant a lot of seed packets before I would have tipped the cost benefit scale, but it is certainly fun to dream. Gardening has a way of inspiring the imagination, encouraging you to dream big, get creative and sometimes (whatever the cost), trying something new or different. Like most things, it is hard not to compare your garden to those of others. I sometimes walk at lunch time through neighbourhoods surrounding my office in the city, admiring the perfectly manicured lawns or elegantly positioned colour schemes of perennial gardens fit for a magazine. Though, it's also nice to come home to my own space knowing it's an expression of my own talents. I hope this season of spring offers you the opportunity to garden in your own way, even on a small budget. Resist the temptation and consider alternatives to big box stores for your gardening ornaments, tools and plants. Often the better deals can be found at rummage sales, thrift shops or by repurposing something you

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

#### UPCOMING SPEAKERS, SHOWS AND EVENTS

**Wed. May 3, 2017 – 7pm:**  
Roses – Christine Moore \*\*

\*\* Our Spring Mini Flower Show!

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**Saturday May 20, 2017 – 9am:**  
Our Annual Plant Sale!!  
**Columbus Community Centre**

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**Wed. June 7, 2017 – 7pm:**  
Cobourg Gardens through the Lens - Elisabeth La Fontaine

already have in your basement or garage. We are blessed in the Cobourg area with a number of local community groups who host plant sales which offer the chance to purchase healthy well established perennials at a fraction of the price. I'm also lucky to have several friends on my street who have been kind enough to offer clumps and cuttings of plants which I willingly adopt in my own beds. But if anyone out there has a spare greenhouse in their own back yard... please keep me in mind ☺

**Happy Spring!**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Greater Napanee Garden Expo



The Easter long weekend, (Saturday, April 15) marked the third annual Napanee Garden Expo at the Strathcona Paper Centre in Napanee (located 1 hour east of Cobourg). It was a small scale gardening show that is growing in size and potential and well worth the trip from Cobourg.

The show is organized by the local Communities in Bloom committee and admission was a deal, at only \$2 per person, which included entry into a number of door prizes. With wonderful exhibits, an array of local garden centre displays, shopping from local artisans, and a full agenda of garden speakers, from landscape design to hostas, to rare and native plants, there was certainly something for everyone to enjoy during this full day event. Hats off to the volunteers, including the town Council members who made this event a success! I'm already looking forward to next year!

<https://www.facebook.com/Communities-in-Bloom-Town-of-Greater-Napanee->



### Discover The Seed Library at the Cobourg Public Library!

On April 1st, the Cobourg Public Library launched their annual Seed Library – this year, it's bigger and better than ever and is located on the first floor near the periodicals.

In partnership with the Villa St. Joseph Community Gardens Group, and through the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Cobourg, the Seed Library offers patrons a chance to access a wide array of vegetable, fruit and flower seeds free of charge. Browse through a well-organized collection of seeds, select a packet to take home and try your hand at planting some in your own garden.

At the end of the season, you are encouraged to share photos of how well your plants have done. If you let a few plants go to seed, you can harvest more seeds from specimen and then return to the library for next year.

I'm particularly fond of the seed library because during my last visit to the Library in April, I filled out a ballot and won a lovely gardening gift basket! I missed the phone call from the library advising me of my luck because ironically, I was actually out gardening at the time!

Thanks again CPL!



## Coming Soon!

### The Quinte Botanical Gardens

Deanna Groves and John Riedl are working around the clock to open the **Quinte Botanical Gardens** this summer. "We are almost there and just need help with the last phase," says Groves. Situated on a six-acre country property in the village of Frankford, there are twenty-eight unique gardens to experience. An outdoor, health attraction to enjoy nature at its best, each garden offers interesting insight to the world of plants in order to connect with nature, learn about horticulture, or journey through the gardens at your own pace. Some of the gardens include a Bee, Bird and Butterfly Garden, an Oriental Garden, a romantic Rose Garden, and a Prehistoric Garden. The Gazebo Garden for example, offers the perfect setting to gather, relax, enjoy being outside, chat with old friends and make new ones, or just soak in the surroundings

"Our Colour Wheel Garden is the largest in the world, and an extraordinary experience states Riedl." Each of the eight "pie" sections are meticulously designed to create monochromatic displays from April to October." Be sure to join us on a wonderful journey through the gardens this year!

#### For more information:

Visit us at: 664 Glen Ross Rd. Frankford

Phone: 613-398-0402

Website: <http://www.qbggardens.ca>

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



**Saturday May 20, 2017**

The annual Cobourg Horticultural Society Plant Sale is on Saturday May 20. 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**



# How to Host a Great Garden Party!



Spring is a great time to open the windows, air out the house and consider entertaining friends and family outdoors, *en plein air*. Your garden becomes a valuable extension of your living space and if you have a smaller house, a great way to dine with more than your usual size crowd. But have you ever considered hosting a garden party? How to prepare and what to serve? How to decorate?

## The following are some tips and tricks for the novice to the experienced host:

**Tidy up.** Show off your yard with a little grooming -- like mowing a day ahead, weeding the gardens and deadheading the flowers. Clear the area of any decaying plant matter and standing water to keep the bugs at bay. Also, be sure to check for loose patio stones that could pose a hazard to your guests.

**Borrow.** Need to fill out some space? Borrow planters and potted plants from your neighbours and move some of your indoor plants outdoors for the occasion.

**Use the "good stuff."** You don't have to break out the good china, but leave the paper plates and plastic cutlery for picnics. Touches like silverware and linens can enhance the atmosphere.

**Go floral.** Let flowers be your inspiration. Use blooms on your table -- like large blossoms

**Give fair warning.** When you send the invites, make sure your guests know it's an outdoor event so they can don some sunscreen and dress appropriately.

**Have a back-up plan.** Nothing says spring like unpredictable weather. Build in some flexibility so you can move the party indoors -- or to another day -- if necessary.

**Keep your budget in mind.** A formal tone doesn't mean you have to spend big bucks. Dial down the fancy décor, borrow items or consider buying some items second hand (like a punch bowl, extra seating or table).

**Lighten up.** Keep your menu cool and light. Let foods that are fresh and in season be your inspiration, like cool salads, finger foods, cold meats garnished with garden fresh herbs and tangy, fruity flavours. What's a party without a punch and pitchers of sparkling water with lemon and cucumber?

**Mind your food safety.** Remember that two hour rule for foods sitting out? Better shorten that time when the temperatures rise. Make sure to properly wash, prepare, serve and store foods to avoid food-borne illnesses. Having lots of ice on hand is also important.

**Don't forget the music.** Consider playing music to set the relaxed or elegant tone whether it be an old record of music from the 40 and 50s, or classical music from a local radio station. If your budget permits, hire a local musician to play music like a flute, violin or guitar. Entertainment is always worth the extra!

**Source:** <http://www.everythingzoomer.com/host-a-garden-party/>

## OPEN HOUSE at the Town of Cobourg GREENHOUSE!



We are excited to invite all residents to our Annual Greenhouse Open House on **Saturday, May 13 2017** 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."

Get there early for a free gerbera flower to take home!

**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 Garden Experience Designation Award

In celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial, the Canadian Garden Council in collaboration with the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association announced the **150 gardens and garden experiences award the 'Canada 150 Garden Experience' designation** – highlighting them as 150 garden ways to celebrate Canada's birthday year. Visit the **Canada's Garden Route website** [www.canadagardenroute.ca](http://www.canadagardenroute.ca)

Look for a Canada 150 Garden Experience close you, there are some in every province.

## 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 13, 2017 – 8:30 am**, Port Hope & District Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale  
Port Hope Town Park/Fall Fair Centre, 81 McCaul Str., Port Hope.

**Saturday May 13, 2017 – 9:00 am**, Grafton Horticultural Society Plant Sale  
Alnwick Haldiman Arena, 10766 Cty. Rd. 2 Grafton (sale takes place indoors).

**Saturday May 13, 2017 – 9:00 am**, Peterborough Horticultural Society Plant Sale, Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbooke Str. West, Peterborough.

**Saturday May 20, 2017 – 8:00 am**, Campbellford and District Horticultural Society Plant Sale  
at the corner of Bridge & Doxsee Streets [Bank of Montreal] in Campbellford

**Saturday May 20, 2017 – 9:00 am**, Cobourg Horticultural Society Plant Sale, Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Str., Cobourg.

**Saturday May 27, 2017 – 9:00 am** – Port Hope Kinsmen, Native Plant Sale, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Region Conservation Authority , 2216 County Rd 28, Port Hope

**Saturday May 27, 2017 – 9:00 am**, Cramahe Horticultural Society – Victoria Park , Colborne

**Sunday May 28, 2017 – 9:00 am**, Plant Sale in support of the Community Garden at James J. Tracey Park. – Sale will be located at the corner of Walton and Spencer Street in Cobourg.

# Garden Ontario Week

June 10-18

## GARDEN ONTARIO WEEK IS FOR EVERYONE!

Events and activities are being organized throughout Ontario.

From workshops to guided walks, plant sales to garden parties, guerrilla gardening to community garden work bees, there is something for everyone and everyone is invited.



Check out: <http://gardenontarioweek.org/>

### Day trip idea for you and a friend...

Pack a picnic, start the car and grab a companion for a day trip adventure!

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Warkworth Lilac Festival** – Opening Weekend: May 27 & 28, 2017

Event listings: <http://warkworthlilacfestival.ca/>

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Oshawa Peony Festival** – June 10 & 11 2017 – Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens  
155 Arena Street, Oshawa \*Free admission

**Port Hope Historical Society Biennial Garden Tour** – June 17 2017 - 10 town gardens

Tickets are \$25.00 each. For more info: [www.acoporthope.ca](http://www.acoporthope.ca)



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