

GROWING TOGETHER



Cobourg Horticultural Society Newsletter

Spring Edition 2018

THE JOY OF ROYAL WEDDING FLOWERS

- Submitted by Martha Baldwin



I've always enjoyed watching a Royal wedding and have marked my calendar for the spectacle that will be displayed on May 19. While some tune in for the fashion, the horse drawn processional, or the celebrities amongst the guest list, I watch to see all the flowers. And what better season than Spring to enjoy the lavish bouquet held by the princess bride, the flowers that will decorate the pews at St. George's Chapel, the Queen Mum's corsage, or even the sweet floral crowns worn by the children. Perhaps my earliest memory of an iconic bridal bouquet was that of Princess Diana during her 1981 ceremony. A large, white, cascading

bouquet made up of gardenias, stephanotis, orchids, lily of the valley, earl mount batten roses, freesia, veronica, ivy and as the royal tradition bares, myrtle. Myrtle (the herb of love) has been in the bride's bouquet of every royal wedding since Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's 1840 wedding.



Though the Duchess of Cambridge (Kate Middleton's) bouquet in 2011 was small, it fit perfectly with her elegant wedding day look. She carried a small posy made of lily-of-the-valley, sweet william, hyacinth, and of course, myrtle. A quick google search suggests that the flowers that have been chosen for Megan Markle's bouquet include locally sourced white garden roses, pink peonies and foxglove. Additionally, it's been said that they will also use

branches of beech, birch and hornbeam for the event. A neat fact I recently learned is that ever since the wedding of Queen Elizabeth II in 1947 (when it's said the bride's bouquet was misplaced by mistake and absent from the photos), the florist is required to make two bouquets, just in case!



But however many flowers are arranged, it's a guarantee that the lucky florist will have a challenge to meet the expectations of not simply the royal couple, but budding horticulturalists like myself, who will keenly take joy in the details for years to come! **Happy Spring!**

P.S – My own "Royal Wedding" is also set to take place this year, on Friday June the 1st. Special thanks to Heather at St. Lawrence Flowers in Port Hope for all her patience and suggestions! - MB

It's Almost Time for Our Annual Plant Sale!



Saturday May 19, 2018

The annual Cobourg Horticultural Society Plant Sale is on Saturday May 19. 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 & 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

Blocks and Blooms

Garden and Heritage Tour & "Airing of the Quilts"



Saturday June 23, 2018

Village of Millbrook - Admission \$15

Tickets available at Furby House Books, Port Hope

More info visit: www.blocksandblooms.com



Cobourg
Horticultural
Society

UPCOMING SPEAKERS, SHOWS AND EVENTS

Wed. May 2, 2018 – 7pm:

Growing Gracefully: Evolution of a
Garden – **Sean James**

* Our Spring Mini Flower Show!

Saturday May 19, 2018 – 9am:

Our Annual Plant Sale!!

Columbus Community Centre

Wed. June 6, 2018 – 7pm: Gorgeous

Gardens with New Plants

– **Marion Jarvie**

Saturday June 24 – 12:30-4:30pm

Four-Club Members' Garden Tour

Port Hope** more details to come!



Take a Farmer's Market Tour!

Saturday May 5th marks the official opening weekend for some of our area Farmer's Markets! And despite the delay in the arrival of Spring, they will no doubt be bursting with maple syrup, cheese, baking, crafts, plants and early seasonal produce just to name a few. Here is a list of those in the Northumberland area held mainly on Saturdays, to assist in your tour:

- **Cobourg** – New Location! Rotary Park off of Albert Str. near the fountain 7am-1pm until Nov., then 8am-1pm until December
- **Port Hope** – 56 Queen St. (Behind Town Hall) 8am -1pm*
- **Campbellford** – 66 Front St. S (at River St.), 8am -12pm**
- **Hastings** – 5 Front Street West & Bridge St., 8am – 1pm
- **Codrington** – Sundays, 10am-2pm next to the Codrington Community Centre, 2992 County Rd. 30

*Port Hope has a Wednesday market from 12pm-5pm at 177 Toronto Rd. (Home Hardware Parking Lot)

** Campbellford also hosts a Wednesday market corner of Front & River St.

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 12, 2018 – 8:30 am, Port Hope & District Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale

Port Hope Town Park Fall Fair Centre, 81 McCaul Street, Port Hope.

Saturday May 12, 2018 – 9:00 am, Grafton Horticultural Society Plant Sale, Alnwick Haldiman Arena,

10766 Cty. Rd. 2 Grafton (sale takes place indoors).

Saturday May 12, 2018 – 9:00 am, Plant Sale in support of the Community Garden, James J. Tracey Park

(450 Walton Street)

Saturday May 12, 2018 – 9:00 am, Peterborough Horticultural Society Plant Sale, Westdale United

Church, 1509 Sherbooke Street West, Peterborough.

Saturday May 19, 2018 – 8:00 am, Campbellford and District Horticultural Society Plant Sale

at the corner of Bridge & Doxsee Streets (Bank of Montreal) in Campbellford

Saturday May 19, 2018 – 9:00 am, Cobourg Horticultural Society Plant Sale, Columbus Community

Centre, 232 Spencer Street, Cobourg.

Saturday May 19, 2018 – 9:00 am – Port Hope Kinsmen, Native Plant Sale, Ganaraska Region

Conservation Authority Region Conservation Authority, 2216 County Rd 28, Port Hope

Saturday May 26, 2018 – 8:00 am, Cramahe Horticultural Society – Victoria Park, Colborne



Cow, Sheep, or Chicken? *(Source: Frankie Flowers, Canadian Living, 2012)*

Manure is great for the garden. As a fertilizer, manure provides nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (known as N-P-K), as well as several other nutrients. As a soil amendment, manure not only adds organic matter, but it also helps improve the soil's structure, aeration, moisture-holding capacity and water infiltration, which benefits the overall health of the plants in your garden. So what's the best poop for your garden? Manures from meat-eating animals (cats, dogs, etc.) should never be used, because there is a risk of transferring parasites or disease-causing organisms to humans. Manures from the livestock industry are ideal. Animal waste contains 75 to 90 per cent of the nutrients from the plants eaten. Everyone has their theories, but poultry manure (chicken in particular) has the highest N-P-K content, followed by hog, steer, sheep, dairy cow and horse manure. Sheep and chicken manure are "hot" manures, which means they are very acidic and high in nitrogen, and will burn plants if not composted before application. However, unlike some animals, sheep have a greater ability to digest weed seeds, and a weed-free garden is always the ultimate goal. Most bagged manures available at garden retailers are composted and sterilized, so weed seeds shouldn't be an issue with them. Chicken manure also has a high calcium content, which helps improve overall plant health. It can repel many furry friends including squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks making it a great top dresser for planting tulip bulbs in the fall.

OPEN HOUSE at the Town of Cobourg GREENHOUSE!



We are excited to invite all residents to our Annual Greenhouse Open House on
Saturday, May 12, 2018 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."

Location: Thompson Street, just off of Normar Road, east end of Cobourg.

(By the Water Pollution Control Plant)

For more Info: 905-372-1438

Hanging on to Mother's Day Memories of Gran



My grandmother lived to the ripe age of 95 and after raising a large farm family of six boys and one girl, she knew how to simplify life in her later years. She enjoyed keeping her home, attending church, having meals at set times, and watching her favourite evening programs on her television (of course only until 8pm when it was time for bed). Washing was always done on Tuesdays and groceries on Thursdays. She drove the same car, a burgundy Ford Taurus from 1982, which was filled with gas only once a month. Like clockwork, her quiet days hummed along as they should. And when it came to honoring her on Mother's Day, each of her seven children would always purchase her a hanging basket for her garden. One could count all seven baskets lined up along her fence; hanging from one of the seven fence posts and serving as a quiet reminder of the love she fostered amongst her family. They were of course watered and fertilized all summer long and come Fall, looked just as lush as the Spring.

I once asked my father if he ever consider buying her something different for Mother's Day. Perhaps she would like a new scarf or earrings from her favourite department store (Lipsons, at that time), or perhaps she would care for tickets to see a show at the local theatre? "But why break tradition?" he said. And he was right. For my grandmother, each hanging basket, whether it was purple petunias, pink impatiens, or red geraniums represented the accomplished and comfortable life she lived and the love she gave, and received from others; tradition that was much more than a hanging basket of flowers. It's been four years since my grandmother passed and each time I visit a garden centre to purchase a hanging basket this time of year, I can't help but think of her. It's she who reminds all of us that it can be good to live our days with structure and routine, and perhaps to do things in life not because someone says we necessarily have to, but because it's always been done that way. Happy Mother's Day Gran! With love, Martha xo.

Need a break from digging in the garden? Why not enjoy a good film?



We recommend the following flick showing this month at the *Loft Cinema*

Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf

A Documentary, 2017, Directed by Tom Piper

Description: Dutch landscape designer Piet Oudolf is a leading figure of horticulture's New Perennial movement, a tendency in garden design to plan herbaceous perennials and grasses to convey a naturalistic, even unplanned look.

The philosophy encourages forming a direct line with nature. Tom Piper's new film documents the influential work of Oudolf, who was commissioned to design the landscapes for New York's High Line, only one of the many influential public and private commissions. Oudolf leads a journey through five seasons, visiting his iconic works and his far flung sources or inspiration.

Show Times:

12:00pm on May 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

2:00pm on May 18,19,20,22,23,24,25,26,30,31

7:30pm on May 18, 19, 22, 25, 26, 27

Admission \$15

For more information:

Website: <https://cobourgloft.ca/>

Email: kenprue@gmail.com

**The Loft is located at
201 Division St, 2nd Floor, in Cobourg**

Our April Meeting



Margaret Burley from *Burleys Gardens* in Peterborough was the guest speaker during our April 4 meeting; which served as a wonderful show and tell of rare and unusual orchids, air plants and African violets. Members particularly enjoyed the lady's slipper, oncidium orchid and even an air plant so tiny that one needed a magnifying glass to look at the flowers. Marg provided helpful tips for growing and caring for these treasures and invited members to visit her shop located at 2604 Television Road in Peterborough, where she operates a beautiful sunroom at her home loaded with gifts for the garden and lush plants for your home. Marg can also be found each Spring at the Peterborough Garden Show!



**Cobourg
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Society**

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