

# GROWING TOGETHER

Cobourg Horticultural Society Newsletter

Winter Edition 2015



## ARE YOU A "HIBERNATING" HORTICULATIST?

- Martha Baldwin, CHS Member

*Well, the glorious season of Christmas is over for another year and if you're like me, that's brings a big sigh of relief - whew! With a new year full of hope and expectation, perhaps you're looking forward to what awaits us during the rest of the winter months, whether it be a sunny vacation south, an afternoon of cross country skiing or even snuggling up with a good book or movie (particularly if it's too cold and snowy to go anywhere). But what about the garden – is it on your to do list this winter? Lately I've wondered how I can appreciate winter this time of year, when I'm always anxiously or impatiently awaiting the joys of being in my garden. I've written*

*before about things you can do over the winter to prepare for spring, but what about a gardener's "to don't list?" It makes sense that it can seem like a much longer winter if you just sit and wait for the tulips to poke through the ground. So this winter, I'm becoming a "hibernating horticulturalist." What's that? Well, a gardener who's taking the winter off, not to think about gardening at all! Sure, I'll look forward to buying the odd pot of hyacinths or tulips at the grocery store, or to browsing through a gardening magazine at the library, but by really taking a break to think about my backyard as more than just a garden, I know I will be rejuvenated and ready to enjoy whatever my garden bares in the spring. When I re-emerge from*

## WINTER MEETINGS & SPEAKER SERIES

Feb 4, 2015

- **David Reed Retallick**

"Growing Daylilies"

\* **Renew your 2015 Membership!**

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March 4, 2015

- **Elizabeth LaFontaine**

"Creating Beautiful Garden Photographs"

\***Seed Exchange!**



*winter, I'll have the zest to tackle a big spring cleanup and a fresh perspective on my love of gardening. January is also a month when the Cobourg Horticultural Society takes a break from a monthly meeting too; returning to our new annual schedule in February. I'm delighted to see the variety of speakers we have on the roster this year and hopeful to try my hand at entering a challenging category in one of the Flower Shows. So, see you in February!*



### *Re-use Your Christmas Tree and Greenery!*

Don't put it at the curb...recycle and re-use your cut Christmas tree, greens and wreaths in your garden! Use trees as shelter for birds or as windbreaks for tender plants such as rhododendron and boxwood. You may also remove the branches and spread them, along with wreaths and garland over bulb plantings and perennials for winter mulch to remove in the Spring.



### *Keeping Amaryllis to Flower Again*

The houseplant popularity known as amaryllis is often a desired plant at Christmas. Many are sold already flowering during the winter, or as bulbs in a kit that grow with phenomenal speed once started. They will flower another year by following these easy tips:

- Cut the flower stalks close to their point of origin once the flower fades.
- Keep watered, and feed occasionally
- From late spring onwards keep in a greenhouse, if possible
- Otherwise, stand the plant outside for the summer.
- Let the foliage die down in late summer or the autumn.
- Start into growth again in late autumn or early winter, by fertilizing to encourage strong blooms.

**Source: Practical Gardening, 2002**



**Mark your Calendar for this year's**

**Canada Blooms:**

**March 13-22, 2015, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto**

**Canada Blooms**  
THE FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

# So, why do we send flowers on *Valentine's Day*?



The history of Valentine's Day, legend says, originated during the third century in Rome. During this time, Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers, so he outlawed marriage for young men. A young priest named Valentine was furious with this injustice and defied Claudius by continuing to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. Claudius eventually discovered Valentine's actions and sentenced him to death. During his time in jail, Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter, who visited him in prison. Before he was put to death, Valentine sent a letter to the girl and signed it, "From Your Valentine" — an expression we still use today. Valentine was executed on February 14, 270 AD. Later, around 496 AD, Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 a day to honor Valentine, who by that time had become a saint.

Today, we continue to honor St. Valentine and recall the history of Valentine's Day each year on February 14 by celebrating our love for significant others, friends, and family. For centuries, flowers have symbolized fertility, love, marriage, and romance. Valentine's Day is also one of the biggest holidays to send flowers. The rose is the traditional Valentine's Day flower, as it signifies romantic love, but there are many other flowers that people send to communicate the different types of love they feel for those important people in their lives.

*(Source: historychannel.com)*



**Do you know someone who could  
"fall in love" with gardening..?**

**Why not indulge them with a 1-Year Membership to the  
Cobourg Horticultural Society!**

**Only \$15/person or \$20/family**



**February 14: Nature Works Winter Soup Hike, from 1:00 pm**  
Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Brighton, Ontario

See how much life there is in the dead of winter on this 90-minute guided walk, followed by a hot bowl of soup and a slide show.  
\$5 person/\$8 family (to be confirmed)  
Registrations required – please phone (613) 475 -1688, ext. 2.



***Year in Review: 2014 Award Winners:***

Design	<b>Sarah Holland</b>
Fruits and vegetables	<b>Dick Cowling</b>
Annuals	<b>Carol Evans</b>
Perennials	<b>Dilys Robertson</b>
Containers	<b>Carol Evans</b>
Roses	<b>Judy Brown</b>
Fall Flowers	<b>Malcolm McDonald</b>
Non-member category	<b>Larry Staples</b>
Photography	<b>Elizabeth LaFontaine</b>
Novice	<b>Martha Baldwin</b>

Mabs Perrins Award for Best Spring Flower:

**Audrey Wilson**

**Overall Winners**

First	with 58 ½ points	<b>Carol Evans</b>
Second	with 36 ½ points	<b>Judy Brown</b>
Third	with 34 points	<b>Valerie Cowling</b>

**Looking forward to participating in a flower show this year?**

**Mark your Calendar for the following Society shows:**

Spring Mini Flower Show – **Wed. May 6, 2015**

Summer Flower, Fruit and Photography Show – **Sat. July 11, 2015**

Mini Fall Flower & Vegetable Show – **Wed. Sept. 2, 2015**

**Contact Us:**

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***What's New, Gardening Books for 2015!***

**"Grow a Little Fruit Tree: Simple Pruning Techniques for Small-Space, Easy-Harvest Fruit Trees"**

- By Ann Ralph  
Storey Publishing  
Paperback, 168 pages  
*Available December 30, 2014*

**"Epic Tomatoes: How to Select and Grow the Best Varieties of All Time"**

- By Craig LeHoullier  
Storey Publishing  
Hardcover, 256 pages  
*Available December 30, 2014*

**"The Right-Size Flower Garden: Simplify Your Outdoor Space with Smart Design Solutions and Plant Choices"**

- By Kerry Ann Mendez  
St. Lynn's Press  
Hardcover, 192 pages  
*Available February 16, 2015*