

GROWING

P.O.Box 312 Cobourg,
ON K9A 4K8



A member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

TOGETHER

Editor: Carol Evans

<http://www.cobourggardenclub.org/>

Spring 2011

Our President Honoured



Sarah Holland winner of a 2010 Distinguished Civic Award for Community Service was toasted by CHS members **Carol Farren** and **Judy Brown** on February 23, 2011.

"What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade?"

Gertrude Jekyll, 1843-1932

A Gardener's Prayer Author unknown

May the bunnies never nibble on
your young and tender shoots.
May your transplants settle in
and put down hardy roots.
May your weeds come out real easy
and your lawn be fungus free.
May you never put your back out
or inhale a bumblebee.
May your roses never stab you
or your hoses spring a leak.
And may everyone come 'a calling'
when your garden's at its peak.
May you never grow too weary
as you toil for hours and hours.
And may you never be too busy
to stop and smell the flowers!

Poem submitted by Judy Brown

The Online Gardener's Handbook

This is a reference guide with useful tips on growing vegetables, fruit, ornamental plants and lawns. Included are planting times, descriptions of garden pests and how to deal with them without cosmetic pesticides. You will find this useful guide at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/gardbk/ghtoc.html>



Events & Reminders

Watch for news of the Cobourg Tomato

- May 14-15- Home Show,
Cobourg Community Centre
- May 21 - Annual Plant Sale
- May 20-23- Warkworth Lilac Festival
- Jun 1 - CHS - Eileen Holton - Floral Design
- Jun 11-12 - Peony Festival, Oshawa
- Jun 19 - 4 Club Garden Tour
- Jun 26 - Heart of Northumberland
Garden Tour
- July 16 - Members' Garden Party
- Aug 13 - Summer Flower & Veg Show
- Sep 7 - CHS - Mia Frankl -Northumberland's
Most NOT Wanted

President's Awards

Greg Hancock, Suzanne Anderson and **Carol Evans** pose with President, **Sarah Holland** who presented awards for volunteer contributions. Congratulations to the award winners.



President: Sarah Holland

Secretary: Anne Parks

Treasurer: Suellen Stratton

Container Basics

Garden soil is too heavy for container gardening as is triple mix if either is used alone. Use bagged soil designed for containers or create your own combination of container soil and triple mix or compost. Your soil should be light and able to retain moisture.

Rain hits leaves but doesn't usually penetrate through to the soil in your containers.

Water daily and deeply until water overflows or comes through the drainage holes at the bottom of pots or baskets. If this occurs quickly it may mean the soil mix has shrunk. Let it swell for about ten minutes and water again and again until it feels heavy with water.

Fertilize weekly or biweekly. A balanced fertilizer (either liquid or water soluble) works well.

To keep your plants blooming deadhead regularly. Detach at a leaf junction or right back at the main stock of the stem.

Idea from One of Our Members:

Shirley Ross makes use of a large weighted umbrella as she works in the garden. This keeps her out of the hot sun while she gets chores done. Her suggestion is to move the umbrella to each new area where you're weeding/working.

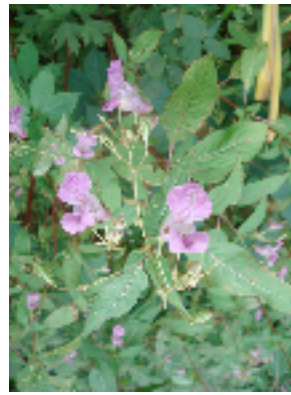
Honeysuckle - Colour of the Year

"Honeysuckle is hot!" So says Victoria Whitney in a recent newsletter from Griffin's Greenhouses in Peterborough. Panetone, a global authority on colour has declared the colour of 2011 to be Honeysuckle 18-2120. This warm reddish-pink is described as "encouraging and uplifting".

Annuals such as Supertunias, Superbells, begonias, agastache, iresine, coleus cultivars, zinnia, geranium, dahlia, fuschia and New Guinea impatiens bloom in hues of honeysuckle. Victoria suggests that "combining a mixture of honeysuckle-coloured foliage and blooming annuals will add dimension to new or established gardens".

Perennials in this colour palette include roses, hydrangea, columbine, echinacea, astilbe, gaura, sedum, mallow, daylilies and peonies.

What about honeysuckle vine itself? Dropmore Scarlet and Goldflame varieties are hardy to zone 5.



Beware the Himalayan Balsam

Also known as Indian Balsam, an annual herb, this invasive plant germinates from seed and dies back each winter. Its stems are reddish and it grows from 1 to 2 metres tall. *Impatiens glandulifera* prefers wet ground.

This balsam's toothed leaves grow in pairs or three to a node and are dark green. Flowers are purplish-pink and appear from July to September. Blossoms are large and attractive to pollinators who prefer these to other plants.

Seeds of the Himalayan Balsam are produced in capsules in October. Hundreds of seeds explode out to a considerable distance.

This plant is responsible for shading out native plants, competing for pollinators and creating situations where erosion can occur because it shades out grasses whose roots can hold ground in place.

*Tip of our
Garden
Hats to ...*



Our ex-coffee ladies **Rita Tennant** and **Lorraine Klein** provided us with coffee, tea, and organized our treats for five and four years respectively. Thank you to each of you for taking such good care of us.

Welcome to New Members

Bonnie Sheridan
Yvonne Michalski
Sherri Brule
Becky Frise
Ruth Easton
Barbara Craig
Katharine McMurdo

Robert MacLeod
Mary MacLeod
Roland Alexander
Catherine Alexander
John Holmes
Sharon Holmes

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of former Cobourg Horticultural Society member **Douglas Smith** who passed away in March of this year.