



# CARLETON PLACE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

December 2022

## *President's Message*

Toil!

Yes we the members of this society work at keeping it running. In so many ways. Even those of you who do not volunteer are important to this organization. What this society needs, like every other horticultural society, is members. As members you give us the \$15.00 membership dues plus the number of people we need registered to get the \$1000.00 grant from the Ontario government. Without you we would not be able to do the work we do. This became very clear in the last two years with Covid. The membership numbers dropped for most societies dramatically. It looked like we were not going to get our government grant! Some provincial bureaucrats saw this and had the number of members required lowered. We the horticultural societies received our grants with fewer members and life went on as usual.

And along came Zoom. This was a way of reaching out to the members through the internet. Not as much fun as in person but we were there. Thank you to Linda Bartlett for arranging this monthly. By the way Linda became our Garden Hero as part of the Year of the Garden 2022. Congratulations! It also appears, through Covid there was a changing of the guard. Sort of. Lol. Some of the older members, like a lot of us, decided not to renew their membership because they were not tech savvy or just Covid apprehensive including the need to wear masks. Along came new members. And now that we are meeting in -person again, standing in front of the members there are so many faces and names I don't recognize. Including the volunteer of the year!

Along with Linda, another member of the board that has stepped up time and time again is Rick Roberts. He does the online announcements and all sorts of other things like the microphone and loudspeakers. Speaking of board members, we do need another couple of members on the board. Wanda Leclerc is retiring. I'm sorry to see you go Wanda. Thank you for all you have done. Daniel Brumar has decided to come on the board. Good to see you there Daniel.

Debbie Guthro has stepped up to be our secretary taking over from Dianne Elliott. Thank you, Debbie. Thanks for all the yearrrsss being secretary Dianne. So, if any of you have the inclination to sit on the board please do so.

Wanda has decided to stay on as a volunteer at the Victoria School Museum Gardens, where 5 - 6 of us work. Thank you. These gardens, which are quite impressive for a society, have been our responsibility for many years. This is where a large chunk of our money goes. Having been to a few horticultural societies, I know what we have here is bigger and better than others. Thank you, Lise Sanderson, Wanda Leclerc, Katherine McNamara, Sheila Gibson, Paula Sanderson, Jennifer Butler, and Brianna Logan. Thank you all.

We also give \$250.00 to a Carleton Place student. The last of our expenditures is to speakers at our monthly meetings, our flower shows and hall rentals. We had a plant sale this spring finally again where we earned money to pay for these activities. The board organized the plant sale this, following the plan Doreen Harris has put in place as the coordinator of this for years. Thank you, Doreen, for all your hard work.

We will close off our year on December 7th with our AGM at Zion Memorial Church. Cindy Zorgel will be our presenter showing us how to make Christmas decorations. There will be four door prizes. And Laura Cupper our membership coordinator will do member registration for 2023. Just to make this a bit longer an explanation to new members. Carleton Place Horticultural Society is an official member, as most Ontario horticultural societies are, of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA to which we pay a fee per member), who in turn gives out grants to help us beautify Ontario. In Ontario there are 19 horticultural districts. We belong to D2. Google this association for more information. I think this is enough reading for one day.

Paul Pietsch  
President

# Five Things for Gardeners to do in December

By Rick Roberts, CPDHS

## -- Final check & mulching of perennials --

Take the time to recheck and add a layer of mulch to help insulate perennials. Changing weather patterns have resulted in frequent cold drying winds, widely fluctuating temperatures and less dependable snow cover in recent winters. Mulch helps protect perennials from those freeze-thaw cycles.

## -- Check your stored vegetables and tender bulbs/corms --

If you've stored potatoes, carrots and/or other crops from your harvest, start checking them monthly to make sure that they haven't begun to rot. If so, remove the bad ones so they don't spread the problem. Also inspect stored tender bulbs and corms such as gladiolas, dahlias, cannas, etc. A few minutes of prevention can save your veggies and ornamentals.

## -- Plan your garden and landscape --

Bundle up and inspect your garden and yard. Think about the things that worked well in the last growing season, and what you might change for 2023. Record the measurements so you can draw an accurate plot plan of boundaries and gardens. Take plenty of photos from different angles... a naked garden reveals much about its design opportunities. Planning a garden landscape is a welcome indoor pursuit in winter.



## -- Protect your trees --

Deer, rabbits, and others love the bark on the trunks of tender trees. Wrap a couple of layers or more of burlap around the trunks to create a breathable barrier. Rodents have found their winter homes by now so are unlikely to use the burlap for that purpose.

## -- Inspect and maintain indoor plants --

Many of us brought our houseplants and potted tender perennials indoors for winter. This is a good time to recheck them for illness, bugs, soil quality as well as for moisture and light needs. Take action to accommodate each plant's needs. Reference books or reliable online sources describe what each variety prefers. The Carleton Place Public Library has an extensive collection of gardening and horticulture books.

# House Plants in the Winter

By Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

Winter can be stressful for your indoor plants, whether they are year-round houseplants or just overwintering indoors. There are several stress factors:

- ▶ temperatures that fluctuate from daytime heat to overnight chill;
- ▶ dry air;
- ▶ short days that reduce the light they receive.

Different plant species have different needs, but the following provides general guidelines. You may have to do more research or contact your Lanark County Master Gardeners ([lanarkmg@gmail.com](mailto:lanarkmg@gmail.com)) for more specific advice.



1. Adjust your watering routine—Most indoor plants need less water in the winter. Plants slow down their growth or may even go dormant. Overwatering can lead to root rot. Surface soil dries quickly, so it is not a good indicator. Push your finger into the soil to your second knuckle to determine if it is dry. Tip: Do not use cold water. Let your tap water sit for several hours before watering.
2. Alter Humidity Levels—Low humidity is a big stressor. Forced air heating drops indoor humidity levels. Cluster plants that like the same conditions together. Plants release water through their leaves, so they help raise the humidity level for their friends. Bathrooms, kitchens and laundry rooms raise humidity the most. OR place your plants on a tray of water but don't let them sit right in the water for long. If you only have a few plants, try misting them.
3. Pay attention to temperature—Most plants like a temperature around 20-22C. It may cause stress to your plants if you lower your thermometer too much below that overnight. Anything lower than 15C can cause more stress. Also, avoid cold drafts and wide fluctuations from fireplaces, radiators, and the like.
4. Follow the sun—There are fewer hours of sunlight during winter, and the rays are at a lower angle. You may need to move your plants to a brighter spot. Rotate the pots  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn each time you water to prevent them from stretching toward the window. If you are like me, layers of dust can accumulate on plant leaves which reduces the amount of light they receive. Wipe them down with a damp cloth regularly in the winter. If you cannot get bright light, you may want to invest in grow lights to receive adequate energy.
5. Put your plants on a diet—Most plants do not need any fertilizer in the winter. This will upset their natural cycle. They do not grow actively in winter, so stop feeding until early spring. When you see new growth or the existing leaves start greening up, resume feeding. Some tropical plants, especially vining climbers or trailers, grow quite actively in winter and may require feeding at about half the normal rate.

Enjoy your indoor garden but look forward to getting them back outside. They sure are looking forward to it. Next issue of the newsletter, we will talk about insects and your house plants.

## *Flower Show Committee Events 2022*

A Fascinator workshop was held to enable members to participate in the Victoria School Museum Jubilee Garden Party, where we had fascinators on display. We also made posies for all the tables at the Jubilee Garden Party. It was another successful event.

Victoria School Garden was included in the Zion United Memorial Church Garden Tour, the garden is maintained by our volunteer members.

The first Flower show of 2022 was held in October, another successful event with some new members entering for the first time.

Another "tin can" Christmas arrangement workshop is planned for The Food Bank to give out before Christmas.

We appreciate everyone who participated in these events, so thank you once again.

## *Breaking News! Ed Lawrence is Guest Speaker at our March 2023 Meeting*



You are invited to a special, in-person Q & A session with go-to gardening expert Ed Lawrence at our March 1, 2023 meeting.

For more than 40 years Canadian gardeners benefited from Ed's gardening wisdom that he shared as the resident gardening expert on the Gardening With Ed segment on CBC's Ontario Today radio program.

His vast knowledge and horticultural curiosity earned him a successful career as the chief horticulturist to six governors-general and seven prime ministers.

"A therapist for growers plagued by rampaging squirrels, rusty hollyhock, sun-starved wisteria, wilted orchids and yellowing parsley, he is so earnest and entertaining that even people who wouldn't know an aphid from an eggplant tuned into his segment".

Ed's retirement from CBC earlier this year has opened up his calendar and allowed us the opportunity to enjoy and learn from an evening with Ed Lawrence.

Mark your calendar and come to be part of the fun. Don't forget to bring a friend to this special event.

*Wishing you a Joyous  
Holiday Season and  
a Happy New Year!  
See you in March...*

*from the  
CPDHS Board of Directors*

This newsletter is published by the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society and is distributed to its members free of charge.

We depend on our members for its content. If you would like to contribute, please send your submissions to: [cphorticulture@gmail.com](mailto:cphorticulture@gmail.com)

Editor, Design and Layout: Linda Bartlett

Contributors: Paul Pietsch, Rick Roberts, Dale Odorozzi, and Doreen Harris

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