



CARLETON PLACE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

April 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everybody.

I can imagine that, like me, you all want to see this cold weather leave and some warmer weather begin. I'm looking at the lake and thinking... I could still walk on that ice. Last year it was completely ice-free by now. But slow cool springs are better than hot ones. So far, only my snowdrops are in bloom. When buying bulbs, these are the best.



Gardening wise, the year has been uneventful. This picture is of an amaryllis that has rebloomed for me a third time in two years. Yours should be finished blooming and the leaves replenishing the bulb to bloom again in a few months. Don't throw the bulbs away.

This newsletter is a first for us in a long time. Thanks for the work put in by Linda Bartlett. So I'll just bring some things up we as members should remember. The May fourth speaker will be Rebecca Last, and her talk will be on Climate Change and whether we as gardeners can do something. Also, in May, we will be having our first Plant Sale in two years at Victoria School Museum Gardens. So please save some of your plants for this event. It is our biggest fundraiser. By the way, if anyone is interested in helping to take care of these gardens, please give me a call (613 267 8067). This is one of the largest projects the society is involved in. We have some excellent volunteers, and we meet for a couple of hours on Tuesday at nine-thirty.

Our Flower Show Committee: Heather Lebeau, Laurie Graham, and Doreen Harris are organizing a flower show for June. Please plan to show off your plants and floral design skills.

Another important thing! We need a secretary to take the minutes of meetings. If you would like to help out, please give me a call. Anyway, on April sixth, I'm looking forward to our first in-person monthly meeting in two years, so welcome, everyone.

Paul Pietsch



Earth Day is on Friday, April 22, 2022. To learn more about Earth Day and what we can do to invest in our planet, visit the Earth Day website at <https://www.earthday.org/>

PROPAGATING A JADE

By Paul Pietsch



I'm just looking at my jade plant and seeing how this plant is so easily propagated. As you can see, it's a nice-sized tree, and some of the leaves have fallen off. The leaves have rooted and are producing new plantlets where the leaf was attached to the plant. Jade is a succulent and in the genus *Crassula*. Many succulents have this ability to produce new plants from just a leaf. For many other plants, this would be impossible as they would always require a node to make new growth. This type of propagation can also be done with *Sedum* such as stonecrops, a popular landscape plant; *Kalanchoe*, another popular house plant; and hens and chicks. This is all worth the effort to see if you are capable.

Effort? There is no effort, and it is so easy. The one thing to remember is to use young leaves, especially with *Sedum*. To do this, remove leaves from the stock in early summer and just lay the leaf on top of well-drained soil, mainly in a sunnier location outside. They do not need to be buried, but where you think the roots will be produced, that part of the leaf should be touching the soil. Imagine how many free plants you will have to give away or donate to our next plant sale.

AIR PLANTS

By Paul Pietsch

Fuzzy, wiry, spikey, and fluffy *Tillandsias* (their botanical name) are some of the plant kingdom's oddest members. My first encounter with these plants was finding them glued to a magnet and then placed on a fridge door years ago. My question, of course, like most people, was... now what. They had no roots, placed in little light and very little humidity, especially in winter. Six months later, they would be dead. I am writing this now because recently they have become available at local garden centres and quite a variety is available. They have fascinated me in how they just seemingly grow in air. No soil required.



So I bought a few. They range from twenty-five dollars to five dollars each. Am I going to glue them to a magnet and place them on the fridge? Of course not. I have had other ones for a couple of years now, so it seems I am doing something right. What I do is try to mimic the dew they would get every morning with a spray mister or whenever I think of it. They are epiphytic. Live on air. Do not use city water as it contains chlorine and fluoride. Rain or distilled water is best. Also, once a week, I soak them in rainwater for half an hour. This gives them the 'rain' they would normally get. Some like it drier like *Tillandsia tectorum* I bought for twenty-five dollars. It is practically white from the coastal desert of Peru. Give plenty of light and mist daily. If you are lucky... or unlucky, they might even flower for you, and the display could be impressive in colours of bluish, pinkish, or reddish. Why did I say unlucky? Air plants are bromeliads, and bromeliads die after they flower. But the mother plant produces pups at this stage, and that way lives on. Fascinating plants.

NEW CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

By Laurie Graham

Members Heather Lebeau, Sandra Shappert, Laurie Graham, Brenda Cupper and Reyna Uriarte recently formed an informal Climate Change group. Our goal is to explore the ways in which climate change is impacting our lives and what we, as gardeners, can do to help mitigate those changes. We're by no means experts, but we have a strong interest in this subject and look forward to sharing what we learn, and hearing whatever you would like to contribute to the conversation.

Climate change is happening everywhere, even in our own gardens. As the world's climate changes, plants try to adapt to the new normal. In warming areas, this might mean that plants will flower too early and fall victim to frosts. Or that plants like apple trees, that need a certain amount of cold weather to fruit, might postpone flowering. It also can signal pollinator issues, since the insects and birds that pollinate a plant's flowers may arrive at the wrong time.

Climate changes are also impacting weather patterns, which in turn impact the amount of water our gardens receive. Some areas are getting more water than usual, others less. And in some areas, it's falling in short, hard downpours, with periods of dry weather in between, which results in the runoff of topsoil during rains and compacted soil in drier periods. In other areas less rain is falling, which increases the threat of drought.

You can't stop climate change on your own, but you can reduce your own carbon footprint and help your plants survive under the new weather patterns. For example, you can reduce water consumption in your garden by mulching to hold in moisture and by installing rain barrels to capture water. You can increase your composting efforts, which will reduce your carbon pollution, especially of potent greenhouse gas methane. And compost can be used in place of synthetic fertilizers to enrich your soil. You can also plant more trees. They absorb carbon pollution from the atmosphere,

which is to everyone's benefit. And shade trees help your home cool in the summers, thereby reducing the reliance on air conditioners.

These are just some of the ideas that we hope to explore in the coming months. We'll share what we learn by means of a five-minute presentation given by one of our group's members at the beginning of some of our general meetings, and will publish them in the Society's newsletter. We'll also send out a reference list that contains information we've compiled on the effects of climate change and what you, as gardeners, can do to help mitigate those changes.

But most of all, we want to hear from you – both in terms of what you'd like to know, and what you know and would like to share with everyone. Since Laurie Graham is the person who sends out the Society's email messages, if you want to contact our Climate Change group, just send her a message.

CPDHS MAY 4TH MEETING Climate Change – What Can Home Gardeners Do To Help by Rebecca Last

Join us next month as Rebecca Last talks about climate change and its defining challenge of our times. This talk provides a brief explanation of what climate change is and an update on the current situation, including how climate change is already impacting our weather, water, plants, food and wildlife. For each of these topics, I suggest the positive measures that gardeners can take to begin climate-proofing their gardens. The talk ends with suggested resources and a list for further reading.

Rebecca Last has been gardening on and off since age 8. She has been a member of Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton since 2005. Her suburban garden is certified by the Canadian Wildlife Federation as wildlife habitat. Rebecca grows many varieties of heritage tomatoes. Her garden design includes elements of permaculture, and she has received several awards from the Ontario horticultural community.

CPDHS TO ONTRIBUTE TO QUEEN'S JUBILEE GARDEN PARTY

By Laurie Graham

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Town is holding a Queen's Jubilee Garden Party. It will take place on Saturday June 4th, from 1 to 4 pm, in the beautiful Victoria School Gardens, which are maintained by our society and are adjacent to the museum on Edmund Street.

Our society is excited to have the opportunity to contribute to this celebration. Our plan is twofold: to create a floral fascinator display consisting of nine fascinators, and to provide small floral bouquets for 10-15 guests' tables. (Although these activities are being organized by the Flower Show committee, note that this is not a "Flower Show" event; nothing is being judged.)

In preparation, we will provide an example of a fascinator at the April meeting and will hold a fascinator-making workshop in May. Sign-up sheets for the workshop, and for making the fascinators and bouquets, will be available at the April and May meetings. This will be a great opportunity to both reconnect with old friends and to make new ones. We hope you will participate!

DISTRICT 2 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 7, 2022 – Virtual 9:30 to 1:00

Hosted by the Ottawa Horticultural Society

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 17

On behalf of District 2 of the OHA, the OHS would like to invite all District 2 Societies to enjoy an informative morning via Zoom teleconferencing on Saturday, May 7th.

The morning will feature NIKI JABBOUR author of Growing Under Cover and The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener.

Niki will share her secrets to growing more food, reducing pest problems, and dealing with unpredictable weather in her vegetable garden. She will spotlight a variety of season extenders like shade cloth, row cover, cold frames, and polytunnels, as well as show us how to use garden covers to prevent damage from deer, flea beetles, and cabbageworms. Put Niki's techniques to work in your garden so you can enjoy a year-round harvest in any sized space.

Pre-registration is essential to ensure sufficient capacity for all who wish to attend. Please complete the attached Registration Form and submit it to the District Secretary, Gay MacQuarrie, at SecretaryDistrict2@outlook.com by April 17.

A graphic for the 'Plant Red' campaign. It features a background of vibrant red flowers. The text 'PLANT RED' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below it, in smaller white text, is 'AND SHARE YOUR GARDEN' and the hashtag '#YearOfTheGarden2022'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'Year of the Garden / Année du jardin' with the year '2022' and a small illustration of a garden scene.

PLANT RED
AND SHARE YOUR GARDEN
#YearOfTheGarden2022

Year of the Garden
Année du jardin
2022

YEAR OF THE GARDEN 2022

A year long celebration to educate and inspire Canadians about the vital impact gardens and gardening have on quality of life, at home, in communities, and across Canada.

What does it mean when you plant red during the Year of the Garden? Plant Red to pay tribute to lives lost during the pandemic, to honour frontline workers, or to simply express your Canadian Garden Pride!