



greenleaf



FEBRUARY 2014

Save the Date

Feb 24, 2014
Board Meeting
7:00pm Northview CC

March 10, 2014
Garden Club Meeting
Architectural Elements
in the Garden

May 3, 2014
District 17 AGM
Newcastle Community Hall
www.gardenontario.org

May 24, 2014 OGC PLANT SALE

HUMBER NURSERIES
Brampton, Ontario
30% off
Herbaceous Perennials and Nursery Stock

Pick up your Discount Form at the membership table. This discount can be used only once, on any day in 2014. OGC Membership Card must be presented along with the Discount Form.

We encourage you to submit ideas, articles, comments, environmental tips and more to the Greenleaf greenleaf@oshawagardenclub.ca

NEXT GREENLEAF DEADLINE March 3

President's Message

The Oshawa Garden Club has a long history in our city. Its continued contributions have been entirely due to the commitment and passion of our volunteers and members. As your President, I am in a position to learn firsthand the numerous activities our club is involved in. The following programs illustrate some of the ways gardening brings joy to our community. If you have aging relatives or have been touched by cancer then I hope these examples of our initiatives will touch your heart as they did mine.

During my time, as a resident of Oshawa, I have visited loved ones living in long term care facilities. After reading Ann Couch's article in the January Greenleaf, about the Therapeutic Gardening Program she and her volunteers run at Hillsdale, I was impressed with the knowledge, dedication and planning that is involved in creating and maintaining these projects. Although Ann has a budget from Hillsdale, she informs me that many of the volunteers are so passionate that they are willing to donate materials, as well as their time, to the program. On behalf of all of us, I extend a heartfelt thank you to Ann and all of those members who give freely of their time and expertise to make life happier for the aging members of our community.

Many years ago (46 years to be exact), I lost both my parents to cancer within 17 months. As an only child, I found those months some of the most difficult of my life. In 1997, Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre was started to provide support and counselling for individuals with cancer, as well as their families. I certainly appreciated the need for this. You can imagine how touched I was when I realized that each spring, members of our Garden Club (organized by Bonnie White) prepare the soil and plant plants in the front and back gardens at Hearth Place. The volunteers work in the gardens, one or two times a month, from May to October. As a result, visitors to the Centre have a beautiful outdoor spot to relax in and enjoy as they convalesce. A big thank you goes to Bonnie for all her hard work, starting and coordinating this program. Heather Miller and Maggie Nicholson will be our new Hearth Place coordinators. They will be looking for volunteers to continue their work. If you are interested in volunteering please watch for information from Heather and Maggie in the near future. I am looking forward to getting involved and giving back to the community in this special way. I hope you'll come out and join us.

Gloria McRae

LIFE MEMBER

Betty Warnica



Betty Warnica was born in Oshawa in 1922 and passed away on December 18, 2013. She was married to Jim for 69 years (he died Feb 2013). They had 3 sons Richard (deceased 2007), Wayne and David. Betty was a life time member of the OGC. She served on the Board in 1990 for special events and in 1993 as Secretary. Betty was a busy, involved OGC member and very creative. Her gardens were featured on garden tours. She taught classes on pressing flowers to make bookmarks and cards.

Betty participated in setting up the OGC floats for the Fiesta Week parades, collected money for the Trans Canada Walk, and set up booths for Communities in Bloom. It was Betty who spiced up our Christmas parties with her antics, games and quizzes. She initiated the donations for the Food Bank at our functions. Betty made 17 aprons to wear at our plant sales. Each one has a different hand-painted saying and drawing and we still use them. She was an advocate for lug-a-mug. Some of our newer members may think they don't know her, but a part of Betty is present at every OGC meeting, for it was Betty who wrote our *garden club pledge* that we recite at the beginning of each meeting.

Life Membership

Certificates and pins are available from the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) for a Society to honour a member with a Life Membership, following these guidelines:

1. *Long-time membership in a Society, preferably a minimum of 15 years.*
2. *Continued interest in horticulture.*
3. *Serves as recognition of participation in the Society and contributions to its program.*
4. *Membership fees will no longer be due to the Society from the member so honoured.*

Current OGC Life Members are Ron Bilsky, Mildred Field, George McCormack and Emily Slute.

Getting to Know You: Sherry from Greenleaf

Member Interviews by Merle Cole



This is the second in a series of interviews designed to help members get to know one another better. Since Sherry was the one who recruited me to help out with this new Greenleaf feature I thought that it was only fitting that I feature her early in the process.

During our interview I learned that she is new to the club – only 3 years in – and already taking on an important role. She describes herself as a girl who just can't say "no" but instead of Oklahoma she originates from Manitoulin Island. She grew up there being close to the land and involved in vegetable growing. That is where she learned that everything starts with good earth and getting

down and dirty to make it happen - although she admits that she doesn't really like the dirty part. She also admits that her venture into creating flower gardens was not too successful as she tried to grow plants in her first garden in beds consisting mainly of clay and cement. She quickly learned that it takes more than hard work and getting dirty to end up with nice gardens – you have to know what you are doing.

She blames her friend Janice (thanks Janice) for bringing her out to an OGC meeting and getting her hooked on learning the finer points of cultivation and propagation. The OGC is where she has refined her skills and become inspired to be a better gardener. She shared with me that perennials, especially hostas, are her main love and that she has become much better at building a good base for her gardens and much better at nurturing her plants and experimenting with new varieties. She now enjoys successful gardens at both her home and cottage and is an avid reader of gardening magazines and books. Sherry loves to garden and to share that love with others.

It may be that love of magazines that finally made her give in to repeated requests to become our new Greenleaf editor. Sherry has thrown herself into the challenge and is already experimenting with new ideas for the publication as well as working with Jim, our webmaster, to craft a new blend of old school newsletter format with a newer and bolder digital style that integrates well with our website and provides digital access to extra content. Sherry is continuing to learn even more new skills that will keep her challenged, active and engaged – and that is the way that she likes it.

Sherry also shared with me that she is continuing to seek out inspiration to add embellishments and creative themes to her gardens. She loves attending garden shows over the winter and throughout the year to learn what others are doing. She sees the Greenleaf as an excellent tool to keep members informed and inspired and a place where members can share information and ideas with others. Sherry welcomes constructive feedback and new ideas for the publication and would love to hear from you.

greenleaf@oshawagardenclub.ca

Tonight's Speaker

Sandra Pella, Head Gardener at the Toronto Botanical Garden will speak to us about The Spring Care of Perennials.

Lobby Greetings

THANK YOU to tonight's greeter Marney Carroll

February Treats

THANK YOU to
Pat Aasen
Lee Glover
Penny Love
Mary McConkey
Sylvia Miller

OHA www.gardenontario.org

District 17 will be holding their AGM at the Newcastle Community Hall on Saturday May 3, 2014. We encourage you to attend, as it will be a very interesting day with lunch and a speaker and many exhibits to enjoy. The deadline for sign-up is our April 14 meeting.

Registration is done through our club. Please pass your cheque for \$30.00 to Linda at the membership table, by April 14.

Entries: all the rules for exhibitors are on the OGC website.

Plant Table

Stop by the plant table tonight. Marie and Faye have a wealth of knowledge. Chat them up about houseplants and more and they will be more than happy to share with you.

Imagination Station

Val Foster
The January 13th meeting's theme was Vision in White. The only accent colours allowed were green and black.

In 1st place was Vida Ycas-Abell with her delightful puppy. 2nd place went to Judy Lambert's white tulips. Debi Foster rounded out 3rd with her white blooms and ferns and received an Honourable Mention for her whites with pine.

February's design is "A Sweet Tooth". Design must contain chocolate and live plant material.

March is Oscar Awards month. We will be designing with unpopped popcorn kernels and live plant material for a "Night at the Oscars". Colours are unrestricted.



And the award goes to...

Environmental Table

Barb North

REUSE
RECYCLE
REPURPOSE

Stop by Barb's table to see how you can use objects in new ways.

One of my favourites is an antique bed spring used as a trellis. If you have done something like this, please bring in a photo.

The table is set-up to display your ideas or your projects or your photos of your project. We'll mention your creativity in the Greenleaf.

New Members

We are pleased to WELCOME Mandy Eeuwes and Melissa Meinsinger to the club.

The Website

www.oshawagardenclub.ca

Please keep your eye on the website, as our webmaster is continually working to make the site as user friendly as possible. In March, the hardcopy of the Greenleaf will be smaller, so that OGC can continue to reduce our paper and printing costs. The online changes you will see should make the Greenleaf easier to find and read. All feedback is welcome, as we make these improvements to try and stay current in the face of rising costs and fast moving technology.



Trees damaged by Ice Storm? Here are some tips to help your trees survive!!!

We hope your trees did not get damaged by the recent ice and snow storms but chances are they did. If so, here are some tips to help you save your trees and if possible help them return to the beautiful specimens they once were. These tips will also help protect your trees from future damage!

Pruning and guiding in coming years

Broken limbs /branches or tops that have been broken or severely damaged need to be pruned back; it is usually best to prune branches back to the parent branch or main trunk. For large branches, use three cuts to minimize further tree damage. Step #1 - undercut branch about 1 ft. away from final cut and about 1" to 2 " deep. Step #2 - cut top of branch about 2" out from 1st cut away from the trunk. Cut all the way through. Step # 3 - remove stub, final cut all the way through just outside the branch's collar. By doing this, the chances of damaging the tree are minimal and the wound should close on its own. In most cases, use of wound covering is not recommended. **Don't overdo** the pruning after a storm; just prune broken limbs, stumps of limbs and maybe a light pruning for shape. Remember, leaves are the food and energy source of a tree; by reducing the amount of leaf bearing branches, the tree will generate less energy for healing of the wound. **Never cut more than 25% of the crown of a tree and always** ensure that living branches comprise at least 2/3 of the height of the tree!

Annual Pruning following damage: The tree will respond after damage by producing new growth, the new branches could be plentiful and thinning of these branches is necessary. It is better to have a couple of good healthy branches than 10 that are weak and have the potential to break off the following year. It is good to prune again in a couple of years, preferably in their dormant season to regain some of the shape of the tree.

Extra care in the spring and summer

The first spring and summer after damage will be very important for the tree. Provide some extra care, especially think of optimizing the growing conditions. Add some fertilizer to the tree; we recommend an organic or slow-release fertilizer. Applying a granular fertilizer is in most cases sufficient. Give the tree extra water in dry periods. Adding mulch under a tree is an enormous benefit as it keeps the soil moist, reduces competition from weed and turf grass and improves soil structure. More is seldom better, add about 3" to 4 "maximum thickness and avoid direct contact with the tree trunk. Younger trees may need to be straightened and guided for some time (maximum 1-1/2 yrs). This can be done by a framework of stakes with ties. Ties should be broad, smooth and somewhat elastic. Secure the tree loosely so it will develop a sturdy root system and a sturdier trunk.

Removal

Sometimes the damage to the tree is so bad that the only option is removal. Tree removal can be very dangerous for the owner, the tree and property. Extra care is required if the tree is already damaged or if there are broken limbs hanging from the tree. In most cases, it is advisable to call a professional.

Planting / selecting a new tree

Start thinking about replacing a tree right away as trees take a long time to become established. A common mistake is buying trees that will grow too large for the location. First and most important though is the task of matching the tree to your site. Each tree species has certain environmental requirements for light, soil and water conditions. Do your homework on this subject because it will determine, if your tree will flourish or if the tree will be in stress. If the tree is in stress, it may not flourish and will be more vulnerable to pests and diseases. Poorly matched trees will sometimes flourish for a while but then die after several years. The next step is to select based on your functional goals (privacy, shade, esthetic etc.). We recommend purchasing a tree at a Garden Centre or Nursery. Their staff typically knows which trees will do better in your area and specific site. Also, the quality of the nursery stock is far superior and cared for. Nursery stock from the local nursery is grown locally and has already adapted to our climate. We have been very pleased with the trees purchased from Kamstra (Taunton Road East in Oshawa) or Kobes Nursery (Old Scugog Road in Hampton).

We hope the preceding tips will be helpful in the care of your trees and will help you maintain your damaged tree(s) in the coming years. Tree removal and trimming is a profession that takes years of studying, continual learning and practice. If you hire someone to do your tree work, ensure that they are professionals who carry the right insurance and have WSIB coverage.

We at **ALEX POL TREE SERVICE** are skilled to help you with all your tree care.
For any question please call Alex @ 905-244-0756