



The Ladyslipper



Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com

Est. 1984

P.O. Box 494
Perth, ON K7H 3G1
June 2021

President's Pen

Here we are in the month of June. I have been in my gardens as much as I can cleaning and redesigning, and of course, planting new plants.

I am not sure of the science behind having the garden centres open, but I am one happy gardener that they are open. I have contributed funds to all the garden centres in the area.

I love to go out everyday and walk around my gardens to see what is blooming. Each day brings a different bloom and colour.

Our June meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, June 8th at 7:00 PM where Sylvia van Oort will present "A Cutting Garden." We will not be able to visit her gardens this month but will hopefully be able to arrange to visit later in the summer or early fall.

This will be our last general meeting until September. We are arranging tours of some of our member's gardens in July and August so stay tuned for more details.

Jane has gathered some great articles this month, so now it is my job to design the layout.

Many of our members have submitted great photos of their gardens, some of which we have shared in the newsletter and we will post more on Facebook.

Keep smiling and Happy Gardening!

Linda

Shrubs in bloom in Gerda Van Wingerden's gardens



Orange Azaleas to the left and Pink Azaleas below.



Bridle Wreath Spirea pictured below.



Deutzia Scabras pictured below.



Weigela pictured below.



PDHS Member Judy Buehler:

Fortunately for us, the egg doesn't fall very far from the nest...

By Jane Avery, PDHS Newsletter Editor

Judy grew up in Perth during the 60s. Her parents owned and ran Norvic Lodge on Christie Lake. It sounds like a charmed existence to me, but Judy tells me that in her youth, she couldn't wait to escape small-town Ontario.

Judy hop-scotched her way around Chesterville, Ottawa, and Kanata until she was fatefully loured back to the country. En route, Judy contributed to enrich various horticultural societies and naturalist groups. Judy was a Board member of the Rideau Valley Field Naturalists and was president of the Kanata-March Horticultural Society. Judy equates gardening to playing in a sandbox as a kid. Cathartic is how she describes working in her garden. Currently, Judy splits her time between two major local projects—Inga Va House and Gardens at 66 Craig Street in Perth.

Judy has joined a team of PDHS volunteers led by Lynda Haddon to resurrect the front and side gardens at Inga Va House/Museum. The gardens have been abandoned for 10+ years. Undaunted, Lynda, Judy, and company are working to ensure that this Perth treasure is celebrated for generations to come. I encourage you to stop by to visit this gem.



Judy Buehler



Inga Va House: Background provided by Ontario Heritage Trust

This late-Georgian stone residence was built in 1823 for Reverend Michael Harris, the first Episcopalian minister in the district. By 1833 it was the home of Thomas Mabon Radenhurst, a prominent lawyer in the community. Ella Inderwick purchased the property from the Radenhurst family in the 1890s and named it "Inge-Va" – a Tamil word meaning "come here." Her son Cyril, a founder of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) in 1933, inherited the property. Inge-Va was donated to the Ontario Heritage Trust by Cyril's wife Winnifred in 1974. The Trust conducted an archaeological investigation of the property from 1987 to 1993. In 1989, Winnifred Inderwick bequeathed to the Trust a collection of furnishings that provide insight into the history of the house and the wider Perth

community. Following extensive research on the history of the house, the Trust used funds provided by the provincial government to complete a major restoration of Inge-Va in 1995.

Archaeologists made a startling discovery at Inge-Va in 1988. While excavating the site of a privy from the Radenhurst period, they unearthed thousands of pieces of dishes, glasses, and kitchenware. It appeared that at

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some point, the Radenhursts had thrown out everything they had used to consume meals.

Why would they have done this? Historical research came up with a possible explanation. Between 1866 and 1873, five of the ten Radenhurst children fell ill and died. One death was attributed to typhoid fever and three to tuberculosis. The idea that disease could be caused by germs spread from one person to another was then gaining legitimacy in medical circles. It may be that the Radenhursts had disposed of all communal items that had been used by infected members of the family. Archaeologists at the Trust have reconstructed 369 ceramic vessels and 283 glass objects from the Radenhursts' privy. This collection provides a direct connection with a poignant episode in the history of Inge-Va and reminds us of the loss of life inflicted by contagious diseases in 19th-century Ontario.



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Take a virtual tour of Inga Va House on the Ontario Heritage Trust site:

<https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/en/properties/inge-va>

“LAST FATAL DUEL 1833”

The plaque erected by the Ontario Archeological and Historic Sites Board at Inga Va House reads:

Here died the victim of the last fatal duel fought in the province. June 13, 1833. Two law students and former friends. John Wilson and Robert Lyon quarreled over remarks made by the latter concerning a local schoolteacher, Elizabeth Hughes. The dispute was aggravated by the prompting of Lyon's second, Henry Le Lievre, a bellicose army veteran. Lyon was killed in the second exchange of shots, while Wilson was acquitted of a charge of murder, married Miss Hughes, and became a member of parliament and judge.

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Perth Wildlife Reserve & Butterfly Garden at 100 Wildlife Road, Perth – www.rvca.ca/conservation-areas

Located on the Tay Marsh, this watery environment nurtures a variety of diverse plant and animal species. Deer, ducks, Canada geese, rabbits, bluebirds, and wild turkeys are examples of some of the wildlife found in this 257 Hectare reserve. A trip along the 3.5Km trail will lead you to the Tay Marsh and a lookout tower ideal for observing the bird and marsh life. The newly developed butterfly meadow attracts these beautiful insects to the many wildflower species present in the area. Stop by for a picnic, a walk along the self-guided interpretive trail, or simply an opportunity to quietly observe nature's finest!



Judy Buehler, along with Karen Hunt and a group of 12 volunteers, created this amazing wildlife sanctuary. Judy and the volunteers regularly visit to tend to the various garden beds and ensure that the garden is in ship shape to host both pollinators and people.

Thanks for your dedication to our green spaces, Judy!

Canadian Tire, 45 Dufferin Street, Perth – Sponsor Profile

Now that planting season is in full swing, you may have found that you are short on supplies. The garden centre at Canadian Tire in Perth is now open and well stocked with colourful annuals and perennials, seed, soil, fertilizer, tools and more.

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TOOL OF THE MONTH

Mark Cullen's Mini Stainless-Steel Backhoe

Recommended by Sandi Sissons: PDHS Board Member

This mini, hand-held Mark's Choice® backhoe is great for weeding, planting, cultivating, and furrowing. The stainless steel, heat-treated head makes it ideal for every garden and gardener. This backhoe comes ready to use and requires no sharpening.

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- ▶ Pointed head
- ▶ Wide teeth for even dispersal of material
- ▶ Holes on the side of the head for material to pass through



DIMENSIONS:

Length: 53 cm (21")

Head: 15.2 cm x 9.2 cm x 0.2 cm (6" x 3.5" x 0.07")

The Irresistible Spring Peony: *Paeonia*

Compiled from The Garden Primer by Barbara Damrosch

Description

The Classic hybrid garden peony is a stalwart plant that thrives from zones 3 to 7 or 8, depending on the variety. Peony flowers are classified as doubles (huge round balls with many petals), semi-doubles (with fewer petals), singles (with one sparser row overlapping petals surrounding a handsome cluster of gold stamens in the centre). Colours range from dark maroon to bright red, pink, white and occasionally yellow. Many, especially the pale ones, are fragrant. They grow on long, arching stems in a mound of dark green foliage about three feet high and three feet wide.

The plants do not bloom long, although you can choose varieties that bloom for several overlapping periods. The foliage is attractive all summer and into the fall when many varieties turn a pleasing gold or bronze colour. *Paeonia tenuiflora* (fern-leaved peony) is low-growing and admired for its handsome foliage and dark red flowers. “Tree peonies” are really shrubs that grow into a mound about five feet high and five feet wide; there is a broader range of flower colours among the tree peonies than with the herbaceous kind, including the yellow-to-bronze range—zones 4 to 7 or 8.

By choosing a selection of early, midseason and late varieties, you can keep a peony bed in bloom for as long as six weeks; this is a good idea because they make a good cut flower as well as a grand show in the garden. Some of the many hybrid peony varieties are “Kansas, a bright red double flecked with traces of red and ‘Krinkled White,’ a single variety suitable for the south.

How to Grow

Peonies are planted in fall in deep, well-drained soil enriched with organic matter. Plant making sure the “eyes” are 2 inches below the soil surface (see Vessey’s Seeds Ltd.: Bulb and Root Know How) because planting too deep may result in failure to bloom. Peonies usually do very well when planted right, even though they may take a few years to get established and bloom well. They are not suitable for climates with very mild winters, although some early-blooming varieties may thrive there. Staking with peony rings will keep the blooms more attractive, especially when it rains.

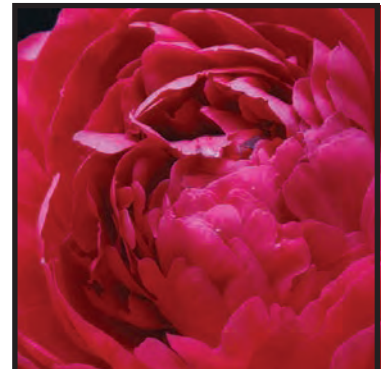
If you’ve planted your peonies correctly and they still do not bloom after several years, other conditions may be at fault, such as excessive moisture or drought, too much heat or too much shade, too much fertilizer or too little, as well as various pests and diseases. To keep plants healthy, always clean up dead foliage at the season’s end.

Spring Tune-up for Peonies: from www.urbandomesticdiva.com

In early spring, dig a moat in the soil around the drip line of your peony. Sprinkle with bone meal, blood meal, Epson salts and compost. Cover the moat with soil and water thoroughly.

Note: The Canadian Peony Society Presents The 2021 Virtual Peony Show June 15 to August 15

New this Year! People’s Choice Floral Design. The competition is open to Canadian amateur photographers only. All events are FREE. Get involved by visiting: <https://peony.ca/2021-virtual-peony-show/>



“Kansas Peony” and
“Krinkled White Peony”
both courtesy Gardenia
Creating Gardens



“Coral Sunset” Peony
courtesy of Debi McEwen
PDHS Member



Pink Peony Bush
courtesy of Gerda Van Wingerden
PDHS Member

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VESEY'S SEEDS LTD.: Bulb and Root Know How

What should my order look like?

We're all quite familiar with the beautiful catalogue photos that show our favourite plants in bloom. Before they get to that stage however, they have to be harvested, stored, packaged and then shipped to you for planting. Sometimes gardeners are surprised by what they find when their order arrives, so we've put together this little pictorial guide to show you what you might expect your order to look like upon arrival.

What should I do with them?

Plant the bulbs as soon as possible after you receive your shipment. Refer to our Growing Guide at www.veseys.com for further planting information. If you cannot plant the bulbs immediately, remove them from plastic bags and put them on a tray with damp peat moss or sawdust in a cool, dark, well-ventilated place at 3-5°C. Do not let the bulbs freeze. Plant outdoors when the conditions are right for your Hardiness Zone.

Dormant Bare-root Perennials

We usually ship perennials to you in their dormant state, that is: bare roots, usually without leaves, in bags of loose peat moss. If it is absolutely necessary to store them for a short time before planting them, open the cartons and any plastic that is around the roots. If the roots appear dry, soak them for a few hours in warm water. Thereafter store in slightly moist peat moss in a cold, but not freezing location until you can plant.

Non-dormant Perennials in Pots

Some Perennials will be shipped to you from our greenhouses in pots and may have actively growing green leaves. These pots should be immersed in water upon arrival to soak the root ball and must be hardened off before planting outside.

Bulbs

A true bulb is a thickened, fleshy bud usually emitting roots from its underside and stems, flowers and foliage from its crown.

Sometimes they may show a slight hint of surface mold on the exterior but this is usually not a problem as long as the bulb is still firm. The term bulb applies to a large class of flowering and ornamental bulbous-like plants in their dormant condition such as corms, tubers, rhizomes and pips. *Examples:* Lilies, tulips, onions.



Corms

An underground bulb-like portion of the stem of a plant consisting of fleshy tissue with a bud at the top. *Examples:* Crocus, Gladiolus, Crocosmia.



Fibrous Roots

Mainly consists of thread-like, profusely branched roots with no main or tap root development. *Examples:* Coreopsis, Clematis.



Tubers

A short, thickened, fleshy part of an underground stem, where new plants develop from buds or eyes. *Examples:* Dahlia, Potato.



Rhizomes

An underground stem with branching close to the soil surface. This stem produces roots, stems, leaves and flowers along its length. *Examples:* Bearded Iris, Eremurus.



Tap Roots

A strong nearly perpendicular main root that carries the plant axis straight into the ground. *Examples:* Hibiscus, Lupinus.



Roots with Eyes

A form of rhizome where the size of the plant grade is determined by the number of eyes (or buds), such as 1-2 eyes or 2-3 eyes. *Examples:* Astilbe, Dicentra, Hosta, Peony.



Plant Pips

A plant pip is a large bud that forms on an underground rhizome, most commonly found on Lily-of-the-Valley. The plant is propagated by harvesting these pips.



THE TABLE COMMUNITY GARDENS SPRING 2021

By Joanna Kowalczyk

Spring is here, the garden is buzzing, and we are well on our way with planting and preparing the garden for another great season of growing, ensuring we are taking moments to reflect and plan when we are blessed with the much-appreciated rain! In the fall of 2020, a great group of volunteers helped us end the growing season strong, with lots of bed prep, making our spring start less labour intensive.

As the season welcomed us with lots of warmth, we got a head start planting lettuce, radish, spinach, peas and spring turnips. Once again, the program is hoping to contribute to all of the food activities at The Table, including Community Meals, The Good Food Bank and the Good Food Box program.

In response to our community survey, which took place last fall and thanks to the support of the PDCF Foundation, we created a new 'Garden Support Program' where we will mentor 20 community members to help them have a successful year of cultivating vegetables. Participants have access to free seeds, plants, funds and an immeasurable amount of education and mentorship from our Garden Coordinator Joanna Kowalczyk. Special thanks to our garden volunteers who started seeds in their homes to produce additional plants for the program.



Joanna Kowalczyk in greenhouse

We are excited to have a new summer student joining us in the gardens soon, thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs program. Over 16 weeks, the student will learn about food cultivation, have a chance to practice leadership skills, work on a special project, and gain a wealth of hands-on experience and knowledge, including how to work in group settings and independently.



Pagoda Dogwood, courtesy of Lynda Haddon, PDHS Member

Despite operating on a modified schedule, we are making the best of our time outside and are pleased to continue our garden program while following increased Covid safety protocols.

Stay tuned for more news from the garden, and check out The Table Facebook page for more updates and pictures of our gardening adventures.



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Pepper “Marinated” Strawberry Salad with a Strawberry-Balsamic Vinaigrette

Source: The Table Community Food Centre, Perth

<http://www.thetablecfc.org>

For the strawberries

4-5 cups strawberries, cut in half or quarters, depending on size

½ cup sugar

¼-½ cup black pepper to taste



Toss the strawberries with the sugar and black pepper; set aside to macerate for about an hour.

For the vinaigrette

½ cup balsamic vinegar

1 cup extra virgin olive oil

2 Tbsp. shallots, minced

1 tsp. garlic, minced

½ cup strawberries, chopped

½ cup mint, chopped

salt, pepper and honey to taste

Place the vinegar in a blender; add the oil to emulsify; add the strawberry, blending to combine.

Add the remaining ingredients. Adjust seasoning.

To serve

Toss salad greens lightly with vinaigrette; toss the strawberries lightly with vinaigrette.

Mound the strawberries on the greens.

Optional: serve with ripe triple brie, goat cheese or buffalo milk mozzarella.

Rhubarb Raspberry Crisp

Source: Taste of Home

www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/rhubarb-raspberry-crisp

One of the first crops harvested at the Community Gardens in Perth this spring was Rhubarb. Joanna Kawalezyk, Community Garden Coordinator, offers volunteers a stash of fresh Rhubarb to take home.



Jane Avery recommends this “Betty” recipe from Taste of Home. It is easy to make and is sure to please when served warm with a side of vanilla ice cream.

Ingredients

4 cups chopped fresh Rhubarb (1 inch pieces)

2/3 cup sugar

Juice and peel of one orange

1 cup all-purpose flour

½ cup packed brown sugar

½ cup chilled butter cut into small pieces

½ cup rolled oats

¼ cup chopped pecans

½ pint fresh raspberries

Directions

In a large bowl, combine Rhubarb, sugar, orange juice and peel. In another bowl, combine flour, brown sugar and cinnamon. Cut in butter as for pastry. Add oats and pecans; mix well. Turn rhubarb mixture into an 8-in. square baking pan. Sprinkle evenly with raspberries and cover with crumb topping. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes or until topping is browned.



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Why a Vancouver Cemetery is Planting Squash, Kale and Corn

The leafy greens are very much alive

By Laura Kiniry, Featured on "Atlas Obscura,"
Inspiration provided by www.gardenmaking.com

TREVOR CREAN CONSIDERS HIMSELF A city slicker, but ever since he co-founded Heritage Gardens, a cemetery in Surrey, British Columbia, he's learned to embrace the land. That's because Crean, the director, oversees much more than burials. The family-owned and -operated business also has its own beehives, as well as a lush vegetable garden where resident gardener Stan Turner grows brussels sprouts, corn, and kale, as well as butternut and acorn squash, Stardust runner beans, loads of potatoes, and even broccolini. It's the kind of place where you can visit your loved ones' remains and then go home with a box full of produce and some fresh honey.

"Over the last couple of generations, funeral services have become very commercialized," Crean says.

"There's this underlying sense of burials being a sales-focused transaction. It's created a lot of mistrust in our profession, unfortunately." So the Crean family (including both of Crean's parents, his brother Sean, and Turner, who is Crean's uncle) decided to do something different. "We really wanted to rebuild that trust," Crean says, "and give people a reason to return."



"Wildlife is often drawn to Heritage Gardens' open spaces and pollinator meadow."
Photo Courtesy Trevor Crean



"Produce from Heritage Gardens' garden."
Photo Courtesy Trevor Crean

Heritage Gardens is the first new cemetery to open in the Vancouver metro area in decades, and it's part of a growing trend of gearing cemeteries more toward the living. Some are providing picnic tables where loved ones can linger. Others, including Heritage Gardens, are offering green burial services to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. At Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia, the Piedmont Beekeepers Association produces jars of "Died and Gone to Heaven" honey from onsite hives to sell in the cemetery's gift shop. Berlin's Neur St. Jacobi Friedhof cemetery

is the newest home of the city's Prinzessinnengarten, an urban farm known for its fresh herbs and veggies, as well as a café where visitors enjoy salads and snacks made from the garden. (The original, non-cemetery location is still open near Moritzplatz.) Although some of these cemeteries are only partially used for their original purpose, Heritage Gardens shows how active cemeteries can be about the living as well as the deceased.

Despite a history in funeral services, the Creans didn't quite know what they were getting into when they opened Heritage Gardens in September 2019, on the site of a former landscaping business. "It was

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eight-acres of abandoned greenhouses, fruit stands, and flowers boxes,” Crean says. “Basically, a blank canvas for us. However, we underestimated how challenging sales would be.” Attracting new patrons can be difficult, he says, especially since prepaid plots and family burial sites often date back generations. Loved ones also tend to consider nearby or familiar cemeteries. So the Creans focused on connecting with families well before they needed end-of-life services.

“There’s so much emphasis on death and dying at cemeteries,” says Crean. “We’re trying to shift the mindset to this being the kind of place where you’d actually like to spend time.”

This included turning a portion of Heritage Gardens into a pollinator meadow, which is now an untamed space brimming with tall grasses and purple, yellow, and blue wildflowers. Eagles and deer visit frequently, as does the occasional coyote.

The meadow is also where you’ll find the Gardens’ beehives, which are supplied and maintained by The Honest to Goodness Farm Co. Since cemeteries in British Columbia are recognized as a single-use business, neither the honey nor the produce is for sale. Instead, families can sponsor a beehive for their loved one and then receive the vast percentage of the honey that it produces.

Heritage Gardens’ vegetable patch sits behind what had been the property’s old farmhouse, far from any burial plots or cremation remains. Though it started off as a family endeavor, the Creans now give away produce to anyone who visits the grounds. “We started producing so much it was like, dude, we gotta give some of this away.” So unlike traditional cemeteries, which may have salespeople roaming the grounds to sell plots, “We’re coming at them with a free bag of tomatoes,” says Crean. Some people might find it a little odd, but it’s undeniably welcoming.

In fact, Heritage Gardens had so many surplus seeds from last year’s vegetable harvest that they offered the city of Surrey the bulk of them. The Creans put together packets of starter seeds, complete with a QR code for accessing Stan’s growing instructions. “They’re now going out to about 100 local families to teach them how to farm,” Crean says.



“Stan Turner in the cemetery’s garden, which is well away from gravesites.”
Photo Courtesy Trevor Crean

Stan Turner in the cemetery’s garden, which is well away from gravesites.

Munching on produce grown alongside the deceased may not sound appetizing to everyone, but fruit trees and cemeteries have cohabitated for centuries. In the Middle Ages, monasteries often had cemetery orchards, with mulberry, apple, and chestnut trees sprouting up from between gravesites so that no space went wasted. Throughout the 1800s, many Americans spent their afternoons picnicking in cemeteries, and cemeteries such as Philadelphia’s The Woodlands,

and Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia, still encourage it. In countries including Greece, Japan, and Mexico, families have for centuries reminisced about or honored their loved ones while relaxing beside their graves and dining on helpings of souvlaki, sushi rolls, or tamales. Heritage Gardens eschews the use of pesticides, and its veggies are not sprouting from gravesites, but instead in their own isolated spot. It’s a similar case in the Philippine



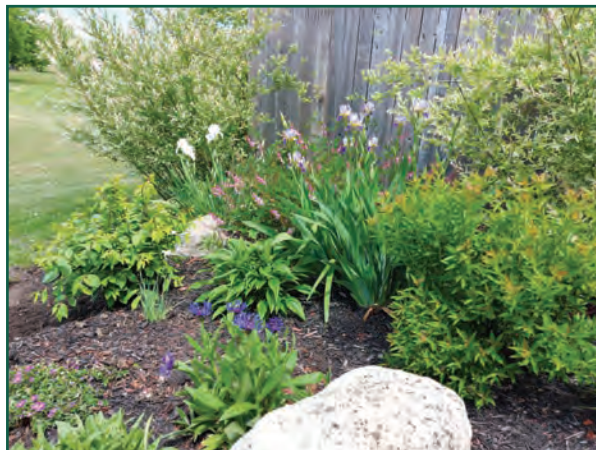
municipality of Talavera, where an organic garden in the public cemetery of Barangay Bulac, set aside from any burial plots, has been feeding local villagers since 2014.

“It’s all about contributing to a loved one’s legacy, and finding unique ways to memorialize them,” says Crean. “We have the space and time to give back in their name, and to turn this into a place of enjoyment.” Not to mention nourishment, both for the body and the soul.



Some of Rita Godin’s gardens!

Thank you for sharing these pictures with us.



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Some of Ute Schall's gardens!

Thank you for sharing your gardens with us.

