



The Lady Slipper



Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com

Est. 1984

May 2023

President's Pen

Spring is in the air, tulips and daffodils everywhere. I just love the colours in the gardens.

I would like to thank Muriel Hopper and Caroline Bolduc for their participation in Earth Day. They sold a few more memberships and gave away a barn box. (See photo inside).

Please mark your calendars for our spring plant sale. It will take place on Saturday, May 20 at Crystal Palace from 8:00 to 1:00. We are looking for volunteers to contribute plants and to work the sale. Plants are to be dropped off at Robin's place at 16 George Ave in Perth on Friday, May 19th between 6:00 and 8:00 pm.

We will have our D2 rock painting workshop in early June. This will be held at Jane Avery's place. Hopefully the artists among us will come out and show off their skills. More information to follow.

Muriel Hopper is organizing a guided tour with Jim Ronson as our guide, of the Pink Showy Lady Slipper at Purdon Conservation. The date for this event will be Friday, June 30. We would meet at Stewart Park in Perth at 1:00 PM. Bring enough to drink and a camera. We will be within a few centimetres of them. We will carpool.

We will be hosting a tour of the Perth Community Gardens and Kiwi Gardens on July 21st for the OHA Convention being held in Ottawa. For more information, please visit <https://gardenontario.org/convention/>.

Happy Spring

Jane & Linda

PDHS June Meeting

June 13, 2023

Q & A Session with Ed Lawrence

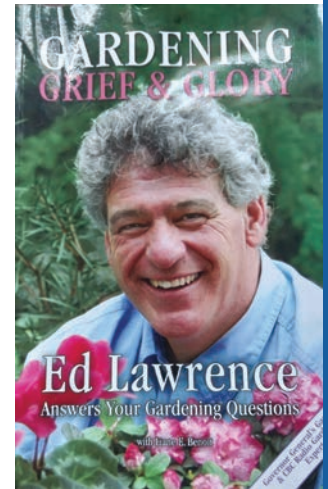
For more than 40 years Canadian gardeners benefited from Ed's gardening wisdom that he shared as the resident gardening expert on the Gardening With Ed segment on CBC's Ontario Today radio program.

His vast knowledge and horticultural curiosity earned him a successful career as the chief horticulturist to six governor-generals 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 show."

Ed's retirement from CBC last year has opened up his calendar and allowed us the opportunity to enjoy and learn from an evening with Ed Lawrence at our June Dessert Social meeting. Ed will be bringing his book "Gardening Grief & Glory". They will be signed and sold for \$20, cash only.

Mark your calendar and come to be part of the fun. Don't forget to bring a friend to this special event. Also bring a finger-food dessert to share. We will also have a standard Flower Show, schedule attached to this newsletter.



PDHS June Standard Flower Show

Here is the Schedule and Rules for our June Standard Flower Show for 2023. We encourage you to participate.

Section I: Horticultural Specimen

Class 1: Any peony – 1 stem

Class 2: A collection of peonies – at least 3 stems

Class 3: Bearded Iris – 1 spike

Class 4: Siberian Iris – 1 spike

Class 5: Tulip – 1 stem with no more than two pairs of leaves attached

Class 6: Any rose – 1 stem or spray

Class 7: Allium – 1 stem

Class 8: Hosta, 193 sq. cm to less than 413 sq. cm (30 sq. in to less than 64 sq. in),
1 cultivar, 3 leaves (see definition)

Class 9: Hosta, 39 sq.cm to less than 193 sq. cm (6 sq. in to less than 30 sq. in),
1 cultivar, 3 leaves (see definition)

Class 10: Any other perennial – named – 3 stems

Class 11: Any annual named – 3 stems

Class 12: Collection of hosta leaves (minimum of 5 different kinds/
cultivars, 1 leaf of each)

Class 13: Collection of Herbs – minimum 3 – named

Class 14: Rhubarb -3 stalks – displayed on a plate

Section II: Design

Class 15: Shades of Purple – a monochromatic design

Class 16A: Short and Sweet – a small design

Class 16B: NOVICE CLASS: Short and Sweet – a small design

Class 17: What's On the Other Side – a transparency design

Class 18: Summer Glory – an arrangement in a vase



Transparency Design

SHOW RULES

- ▶ Exhibitors must be members of the Perth & District Horticultural Society.
- ▶ Entries are to be placed prior to 7:00 p.m. when judging takes place.
- ▶ Once placed, entries may only be moved by the show steward.
- ▶ Only one entry per exhibitor for each Design Class.
- ▶ Maximum of two entries per exhibitor for each Horticultural Class providing specimens are of different cultivars.
- ▶ All entries in Horticultural classes must have been grown or have been in the possession of the exhibitor for three months.
- ▶ Entry tag must be completed and remain with the entry.
- ▶ The decision of the judge is final.

- ▶ No exhibit will receive a prize, even though it is the only one in the class, unless judged to have sufficient merit.
- ▶ No exhibit may be moved before the specified closing time.
- ▶ All shows will take place during regular meetings.

For definitions and tips, please visit <https://www.perthhortsociety.com/show.htm>. Please refer to the Ontario Judging & Exhibiting Standards – Second Edition, OJES 2019 for more definitions and information.

PDHS Community Gardens Update

We are thrilled to announce that Lynda Haddon has secured leadership to ensure continued stewardship over our valuable Perth community gardens.

- ▶ Judy Buehler and Doug Smallwood will be leading at the Museum Gardens
- ▶ Rita Godin and Cheryl Moss will be leading the charge at Inge Va
- ▶ Dave Archer will be leading at the Flag Garden
- ▶ Robin McIntosh will be leading at the Cenotaph

Our new community garden leaders welcome all members to volunteer to help sustain our precious gardens. Come when you can. Come often if possible. You will be rewarded with pride of place, new gardening friends and may also learn new gardening tips & tricks. Please contact Judy Buehler by email at goodlife@myhighspeed.ca if you are interested in volunteering in the community gardens.

Mark Your Calendars in Celebration of the 200th Birthday of Inge Va House and Gardens.

On June 10th Perth will celebrate Heritage Day at Inge Va at 66 Craig Street. The Perth band will play, a reenactment of the last duel will occur., Mayor Judy Brown will speak, some of the Inderwick family members will be on site and there will be CAKE!

Inge Va was completed in 1823 by Rev Harris and is one of the first stone homes built in Perth. The Radenhursts took over the premises in 1833 and the Inderwicks in 1894. Two generations of Interwicks lived in the home and all of the different families were avid gardeners. The gardens were welcoming, invited wandering and became havens for any visitor.



Earth Day Recap

Muriel Hopper and Caroline Bolduc participated in Earth Day in Perth on April 22. Caroline created this wonderful Barn Box full of goodies as a prize for anyone who signed up for membership. We have four new members as a result of their efforts. Pictured is Jeela Jones, the winner of the Barn Box. Jeela is a David Suzuki Butterflyway Ranger here in Lanark County. Congratulations Jeela!



PDHS Statistics

I recently had the pleasure of sharing some pretty amazing information with the Perth Town Council regarding PDHS contributions and service to the Town of Perth as collected when writing PDHS's history. Linda and Jane asked me to share this with you all as well as the replies received in gratitude from some Council members.

Our members are not only an involved group of gardeners, but time and time again we have stepped up to contribute, assist and support our public gardens, donate plants, teach our children the love and know-how of gardening and to support our community in making Perth a better, prettier and cleaner place to live. You can be extremely proud of the many contributions you have made and continue to make in this regard.

Below is my original letter to the Town Council and below that you will find the replies received, including from Mayor Judy Brown.

With great pride,

Lynda Haddon

Dear Members of the Perth Town Council,

I am pleased to share with you that while completing my monograph on the History of the Perth & District Horticultural Society (PDHS), I came across a couple of very exciting statistics.

Briefly, PDHS was formed in 1900 and closed down at the beginning of WWII out of respect for those men and women fighting overseas. However, it remained active in the community during that time as related through The Perth Courier records. In 1984, PDHS was revived and detailed records exist from this point forward. The supportive role within the community played by PDHS is extremely impressive and details can be found in the monograph, which is available in the Museum Gift Shop.

There are a couple of statistics which I believe the Perth Town Council would appreciate. As a member of Ontario Horticultural Association, PDHS is required to seasonally report community volunteers hours in order to take advantage of applying for supporting gardening grants against those hours:

In the years of 2012 to 2022, PDHS members provided over 16,200 hours of volunteer service in the Perth Community.

Another impressive statistic is related to our extremely popular Junior Gardeners' Program:

In 2019 alone, 178 students from six local schools participated in the Program and 21 PDHS members volunteered with teaching the six-week course.

We are very excited to share these figures with you in the hope that this overall contribution by the PDHS will become part of the Town's official records.

Sincerely,

Lynda Haddon
Co-Ordinator Perth Community Gardens
Perth & District Horticultural Society

Feedback from Councillor David Bird:

Hello Lynda,

Fascinating and impressive numbers. Yes, they should be on some official record I would like to see them on, or linked to, our site.

Cheers, Dave

Feedback from Councillor Jim Bildt:

Hi Lynda. Thanks for reaching out to us with your valuable and interesting information. I am sure we can use it for current and future reference in a very positive way.

Cheers. Jim.

Feedback from Mayor Judy Brown:

Those are amazing statistics. I had no idea that your contribution to the community was on such a large scale.

My thanks and congratulations.

Judy Brown
Mayor

Last Duel Park Shoreline Naturalization Project

The Town is working with RVCA to revitalize the shoreline at Last Duel Park. This is taking place this weekend, May 13 & 14. We need volunteers to assist with the plantings. Horticultural experts from RVCA will be there to guide the planting as per the plan that they have created. There is no obligation in any way, just thought some of the members of the Horticultural Society might be interested.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Last Duel Park Shoreline Naturalization Project

Help us revitalize the shoreline along the Tay River! In partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, we'll be planting native trees, shrubs, and perennial plants along the shoreline at Last Duel Park.

- Dates: May 13 & 14
- Time: 10am-4pm
- What to bring: a shovel, food, and water

SIGN UP NOW - CALL 613-267-3311 EXT. 0
OR EMAIL CONTACTUS@PERTH.CA



Rhubarb – Plant Once, Harvest for Years

Written by Judy Wall, Master Gardener with the Lanark County Master Gardeners

Early spring signs of rhubarb, when the plant starts to come alive poking thru the ground always excites me. Rhubarb is a perennial long lived plant, which requires very little from me each season. Add a little compost around the crown early spring, watch for stocks which hold large clusters of seeds which should be cut off before seeds form, puts the energy back into the plant so it can produce more rhubarb stalks. To harvest the rhubarb, you pull the stems holding them close to the ground and pull. Bring a large kitchen knife out to the rhubarb patch, to cut the leaves off and dispose of them (not in the compost) as they are poisonous. Then cut off the other end of the stalks. Take the rhubarb to a sink wash and cut into desired lengths. It seems to me the more you pick the more stalks grow, thru to about mid-July when the leaves start to turn yellow and die, as it goes dormant until next spring when it reappears.



There is nothing nicer than homemade rhubarb/strawberry pie in early spring or any time of year. Rhubarb freezes really well. Chop the rhubarb into smaller pieces about 1" long and package them in plastic bags, measured to the qty. required for certain recipes such as:

Rhubarb muffins, rhubarb pie, rhubarb to go along with other fruits for a mixed fruit crumble, or rhubarb squares. Rhubarb stew preserved in jars is also easy if you don't have much freezer space. It can be added to granola and yogurt for breakfast, and so many more uses for rhubarb.

Rhubarb harvested fresh has no chemicals/pesticides and is healthy for me. Consider growing rhubarb in your garden if you don't already. I call it my superfood. Easy to grow, easy to care for and easy to harvest. The American Institute for Cancer research society <https://www.aicr.org/resources/blog/health-benefits-of-rhubarb/> says: The edible part of the rhubarb plant — the stalk — contains anthocyanins, which yield its bright red color. Anthocyanins are a type of flavonoid found in foods such as berries, red onions, black beans, red grapes and black plums. They act as antioxidants in test tube studies, but in the human body, their protection seems more likely to come from their role in cancer-preventive cell signaling. Anthocyanins have demonstrated protective effects on blood vessels and blood pressure, and recent research suggests that anthocyanins may offer anti-cancer benefits, too.



I am no doctor, therefore do your own research based on your health requirements. Dr. google has many a great recipe for this sometimes over looked vegetable. Yes I said vegetable not a fruit, which many of us use it as. I learned recently of some sweet and sour condiment recipes which use Rhubarb, such as Rhubarb Mostarda, which I will be trying this season to expand my use of Rhubarb.