

November 2012 Newsletter



November comes
And November goes,
With the last
red berries
And the first
white snows.
With night
coming early,
And dawn
coming late,
And ice in the bucket
And frost by
the gate.
The fires burn
And the kettles sing,
And earth sinks
to rest

Until next spring
- Elizabeth
Coatsworth



Lanark Orchid

Renals

Perth & District
Horticultural
Society

P.O. Box 494
Perth, ON, K7H 3G1
www.gardenontario.org

District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association



Let's "Share The Wealth"...

The PDHS is facing increased expenses from higher speaker fees, expensive printing costs, rental fees, flower costs - the list is extensive. The PDHS Board has been very reluctant to consider an increase in our membership fees to offset these ever growing expenses. We want to keep our club affordable for everyone who wants to attend.

There have been several suggestions that the PDHS adopt a "Share the Wealth" program at our monthly meetings. Many horticultural societies have adopted this for their meetings as a way of offsetting their growing costs of operation.

If you haven't heard of this before it's when an organization like a church, charity or a horticultural society sells tickets and shares the money collected equally with one of the participating buyers through a draw or other method.

Due to popular request, the PDHS will have its own "Share the Wealth" for a trial period starting on Film Night in January 2013. Tickets will be sold at 3 for \$1.00 and the winner announced after the social break. Participation is, of course, optional.

So have fun and Good Luck to all who participate!

Library News

by Kevin Long

At present our library subscribes to two magazines, "Canadian

Gardening" and "Fine Gardening", and you are encouraged to sign issues out. Magazines can be an excellent way to keep up with the latest news and trends in gardening. If you have any feedback as to whether you find these titles useful, or if you know of other magazines we should consider, please share that information with our librarian Kevin Long.

Christmas Social Centrepieces

Our Christmas Potluck Social and AGM on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 is rapidly approaching and all members planning to attend are asked to bring a dish to share. If you haven't signed up yet, contact Janet Osborne or just bring a surprise dish that evening.

To make the evening more enjoyable, everyone is encouraged to try their hand at making a Christmas Centrepiece which we will give away to lucky winners. The more Centrepieces, the more lucky winners. So, even if you don't think you are talented in this area, give it a try and bring your "creation" with you. I personally



President: Madeline Archer
Secretary: Pam Pratt • **Newsletter:** Pam Pratt, Irene Hofmann

have no talent in this area and every year pray fervently that the "lucky" winner manages to get it home without it falling to pieces!

Set-up for the social will start at 4 p.m. and we could use all the help possible. So consider coming early and setting tables or folding napkins.

The Social will start at 6:00 p.m. and the AGM will follow.

If you haven't purchased your membership for 2013, why not do it at the Social? A table will be set up. Membership is only \$10 per year and is still the best bargain in Perth.

Flag Garden Sign Update...

On a recent, bright October day, Perth Mayor John Fenik and Town Crier Brent McLaren together with his wife, Shelley, and witnessed by PDHS members, cut the ribbon to unveil the Flag Garden's new heritage sign. The sign was donated by PDHS with help from Parks Canada. For many years now the flowers have been purchased, planted, weeded and watered by dedicated PDHS volunteers. Many of those same gardeners and volunteers were in attendance as Mayor Fenik acknowledged the importance of PDHS in planting and maintaining many of Perth's gardens, keeping them looking their best during the summer months.

"The PDHS is the best organization in the whole world," declared Mayor Fenik, and the attending crowd whooped in agreement.

Thank you to all PDHS Members who took



the time to attend the ceremony. If you haven't seen the sign yet, take a trip to the Gore Street bridge overlooking the Flag Garden. The sign is up beside the bridge.

(Submitted by Lynda Haddon)

Cleaning Up Lavender

Cut 1/3 or less of leaf tips. Don't cut woody stems. Lavender (*Lavandula* spp.) looking rough? If you didn't get around to pruning in spring, that's okay. You can still tidy up the plant in early fall, about two to three weeks before the first average freeze date for your area. There are two ways to do it. With a pair of pruners, cut back individual stems, or use hedge shears to make just one cut. Whichever method you prefer, only remove a third of the leafy growth. Cutting too late in the season, back to bare woody stems or removing too much foliage stresses the plant and often kills it.

Submitted by Lynda Haddon

Source: Garden Gate magazine, December, 2012

Crystal Palace Christmas Tree Decorating Party

Unbelievably, the Town of Perth's Festival of Lights planning is already underway. The PDHS always participates in the decoration of a tree for this event. The trees are displayed in the Crystal Palace and are lit for the Christmas period. The PDHS tree is very unique with its natural tree decorations made by PDHS members. The decorating party for the trees will take place on Wednesday, November 13, 2012. Everyone is welcome to attend and/or participate. Contact Kathy Allen if you wish to take part. We will meet at the Crystal Palace just after 9 a.m. on the 13th.

Thank A Lioness!!

The PDHS has been very fortunate to receive a \$200 donation from the Perth Lioness Club to help support our 2013 Junior Gardener Program. We have sent them a thank you card and will update them at the completion of the 2013 program. Support for the program by the Perth community means a great deal and if you know anyone in the Perth Lioness Club, thank them for their generosity.

Child Rearing VS The Garden

Submitted by Lynda Haddon.

Reprinted with permission by Lisa Gregoire.

Bio: Lisa Gregoire is an Ottawa-based freelance writer and mother of six-year-old twin girls. A one-time newspaper reporter, Lisa gave up the daily grind after 12 years to pursue magazine feature writing. Her work is featured regularly in Canadian Geographic, The Walrus, Ottawa Magazine and Westjet's in-flight magazine Up! She is married to writer/editor Dan Rubinstein.

I admitted something to myself recently and I'm telling you right now, I'm not proud of it. I don't like gardening.

There. I said it. It's out in the open.

Let's be clear, I don't dislike gardens. In fact, I adore gardens. I especially like vegetable gardens. But flower gardens? Well, it's hard to love something that breaks your heart. When my [twin] girls were first born nearly eight years ago, I used to push their mammoth, sidewalk spanning double-wide stroller through my Edmonton neighbourhood and pine over my neighbours' scrumptious landscaping. I'd stare and linger and ache for that ever-blooming beauty.

We were first-time homeowners and I'd managed to tear out a back corner to plant vegetables but I had no lilies, no daisies, no irises, nothing ornamental save for a hanging planter on the porch. I felt like a negligent homeowner: I needed to plant lovely things and watch those lovely things grow, year after year. It would be sublime and effortless. (Pause for uproarious, choking laughter.)

Obviously I was delirious from sleep deprivation.

We moved to Ottawa in November. I knew there was a lot of landscaping on the front lawn but the soil was quickly covered in snow. It wasn't until spring that I realized just how much was planted there, and what care had been put into the choice of perennials which bloomed continuously, from April to August.

Here, finally, was the garden of my dreams. From tiny crocuses to multicoloured tulips and later, giant snowball hydrangeas, it took up more than half of the front lawn and practically exploded in Ottawa's long, humid summers. I was in ecstasy. "Girls," I'd beckon, "there's plenty of room. Let's go to the garden centre and you can each pick out something to plant."

We'll garden together, I thought. We'll be earthy. We'll throw the compost in, eggshells and all. We'll learn about bugs and worms. This is going to be great, I thought.

By the third summer I was sick of it. The weeding and the cutting back and the watering, it never ended. It's a war out there, and my roses are not winning. Weeds and vines are choking them off, green iridescent beetles are munching their leaves, grass is marching in like it owns the place.

I'd lay awake at 4 a.m. worrying that it was all going to weeds. Let me repeat that for emphasis: I was losing sleep because of the garden. I remember sending my husband away camping with the kids one weekend last summer just so I could get in two full days maintenance, which in the end, only bought me a couple weeks reprieve. Eventually the weeds, and their seeds, returned.

It's funny but I never minded weeding and tending to my vegetable garden in Edmonton. There was a reward after all: fresh sweet carrots, tender juicy tomatoes, crisp lettuce and in the fall, new potatoes. You can't eat lilies, but I know some little red beetles that do. "You know what to do," I'd tell the girls every day after school, and off they'd go to pluck and crush beneath their sandals those annoying pests.

If you're wondering where I'm going with this, here's where: in summer, I don't want to be stuck at home every weekend on my hands and knees, duking it out with earwigs and mosquitoes. I want to take the kids camping or to the beach. I want to go to music festivals and outdoor theatre. I want to rummage through garage sales and drive to Montreal and hang out at splash pads and wading pools. I want to sit on blankets with piles of library books and lemonade. I don't mind watering a few plants, but sheesh, enough is enough.

Summer is a time for setting work aside, whenever possible, and making time for family. That's what I remember from my childhood. It's about spontaneity and amusement and discovery. The garden is lovely but there's just too darn much of it. My girls are great helpers, gathering up the dead stuff I cut off and the dandelions I uproot and throwing it all in the green bin. But that only lasts about 20 minutes and then they grab the badminton rackets and bat birdies back and forth on the driveway. I wipe the sweat from my brow, smearing it with soil, and stare in envy. I want to do that too!

I often think of my dreamy self, back in Edmonton, wishing for exactly what I have now. Talk about clueless and naive. Let this be a lesson to all you busy, working moms of multiples: be careful what you wish for.

So I have a new plan, I'm thinking of pulling out half of the perennials and planting tomatoes. Who says you can't grow vegetables on the front lawn? If I'm going to work this hard, I want to be able to eat the spoils.

Monthly Financial Statement

SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2012

Ledger Balance – September 30, 2012 \$1,488.20

RECEIPTS –

Membership	\$ 24.00
Youth Activities	200.00
Miscellaneous – OHA Bulbs	189.00
Bank Interest	<u>.02</u>
October Receipts	\$ 413.02
	\$1,901.22

EXPENSES –

Meeting Expenses	\$ 51.64
Social	15.48
Miscellaneous	162.00
Speakers	<u>75.00</u>
October Expenses	\$ 304.12

BALANCE OCTOBER 31, 2012 \$1,597.10

Reserve Fund – GIC due July 18, 2012 **\$2,532.91**
Investment + Interest @ 1.150 will be
reinvested each year

Illuminary Design Workshop

Lanark Floral Arts is planning a Christmas Illuminary Design workshop for Thursday, December 13th, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Steve's Independent in Carleton Place.

Here's the definition of an Illuminary Design (from the Handbook for Flower Shows, National Council of State Garden Clubs).

A creative design incorporating light/s as one of the components. The lighting must be an integral part of the design, not something added for the sole purpose of including lights. Mechanics of special lighting,

such as wires, batteries, etc. must be concealed or be an integral part of the design. Emphasis is placed on colour, pattern and balance. Lights may only be concealed within bases, and/or containers, or in the background, underlay or other components. These designs are not to be confused with those where spotlights are used to enhance the overall design.

Participants will bring their own container and materials – the 'learning' will be in the 'doing'.

(Alternately, if you prefer to make an evergreen based Christmas design, you're welcome to do so.)

Cost will be \$5.00, with a maximum of 20 people.

Please let me know before December 5th if you would be interested at Imbartlett@ripnet.com

Corporate Sponsorship

If anyone who owns a business is interested in sponsoring in our Society through advertising in our Yearbook, please contact our Yearbook Committee Chair, Linda Bartlett at 613-283-8027 or by email at Imbartlett@ripnet.com. The advertisement would be a full colour business card size ad in our Membership Yearbook. In addition, we would offer you one FREE membership, for one individual of your choosing for 2013. We would also include your advertising on our Website at www.perthhortsociety.com. The cost for advertising is a reasonable fee of \$50.00.

King Creek Nurseries and Carp Garden Centre

Wreathing and Centrepiece Workshops

Horticultural Society members are invited to participate in the Kings Creek Nurseries workshop series, located near Franktown. These popular workshops start mid-November. Starting in mid-November, Kings Creek Nurseries and Carp Garden Centre will again be holding their popular Wreath and Christmas Centrepiece Workshops. Morning workshops start at 9 a.m. and last until about noon. Afternoon workshops start at 1:30 p.m. and last until about 4:30 p.m. These popular workshops do fill up fast, so make your reservations early! Please note that we also hold private workshops and birthday/event party workshops upon request. For more information please check the website: www.kingscreektrees.com, or by phoning 613-253-4126. The cost of the workshops is \$50 and this includes HST. You will take home a beautiful, multi-species wreath that florists often sell for \$80. Free home-baked goods and hot drinks, and a great atmosphere, along with our popular Christmas store.