



# The Ladyslipper

Perth & District Horticultural Society

[www.perthhortsociety.com](http://www.perthhortsociety.com)



Est. 1984

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

November 2021

## PRESIDENT'S PEN

Here we are at our last month of Perth & District Horticultural Society for 2021. It has been virtually a different year compared to previous years. Thank you to all members who participated in our meetings and who volunteered in the Community Gardens and other projects.

Our November meeting will be via Zoom and will consist of the Annual General Meeting and a demonstration on Christmas Urns by Gemmells. Members have to register to attend this meeting as we need to know in advance if we have a quorum in order to conduct the business of the society and elect our new Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is responsible for running the society and organizing the activities, and to advocate for the society within the community.

We meet eight times a year – the Tuesday before each of our meetings for an hour or two in the months that we have meetings. So no meetings in December or January, July and August.

Do you have any thoughts or ideas on how to improve the society for the benefit of all members? If so, a great place to get these ideas realized is to come forward and join the Board. Please contact me by email at [perthhortpres@gmail.com](mailto:perthhortpres@gmail.com) for more details or questions.

The Perth & District Horticultural Society membership fees for 2022 will be our regular \$15.00 and we will start campaigning for membership in January.

We will have Carol Onion from Hillside Gardens as our speaker at our February 2022 meeting. We would like to meet in person starting in February but will monitor the Covid situation and decide closer to the date.

Happy Holidays!

Linda

## HOUSE TOUR OF HISTORIC INGE VA

Submitted by Lynda Haddon

Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) and the Town recently treated all garden volunteers to a tour of this c1823 stone home. The house has had three owners Rev. Michael Harris, the Radenhurst Family and two generations of the Inderwick Family. The house has hosted weddings, lawyers, a Receiver General, illnesses, one of the founders of Queen's University and ghosts.

Robert Lyon, a participant in Canada's last fatal duel, was mortally wounded and carried to the parlour of Inge Va, where he died. The grounds were originally two acres and there was room for livestock, several outbuildings, flower, and vegetable gardens. Winnifred "Winnie" Inderwick, the last Inderwick to live in the home, donated the house to the Ontario Heritage Foundation (now Ontario Heritage Trust) in the late 1970s with the understanding she could live there until her death. Winnie died in 1990 but not before she had saved several important Perth stone buildings in the Town, including Matheson House which is now our museum.

Here is a picture of some of the pottery found in the Privy in 1988.



## **CONGRATULATIONS LINDA BARTLETT**

### **OHA Horticultural Service Certificate**

By Catherine Stephen-Dunn, Sandi Sissons and Jane Avery

If you knew Linda, like we know Linda...WOW!  
...you would be in awe of her accomplishments  
and you would be truly grateful for her vital  
contributions to our P&DHS.

Board members Sandi Sissons and Catherine Stephen-Dunn recently nominated Linda Bartlett for the Ontario Horticultural Association – Horticultural Service Certificate. We are thrilled to report that at the October board meeting Linda was presented with this prestigious award. Read on to appreciate Linda's outstanding achievements.

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU LINDA



Pictured left to right: Catherine Stephen-Dunn,  
Linda Bartlett and Sandi Sissons

Linda has been an active member of the PDHS for 14 years. During that time, she has had a big impact on many different levels.

Linda is an OHA Flower Show Judge. She served as an Assistant Director on the District 2 Board for five years as well as secretary for one year. She has played a role in the District Flower shows and assisted when the society hosted the District AGM. She helped organize several District Judges updates, as well as the Lanark Floral Arts events. Her passion for gardening and flower design has inspired us and for the past two summers she has opened her own gardens to members.

Linda's design and communication skills have been invaluable to our society. She has designed and created the PDHS Yearbook every year since its beginning in 2010. She designed our website and keeps it up to date. She has been sending out the email communications to our members for the past 10 years. For the past two years Linda has also edited and laid out our monthly newsletters (compiled by J. Avery).

Linda has been an active member of our Board of Directors for many years (2009-2013 and 2017 to present). She is an active member of the Jr. Gardeners Program since 2010. She has also liaised with the Town of Perth and the Perth Business Association on various matters and projects. She has arranged for PDHS to participate in Seedy Sunday at various levels in collaboration with the Perth Farmer's Market. She has been an active participant in the decorating of the Christmas Tree at Crystal Palace for many years. She has supported the Community Gardens and promoted the society through local nurseries and garden centres. She started the Corporate Sponsorship program in 2011 and has followed through with each year. She organized bus tours for the society to the Montreal Botanical Gardens and Mosaiculture Gatineau Garden festival.

As PDHS President during this pandemic, she has championed our efforts to reach out and include all of our members; in our newsletters, and online member meetings. She has coordinated and hosted our Zoom meetings, organized a garden tour of Sylvia's 4th Line florals as well as member garden tours. She arranged radio interviews to promote the society. Under Linda's leadership and with her ingenuity we have maintained high membership levels (120+) even through the pandemic.

Linda has made her mark on the PDHS through her commitment to the society and its members.

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# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Submitted by PDHS Master Gardener Dale Odorizzi

Dear Master Gardener:

## How do you know when and what to feed plants?

MG replies:

Generally, if you have good garden soil to start with, you don't need to do more than top-dress with 2-4 cm of compost every couple of years to keep most perennials happy. A good time to do this is early summer (after things are growing well), or late fall. Using compost provides a slower, long-term feeding to plants as well as improving soil texture. Over-feeding can cause plants to get too tall and flop over, and/or produce more leaves and fewer flowers. Some plants are considered 'heavy feeders' – delphiniums, roses, phlox, hydrangeas, and lupins, for example – and these will benefit from some extra fertilizer in the form of compost tea, fish or seaweed emulsion, or well-composted manure. Vegetable garden space can also use extra manure or compost, as you will be taking nutrients out regularly in the form of produce. The best time to fertilize the vegetable garden is late fall (after harvest and clean-up) or early spring, a few weeks before planting. If you are planting a second crop or have vegetables that are heavy feeders, partway through the season you can add more compost near, NOT AGAINST, the plants (side-dressing). Artificial fertilizers such as 'Miracle-Gro' are perhaps best kept for pots and containers of annuals or vegetables – things that will be flowering/fruitletting all season with a limited space for their roots, often in potting soil. A balanced fertilizer (where all three numbers on the package are equal, e.g., 10-10-10) is probably the safest bet. Too much nitrogen (the first number) encourages leaves over flowers. (Of course, that's fine if you are growing foliage plants only.) Check the package for recommended dilution (for soluble fertilizers) and application frequency, as too strong a mixture can burn the plants, and over-fertilizing can lead to weak, leggy growth. Also, you could be wasting fertilizer, as any excess will run out drainage holes when you water. Indoor plants will also often benefit from fertilizing, although some need more than others, so read up on your specific plants. Generally, fertilizing every two to four weeks when they are actively growing is good.

If you have any gardening questions, contact Lanark County Master Gardeners by email at [lanarkmg@gmail.com](mailto:lanarkmg@gmail.com).

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# VOLUNTEER GROUPS TAKES ON LDD MOTH EGG CLUSTERS IN PERTH PARKS



Volunteer Schedule for the week of Nov 15 includes Mon Nov 15 1:30 pm, Wed Nov 17 1:30 pm, Sat Nov 20 1:30 pm. Contact Kate Donnelly at [Tayside.kate@gmail.com](mailto:Tayside.kate@gmail.com) for more details. Kate anticipates that volunteers will be actively removing LLD Moth eggs in our Perth parks through to the end of November.

A very large thank you goes out to all these volunteers that are helping to keep Perth parks healthy and green.

The Lanark County Invasive Species Web Page Provides Additional Insights:  
<https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/environmental-initiatives/invasive-species.aspx>

On Monday, November 8, a group of volunteers began a three-week blitz to remove LDD Moth egg clusters from trees in parks throughout the Town of Perth. Their efforts are focused on Last Duel Park, Conlon Farms, and Stewart Park, although they hope to be able to work through the smaller parks in town as well.

\*The Latin name for the European Gypsy Moth is *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD). Note we are transitioning to the term LDD moth following the announcement officially dropping the name “gypsy moth.”

LDD Moths (formerly known as Gypsy Moths) caused severe defoliation of many trees throughout town this past summer and prompted a group of residents to take measures to mitigate their impact moving forward.

## What is the LDD moth

A single egg cluster contains anywhere from 100-1,000 eggs that will survive the winter, leading to further devastation of trees. Residents and businesses are encouraged to remove all egg clusters that they can access from trees on their properties in order to protect as many trees as possible. Clusters can be removed by scraping them off trees and other hard surfaces into a container of soapy water, then letting them sit for 48 hours before disposing of them.

The LDD moth is an invasive and destructive pest that severely defoliates deciduous and coniferous trees and poses a risk to tree health. Caterpillars, which hatch in April to June, pose the largest threat to our tree population since they eat leaves. During severe outbreaks, large populations can completely defoliate trees and shrubs. While some trees can produce new leaves over the summer, the damage caused by losing their leaves can reduce their growth. Repeated defoliation causes affected trees to lose their strength and can eventually lead to tree death.

The LDD moth goes through various life stages. LDD moth egg masses overwinter on the bark of trees and other hard surfaces. In the spring, eggs hatch and caterpillars feed on leaves. By the time the caterpillars are mature in July, feeding is complete. Mature caterpillars transition to short-lived moths in July and August to reproduce and lay their spongy egg masses.

## What can you do

Depending on the time of year and life stage there are several options to control the LDD

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moth. Always wear gloves when handling the caterpillars because their hairs can cause skin irritation.

### Destroy egg masses

From August to mid-April, you can destroy egg masses to prevent LDD moth damage on your property. Egg masses can be found on tree trunks, branches, rocks, fences, and other hard surfaces. Scrape the egg masses into a container of soapy water and soak for 48 hours week before disposing.

### Burlap band

From mid-May to June, use twine to loosely tie the burlap to the tree so that the top of the band hangs over the bottom. The burlap band acts as a hiding spot for caterpillars during the day. Check the bands daily and dispose of any caterpillars in a bucket of soapy water.



### Hand pick

From July to August, pick pupae by hand with gloves and dispose into a bucket of soapy water. Soak the pupae for one week before disposing.

### Biological control

From mid-April to mid-May, you can apply the biopesticide BTK (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) on

leaves. BTK is a bacterium found naturally in the soil that is poisonous to the larvae once ingested. Use BTK under your own discretion and call a licensed contractor for application. Private landowners may arrange an aerial spray application of BTK by a licensed applicator.

### Natural population control

Over the next several years we can expect the current LDD moth outbreak to naturally collapse thanks to predators and pathogens. For example, NPV (nuclear polyhedrosis virus) is a viral infection that spreads quickly through large populations. The larger the population of LDD moths, the easier it is for NPV to spread and cause a population to collapse. There is also a fungus (*Entomophaga maimaigi*) that has been introduced to control populations of LDD moths. Infections are more likely to spread in a wet spring.



### LDD moths in Lanark County

We are providing education and awareness about the LDD moth and how to reduce infestations on your property through Facebook (@LCClimateAction), factsheets, outreach, and more.

We are not actively managing LDD moth populations. Not managing pest populations is a common, practical approach because pest outbreaks come and go naturally. This is largely due to predators, parasites, and pathogens that decrease LDD moth populations and leads to their eventual collapse.

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# TREE WOUNDS COMPARTMENTALIZE RATHER THAN HEAL

By The Laidback Gardener: Larry Hodgeson, One of Canada's best known garden communicators.

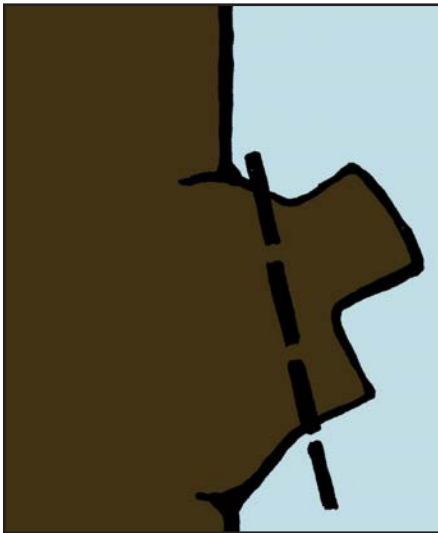
[www.laidbackgardener.blog](http://www.laidbackgardener.blog)

When a tree loses a branch, usually the wound covers over with fresh bark and gardeners usually figure it has healed. After all, when a human is injured—say, a broken bone—, new cells replace the damaged cells and recovery is complete. But that's not the case with trees.

The wound will close over, true enough, but under the scar, the damaged cells simply die and are never replaced. Instead, when all goes well, the cells around the wound emit chemicals designed to prevent rot in the exposed wood while new cells cover the wound. The wound has not healed, though: it is simply isolated.



This is called “compartmentalization”: the tree “isolates” dead cells prone to disease or insect infestations. But this injury remains a weak point for the rest of the life of the tree and there is always a risk of infection (particularly by rot) even decades later. Hollow trees are simply trees where compartmentalization did not do its job.



Ill.: Claire Tourigny

What does this change in life of a home gardener? Learn simply that it is better to prune trees as little as possible. And when you do have to remove a branch (and that certainly happens), it is better to do it when the branch is young, because the wound will be smaller and will compartmentalize more readily and rapidly.

Cut the branch just outside the collar (the raised bark at its base) so it will cover with fresh bark more quickly.

Also, cut the branch just beyond the collar at its base (the raised bark that surrounds the base of the limb): this

is where the greatest concentration of insulating cells is found and if you cut just beyond it, the wound will be covered faster.

Avoid leaving a distinct stub: the tree will have a hard time



Ill.: extension.purdue.edu



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covering it, allowing easy passage to insects and diseases.

And don't paint over the wound with sealing paint or paste either. This old-fashioned product was once thought to help protect from rot, but we now know it does exactly the opposite and encourages it, actually inhibiting healing by trapping and protecting harmful organisms. If a branch tears off, do cut back to even the wound and leave as small and as smooth a surface as possible, but put nothing on the lesion. Instead, trust Mother Nature: she knows what to do!



Tree Wound painted photo travstrees.com.au



Topped tree: this botched job left all the branches with stubs! Photo: johnson.k-state.edu

Especially avoid self-taught tree trimmers who offer "top" your tree (cut back all its branches). They simply shorten all the branches without paying any attention to where they cut, leaving stubs on every branch. They are charlatans who know nothing about trees. Most trees so trimmed will suffer greatly from such an attack, taking years to recover. Many will in fact die, although this can take a few years. When you need to have a tree pruned, look for a certified arborist or, failing that, at least ask the trimmer what they know about compartmentalization!



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## ADDITIONAL SOURCES – BOOK GIFT IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

### Pruning Simplified

by Steven Bradley

#### Description

Filled with sound advice for novice and experienced gardeners alike, this straightforward reference simplifies an important but often daunting gardening task.

Bradley explains how pruning can be used to control plant structure, promote growth, and manage neglected or overgrown plants, and examines the range of tool options, as well as offering an overview of safety considerations. Giving specific instructions and helpful tips for pruning more than 50 types of commonly grown plants, the detailed text, supplemented by color photos and illustrations, clarifies exactly where and how to cut.

The guide also includes advice on pruning trees, hedges, climbing plants and ground cover as well as specialized techniques for topiary, coppicing, pleaching and more. Well organized to help you easily find the information you need, it's a valuable addition to any gardener's library.

Softcover, 8" × 10", 192 pages, reprinted 2019. \$21.50 at Lee Valley



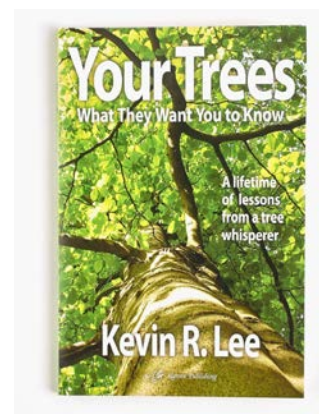
### Your Trees What They Want You to Know, A Lifetime of Lessons from a Tree Whisperer

by Kevin R. Lee

#### Description

Filled with insights and advice from a professional arborist, this practical book explains what your trees need for healthy growth and shows you natural, chemical-free ways to help them thrive.

The author invites you to get to know your trees by observing their normal growth characteristics, so you can quickly recognize when abnormal signs of insect attack, disease, and soil or water deficits appear. He explains how a tree's systems and processes work throughout the seasons, analyzes bud scars as indicators of tree growth and health, and provides details on branch collars and included bark. He describes natural soil layering and offers straightforward guidance for planting, watering, fertilizing and pruning trees and shrubs.



Lee highlights species from more than 40 genres of hardy shrubs and trees suitable for climate zone 3, describing their growth habits as well as commonly seen diseases and insect problems.

Supplemented by color photos and drawings, this is an excellent guide for anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of trees and reduce their tree maintenance budget.

Smyth-sewn softcover, 6" × 9", 164 pages, 2021. \$27.50 at Lee Valley





# POINSETTIA TIPS & TRICKS

from Gemmell's Garden Centre

## Caring for Your Poinsettia

1. Poinsettias do not like the cold. Any store that lets their customers leave with a poinsettia unwrapped should be arrested for poor customer service. Make sure they are wrapped well, and your car is warmed up when transporting poinsettias home. Once home keep them away from drafty entrances or heaters.
2. Keep them evenly moist. Not soaking wet but do not let them dry out. If you have trouble gauging water, then invest in a moisture meter..... it is a life (and plant) saver!
3. Keep poinsettias in bright light as they gradually decline without any natural light.



## Want to keep your poinsettia after the holidays?

*This part of the post is for crazy plant people only!*

- ▶ Keep watering and fertilize once a month with 20-20-20, remove leaves and flowers as they fade.
- ▶ In late March or April cut stems back to about 15cm and reduce watering to give the plant a rest period.
- ▶ Late May, pot up poinsettia into a larger pot with fresh soil.
- ▶ In mid-June put it outside in dappled shade. Keep watering and feeding.
- ▶ In July /August pinch back branches to encourage bushier growth.
- ▶ Labour day, bring back inside house and spray with insecticidal soap.
- ▶ Starting October 1 give your plant 6 hours of bright light and 14 hours a day of uninterrupted darkness (put a cardboard box over the plant in a closet. Continue this process for 8-10 weeks until small bracts appear then bring it out into sunny spot and it should be gorgeous by Christmas once again!

# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2021 CRYSTAL PALACE PERTH

Once again, the Perth & District Horticultural Society will participate in Perth's annual Festival of Lights at the Crystal Palace from November 20 to January 2, 2022.

Our Christmas Tree is themed pollinators and other birds. Robin McIntosh, Catherine Stephenson-Dunn and Sandi Sissons have been busy preparing for this year's display. Thank you ladies for creating and curating our hand-made decorations.

There will be continuous viewing of the decorated Christmas trees from the outside of the Crystal Palace commencing with the tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 20. Unfortunately, there will be no fireworks or interior viewing of the trees due



PDHS Christmas Tree 2020

to the pandemic. Plan a tour to see our tree as well as the many other trees on display

A Community Christmas Tree will be lit up outside the Crystal Palace. Everyone is encouraged to hang a red ornament to thank our frontline workers for everything they have provided since the beginning of the pandemic.



# GET CRAFTY WITH YOU HOLIDAY HOME DÉCOR TOUCHES

## Bring the Greenery Indoors with Eucalyptus Candles

Greenery is one of those décor elements that simply works all year round and these candles from Musings on Momentum prove it can look just as festive during the holidays. Wrap a simple white candle (we recommend on LED version to avoid mishaps) with boxwood, eucalyptus, or any other easy-to-find greenery, and secure with a festive ribbon.



## Cranberry Floating Candles



If you have some mason jars around (and we're sure you do) you can create this cute floating candle from The DIY Playbook. Fill mason jars with holly or evergreens, add water, then add a floating candle and a handful of fresh cranberries. You'll have an instantly chic & organic look for your holiday dinner parties. Make several of these candles and spread them over the house or group together. Note: Change out the cranberries every 10-14 days to keep candles looking fresh. Change water weekly to avoid cloudy appearance. Floating candles are available at most craft stores.

## Candy Cane Mice

Enchant your little ones with a display of candy cane mice. We recommend making a cardboard stencil of each of the major component part, then trace shape onto felt. Cut out all felt parts and assemble using glue, add eyes and nose. When dry insert candy canes. These cute creatures will liven up your holiday table display. Alternatively, you can also create a small version using miniature candy canes. They can act as place cards at each setting when you add a name tag.



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## Pinecone Elves

These adorable elves are easy to create using felt, pinecones, cedar balls and a glue gun. Cedar balls are available at craft stores and on Amazon. They make a great grouping or add a name tag & position at each table place setting. Encourage you guests to take them home as a keepsake.



## Sand Art Menorah



This kid's craft comes from The Spruce. Pour multi-coloured sand into little glass jars (empty jam or baby food jars work well here), then insert faux candle into each. For older kids, trade out metal straw candles for the real thing- as long as they're small enough candles, the sand should keep these safe.

## Shimmering Button Trees



[Specroomstyle.com](http://Specroomstyle.com) deconstructs these festive button tree ornaments. Start with polystyrene cones, add an assortment of buttons, affixing them to the poly tree using shiny headed push pins. All supplies can be found at your local craft supply or online. In the finished image here, we wrapped the cone with burlap before adding the buttons. These beauties can be featured on their own or in groups to add whimsy to your home.

