



# The Ladyslipper

Perth & District Horticultural Society

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



Est. 1984

September 2025

## President's Pen

Summer started off cool, then the dry heat wave struck and stayed. I started revamping my gardens, mulching them as I go along in hopes that the mulch will curb the weeds and save me a lot of work next year. I have been incorporating a lot of native and draught tolerant plants as well. I am collecting seeds to start winter sowing. I will let you know how successful this plan is next year.

I would like to thank Pam Newton for opening her gardens to our members on Tuesday, July 15th. Her property is right on the lake and has wonderous views and her gardens wrap around the house and property. Here are a few pictures taken by Caroline Bolduc while visiting the gardens.

For our October 8th meeting, Gerda Franssen, Lanark County Master Gardener will walk us through how to care for our garden tools. If you have any questions about any tools in particular, please bring them to share with the membership. We will also have an October Mini Flower show. The scheudle is on the back page of this newsletter as well as our website: [www.perthhortsociety.com](http://www.perthhortsociety.com).

As November and our Annual Meeting draw near, it's a great time to think about becoming part of the PDHS Board. Wondering what's involved?

Our Board meets once a month before our general meetings (8 times per year) to plan upcoming events, review finances, share membership updates, and consider new ideas. In between meetings, we keep connected through email as needed. Directors are actively involved in shaping and running the Society's programs—everything from Seedy Sunday and Earth

Day activities to the plant sale, flower shows, garden tours, and community garden maintenance.

Behind the scenes, Board members also take care of important tasks like coordinating speakers, managing our website and social media, sending out communications, keeping track of finances and records, recruiting new members, and staying connected with District Two and the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA).

There are no special qualifications needed—just an interest in horticulture, a reliable nature, and a willingness to give some time to the community. Above all, Board members share a commitment to supporting gardeners of all levels and promoting the love of horticulture through education and events.

We're always eager to welcome fresh energy and new ideas to the Board. Current members are happy to guide and support anyone interested in joining as we continue to grow the Perth & District Horticultural Society.

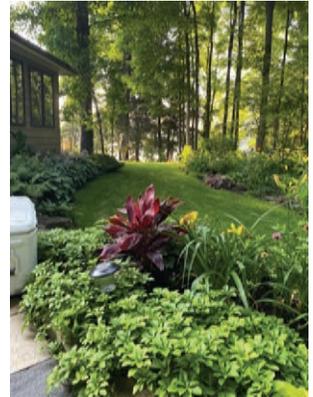
Would you like to be part of this vibrant team? If so, please see Muriel Hopper or Caroline Bolduc as they will be forming the Nominating Committee for the Board.

The Board is proposing that we increase our membership fees for 2026 to \$20.00 per member to help cover our increasing costs of running the society.

As always, your ideas for speakers, outings, workshops and newsletter content are welcome.

Best!

Linda



Pam's garden #2, photo credit Caroline Bolduc



Pam's garden, photo credit Caroline Bolduc

# September Gardening Tips

by Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

Welcome to September! The gardening season is over, or is it? September is a very busy month for home gardeners.

**Perennials**--As the weather cools, it is prime time to divide or transplant spring and early summer flowering perennials, such as iris, peony, phlox, native wood poppy and Canada Anemone. Water the new divisions or transplants well into the fall. Other perennials can be transplanted or divided if needed when the plants' flowers fade. Look back on your garden and add plants to fill any gaps. Consider adding native sedges to give your garden extra texture and winter interest. Sedges are valuable host plants for caterpillars of over 36 butterflies and many moths.



**Vegetables**—Remove any plants that have stopped producing. Sow cool-weather seeds (lettuce, spinach, arugula and radishes). As the weather cools, harvest green tomatoes to ripen indoors, freeze, or use in recipes. Collect and save seeds from vegetables, dill, and native plants. Cut herbs such as parsley, thyme, mint, and rosemary, and then dry them. This can be done in your microwave.

**Trees**—This past summer has been incredibly hot and dry, and it has been very tough on our trees. Water at the soil level with a slow trickle from your hose, which helps the water penetrate the soil to the tree roots. Now is also a great time to plant new trees in the cooler September weather. This gives the trees plenty of time to form roots before frost sets in.

**Houseplants**—Start transitioning houseplants to a shadier location and monitor weather forecasts. If temperatures fall below 10 °C, bring the plants inside after inspecting them for pests and disease by carefully lifting the plant out of the pot and inspecting the soil. Wash the plant with water or a commercial insecticidal soap solution. Prune back woody tropical plants, such as hibiscus, once they move inside. Phalaenopsis orchids may benefit from a drop in temperature (to 17 °C) to encourage flowering. Once inside, 8 to 12 hours of light is optimal for flowering. Continue to fertilize Orchids to encourage healthy foliage.

**Lawns**—This summer was very hard on lawns with the severe drought and may need extensive repair. Choose a rainy day to overseed the lawn and then cover seeds with a top dressing of fine compost or manure. Half the height of the blades of grass should be visible. Fall feeding with a slow release fertilizer will increase root growth for an early spring green up. Fall is a good time to aerate lawns. Sandy soils usually do not need aeration. Pull or cut weeds off at ground level. Rake fallen tree leaves into flower beds. Visit Landscape Ontario for more lawn care suggestions.

**Diseased foliage**—Prune out and remove any diseased foliage. Dispose of disease plant material in the garbage. Removing branches to improve air circulation can help reduce the spread of disease.

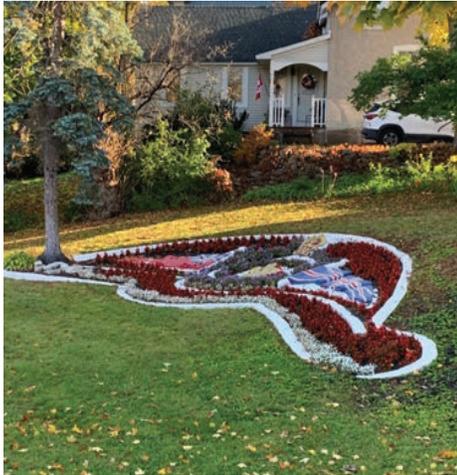
**Get Outside**—There are 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Plan to visit these natural treasures with family or friends.

Contact Master Gardeners at [lanarkmg@gmail.com](mailto:lanarkmg@gmail.com) if you have any further questions.

# Celebrating 100th Anniversary of The Flag Garden

Located at the Tay Basin

In honour of Veteran Philip Joseph McParlan/WWI – Royal CDN Army Medical Corps



On July 2nd, 2025 the Town of Perth hosted a celebration of The Flag Garden at the Crystal Palace to commemorate the “100th Birthday of Philip Joseph McParlan’s Flag Garden”. Philip McParlan created the Garden as a tribute to those men and women who fought in WW1.

McParlan based his garden’s design on a garden he had seen in Valcartier, Quebec while in training before shipping off to Europe in 1916. On his return to Perth, in 1924, McParlan was employed by the Civil Service as Bridgemaster of the Tay Branch of the Rideau Canal. He held the position until his death in 1946. He was recognized publicly for his numerous gardens, and in particular, the ‘floral crescent-shaped crest

on the canal bank’ in 1926.

The ceremony was attended by McParlan’s six grandchildren, three great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Lovely historical stories were shared by MP Scott Reid, Mayor Judy Brown, McParlan’s granddaughter Connie Batoff, Perth Historian Susan Code, and Perth Town Crier Brent McLaren.

It was my honour and privilege to attend on behalf of the Perth & District Horticultural Society. The Perth & District Horticultural Society volunteers diligently maintain The Flag Garden. The PDHS has enjoyed tending to the Garden over the past several decades along with covering the cost of its flowers.

Written by Muriel Hopper/Director, PDHS



**Celebratin of Perth Museum’s 100th Anniversary** was held on Saturday, August 23rd. Some of our members attended the event. The gardens at the Perth Museum are maintained by our Community Garden Volunteers. Thank you to everyone who attended and to our volunteers for maintaining these gardens. Photos credit: Muriel Hopper



# October - Last of the Season Mini Flower Show

## SCHEDULE

### Section I: Horticultural Specimen

- Class 1: Last Rose of Summer – any cultivar – 1 bloom, stem or spray
- Class 2: Any perennial other than rose – 1 bloom or stem - named
- Class 3: 3 leaves of any perennial or annual plant – same cultivar – named
- Class 4: Any annual – 3 stems - named
- Class 5: Holiest Hosta Leaf - 1 leaf - most damaged you can find
- Class 6: Ornamental Grass – 3 stems – named
- Class 7: Garlic – 2 bulbs – displayed on a plate
- Class 8: Any other vegetable – named (one to a maximum of three each)

### Section II: Design

- Class 9: Harvest's End – a design using flowers and/or vegetables and/or fruits
- Class 10: Bewitching Blossoms – an enchanting design
- Class 11: Season's Last Bloom – an arrangement in a vase using fall flowers, branches and/or ornamental grasses from your garden

## 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.

Please refer to the website for more information: <https://www.perthhortsociety.com/>