

A WORMS EYE VIEW
FERGUS & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER 2023



FALL IS HERE!

Meeting 7:30pm, September 27, 2023, doors open at 7pm. Flower show entries start at 4:30 PM

Our September speaker is Paul Gellatly. He has held positions with the Etobicoke Horticultural Society, Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto Zoo to name a few. Over the last 10 years, he has built a community of plant lovers worldwide through his website www.tattooedgardener.ca

“Lug a mug” to partake of refreshments after the meeting.

President's message – September 2023

Fergus & District Horticultural Society

It is mid August as I write this, Randy and I are heading to Cape Breton in September, home in time for our Sept. 27th meeting and flower show. Speaking of our meeting, does anyone know the whereabouts of our large vinyl Hort banner? We had it in May and then it went walkabout. If you can lay your hands on it, please bring it to the meeting or drop it off at Ken's. The OHA convention in Ottawa was very enjoyable. I met lots of likeminded folks and was inspired by several very interesting speakers. The 2024 convention will be in Guelph hosted by our District 7 and District 8. I'm sure organizers will be looking for volunteers, we'll keep you posted. Looking forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Karen

"It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!" – Winnie the Pooh



OHA 50/50 Raffles held monthly! Check out the site and consider supporting the Association. Last month's winnings were over \$7,000!

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

FLOWER SHOW TIME



Once again it is time to see what you have in your gardens and prepare for the September Horticulture and Design Show. We had a fabulous June show so let's see what you can show this time round. If you have any questions or need entry tags or show sheets, please contact Kathy Bouma at kebouma@gmail.com or 519.843.7703. BE SURE to read the schedule as listed below and bring the number and/or item as listed. Have Fun!!!

How to Complete The Entry Tag

Class is the number of the exhibit shown in the show schedule	⇒	Entry Tag CLASS <u>H30</u> SECTION <u>C</u> ARTICLE <u>Hyacinth 1 stem</u> <small>Keep Exhibitors Name & No. Covered Until After Judging. insert flap here</small> EXHIBITOR'S NO. <u>YR 16</u> NAME <u>Ima Gardener</u> ADDRESS <u>Milton</u> fold back after judging <u>Ima Gardener</u> EXHIBITOR MUST SIGN IN ABOVE SPACE <small>Nothers 323 Horton St., London, Ontario (519) 663-9440 Fax: 663-0909</small>
Section is the letter shown in the schedule	⇒	
Article is the name of your species (Latin if you know it—it helps the judge and may contribute to your points)	⇒	
Name and Address please	⇒	
Make sure you sign your entry	⇒	

September Horticulture & Design Show

Division 1: Horticulture

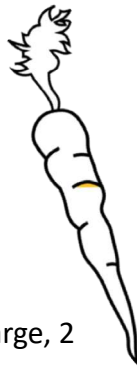
Section A: Flowers

- Class 1 Anemone – 1 stem
- Class 2 Aster, perennial – 1 spray
- Class 3 Chrysanthemum – 1 spray
- Class 4 Dahlia – 1 stem
- Class 5 Hydrangea – Arborescens (Annabelle)
- Class 6 Hydrangea – any other variety, named
- Class 7 Phlox, paniculata (Summer Phlox) – 1 stem
- Class 8 Rose – 1 bloom
- Class 9 Rose – 1 spray
- Class 10 Sedum – 3 stems
- Class 11 Echinacea/Rudbeckia – 1 stem
- Class 12 Ornamental grass – 3 stems, different species
- Class 13 Flowering Branch – 1 branch not to exceed 24"
- Class 14 Any annual, 3 different species– 1 stem each
- Class 15 Any perennial – not listed above, 1 stem



Section B: Vegetables & Fruits

- Class 16 Beets – 2
- Class 17 Carrots – 2
- Class 18 Cucumbers – 2
- Class 19 Onions, any variety – 2
- Class 20 Pepper – 2
- Class 21 Potato – 2
- Class 22 Squash – 1
- Class 23 Tomato, mini, ripe – 5
- Class 24 Tomato, red – 2
- Class 25 Tomato, green – 2
- Class 26 Garlic – 2
- Class 27 Vegetable – not listed above, 1 large, 2 medium or 4 small
- Class 28 Fruit – 1 large, 2 medium or 4 Small
- Class 29 Collection – minimum 4 fruits and/or vegetables, 2 of each, exhibited for cultural perfection



medium

Division 2: Design

Section A: Novice (less than 2 years of showing)

- Class 30 **Wayside Design** – using common flowers, foliage, fungus and weeds found on roadsides
- Class 31 **Who Needs Flowers** – Foliage Design

Section B: Experienced

Class 32 **Wayside Design** - using common flowers, foliage, fungus and weeds found on roadsides

Class 33 **Who Needs Flowers** – Foliage Design

Division 3: Photography

Class 34 **Market Day**

Class 35 **Pink Passion** – any pink flower or flowers

- One 4 x 6 print may be submitted in each category
- Print must be taken in 2022 or 2023
- If fewer than 3 entries are submitted for a category, the prize awarded will be at the Judge's discretion.

Special Awards for the September Show

Champion Dahlia Award

Harry Conklin Rose Award

Champion Echinacea/Rudbeckia Award

John Carter Trophy

Grand Garden Award

Four home owners were honoured with the Grand Garden Award this year recognizing the beautiful gardens they have created and maintain around their homes. The Grand Gardens Award is one of the many programs of the Fergus & District Horticultural Society that help inspire the beautification of Fergus and the surrounding area. The winners are identified and pictured below.



Picture #1. Penny O'Donnell is pictured here in their front garden. Penny along with her husband John Little have created beautiful gardens surrounding their house and their back yard. The gardens include many water stations and artwork created by John along with beautiful plants that create a feeling of peace and serenity as you enjoy the many parts of their property.



Picture #2. Gail and Mac Brown at 565 Gartshore Street, are passionate about gardening and have created a colourful garden that acts as a beautiful pleasing barrier with their neighbour's property. This was much better than a fence to divide the two properties.



Picture #3. Cathy Grant and John Hoffmann, at 0135 Tom Street, have taken a hill at the side of their property and created a magnificent garden that uses the entire hill to set off their property. They lost most of the garden from a fallen tree in a storm a few years ago but their passion and efforts have brought the garden back to life.



Picture #4. Patty Searle-Johnston of the Grand Garden Committee pictured here in front of one of the gardens designed by Barb Reed at 497 Forfar Street East. Barb's entire house is surrounded with an explosion of colour from the flowers that bloom all summer long. Barb started her gardens 10 years ago claims they take little effort to maintain.

Fergus Garden Tour – June 25th

“It grows better every year” – from an article in the Wellington Advertiser

This year's Garden Tour was Sunday June 25th. The four magnificent gardens, part of a self-guided tour, were at 199 St. George Street, West, Fergus, 629 Anderson Street, Fergus, 6885 Fifth Line, Belwood and 031229 9th Line, East Garafraxa. Cash donations for the Food bank were welcome.

We caught up with Bert Peel, the man behind the garden tour, to find out what is involved in putting together a successful tour each year.

Bert, these public tours have been part of the Fergus Horticultural Society for thirty years. Roberta Vlietstra, President at the time, opened the garden tour up to the public in 1993. It had been a tour just for the membership before with a potluck at the end of each tour.

You have been managing these for a long time. What do you look for in the gardens you select?

“We try to give people a wow-factor. We select gardens that spark creativity. We help people understand how various treatments, plants and flowers work together creating beautiful, peaceful environments that bring nature into their surroundings and accentuate the beauty of their home. We try to give them ideas for shade gardens, areas in their yards where people are often stumped. We show them a variety of gardens from large treed lots to small properties so it doesn't matter the size of home, you will get some ideas.”

You are very knowledgeable when it comes to plants, and how to create gardens that continue to bloom, provide colour and change throughout the year. Your property of 12.6 acres is testament to that. You must have a background in horticulture.

“Nothing could be further from the truth. I am from South Africa where everything was tropical and we only had one season. I knew absolutely nothing about plants. When I came to Canada it was July 1st, 1967. I got off the plane to one big party where Canadians were celebrating Canada’s 100th birthday. There was Expo 67, parades, fireworks, concerts. I knew I landed in a country where I wanted to put down roots. I got involved with the local church and noticed how boring the exterior cement walls were. So I planted gardens all around the church. Even though I knew nothing, through trial and error, and I made many errors, the gardens began taking shape.”

“From there I met my wife Marilyn and we planned to create a retreat in Belwood for people with HIV and people who were terminally ill. That was 1997. Our accountant told us we would also need a business tied to the retreat to be able to live on the same premises, government rules you know, so we included a B&B. We call it Riverwood B&B and Retreat Centre. I went crazy on the property creating gardens everywhere. As far as learning, I have found fellow gardeners are people who love to share their knowledge so it is easy to learn from them and of course, trial and error. Over the years that is how I acquired enough to know what works, what doesn’t, how to grow and look after these gardens. I don’t know what I would do without Marilyn. She does so much helping me with everything.”

Bert and Marilyn’s gardens were on this year’s tour. All the gardens were spectacular. What can you say about the people that put their gardens on the tour?

“They are all special people. They work so hard to make their gardens perfect for the tour. They will be at their gardens while the tour is underway welcoming people and answering any questions about their gardens. Just ask them anything you want. They want to share their knowledge and help anyone and everyone that walks through their gardens.”

Do you have anything else to add?

Just one thing. If anyone is interested in being part of the tour next year let me know. There are so many amazing gardens in our area and sharing these with the public just helps our community. The tour generated \$1,493 in donations for the food bank this year.



An additional note on the Tour: The Garden Tour this year featured four very different properties and was well attended thanks to a beautiful summer day. A total of 174 visitor's toured the gardens and we raised \$1,493 which was donated to the Fergus Food Bank. Jackie Andrews from the food bank wishes to thank the Fergus Horticulture Society for the donation. Once again the Garden Tour would not have been a success if it had not been for the wonderful volunteers who stood out in the hot sun smiling and answering many questions. Well done team.



Penny O'Donnell & John Little's garden



Mike & Peggy Agnew's garden



Bert & Marilyn's garden



Barb Cooper and Marty Papernick's garden

Seedy Saturday 2024

Your Seedy Saturday committee is already working on plans for the 2024 event, so here is a timely reminder to all members who maintain their own gardens.

We need seeds from this year's plants to provide free seed exchange opportunities for other gardeners, and maybe for you, too. Propagation of locally-grown varieties, and especially heirloom varieties, which may not be available from commercial vendors, will help support biodiversity. Biodiversity makes living things adaptable. It allows both wild and domesticated species to withstand threats like diseases, climate changes, pests, and other unpredictable conditions. Lend a hand by saving some of those seeds that are in danger of disappearing.

So, as we head into fall and the end of the growing season, please take the time to harvest the seeds produced by the plants in your own garden, whether you grow vegetables, ornamental perennials, or shrubs. Guidance on how to do this can be found in a variety of places, including by Internet search, on YouTube, or on the website of Seeds of Diversity Canada, at www.seeds.ca.

If you feel unable to harvest and clean the seeds yourself, simply trim off the flower heads or seed pods, place them in a Ziploc bag, write the variety name on the bag, and hand them to the Seedy Saturday convener, Fred Mallett, at a future meeting. If you would like Fred to collect seeds from you, contact him at cw.seedy.saturday@gmail.com or by phone at 226-820-2910.

Thank you!

The Alec Calder Award

We are pleased to announce that the first 2023 winner of the Alec Calder Award is Miss Alia Yake, who graduated from the Centre Wellington District High School in July. Starting in September, Alia will be studying for a degree in Food and Agriculture at the University of Guelph. Alia was gracious enough to pen a thankyou note to the members of the Society.

The Society extends its best wishes to Alia for the successful pursuit of her career goals.

The Emmanuel Christian High School has yet to notify the Society of their recipient for this award.

These awards are typically decided by ECHS in September, shortly before their graduation ceremony. A decision will be announced in a future newsletter.

The Society's Alec Calder Award is made annually to a graduating student at each high school who is entering post-secondary studies in horticulture, agriculture, silviculture, or arboriculture. The award represents a \$500 contribution per student towards tuition-related costs.

OHA Conference

by Michelle Goff

This July, July 20 to 24 to be exact, I travelled to the OHA convention in Ottawa hosted by District 2 . This was a convention that was all set to go then the pandemic hit. Well, these folks were well organized. The venue was very well suited for the event offering various size rooms for speakers' sessions and a very large rooms for horticulture and design displays and the main conference and dining area.

I attended sessions that focused on judging and floral design topics . The conference schedule offered various topics that I think would suit everyone's taste from National gardens, peonies, indigenous perspectives, organic gardening, urban gardening to name a few and multiple off site trips to gardens and natural sites in the area. The opening evening we were treated to a fantastic Ottawa Valley Ceilidh featuring Eastern Ontario fiddle music and dance that kept your toes tapping.

As a member of the Fergus and District Horticultural Society I entered the flower show in both horticulture (5 entries) and design (3 entries). I placed well in 4 of my horticulture entries and received a 2nd and 3rd place for my three designs I entered which I was very pleased with. I even received a special award for my Raspberries as best fruit or vegetable.



Overview of horticulture show and Design classes in behind

For my first OHA Conference I was very pleased and impressed with the level of organization. Our District will be co-hosting next year and I can see that a small army of volunteers will be needed to run an event like this. I know members of our society will step up and help out. I am sure more details will come out as we approach this event next year.



*2nd place Design Class title
'Beyond the garden Fence a
transparency design*



*3rd place finish for design class title
"Summer Sorbet"*



*My third design in class titled
a Different Slant*

Many Thanks, Michelle Goff

