



# STREETSVILLE BLOOMS

Streetsville Horticultural Society

*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*

Volume 19, Issue 6

MARCH 2013

**NEXT MEETING: TUES., MAR.12**

**CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH**  
2630 Inlake Court

**Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Darren Heimbacker**

**Topic: "Building Canada's Newest Botanical Garden"**

**Speaker Bio:** Darren worked at a nursery for 18 years before branching out on his own. Whistling Garden nursery and garden centre opened in 2006. Since then he has attracted garden savvy plant collectors from across Canada and the U.S. Whistling Gardens is located in Wilsonville – just minutes south of Brantford. The 56-acre property features an 1881 fieldstone house and unique garden centre.

In May 2012, Darren opened Canada's Newest Horticultural Playground featuring 20 landscaped acres with many classical garden styles some of which are replicas of once majestic formal gardens at various Villas in Italy, Middle Eastern Gardens and the Palace of Versailles. The gardens are surrounded by natural settings of planted native trees and/or water features. His conifer collection is the largest in the world with approx. 2,400 different species and cultivars. Other featured gardens are rock/alpine, perennial, several formal and informal with water features including a new 2 acre lake and Canada's only all stone fountain amphitheatre.

I am sure his presentation will be outstanding. Please join us on March 12<sup>th</sup>!  
Sue Harshman, Program Chair

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## FLOWER SHOW HANDBOOK

The Flower Show Handbook is coming soon. PDF copies will be emailed to all members. Those who wish a hard copy will be charged \$6.00. Please contact Nicky Hall (905 858-2553) if you need a printed copy.

## President's Message

At the February General Meeting, I was surprised with a generous donation of seed packets. Not just a few – I'm guessing 400 packets - vegetable, heritage, annual and perennial. To give all members the opportunity to benefit, the seeds will be available free of charge for all at the March meeting.

I've had limited experience with seed gardening, unlike other members, but scanning through the many packets made me realize that by volume, this is the best opportunity ever to develop an amazing garden on a budget. You don't really need to splash out on expensive gardening plants unless you're into instant gratification. If you know what your budget allowance for the garden is from the very beginning, you will have something to stick to and if there is anything left over, you can reward yourself with that something extra. Without that budget, it's a given you'll overspend. I'm living proof but in good company, I think.

Purchasing from a reliable seed company is obviously the best option but I do know that keeping seeds back from the previous season from flowers and vegetables that grew in the garden is also a perfect option. I sense a 'seed swap' in the making. If you haven't managed to do this from last season, ask other members with that sought after plant for spare seeds that they saved from their gardens. If you fancy the plants that are growing in someone else's garden, this should be the summer to ask if you can take cuttings from them to strike your own. Once the likelihood of frost has cleared, it's off to the garden we go, ready to knock ourselves out again. I can't wait.

A big thank you to member **Janice Ward** for this wonderful seed donation. Very much appreciated.

Sue Hutton, President

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*If you want a rainbow then you have to put up with the rain.*

## CUT FLOWERS

Next time you are purchasing flowers for a vase or arrangement check this chart that gives some indication of the variance of vase life between different flowers. This data has been developed by scientific research in laboratory settings, so as you can appreciate it may not be 100% applicable in the "real world" (homes, offices, hospital rooms, etc.) where conditions are not so tightly controlled. However it is a great tool in determining what a particular ideal vase life might be & which flower should be the longer lasting one.

<i>Cut Flower</i>	<i>Vase Life In Days</i>	<i>Ethylene Sensitive</i>
Agapanthus	6-12	Ext.*
Alstoemeria	6-14	Varies
Anthurium	10-45	Slight
Baby's Breath	5-10+	Ext.
Bird of Paradise	7-14	No
Bouvardia	7-14	Ext.
Calla Lily	4-8	Slight
Carnation	6-14+	Ext.
Chrysanthemum	7-14+	No
Cymbidium (Orchid)	7-28	Mod/Ext.
Dahlia	4-10	Ext.
Delphinium	4-12	Ext.
Dendrobium	10-16+	Slight
Freesia	4-12	Moder.
Gardenia	1-3	Moder.
Gerbera	4-14	No
Gladiolus	6-10	No
Heliconia	7-14	No
Hyacinth	3-7	Slight
Hydrangea	5-10	Moder.
Hupericum	10-21	No
Iris	2-6	No/Mod
Larkspur	4-12	Ext.
Leptosperum	3-5	Moder.
Liatrix	6-14	No
Lily (Hybrids)	4-11	Moder.
Lisianthus	10-14	Slight/Mod.
Marguerite	4-7	No
Narcissus (Daffodil)	4-6	Moder.
Narcissus (Paper White)	5-8	Moder.
Peony	5-10	Unknown
Pincushion	8-16	No
Poppy	5-7	No
Queen Anne's Lace	3-5	Ext.
Ranunculus	3-7	Moder.

Rose	4-12	Moder.
Rose (Garden)	4-12	Moder.
Rose (Spray)	4-12	Moder.
Snapdragon	5-8	Ext.
Solidago / Solidaster	7-10	No
Statice	4-8+	Moder.
Stock	5-8	Moder.
Sunflower	5-12+	Slight
Sweet Pea	3-7	Ext.
Tuberose	4-10	Slightly
Tulip	3-7	Slight
Waxflower	5-9	Ext.
Yarrow	5-10+	

\*Ext. = Extremely Sensitive

### SO WHAT IS ETHYLENE ANYWAY?

The best advice for flowers in the home is to simply avoid placing them close to ethylene sources. Ethylene is produced from a variety of sources including:

- Produce (Apples, apricots, avocados, ripening bananas, blueberries, cantaloupe, citrus fruit (not grapefruit), cranberries, figs, guavas, grapes, green onions, honeydew, ripe kiwi fruit, mangoes, melons, mushrooms, nectarines, okra, papayas, passion fruit, peaches, pears, peppers, persimmons, pineapple, plantains, plums, prunes, quinces, tomatoes and watermelon)
- Propane heaters
- Auto exhaust, gas powered fork lifts
- Cigarette smoke
- Other Flowers (more pronounced with aging)
- Bacterial and Botrytus (fungal disease)

### Some simple rules to follow are:

- Never place flowers near fruit or vegetables.
- Avoid placing flowers in areas where they will be exposed to heavy cigarette smoke or exhaust from propane heaters or automobiles, trucks, etc.
- As flowers age remove dying or older flowers close to fresher flowers.

Keep flowers out of higher temperatures. While it is not practical to keep your flowers at less than 40° F in your home placing them in a very warm area will shorten their life overall.

Submitted by Lynne Sereda

## HOT ONION DIP

*A great spread for crackers, breads, toast etc.*

3 – 8 oz cream cheese  
2 cups grated Parmesan  
1/2 cup Hellman's Mayonnaise  
Finely minced onion to taste.

Heat oven to 400°

All ingredients should to be at room temperature when you mix them together.

Lightly spray baking dish  
Mix all ingredients and put into baking dish  
Bake for 30 min or more 'til bubbling and brown on top.

Grace Nelham

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## 2013-14 FLOWER SHOW DESIGNS

If any one has any ideas they would like to have written into the Design section of the 2013-2014 schedule please contact Lynne Sereda at [lynnesereda@rogers.com](mailto:lynnesereda@rogers.com) before our April

### Deadline.

Our Categories are:

- Novice
- Men's Only
- Miniatures
- Design One
- Design Two

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## REFRESHMENTS

*Put the kettle on – it's time for tea!*

Thanks to all who helped out on the refreshment table at the February meeting. We had a feast this February - donations from **Andrea Vertoli, Lorena D'Arsie, Amgad Boles, Mary Hachey, Bhawani Nadarajah, Nicky Hall, Eleonora Roberts, June Samaras and Lil Duke** were well received by all. If you'd like to donate goodies for our next meeting please give Eleonora Roberts a call at 905-302-4491.



Remember, we are in a nut free facility.

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**Respect yourself enough to walk away from ANYTHING that no longer serves you, grows you, or makes you HAPPY.**

## PLANT SALE 2013

**May 11th**, 2013 is the date for this year's plant sale. For all our new members and to remind our veteran members, the plant sale is SHS's biggest fundraiser of the year. The proceeds of the sale pays for our speakers, judges for the flower shows, premiums and more. This year the goal is to raise \$6000. I need every one of our members' help to make this sale successful.

Over the next few months I will be sending plenty of notices looking for recruits. Think about what you can do to help. Volunteers are needed for labeling, potting up, caring for plants up until the sale, transportation, set up, clean up, selling and more. The sign up sheets will be posted at the March meeting.

Debra Buckler, Plant Sale Chair

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## OHA DISTRICT 15 ANNUAL MEETING – APR. 27

*Theme: "Gardening for Healthier Communities"*

Please join Streetsville Horticultural Society at the AGM for a full, interesting and enjoyable day, including a Flower Show.



Guest Speaker will be James Graham, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the OHA, who will be taking us for "A Walk Down the Garden Path".

Registration for the day is \$30.00 per person (includes breakfast buffet, beverages, lunch with dessert and free parking). The OHA will subsidize the cost at \$5.00 per person and SHS will pay an additional \$10.00 – **making the cost to you \$15.00 for the day!**

Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m.; meeting at 9:30 a.m.

To register contact Lynn Merritt at (905) 826-3281 or [lynnc.merritt@sympatico.ca](mailto:lynnc.merritt@sympatico.ca). Bring \$15 cash to the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. No cheques, please.

Full details, including Agenda, directions, Flower Show Schedule and Flower Show Entry Form will be forwarded by email in pdf format.

**Final deadline to register is SHS meeting on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

## **VOLUNTEER HOURS**

Please remember to send Eleonora Roberts your volunteer hours. Email your totals and activity on a monthly basis to [gattescobhouse@rogers.com](mailto:gattescobhouse@rogers.com)

Prefer to hand in your totals to Eleonora in person? Jot them down and drop them off at the Refreshment Table of our meetings – you'll find her there.

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## **VACANT COMMITTEE POSITION**

### **Education / Publicity Table Chair**

One of our board members has had to step down and we are currently seeking a replacement.

The mandate of the Education/Publicity Chair is to create displays and compile information to support our speakers' topics.

Duties include researching the internet, gardening books and magazines for information to supplement the subject. Print out anything interesting and use it to create a display or storyboard. A few short articles may be photocopied (10-20 copies) to be available on the table for interested members. A flower arrangement or display may also showcase the theme.

If interested in this position please contact Sue Hutton at 647 638-1269 or email her at [susanhutton@sympatico.ca](mailto:susanhutton@sympatico.ca)

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## **FREE SEED PACKETS – MARCH MTNG.**

As mentioned in the President's message, SHS received a generous donation of approximately 400 packets of seeds. Seeds will assist with cost effective gardening; organic gardening in the sense that you can opt to fertilize organically.

The seed selection will be spread out at the March meeting for easy selection and access and will be available after the speaker.

*"All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today."*

## **WANTED: STREETSVILLE BLOOMS EDITOR**

The editor ensures that the publication is full of entertaining, informative and newsworthy articles.

The responsibilities of the role can include: generating ideas for articles; receiving articles from board and other members, editing and proofreading; publishing and mailing the final publication.

### **Work Activities**

- overseeing the layout, appearance and content of articles;
- generating ideas for timely articles and writing same;
- editing and re-writing articles, some of which may be rejected or returned to the writer for revision;
- selecting feature articles for each issue;
- sending out reminders to board members of deadlines.
- proofreading all pages before sending to President for review.
- networking with others such as District 15 board and OHA newsletters for pertinent information.
- Email pdf final document to Staples for printing (for those who receive hard copies.
- Printing labels for envelopes, fold copies, purchase stamps and mail final hard copies
- Send pdf final copy to Secretary for posting on the website. When posted notify all members of the link.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Sue Hutton at 647 638-1269 or email her at [susanhutton@sympatico.ca](mailto:susanhutton@sympatico.ca) Training will be provided.

## **SHAMROCKS – Just in Time for St. Patty's Day**

Shamrock plants also called oxalis are fun to grow and are low maintenance plants that do well indoors. These perennials come back from year to year and they also bloom. It's nice to grow indoor plants that flower adding a splash to your home.

Perky shamrock plants have clover-shaped (three-lobed) leaves and are common wood sorrel plants. These attractive houseplants can be

purchased with foliage colors of red, purple or green. *Oxalis* should bloom at least twice per year in shades of red, pink, white or yellow. Shamrock plants thrive with minimal care.

Shamrock plants get their names because of their cute clover shaped leaves. The two most popular types of oxalis grown indoors are good-luck plants, which are called *Oxalis deppei* and Irish shamrocks known as *Oxalis acetosella*. Good-luck plants have green shamrock shaped leaves with white streaks along each leaf vein and red or white blossoms. Irish shamrocks have a solid green leaf and the same flower colors.

The neatest thing about shamrock plants is that they react to light, folding up their leaves on overcast days or at night and opening them on sunny days when there is light. This phenomenon is called nyctinastic movements.

You can buy oxalis plants in the fall or early spring from nurseries and shamrock seeds may also be available online. The easiest way to get



started is by purchasing shamrocks plants. Place the plants in 6-inch containers with a good quality potting soil mix. Plant pots need to be positioned indoors where they can get indirect sunlight. *Oxalis*

plants do not tolerate temperature above 75 degrees during daylight hours. They need nighttime temperatures of 50 or less than 70 degrees. Temperatures differing from these ranges can start plants into early dormancy.

Shamrock plants require a very different watering schedule than most other houseplants that you may have encountered. The soil barely needs to be kept moist with a watering once in 10 or 14 days. This lets soil dry out in between watering. Every two months oxalis containers should be flushed to remove accumulated salts from the soil with room-temperature water. Shamrock plants do best when watered using purified or distilled water rather than tap water.

During periods of growth and flowering, you can fertilize shamrocks about every two or three

weeks. Use a 10-10-10 fertilizer. Shamrocks go into dormancy each summer showing dieback on the leaves. Discontinue fertilizing and watering and cut off the dying leaves. Place them in a dark, cool closet for two or maybe three months. When you see new shoots developing move the plant back into a window with sunshine and resume watering as normal. Cheery shamrock plants make a nice addition to your houseplants especially when blooming.

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## DRAW TABLE

Our first meeting back, proved to be a resounding success yet again for our Draw Table. Sales were great and were increased with the donation of Liz Primeau's book on the wonderful attributes on garlic.

It was wonderful to see everyone again after a long cold winter! Thanks to all of you who waited patiently in line while I tried to make change for you, meanwhile discreetly nibbling on the goodies that I couldn't resist.

To those of you who offered to help me carry the prizes into the hall and for helping me try to get my act together after our short hiatus, I truly appreciated your help. A special thank you to **Carol Ashford, Joe Boles** and **Jackie Loynd** for their donations to our up and coming Draw Tables. Your generosity is so appreciated.

We are always accepting new items that can be used to make up those coveted gift baskets.

Please feel free to contact me at 905 785-9023 or [decoratewithme@sympatico.ca](mailto:decoratewithme@sympatico.ca) should you wish to make a contribution.

Looking forward to seeing you in March!

Marylyne Brown, Draw Table Chair

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## MARCH

The March wind roars like a lion in the sky,  
And makes us shiver as he passes by.  
When winds are soft,  
And the days are warm and clear,  
Just like a gentle lamb,  
Then spring is here.

Author Unknown

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to **Vinod Bhargave, Diana DiBiase, Joan Chin** and **Parvin Ghamsari** who joined SHS as new members in February. Lisa Boon, a guest for the evening, enjoyed our speaker's talk on garlic.



Be sure to say a special 'hello' to these new members and share with them some of the exciting events happening in our society in the near future like our Annual Plant Sale and Garden Tour.

It's great to see so many members wearing their nametags. If you've lost yours – just create a new one! How many members do you now know that you weren't familiar with last September? Do your part to make everyone feel comfortable and included in our meetings!

**Special Thanks:** A special thank you goes out to SHS Life Members, **Jeannette and Will Moens**, for their generous monetary contribution to our society. Thank you!

Adele Gibbins, Membership Chair

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 4 "Growing from Seed"** – 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Toronto Botanical Garden. \$40 Start your veggies and annuals indoors from seed. Hands on seed planting and take some seeds and windowsill greenhouse kit home 416 397-1340.

**March 9 Brampton Seedy Saturday**  
10:00 – 3:00 Century Gardens, 340 Vodder St. E., Brampton

**March 15 – 24 Canada Blooms.** Celebrate the magic of spring at the Direct Energy Centre. For more info, visit the Canada Blooms website.

**April 27 OHA District 15 AGM** hosted by Cloverleaf Garden Club at the Nissan Corporate Centre, 5290 Orbitor Drive in Mississauga. Breakfast provided and hosted by Streetsville Horticultural Society. More details on page 3.

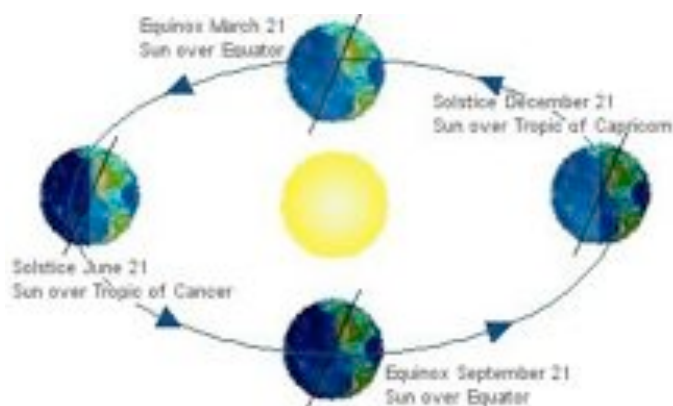
**May 11 SHS Annual Plant Sale**

## FIRST DAY OF SPRING – MARCH 20

In Canada and the rest of the northern hemisphere, the first day of the spring season is the day of the year when the Sun crosses the celestial equator moving northward (on March 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>). This day is known as the Vernal Equinox.

A common misconception is that the earth is further from the sun in winter than in summer. Actually, the Earth is closest to the sun in December, which is winter in the Northern hemisphere.

As the Earth travels around the Sun in its orbit, the north-south position of the Sun changes over the course of the year because of the changing orientation of the Earth's tilted rotation axes. The dates of maximum tilt of the Earth's equator correspond to the Summer Solstice and Winter Solstice, and the dates of zero tilt to the Vernal Equinox and Autumnal Equinox.



The reason for these changes has to do with the Earth's yearly trip around the sun. For part of the year the Earth's North Pole points away from the sun and part of the time toward it. This is what causes our seasons. When the North Pole points toward the sun, the sun's rays hit the northern half of the world more directly. That means it is warmer and we have summer.

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Questions, concerns, ideas, want to **volunteer** call  
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SHS website: [gardenontario.org/site.php/streets](http://gardenontario.org/site.php/streets)