



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



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Index

President's Message	... 1
Speaker's Corner	... 2
Membership Desk	... 3
Christmas Workshop	... 3
From the Raffle Table	... 4
Peonies	... 4
10 Tips for Better Pictures	... 7
Seed Catalogues	... 8

NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2018

Streetsville United Church

274 Queen Street South

Doors open 7 p.m.

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

The President's Message

January is the start of a new year, a time to consider new dreams or to start acting on some old ones. Winter is a time for rest and contemplation for gardeners. Unlike some places where people can garden around the year, here in southern Ontario, we are forced by winter to take a break. It gives us time to read about gardening and to browse through seed and other garden catalogues. It is time to think and plan for next year. What can I do differently next year, what worked, what didn't, what plants can I add that will make my garden a stand out. Many of our members have significant garden expertise, if you have questions I'm sure they will answer you.

Like gardeners everywhere, Streetsville Horticultural Society (SHS) is drawing up plans for the spring. Many of our activities only take place when the weather improves, but the work and preparation need to be started beforehand so that we are ready. Our plant sales, community planting, and garden tours, require a lot of forward planning and logistical preparation so they succeed.

We have another busy year ahead of us: April – Open House, May – Plant Sale, July – Garden Tour. If any of you have some extra time this winter, please consider volunteering for one of our committees or activities. There is always plenty to do. Plus, it is a great way to meet people and get involved in the SHS. We

encourage new and newer members to become involved. Your energy and ideas are most welcome. I have the information from the September member survey and will be in touch with members who volunteered time. I hope to see you at our monthly meetings.

At our March meeting, we will have a member-judged photo competition, the rules are:

1. The photos must have been taken by the entrant;
2. They may not have been entered in any previous SHS or OHA photo contests;
3. They must be garden or nature related;
4. You may enter two 4 X 6 inch photos, think of them as my best or my favourite.

Other events that are happening this winter are:

The **Applewood Garden Club** is happy to announce that the THREE AMIGOS are coming to Mississauga on Tuesday January 23, 2018. Mark Cullen, Frank Ferragine and Denis Flanagan will discuss Healthy Gardening for Today's World. The event will be held on Jan 23, at Great Hall, Unitarian Congregation at 84 South Service Rd, Mississauga.

Tickets are available after Dec 10 from Wendy Bell, 905-891-7884,

wbell.kaleidoscope@rogers.com OR from Home Hardware at Applewood Plaza, 1077 North Service Rd, Mississauga.

The Royal Botanical Gardens winter exhibit is called: Frogs! Held from January 20 to April 15 at the RBG Centre on Plains Road, Burlington
<https://www.rbg.ca/frogs>



Frogs! Is a dynamic exhibit experience with two special exhibitions and daily, family-friendly activities where visitors of all ages can explore the wonderful world of frogs and their wetland homes. It sounds like a great day out.

See you January 9.

Monica Ross, President

Speaker's Corner

Our January 9, 2018 guest speaker is Darren Heimbecker of Whistling Gardens in Norfolk county. Darren last spoke to us in 2013 describing the creation of his extensive botanical garden. Since then the gardens have continued to expand now including the largest public collection of peonies in North America. Rated by Sonia Day in the Toronto Star as the best regional gardening event of 2017, the Whistling Gardens Peony Festival, held in June, is described as a sumptuous, voluptuous, flowery feast. Darren will focus his talk on the peony collection which includes over 1000 varieties.

Phil Walker, Speaker Chair

Looking to Place an Advertisement

BUSINESS CARD \$15

QUARTER PAGE \$30

HALF PAGE \$50

FULL PAGE \$100

From the Membership Desk

If a stranger was to pop in and view our meeting tonight, I am sure he/she would see a view similar to Santa's workshop! There was lots of hammering, fir boughs everywhere, glue, ribbons and chatter.

I came home with a birdhouse that is fit to house a special guest come spring.

Not too sure if I got the head count exactly right, but hopefully my number of "42 members attending" will magically be right.

Remember to wear your name tag at all times while at our meeting, it will make it much easier for us to get to know one another. Pick up your name tag when signing in at the desk, and return it at the end of the meeting.

I am missing a few name tags ... if yours has mysteriously hitched a ride home with you, please bring it back – thank you!!

Looking forward to your smiling faces in the new year! ✂

Vivianne Holmes, Membership Chair

Christmas Workshop

Here are a few pictures of our Christmas workshops for you to enjoy.



Grace Nelham, Archives Chair

From the Raffle Table

A new year is upon us and I am looking forward to our upcoming meetings and events. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with family and friends. I have put together a few items for January and I hope you like them. February brings a Valentines theme for the raffle table and I am so excited for some of my upcoming items!

I am taking donations so please feel free to bring them in in the next couple of meetings.



Grace McElhiney, Membership Chair

Peonies



The **peony** is outrageously beautiful in bloom in springtime—with lush foliage all summer long. Here's how to grow peonies and get the best peony flowers in your garden.

Peony flowers are perennials that come back every spring to take your breath away. The plants may live longer than you do—some have been known to thrive for 100 years.

Peony plants require little maintenance as long as they are planted properly and establish themselves; they do not respond well to transplanting.

They're hardy to Zone 3 and grow well as far south as Zones 7 and 8. In most of the country, the rules for success are simply full sun and well-drained soil. Peonies even relish cold winters, because they need chilling for bud formation.

Peonies make fine sentinels lining walkways and a lovely low hedge. After its stunning bloom, the peony's bushy clump of handsome glossy green leaves lasts all summer, and then turns purplish or gold in the fall, as stately and dignified as any shrub.

In mixed borders, peonies bloom with columbines, baptisias, and veronicas, and combine well with irises and roses. Plant white peonies with yellow irises and a froth of forget-

me-nots; set off pink peonies with blue Nepeta or violets.

Planting

When to plant peonies

- Plant peonies in the fall: in late September and October in most of the country, and even later in the South. (If you must move an established plant, this is the time.)
- Peonies should be settled into place before the first hard frost. Spring-planted peonies just don't do as well, experts agree; they generally lag about a year behind those planted in the fall.

How to Plant Peonies

- Grow peonies in deep, fertile, humus-rich, moist soil that drains well. Soil pH should be neutral.
- The soil will benefit from the addition of organic material in the planting hole. If the soil is heavy or very sandy, enrich it with compost. Incorporate about 1 cup of bonemeal into the soil. Tamp soil firmly. Learn more about soil amendments and preparing soil for planting.
- Peonies are not fussy, but choose your location wisely, as they resent disturbance. Provide shelter from strong winds. Plant away from trees or shrubs as peonies don't like to compete for food and moisture. Space them three to four feet apart for good air circulation.
- Peonies like full sun, and though they can manage with half a day, they bloom best in a sunny spot.
- Peonies are usually sold as bare-root tubers with three to five eyes, divisions of a three- or four-year-old plant.
- Dig a generous-sized hole, about two feet deep and two feet across in well-drained soil in a



sunny spot. If the soil is heavy or very sandy, enrich it with compost. Incorporate about one cup of bonemeal into the soil. Tamp it firmly.

- Set the root so the eyes face upward on top of the firmed soil, placing the root just 2 inches below the soil surface. (In southern states, choose early-blooming varieties, plant them about an inch deep, and provide some shade.)
- Don't plant too deep! In most of the country, the peony's eyes (buds) should be no deeper than 1-½ to 2 inches below the soil line.
- Then, backfill the hole, taking care that the soil doesn't settle and bury the root deeper than 2 inches.
- Water thoroughly.

Care

Like children, young peonies take time to develop. They usually need a few years to establish themselves, bloom, and grow.

Peonies thrive on benign neglect. Unlike most perennials, they don't need to be dug and divided.

- Spare the fertilizer. Work the soil well before you plant, mixing in a little fertilizer, and that should be enough.
- If your soil is poor, the time to apply fertilizer (bonemeal, compost, or well-rotted manure) is early summer, after the peonies have bloomed and you have deadheaded. Don't fertilize more than every few years.



- Help the stems. If peonies have any structural weakness, it is their stems, which are sometimes not strong enough to support their gigantic blossoms. Consider three-legged metal peony rings that allow the plant to grow through the center of the rings.



- Deadhead peony blossoms as soon as they begin to fade, cutting to a strong leaf so that the stem doesn't stick out of the foliage. Cut the foliage to the ground in the fall to avoid any overwintering disease.
- Don't smother peonies with mulch. Where cold temperatures are severe, for the first winter after planting you can mulch VERY loosely with pine needles or shredded bark. Remove mulch in the spring.

Pests/Diseases

Peonies are generally very hardy. They are susceptible to Verticillium wilt, ringspot virus, tip blight, stem rot, Botrytis blight, leaf blotch, Japanese beetle, and nematodes.



Many gardeners wonder why so many ants crawl on the peony buds. They are eating nectar in exchange for attacking bud-eating pests. Never spray the ants; they're

helping you nurture peonies to bloom!

Luckily, peonies are also one of many deer-resistant plants you can grow in your garden.

Harvest/Storage

Peonies make wonderful cut flowers, lasting more than a week. For best results, cut long stems when the buds are still fairly tight.

Recommended Varieties

Peonies are spring-bloomers, but you can plan your garden for a successive display of flowers from mid-May to early June. Here are some choices:

- 'Early Scout': very early, red single flowers
- 'Firelight': very early, pale-pink single
- 'Karl Rosenfield': midseason double with large crimson blossoms
- 'Norma Volz': midseason large, white, fully double flower
- 'Elsa Sass': late-season double with pure-white, camellia-like flowers. ♂

<https://www.almanac.com/plant/peonies>

10 Tips for Better Flower Pictures

1. Photograph on an overcast day.
 - Soft even light of an overcast day compliments the flowers and there are no shadows and no harsh spots.



2. Backlight will make your flowers glow.



○ The sun is directly in front of you lighting the flower from behind. Because flower petals are translucent,

backlight make flowers appear to glow.

3. Watch out for wind.

- Wind is your enemy. Do your photography early in the morning.

4. Get closer.

- Use a telephoto lens and zoom in.
- Use a macro lens and get in close.

5. Use a reflector.

- If your flower is in the shade, use a reflector to bounce light towards your subject.

6. Avoid a cluttered background.

- Try to change your position so there is nothing distracting behind your flower.

7. Use of shallow depth of field.

- Only part of the picture is sharp and the rest is softly



blurred. Use a wide aperture (low aperture number) such as f/4 or f/2.8. The effect is more pronounced when

using a telephoto lens with a wide aperture.

8. Make it sharp.

- Use a tripod, cable-release or the two second timer.

9. Change your point of view.



○ Move around and try different angles for more interesting pictures.

10. Focus through another flower.

- Position yourself so another flower is in front of your main subject and very close to the edge of your lens. The secondary colour will become a blur of colour and your final image will have a more abstract feel.



<https://digital-photography-school.com/10-tips-for-improving-your-flower-photos/>

Streetsville Blooms

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would you like to volunteer for
a position on the Board?**

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What to look for when buying seed from catalogues

- Buy local, close to where you live. It is best if they are in the same climatic zone as you and sell to your area;
- Buy from a reputable dealer that tests all seeds for germination and vigour each year;
- Buy from a dealer who has been in business for a long time and have many clients who offer testimonials;
- Ask your fellow gardeners who they use.
- Buy organic instead of conventional seeds. Organic have not been treated with chemical fertilizers, fungicides and pesticides.
- Avoid companies who describe their seeds as, “does best in a warm, sheltered microclimate”“, well worth the extra time”“, harvest promptly for best quality.”
- Look for seeds described as, “germinates quickly,” “consistently high producer,” “excellent quality even at large sizes”.
- Check Days to Maturity. If seeds are grown in the same climate zone as you, the seeds should do well in your backyard.
- Write down any name of successful plants so you can find the seed again next year.

Happy seed shopping!

Excerpts taken from <http://www.permaculture.co.uk/>,