

# The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden Club



May/June  
2025

## Contents

President's Message.	2
Upcoming Meetings and Events: .....	3
May Meeting at LVIV Hall .....	3
June Meeting at LVIV Hall .....	3
21 <sup>st</sup> Annual Peony Festival .....	4
Oshawa Garden Club Annual Plant Sale!...	5
Parkwood Tennis Court Gardens Rejuvenation Projects .....	6
Community Events and Webinars.....	8
The Oshawa Garden Club's Giving Garden Project .....	9
A Gallery of Peonies	11

Cover photo by Cecile  
Willert

Submission deadline  
for July/August  
newsletter: June 15



The Oshawa Garden Club (OGC) is an active member of District 17 of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA)





## President's Message

Hopefully by the time you receive this message, the weather will have warmed up. At least we have the early bulbs to enjoy for now and the joys of seed starting.

Your garden club board has been busy planning events for our meetings. The May meeting is one you won't want to miss. One of the plans for May is having a guy come to sharpen our tools while we are in the meeting. Small items should be labelled and you will need to bring cash. More details about this will follow in an eblast. There will also be a beautiful surprise for members attending in May.

The plant sale committee has been hard at work getting the details of our plant sale ready. (May 24) As usual, we need your help and plenty of plants to sell. So ear mark plants in your garden which can be split and potted up.

May will be the start of all our community gardening projects. Details will be given out at the meetings. It's a great way to spend time with fellow gardeners and share garden and other news!

Looking forward to connecting with you in person,

*Jill Snape,  
Oshawa Garden Club President*



Photo: Iris reticulata, by Jill Snape

## The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden Club

The Greenleaf is a newsletter of the Oshawa Garden Club.

President:  
Jill Snape

Newsletter Editor:  
Cecile Willert

Regular meetings:  
38 Lviv Blvd, Oshawa  
Doors open at 7:00 pm  
Meetings start 7:30 pm

Winter meetings on  
Zoom (Jan/Feb/Mar)

E-mail address:  
[info@oshawagardenclub.ca](mailto:info@oshawagardenclub.ca)

Web address:  
[oshawagardenclub.ca](http://oshawagardenclub.ca)

Facebook:  
"Friends of the  
Oshawa Garden Club"

Photo (bottom left) by  
Cecile Willert



## May Meeting at LVIV Hall

### *Oshawa Garden Club Community Projects*

**Monday May 12, 2025, 7:30 p.m.**

**Doors open at 7 p.m.**

Come learn about all the amazing community projects that our garden club and our members are actively involved in.

Featured projects will include Giving Gardens, Hearth Place, projects at Parkwood Estates, Saint Anne's Pollinator Garden and the Butterfly Garden.

Members attending will receive a surprise gift!



## Upcoming Meetings and Events:

May 12 OGC meeting, *Community Projects* of the Oshawa Garden Club

May 24 OGC Annual Plant Sale, Saturday 9 am - 1 pm at the South Oshawa Community Centre

June 7 & 8 Peony Festival, Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens, 155 Arena Street, 10 am to 4 pm

June 9 *Designing with Edible Plants*, Helen Battersby

July 14 Summer Planter Demonstration

## June Meeting at LVIV Hall

### *Designing with Edible Plants - A Fresh Look at a Growing Trend*

With Helen Battersby

**Monday June 9, 2025, 7:30 p.m.**

**Doors open at 7 p.m.**

Turn notions of what "ornamental" means upside-down and meet unusual plants you can safely eat (or not!). This colourful presentation gets you thinking about your garden and edible plants in exciting new ways. Integrate beautiful edibles and edible beauty into your flower beds, vegetable patch, and menu - no matter how large your garden space!

#### **About the presenter:**

Helen Battersby's city garden is so small she nicknamed it the Microgarden. Yet she's still able to harvest ingredients that find their way to the table. She hopes to introduce you to ways you can squeeze a more edible beauty into your vegetable and your flower garden.

Helen's a grad of the Landscape Design program at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson), and has over 20 years as a volunteer Toronto Master Gardener. She is also a past international director of GardenComm, the Association for Garden Communicators. You'll find her words and images in print and online media such as Garden Making and GardenDesign.com. With her sister Sarah, she writes the award-winning website TorontoGardens.com. The sisters also co-publish the Toronto & Golden Horseshoe Gardener's Journal which in 2022 won both Gold and Silver Medals for its 30th edition.





# 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Peony Festival

June 7 & 8, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens

155 Arena Street, Oshawa

How will you experience the peonies this year?

- Enjoy the OVBG peonies any time from the end of May to the middle of June.
- Enter your cut peonies in the judged show, or your artwork in a People's Choice exhibit, or your photograph in a Camera Club judged competition. All the information is at [www.oshawa.ca/peony](http://www.oshawa.ca/peony)
- Volunteer to staff the Oshawa Garden Club community display! There will be a sign-up sheet at the May meeting.
- Bring family and friends to the festival and marvel at the garden, experience the judged flower show, vote on your favourite artwork, sample delicious culinary choices, listen to musical performances, peruse local artisan vendors, take hundreds of photos and learn from community displays.



Soft Salmon Saucer

Photo by Nick Maycher, reproduced with consent of the Canadian Peony Society and Nick Maycher

Article submitted by Rose Mary Mason



Photo by Cecile Willert

# Oshawa Garden Club Annual Plant Sale!

## - Our Biggest Fundraiser of the Year! -



Article Submitted by Carment Lint

It's that time again—our annual **Plant Sale** is just around the corner! This event wouldn't be the success it is without the incredible support of our members. A big shoutout to our **Plant Sale Committee Members**:

- Janice McRae
- Kathy Pellarin
- Karen Lang
- Carmen Lint



We're reaching out to ask for your help in making this year's Plant Sale another triumph!

### 🌸 How You Can Contribute 🌸

#### Donate Clean Pots

We're in need of clean pots to pot up plants. Please drop them off at any Plant Sale Committee Member's home **by May 12th**.

#### Donate Plants



- *Unpotted Plants*: Drop off your donations (labeled with the plant name) on **Monday, May 12th**, at Karen Lang's house:  
**741 Eagle Ridge Dr., Oshawa**
- *Potted Plants*: If you're unable to deliver your potted plants to the sale, contact a Plant Sale Committee Member to arrange a drop-off.
- If you have plants but need assistance digging them up or potting them, we'd be happy to help—just get in touch with us!

#### Potting Party

Join us for a potting party on **Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** at Karen Lang's home 741 Eagle Ridge Dr 10am-2-pm. It's a great way to connect with fellow members while preparing for the sale.

### 🌿 Important Notes 🌿

We welcome all plant donations **except**:

- Invasive plants including lily of the valley, periwinkle, ditch lilies, and dame's rocket.
- Pelargoniums (due to a conflict with GL Roberts' horticultural program).

If you can't donate plants, you can still support us by attending the sale, spreading the word to friends, family and put out a lawn sign to promote the Plant Sale. Let's make this a successful event for the club and our community partners!

📧 **Questions or Assistance? Contact a Plant Sale Committee Member or come to our May garden club Meeting!** We're excited to work together and make this year's Plant Sale unforgettable. Thank you for your support!



# Parkwood Tennis Court Gardens Rejuvenation Projects

*By Robin Burns*

In 2019, the Oshawa Garden Club, in partnership with Parkwood Estate and the Durham Master Gardeners, embarked upon a five-year rejuvenation project in the gardens known as the Tennis Court Gardens. Located just off the back parking lot and surrounded by cedar hedges, the two existing 70' long borders were in dire need of a garden re-design. In keeping with the 1920's and 1930's plantings of husband-and-wife landscape architect team, Lorrie and Howard Dunington-Grubb, our combined groups formed a design team to research the history of the Parkwood Gardens and the landscape architects that created them. Each year over the next four years a half border was designated for the removal of existing plants, soil remediation, design and plantings of new planting. Volunteers worked weekly throughout the garden season. Plants were selected based on the type of plants that would have been original to the gardens, with consideration for the hardiness and evolution of those plants.

The border gardens were completed as planned in 2023. While each of the partners made a financial commitment to the costs of the project with an initial pledge of \$10,000, an additional \$10,000 was raised over the five-year project timeline through annual Plant Sales utilizing plants culled from the gardens or grown from bareroot. While the majority of the budget was spent on plants, compost, and mulch, the group also enhanced the gardens with four unique obelisks and a bench dedicated to the volunteers of the project and positioned to view the beautiful gardens. Contrary to the engraved plaque on the bench "Sit Relax Enjoy" the volunteers barely stopped to smell the roses when their eyes fell upon the southern vista of the gardens and an exciting new project was formed.





## Parkwood Tennis Court Gardens Rejuvenation Projects, continued

The Lilac Dell is the newest rejuvenation project in the Tennis Court Gardens. Located at the southern portion of the gardens, overgrown bushes, lilacs and invasive plants were removed in 2024 and a design was created incorporating a pastel colour themed planting continuing the colour choices of the border gardens. These plants will be complemented by a selection of lilacs planted to enhance the gardens while enjoying the new view to the Fountain Pool and Tea House.

These projects would not have been made possible without the dedication and support of our volunteers. Throughout the gardening season, in all weather conditions, our volunteer gardeners enjoy their time learning about plant types, planting protocols, diseases, insects, and much more by working shoulder to shoulder with the Durham Master Gardeners and our own veteran gardeners. Since the beginning of this project, we have dedicated over 3,000 volunteer hours. We also enjoy sharing the many experiences with visitors to the gardens whether they be out of town visitors, hospital staff, neighbourhood coyotes or bald eagles flying through. Oshawa Garden Club members are always welcome to join us as we meet in the gardens Wednesday mornings from 9 am to noon. Our 2025 season runs from May to October.



# Community Events and Webinars

Compiled by Rose Mary Mason

**May 3**

LEAF: [Community Tree Planting at Gold Point Wildlife Reserve\\*](#)

[Doors Open Oshawa](#): Including City Greenhouses, Alexandra's Bounty and Second Marsh

[Blooming Boulevards Webinar](#): Native Trees and Shrubs for Small Spaces\*

**May 6**

[Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Webinar](#): Small Space Gardening for Pleasure and Leisure\*

**May 7 (every Wednesday)**

[Second Marsh](#): Plant Stewardship Days\*

**May 10**

[Blooming Boulevards Webinar](#): Create a Woodland Garden\*

[Oshawa Public Libraries Plant Exchange](#)

[Second Marsh](#) : Spring Migration Hike - For Beginner Birders \*

**May 20**

[Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Webinar](#): Orchids of Ontario and the Oak Ridges Moraine \*

**May 24**

**Oshawa Garden Club Plant Sale**: South Oshawa Community Centre, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**May 28**

[Whitby in Bloom](#): Sean James, An Appetite for Gardening: Incorporating Edibles into the Traditional Garden \*

**May 31**

[Indigenous Cultural Celebration](#)

**June 7**

[Blooming Boulevards Webinar](#): Pollinator-Friendly Container Gardens\*

[Parkwood : Spring Fest Vendor Market](#)

**June 7 & 8**

[Peony Festival](#)

**June 20**

[CLOCA](#) : Summer Solstice Firefly Hike \*

\*Registration required



Photos by Rose Mary Mason



# The Oshawa Garden Club's Giving Garden Project

*By Alma-Jane MacLean*

Our garden club helps care for the beautiful gardens on the Parkwood Estate, which helps support our local hospital. It helps maintain the flower beds at Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre, a caring agency. But why does our garden club put time and effort into a Giving Garden?

Here in Oshawa, there are many adults and children experiencing food insecurity - too many. We can all see food prices going up in the grocery stores, increasing food insecurity for needy and low-income people. Our garden club can't fix the problem of hunger here, but we can donate healthy fresh vegetables that we have grown without pesticides or herbicides. Our produce can make a fresh, healthy, and tasty addition to someone's meals, while learning about gardening and contributing to directly to our community.

We have a great location for our club's Giving Garden, the Salvation Army's Community Garden, where we rent several beds.

Why do we rent garden beds from the Salvation Army's Community Garden?

- Their Community Garden is fenced and it has a locked gate: this has reduced theft from our vegetable beds to almost nothing.
- It has full sun and a water tap within the fenced area. Vegetables need full sun and dependable water.

*Our Giving Garden volunteers come twice weekly (Tuesday and Friday mornings) to sow, plant, weed, and water vegetables. Most weeks we are also harvesting, the fun job! All of our produce is donated to the Salvation Army Food Bank. How much do our gardens produce? Last year we raised **over 800 lbs** of vegetables, all of which we donated to the Salvation Army Food Bank.*



May 14, 2024 Mary, Chris and Alison weeding our early spring vegetables, cabbages, spinach and radishes. In the back bed we had peas and lettuce



May 31, 2024 Ron, Chris, Alison and Patrick with one of our early spring harvests: radishes, green onions and spinach.



## Giving Garden Project - Continued

*Why do we donate our vegetables to the Oshawa Salvation Army Food Bank?*

- *It is centrally located, where there is need.*
- *Most importantly, the Salvation Army Food Bank, as with all their other community services, serves based solely on a person's need and its capacity to help, regardless of the individual's race, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or religion.*

*Why should you join us as a Giving Garden Volunteer aside from doing something that helps so many others? **Because we have fun!** We have a great bunch of volunteers. We joke and laugh while we are gardening. And you do not have to be an expert to join us! Almost none of us knew about vegetable gardening before volunteering. This offers a great opportunity to learn about food production in an urban environment for people of all ages and stages of gardening ability. One of the best things about joining us? Our "office meeting" afterwards, at a well-known local coffee shop, LOL, where we have more fun getting to know fellow Oshawa Garden Club Members!*



July 7, 2024. Ron watering our bed with beets, kale and Swiss chard (at the harvesting stage) and tomatoes.



August 8, 2024. The spring veggies are long since harvested and our summer crops are growing fast: butternut and spaghetti squashes and pole beans here.

Photo left: August 27, 2024 Anne, Chris with two grandchildren helpers (teach them young!), Margaret, Ron and Mary with possibly our biggest harvest! Cucumbers, tomatoes, beets, bulb onions, Swiss chard, a donated pumpkin (thank you!), beans, zucchini and kale.



# A Gallery of Peonies

A collection of photos by Rose Mary Mason



Coral Charm



Gilbert Seedling Tree Peony



Plainsman Peony



Surugu Peony



Anna Marie Tree Peony



Eliza Lundy Peony