

The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden Club



July/August
2025

Contents

President's Message.	2
Upcoming Meetings and Events:	3
Plant Sale Report	3
July Meeting	3
Commemorative Tree Donation	4
Rossland Road Butterfly Garden	5
21 st Annual Peony Festival	6
Climate Change	9
OGC Fall Bulb Sale..	10
Bulb Sale Order Form	12

Cover photo by Ann
Couch

Submission deadline
for September/
October newsletter:
August 11



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



President's Message

Greetings fellow gardeners.

I trust you are finally enjoying the fruits of your labours out in the garden, now that summer is sort of here!

We have had lots of people come out to our sharing gardens that we have organized so far this year. We need a few more people to offer to show guests around. Remember, a garden is always a work in progress. There will always be weeds, bits under renovation and some plants not looking their best. We take the good, the bad and the ugly! Garden openings are a wonderful opportunity to share and discuss garden related issues. So please don't be shy, pick a date and let Alison know! ababin32@hotmail.com

Please remember bugs and holes in plants are a necessary part of gardening. If you don't have them, then you are not part of the eco system. So please try to avoid sprays, Google companion plantings and hand pick the little beggars.

Hope to see you soon at the next meeting or garden visit.

*Jill Snape,
Oshawa Garden Club President*

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

Web address:
oshawagardenclub.ca

Facebook:
"Friends of the
Oshawa Garden Club"

Photo (bottom left) by
Rose Mary Mason



July Meeting at LVIV Hall

Summer Planter Demonstration

Monday July 14, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Join us as Alisha Kingsley, Parkwood Estates Greenhouse Grower, creates two beautiful Summer Planters one for shade and one for sun.

With 12 years in makeup artistry and roots in a farming family, Alisha has always balanced creativity with a love for growing. For the past 7 years, she worked in the cannabis industry and now continues her horticultural journey at Parkwood Estate. Alisha joined Parkwood in March 2024 taking on the role of Greenhouse Grower, where she cares for display houses filled with orchids, tropicals, succulents, and more. Alisha hosts many workshops and is deepening her knowledge of annuals and perennials—continuing to nurture both plants and people through hands-on learning.



Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Monday July 14, Summer Planter Demonstration,
Alisha Kingsley

Saturday July 19, Ontario Horticultural Association AGM via Webex, Register online at gardenontario.org

August, No Meeting

Monday September 8, Shrubs for All Seasons, Gini Sage, Durham Master Gardeners

Monday October 20, An Engineer's Approach to Houseplant Care, Darryl Cheng

Plant Sale Report

By Carmen Lint

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent plant sale!

Whether you **donated your time**, offered plants from your **garden**, or **helped transport** plants to the venue, your efforts were truly invaluable. This event simply couldn't have happened without you. If you have any suggestions for next year's plant sale please let us know.

See details about our **Fall Bulb Sale**, at the end of this newsletter!



Commemorative Tree Donation

Article and Photos by Rose Mary Mason

OGC has Donated a Tree to Commemorate Oshawa's 100+ Anniversary.

The Garden Club donated a Shagbark Hickory that has been planted in Centennial Park to celebrate the founding of Oshawa as a City in 1924.

The Shagbark Hickory is an interesting looking native that can grow to 100 ft and live 350 years. It is an important source of hickory nuts, and the mature bark is shaggy and dark, with long shreds or strips that are easily peeled.

Centennial Park (Located at Ritson Road North and Hillcroft Street) is filled with trees, benches and walking paths. It has a history with OGC as in 1976 eighteen trees were planted in honour of the past presidents of the OGC.



Rossland Road Butterfly Garden

- Maintenance Day Saturday, May 24, 2025 -

Article by Dianne Pazaratz

This year was a special maintenance day, because of the grant received from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, which enabled us to purchase over 80 plants to rehabilitate the central, butterfly-shaped garden. Many thanks to TD. There was also the usual very important work to be done in the other two gardens to make them look cared-for, especially spreading the woodchips around the edges and on the paths, pulling last year's dead stalks, and getting rid of really bad weeds such as dog strangling vine and buckthorn which had reinvaded since last year.

The 11 hard-working volunteers who came took care of all that! All the plants were planted, all the woodchips spread, most of the stalks, dsv and buckthorn were pulled. If you drive by, you'll certainly notice the difference. Thank you so much to: Margaret Carney, Ann Flynn, Debi Foster, Lois Gillette, Heather, Forrest, India, and Jude Pearce, Satu Pernanen, and Mary Scarlett for all their dedicated work today. We really got it done!

As we worked, we heard a Red-bellied Woodpecker, a Phoebe, and a Baltimore Oriole which sang the beginning of a song that I know (but couldn't remember the name of) over and over and over and over again all morning. In spite of all the traffic going by, there is some nature that always keeps you entertained whenever you are there.

By the way, TD FEF also financed a new sign, which should appear sometime this summer. Watch for it.



Above photo: Debi and Dianne planting new plants, *Photo by M. Carney.*

Photo to the left: Lois maintaining 'her' garden, *Photo by D. Pazaratz*

21st Annual Peony Festival, June 7 & 8, 2025

Article by Rose Mary Mason

The weather was warm and sunny with a hint of wildfire smoke as well as “snow in June” courtesy of the willow trees. Approximately 12,000 visitors strolled the gardens, viewed the Peony Show inside the arena, perused the displays and listened to the music. The OGC shared a table with The Butterfly Way and spoke to many about the benefits of the club and the importance of pathways for the success of our pollinators and butterflies.

Inside the arena, Canadian Peony Society members organized a judged Peony Show. There were 294 blooms on the table in over 50 categories. The Best in Show included the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens for Best Tree Peony -“Terpsichord” (awarded the OGC trophy) as well as Past President, Greg Merlin, for Best Itoh -“Berry Garcia”. Another Past President (who is also our current District 17 President), Debi Foster, won many ribbons in the design categories.

Outside, apart from the peonies, visitors were struck by the “Beekeeper” designed by City Gardener Tonia Parker and crafted with succulents. Although the peonies will fade, the Beekeeper will be on display until Fall.

Thank you to all the OGC volunteers and congratulations to all the winners!



Photo by Ann Couch



Photo by Rose Mary Mason



Photo left by Patti Becker

21st Annual Peony Festival, June 7 & 8, 2025, *continued*

Photos by Rose Mary Mason



In Praise of hairy beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*)

Article and photos by Alison Babin

One of my favourite plants is hairy beardtongue, a charming short perennial native. Growing only 45-60 cm (1½-2 feet) tall it can fit into pretty much any garden and I have it in most of mine. It is thriving in my boulevard garden under hot dry sandy conditions, and in my dry shady one, and being crowded by strawberries, wild bergamot, common milkweed and golden alexanders in my backyard.

It is a spring bloomer, around May to June and the flowers are pinky purple tubes. The stems are green to reddish and hairy, which is a defining characteristic of the plant. The brown seed pods will split and release seeds that need light to germinate. If you are winter sowing, surface sow and let them be. If you are starting them indoors, the seeds need 60 days of cold moist stratification.

As a native plant the flowers are attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies and native bees. While gardening next to a hairy beardtongue recently there was a steady stream of bumble bees visiting the flowers! I have also seen small native bees forcing their way into the flower. It is also a larval host for butterflies and moths.

This is an easy, pretty, interesting and useful plant that is very versatile and deserves a place in any dry garden.

References: The Gardener's Guide to Native Plants of the Southern Great Lakes Region by Rick Gray and Shaun Booth. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, wildflower.org.



Climate Change

Article and photos by Rose Mary Mason

We hear a lot about climate change and its big impact on the world. It can all be a little overwhelming. But I like to tackle big problems in little pieces. I put together this list to remind ourselves, as gardeners, how our small changes, as individuals and a club, can reduce carbon emissions:

- Growing plants, especially natives, is a form of land use that combats climate change
- Our Gardener's Pledge speaks to sustainability in terms of protecting and preserving the natural environment
- Planting trees as shade and wind breaks saves energy. The club has donated many trees for planting in public spaces and promotes [LEAF](#) and their Backyard Tree Planting Program
- Plants that tolerate drought equals water savings
- Rain barrels (sold for the past few years through the club) conserve water
- Our speakers/messaging encourage the reduction of monoculture lawns ([Blooming Boulevards](#) for instance)
- Pollinator gardens are promoted and supported (Butterfly Garden on Rossland Road, St. Anne's School)
- We support access to nature (Sharing Gardens and Bus Tours, Tree tours by [LEAF](#))
- Promoting Local Agriculture and Local Food (Giving Gardens, home vegetable gardens)
- Getting the word out about [The Butterfly Way](#)
- Our members are active in local Community Gardens
- Using compost and natural mulches to keep weeds down, conserve water and enrich the soil
- Carpooling to events/meetings
- Participating in Community Clean Up Days
- Reduce water run off by educating about permeable driveways
- Recycle water with rain gardens
- Native gardens use less water (native plant give away)
- Encouraging a culture of sustainability (lug a mug at meetings)
- Identification and promotion of eradication of invasive species
- Elimination of chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Favouring electric and manual lawn mowers and tools over gas powered

Beyond shrinking one's carbon footprint, climate-friendly gardening practices can actively improve local biodiversity, protect our homes and communities from flooding and potentially soak up much more planet-warming pollution than they release. Small changes do add up! What else can you add to the list?





OGC Fall Bulb Sale - Get Ready to Plant!



The Oshawa Garden Club is now accepting orders for our annual Fall Bulb Sale! Brighten your spring garden by planting this autumn.

1 Deadline to place orders: July 19, 2025

\$ Payment due at time of ordering: cash, cheque, or e-transfer accepted.

For more information or to place your order, contact:

Carmen Lint - carmenlint1@gmail.com

Janice McRae - philmcrae@sympatico.ca

Let's grow something beautiful together!



Double Mix

Item #: 18125016 Size: 16/+
Height: 16"/40 cm Bloomtime: C-D

This selection of double daffodils will not only give big, long lasting flowers but will also come back year-after-year.



Tarda

Item #: 25298007 Size: 7/8
Height: 5"/12 cm Bloomtime: C-D

Dwarf white and yellow flowers, naturalizing, multi-flowering. Fragrant.



Minnow

Item #: 21867212 Size: 12/+
Height: 10"/25 cm Bloomtime: C-D

lively flowers, yellow cup, Tazetta



Joyce Spirit

Item #: 98937214 Size: 14/16
Height: 22"/55 cm Bloomtime: C-D

Grow up to near 14-16 inches tall showing impeccable soft aromatic flowers colored in pure white with orange cups and yellow highlights.



Endless Love

Item #: 31787212 Bloomtime: Mid spring
Height: 18"/45 cm
Size: 12/+

These tulips match up like a pair. The long-lasting flowers will draw plenty of attention.

Bulb Sale, Continued



Romance

Item #: 60156105 Size: 5/+
Height: 3'8 cm Bloomtime: A-B

Buttery soft yellow petals. Floriferous variety, good naturalizer.



reticulata Purple Hill

Item #: 69506307 Size: 7/+
Height: 7'18 cm Bloomtime: C-D

Purple flags with contrasting yellow & white eye. Tetraploid variety taller than most reticulata types, larger flowers.



Globemaster

Item #: 45161420 Size: 20/+
Height: 32'80 cm Bloomtime: H

Very large violet purple flowers, 8-10'/20-25 cm flowers.



Volcano Peonies

Item #: 12857212 Bloomtime: Mid to late Spring
Height: 20'/50 cm
Size: 12/+

A colorful mix of yellow, red and orange Double Late flowering tulips. Excellent for landscape and cut-flower use. Large peony looking flowers. Exceptional landscape performer.



Firework

Item #: 71637212 Size: 12/+
Height: 20'/50 cm Bloomtime: F-G

Large sweet fragrant flowers, golden yellow with contrasting red flames.

2025 Oshawa Garden Club Bulb Order Form

Name	
Phone number	
Email address	
Address	

Flower Type	Variety	Price per order	Quantity	Subtotal
Tulip Specialty	Tarda dasystemon	(5 bulbs) \$3.50		\$
Tulip	Endless Love	(5 bulbs) \$6.00		\$
Tulip Lily Flowering	Firework	(5 bulbs) \$6.50		\$
Tulip Double Late	Volcano Peonies	(5 bulbs) \$7.00		\$
Allium	Globemaster	(1 bulb) \$12.00		\$
Daffodil Large Cup	Joyce Spirit	(5 bulbs) \$7.50		\$
Daffodil Double	Double Mix	(5 bulbs) \$8.50		\$
Daffodil Miniature	Minnow	(5 bulbs) \$4.00		\$
Crocus	Romance	(10 bulbs) \$4.00		\$
Reticulata Iris	Purple Hill	(5 bulbs) \$4.00		\$

Total	\$
-------	----

Payment	Cash	Cheque	E- Transfer
---------	------	--------	-------------

Deadline for orders is July19th, 2025