

The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden Club



March 2024

Contents

President's Message: .2	
Time to Renew!.....3	
Are you a volunteer gardener?.....3	
March Meeting on Zoom3	
Help Pull Garlic Mustard.....3	
Seedy Saturday4	
April Meeting at LVIV Hall.....4	
Membership Benefits 5	
Calling all Gardeners...5	
District 17 Registration5	
Oak Wilt.....6	
Spring Plant Sale6	
Save the Date6	
D17 Logo Contest.....7	
Request for OHA Theme Ideas.....8	
Blooming Boulevards 8	
Bits & Bobs.....9	



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



Cover photo by Rose Mary Mason

**Submission deadline
for next newsletter:
April 15**

President's Message:

Spring is coming, possibly early according to a certain rodent! Anyway, I thought you might enjoy Danielle's photo from last year. She has planted crocus in her lawn and the effect is lovely. I think I'm going to give this a try myself in the front grass come bulb planting time in September. The leaves will have died down by the time the grass is ready for its first cut.

I'm thrilled with the numbers of our members who have already signed up to be at the District 17 AGM which our

club is hosting on April 27. I think Paul Zammit is a big draw but believe me, you won't be disappointed in our afternoon speaker Cathy Kavassalis either. Details for signing up were in the zoom email.

For those of you who have time to volunteer I'm not sure you all know that last year, we rented beds at the Salvation Army on Thornton Road. This is where our volunteer team grew an amazing amount of food for various food banks, thanks to the fencing and no theft. There will be a sign-up sheet again this year at our first in person meeting of the year in April. Please think about joining the team.

More volunteers will be needed of course for our annual plant sale on May 25 and hopefully for a one-day new project at the new Gold Point Park. This is being organized by an organization called Leaf; details to follow when they are known. Anyway, happy garden dreaming...

Jill Snape, Oshawa Garden Club President



Photo by Danielle Laperriere

Crocus Tip from Danielle: If you cut the turf on one side and slip the corms in, the squirrels don't get them!

The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden Club

The Greenleaf is a newsletter of the Oshawa Garden Club.

President:
Jill Snape

Newsletter Editor:
Cecile Willert

Location of Meetings:
38 Lviv Blvd, Oshawa
Doors open at 7:00 pm
Meetings start 7:30 pm

E-mail address:
info@oshawagardenclub.ca

Web address:
oshawagardenclub.ca

Facebook:
"Friends of the Oshawa Garden Club"



March Meeting on Zoom

Robin Burns and Merle Cole

Parkwood Estate Tennis Court Garden Rejuvenation Project

Monday March 11, 2024, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

As Past Presidents and Co-Leads for the Oshawa Garden Club, Merle and Robin will present a visual evolution of the five year Tennis Court Garden Rejuvenation Project at Parkwood Estates.

A Partnership with Oshawa Garden Club, The Durham Master Gardeners and Parkwood Estates, this project began in 2019 and included a number of elements and steps to create a Proposal, Design Plan, Funding and Fundraising Opportunities and the many, many Volunteer hours to complete the removal of existing plants, remediation of soil and planting of hundreds of plants and over 10,000 bulbs.

This journey rooted and grafted new gardening friendships, educated us in many gardening practices and has brought new life to long neglected gardens.



Photos by Robin Burns

Time to Renew!

It's time once again to renew your membership with the Oshawa Garden Club. Renew online by visiting the website (oshawagardenclub.ca), or in person at our April meeting. We've got a great line up of speakers and events coming up!

Help pull Garlic Mustard

We have a date to help pull [garlic mustard](#) at Second Marsh in Oshawa. May 11, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. More details to follow.

Are you a volunteer gardener?

Members who volunteer their time gardening for local community groups and charities can report their volunteer hours to the Oshawa Garden Club to earn us credits towards our annual grant from OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs). Our club tracks volunteer hours for activities we organize, but we encourage you to submit additional time you volunteer in the community. <mailto:info@oshawagardenclub.ca>

April Meeting at LVIV Hall

Ingrid Janssen, Durham Master Gardeners
SOIL - It All Begins Here

Monday April 8, 2024, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7.

Soil is one of our most important resources and yet many of us know very little about it. This presentation will provide an introduction to soil, what it is, the different soil textures, the soil food web and how to create healthy soil.

Ingrid Janssen is a horticulturist, speaker, blogger and master gardener. She has been gardening for most of her life and is a passionate, some would say “crazy gardener”. How else to describe someone who plants bulbs despite 15cm. of snow! She is an inspirational speaker who has appeared on Rogers TV Durham and has spoken at Canada Blooms many times. She has both ornamental and food production gardens on her country property and has been a dedicated native plant gardener for over 30 years. Ingrid received her Horticulturist Diploma from the University of Guelph and is an active member of several horticultural and plant societies. She volunteers on many garden projects in her community the most notable of which is the restoration of the perennial borders at the Parkwood National Historic Site in Oshawa.



April Speaker Ingrid Janssen



Photos by Robin Burns



Seedy Saturday

Our members are invited to attend a Seedy Saturday, co-hosted by Beaverton, Cannington and Georgina-Brock Horticultural clubs. Admission is free and there is plenty of parking. There will be guest speakers, seed swap tables, the Brock Seed Library, children's activities, vendors and more. It promises to be an excellent way to start off the growing season.

Membership Benefits

Members who present their 2024 Oshawa Garden Club membership card now get discounts at an amazing 9 local businesses, printed on the back of your 2024 membership card.

Changes to our nursery partners this year include the addition of Earth Culture and an increase to 15% in discount at Rekker's Garden Centre. Unfortunately, Groff Nursery has closed this year. The full list of our nursery partners includes:

- Century Home & Garden Greenhouses
- Country Market & Garden
- Earth Culture Inc.
- J Kamstra Landscaping
- Kingsway Greenhouse
- Rekker's Garden Centre
- Van Belle Nursery
- Vandermeer Nursery & Garden Centre
- Witzke's Greenhouses Ltd.

Calling all Gardeners

Do you have a garden? Is it new? Is it established? Is it a container garden? Is it a messy native garden? We want to see it, no matter the size and scope. We want to hear your plans, get inspired, admire your plants. Do you winter sow? Do you head start your seeds? We want to hear about it!

Please consider opening your gardens for member visits through our Sharing Gardens program. We are looking for volunteers for May, June, July, August, and if possible September! You choose the date from a few options, and the time (2 hours to 4 hours).

I nervously participated last year, my garden is native and very messy. There are dead leaves, and stalks, and most of the plants are 6 - 8 feet tall! And the pollinators love it. It is nothing like the other gardens I visited, and the garden club members were very interested and gracious. So don't be nervous, be proud of your efforts and show off your work.

Anyone who is interested, please email me at ababin32@hotmail.com, and we can start setting up dates and times.

Alison Babin

District 17 AGM Registration

It's time to register for the District 17 AGM held at Lviv hall on Saturday April 27th. Tickets cost \$35 and for this, you will have a fun filled and informative day. There will be a morning (Paul Zammit) and an afternoon speaker (Cathy Kavassalis), a catered lunch, the usual refreshments, flower and photo shows, auctions, vendors and raffle prizes.

Payments can be in cash or cheque to OGC in an envelope marked with your name, phone, email and dietary restrictions/preferences.

Volunteers must also register please.

Jill Snape



Amaryllis by Rose Mary Mason

Important Message About Oak Wilt

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is spreading information about oak wilt, a disease caused by an invasive species of fungus. Oak wilt has been found in Ontario and we are strongly advised **not to prune oak trees until November**. This will help prevent the spread of oak wilt.

More information on oak wilt, it's characteristics and how it can be spread can be found on the [CFIA website](#).



Oak wilt photo by Laura Masterson

Save the Date: Saturday May 4, 2024

Volunteers will be needed to plant a pollinator garden at the City of Oshawa's newest park- Gold Point Wildlife Reserve. The event will be organized by LEAF (Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests) and located at Park Road and Phillip Murray Avenue. Registration (when open) will be through the [LEAF website](#).

Rose Mary Mason



New England Aster, Photo by Rose Mary Mason

The Spring Plant Sale is Coming!

Our annual plant sale will be on May 25 outside the South Oshawa Community Centre. We need lots of volunteers on the day and WE NEED PLANTS! Now is the time to cruise your garden and make a list of what can be divided in the spring. You can either pot them up yourselves or drop them off for a potting party (date and place to be determined). So mark your calendars and make your lists please.

Jill Snape

Submission Deadline for May Newsletter: April 15th.

OHA District 17 Logo Contest

Planning for the D17 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is underway and the Registration forms and Show Schedules have been posted on the district website ohadistrict17.ca

The OHA District 17 Garden Club Board of Directors has determined the present logo for District 17 (shown to the right) has become dated and is pleased to announce a contest for the creation of a new logo for District 17.

The design should include:

- The slogan “Growing to the Future”
- The words “District 17”

The design could include:

- The words “Ontario Horticultural Association” or letters “OHA”
- The words “Durham Region”

May be round, oval, square or rectangular in shape.

The design should be:

- High resolution
- Simple
- Timeless
- Eye-catching
- Adaptable (print, web, banners, clothing etc.)
- Scalable (easily made larger or smaller)
- Easily converted to grey-scale

Any fonts, images or other design elements used in the logo must be free of copyrights. Entrants will warrant that the logo submitted for the contest is their original work, personally created by them. Entrants will acknowledge that, if chosen as the winner they will assign the copyright of the logo to the OHA District 17.

District 17 will arrange to convert the design to appropriate graphic format(s) for varied uses.

Entries are to be submitted to Debi Foster debifoster.1956@gmail.com **by 8:00 pm Friday April 12, 2024** with the signed entry form below. If submitting a hard copy please email to get address.

Judging will be by an attending district members ballot vote at the D17 AGM Saturday, April 27, 2024



LOGO ENTRY FORM

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the rules and meet the conditions described.

Designer's Name (Please print): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Request for 2026 OHA Convention Theme Ideas

(from Debbie Foster)

Districts 4 and 17 have volunteered to organize the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) Convention for 2026 which is held in conjunction with the OHA Annual General Meeting (AGM). Our committee has held its first meeting and the initial committee is:

Debi Foster - D17 - Chair
Kathy Allam - D4 (previously D17 until she moved and D4 snatched her up)
Robin Burns - D17
Ralf Busse - D4
Patty Carlson - D4
Dennis Miluck - D4
Jill Snape - D17
Debbie Wright - D17

We are looking for a Secretary, a Treasurer and a representative from each Society, so if you know good candidates, please get in touch with Debi debifoster.1956@gmail.com.

One of the first items on our agenda is to establish a convention theme. Ideally, it should be something that is common to both Durham Region and the Kawartha/Peterborough area. The Theme carries through the convention with all the competitions, speakers (local), garden tours etc. and should represent both our areas.

We are hoping to get suggestions from every Society. Some ideas to start the creative juices flowing:

1. From City to Farm
2. Green Belts Matter
3. Birds, Bees, Water and Trees

The winner will be decided by the committee.

Please send your suggestions to: OHAConvention2026@gmail.com or bring them to the District AGM.

Last date for submission is **April 28, 2024**

Blooming Boulevards

Based in Mississauga, [Blooming Boulevards](http://bloomingboulevards.org) is a non-profit organization that supports gardens comprised of native plants. This initiative advocates replacing high maintenance turf with drought tolerant plants that attract pollinators.

In Oshawa, the Boulevard By-Law ([Commonly Referenced By-Laws](#)) allows for plants under 3 feet tall as long as they are not too close to the street or sidewalk. Call Service Oshawa at 905-436-3311 for further clarification and [Ontario One Call](#) for service locates before you dig. Also, talk to your neighbours about your plans, start a dialogue about your passion!

Looking for garden inspiration? Blooming Boulevards has [downloadable lists](#) and lots of photos of native plants for all environments. Consider the taller ones (over 0.9 meters) for the backyard.

Or check out their upcoming free webinars, Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

- March 9: Design Your Own Pollinator Garden
- March 23: Goodbye Lawn!
- April 6: Wildflower All- Stars for Sun or Shade
- April 20: Native Plants for Tough Sites
- May 4: Native Trees and Shrubs for Small Spaces
- May 11: Create a Native Woodland Garden
- June 8: Pollinator-friendly Container Gardens

And more workshops in the Fall!

Register at: bloomingboulevards.org

Article and photos by Rose Mary Mason



Bits and Bobs

How do you spend the winter months? Here are a few ideas I've been exploring in an attempt to stay connected with the green and growing.

Dreaming of freshly grown food? Visit [Durham College's Urban Agriculture Portal](#) . Click on "Community Portal and Resources" to explore the "Knowledge Centre" for topics of interest.

Intrigued by native plants? Follow a [Cultivated Art Inc.](#) on Facebook. Although based in Perth, I've recognized many natives that live in my Oshawa garden that I thought were weeds!

What's your favourite gardening show? Mine's anything with Monty Don. Google him, search your streaming services and prepare for some relaxing, inspiring, armchair travel with the soft spoken and perpetually disheveled presenter. Titles to search include *Monty Don's: Gardeners World*; *Japanese Gardens*; *Adriatic Gardens*; and *Paradise Gardens*. I really enjoyed *The Secret History of the British Garden* and look forward to watching *Big Dreams Small Spaces* (on Prime).

Do you prefer to curl up with a good book? I've just started *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year* by Margaret Renkl. She brings her poetic prose to 52 weeks of garden/life observation. Accompanied by delightful artworks, I look forward to a year of insights.

Want to learn something new? The City of Oshawa and Durham Master Gardeners are hosting a series of free Environmental Workshops:

- March 21, 7:00 to 8:00p.m. (Microsoft Teams) Gardening in a New Subdivision Virtual Workshop
- April 27, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. (Arts Resource Centre) Gardening for Pollinators
- May 23, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Arts Resource Centre) Raising Monarch Butterflies

Here is the registration link: [Environmental Program Workshop](#)

We still have a couple of months of frozen soil how will you spend them?

Article and photos by Rose Mary Mason

