

The Greenleaf Newsletter

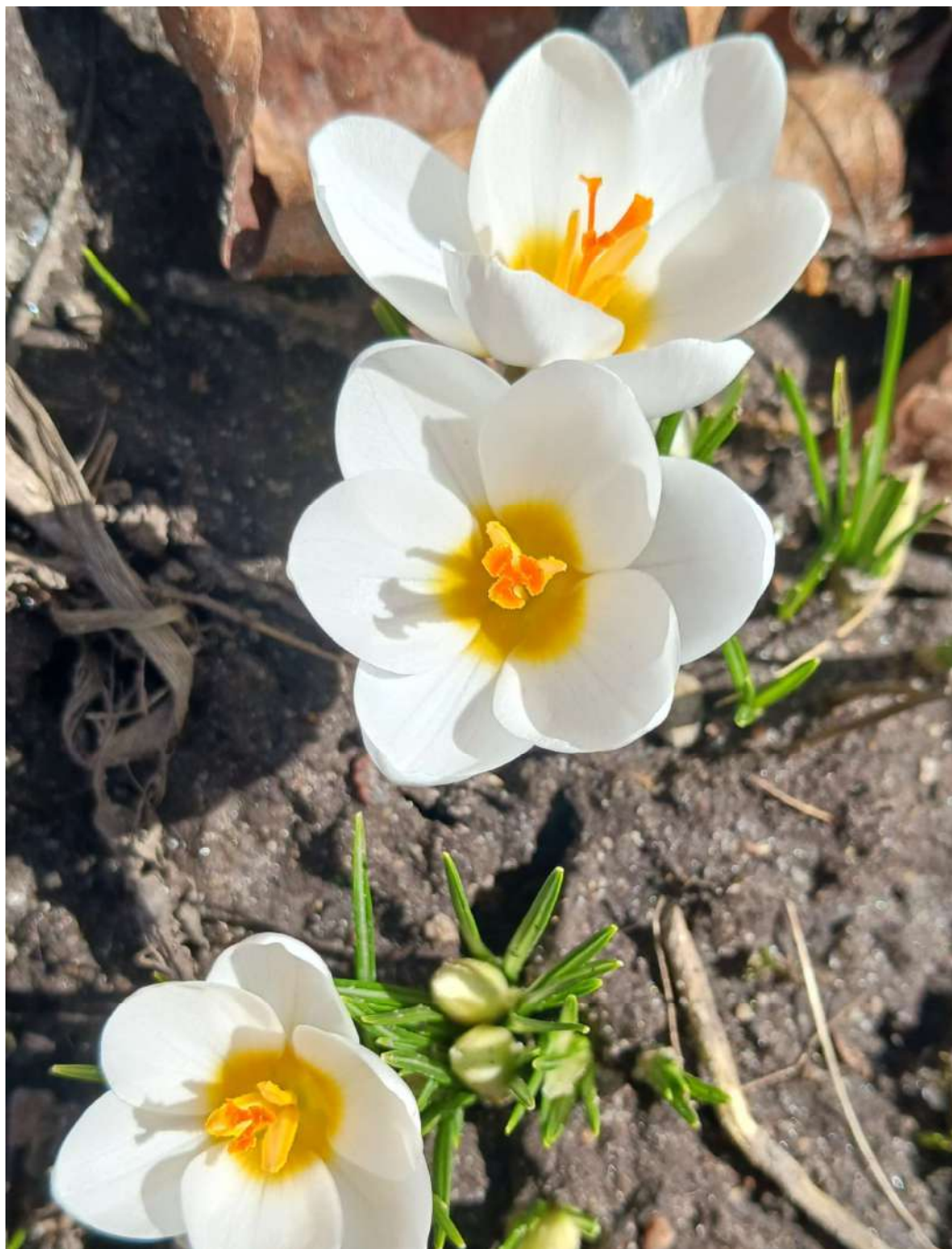
Oshawa Garden Club



March/ April
2025

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Cover photo (Crocus)
by Rose Mary Mason

**Submission deadline
for May/June
newsletter: Apr 15**



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



President's Message

Spring is within sight, hang in there! A few members have been meeting at Tim's for coffee and a chat on Mondays or Tuesdays. This project is headed by member Michelle. Details later in the newsletter. It's a nice way to stay in touch with fellow gardeners who love to discuss all things garden plus other topics too. It's not mandatory to attend every week. Come and join us when you are free on that day...

I visited Vandermeer's the other day for a dose of "growing things" and bought a few packs of seeds, of course. It's too soon for me to start seeding yet, but soon that open space in front of my sliding doors will be occupied by trays while I wait expectantly for green shoots to appear. I hope you are similarly excited about seeding time. Don't forget any extra seedlings will be gratefully accepted for our plant sale!

Our annual plant sale, in case you don't already have it in your diary, is on May 24th. The plant sale team have been super busy planning and organizing judging by the number of emails I'm copied on! So much work goes on behind the scenes. Thank you to Carmen and Janice for heading the team. I know there will be more for you to read on this further on...

I know Alison is already planning some open gardens for you to visit during the year. Your garden does not need to be "finished" or picture perfect; works in progress are always welcome and spots that look great for a particular period. We love to see ideas take shape. Please consider letting us visit!

Regular, in person, non-zoom meetings will resume on April 14th. When you come, please consider bringing a friend who may be interested in joining our club.

Happy garden dreaming,

*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

**Winter meetings on
Zoom (Jan/Feb/Mar)**

Regular 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 Zoom Meeting

Invasive Plants

with Derissa Vincentini (she/her)

Monday March 10, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Bio: Derissa Vincentini is the Community

Science Coordinator and GIS Lead at the Invasive Species Centre, where she coordinates invasive species education and outreach initiatives, promoting community action to mitigate the spread of invasive species in Canada.

Description: Join us to learn about prevention, monitoring and management of invasive plants and how to get involved in invasive plant management. Everyone has a part to play in protecting our green spaces.

Invasive Species Centre: dvincentini@invasivespeciescentre.ca



Upcoming Meetings and Events:

March 10 OGC Zoom meeting:
Derissa Vincentini, *Invasive Plants*

March 23 *Little Forests*
screening, Oshawa Regent
Theatre, 2 pm

March 29 Seedy Saturday in
Pefferlaw

April 14 OGC in person at LVIV
Hall: Mike Gibbs, *Spring Flower
Design Workshop & Presentation*

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

April Spring Floral Design Workshop & Presentation

with Mike Gibbs

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

Members may pre-register to participate for this hands on workshop. The cost includes all materials for your take home creation

Cost \$45 member.

Must be registered and paid by Wednesday April 2nd.

Members that are not pre-registered are also welcome to follow along, learning the tips and tricks that Mike will share.

The workshop fee can be dropped off to any of the following:

- Jill, 485 Brentwood Ave., Oshawa
- Anne 858 Bennett Court, Oshawa
- Robin, 173-422 Canonberry Court, Oshawa



Photo by Rosemary Coolen

Coffee Club Social for OGC members

Article by Michelle Benn

Would you like to get out and socialize with some friendly fellow garden club members?

The Oshawa Garden Club has a "Coffee Social Club" that has been meeting for a few months now.

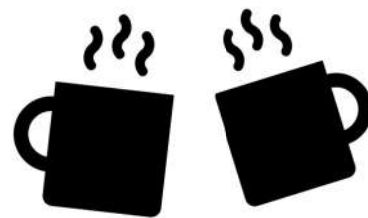
It offers weekly gatherings of small groups at two Tim Hortons locations from 10 am - noon, and 1 - 3 pm.

You can come for the whole 2 hours, or pop in for part of it. They are currently running every week.

There are two meeting times and locations:

- Monday morning 10-noon at Tim Hortons Ritson & Adelaide = 251 Ritson Road North, Oshawa; and,
- Tuesday afternoon 1-3 pm at Tim Hortons King & Wilson = 560 King Street East, Oshawa

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email Michelle Benn at (mbenn2369@gmail.com).



Little Forests Screening at the Regent Theatre

Submitted by Alison Babin

Have you heard of Little Forests, Pocket Forests or Tiny Forests? It is an innovative way of creating small forests quickly and efficiently. Want to know more? Come out to the Regent Theatre on Sunday March 23 at 2 pm and check out the film, *Making A Mini-Forest*. It showcases the global movement of planting mini-forests in urban areas using the Miyawaki Method—an innovative reforestation approach that helps restore biodiversity and combat climate change. Featuring inspiring stories from across Europe, this documentary highlights how small-scale forests can make a big impact. Come early and check out the vendors and local community groups who are looking forward to meeting you.

Tickets are \$10 and are available

here: <https://tickets.regenttheatre.ca/eventperformances.asp?evt=1113>

This event is a joint effort of Little Forests Durham, Durham Master Gardeners and Green Communities Canada.

Oshawa Garden Club Annual Plant Sale!

Spring is just around the corner, and it's time to get our gardens ready to bloom! Join us for our Annual Plant Sale, where you can find a variety of plants to spruce up your garden and support your garden club. This is our major fundraiser for the OGC.

Save the date!

Date: Saturday, May 24th, 2025

Time: 9 am - 1 pm

Location: South Oshawa Community Centre



How You Can Help

We need your help to make this event a success! We're calling on all members and garden enthusiasts to donate plants for the sale. Whether you have a few extra seedlings, perennials, or houseplants, every donation counts. Please no invasive plants.

Let's come together to celebrate our love for gardening and support our garden club.
Happy Gardening!

Volunteer sign up sheets will be available at the April meeting.

Thanks from your Plant Sale Committee,

Carmen, Janice, Kathy and Karen



Blooming Boulevard Seminars

Check out these upcoming Blooming Boulevards seminars:

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Register at <https://www.bloomingboulevards.org/book-online>

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 8 | Design your own Pollinator Garden |
| March 22 | Goodbye Lawn! |
| April 5 | Wildflower All-Stars for Sun or Shade |
| April 12 | Indigenous Insights: Insects as Teachers |
| April 19 | Native Plants for Tough Sites |
| April 26 | Pollinator ID and Wildflower Host Plants |
| May 3 | Native Trees and Shrubs for Small Spaces |



Photo by Rose Mary Mason

Submission Deadline for May/June Newsletter: April 15th.

Save the Date for the Peony Festival!

Submitted by Rose Mary Mason

June 7 & 8, 2025

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens

155 Arena Street, Oshawa



Winter Craft - Ice Suncatcher

By Rose Mary Mason

Looking to engage in my garden during the winter months, I made this suncatcher.

Wandering the winter landscape, I harvested the seed heads of Miscanthus, Anise Hyssop, New England Aster as well as adding cedar foliage and rose hips. From the pantry I chose lime slices and cranberries for a pop of colour.

I used a heart shaped cake pan, but a bundt pan or circular cake pan could be used in combination with any natural ingredients.

Arrange the materials in the pan and add about an inch of water, pressing down the items that float. Add a piece of knotted, thick garden twine as a hanger and place in the freezer overnight.

To unmold I let the pan sit out for 15 minutes, or you could run hot water over the bottom.

Hang outside in the sunlight and enjoy until it melts away!



In Praise of Swamp Milkweed

By Alison Babin

Swamp. Milkweed. Not a very nice name for a beautiful productive plant! The pretty pink flowers, heavenly scent, and tidy clumping nature of swamp milkweed make it an exceptional addition to your garden. It likes sun and moisture but once established doesn't require much work at all except a bit of water when the weather is really dry.

In my garden, the swamp milkweed ranges from about 2 to 4 feet tall, depending on its neighbours. When in flower, the milkweed is covered (and coveted) by a plethora of pollinators. One regular pest is yellow aphids, they are swiftly dealt with by ladybugs and their nymphs.

Even the long slim seed pods are attractive. If you do not want it to spread simply remove the pods. Unlike its cousin Common Milkweed, swamp milkweed does not spread by rhizomes and so stays where it is put. And unlike the wide leaves of Common Milkweed, these leaves are long and slender, like willow leaves. Swamp milkweed does have the milky sap typical of milkweeds.

Milkweeds are famous as the food source for Monarch butterfly caterpillars. But the flowers feed so many more critters, including bees, wasps, flies, ants, butterflies, moths and beetles. And hummingbirds enjoy the nectar too.

Interesting to note (and new to me) is that visiting insects are only provided with nectar. Swamp Milkweed pollen is packaged into pollinia (picture a small sticky sack filled with pollen and attached to a second sack with a thread). Insects whose leg comes in contact with the pollinia will carry it off to pollinate other flowers.

This is one of my favourite plants, and I will never not have it. All parts of it are lovely to look at, and it is super productive for pollinators. I winter sowed some this season, hopefully I will have some sprouts this spring!



Photo by Cecile Willert

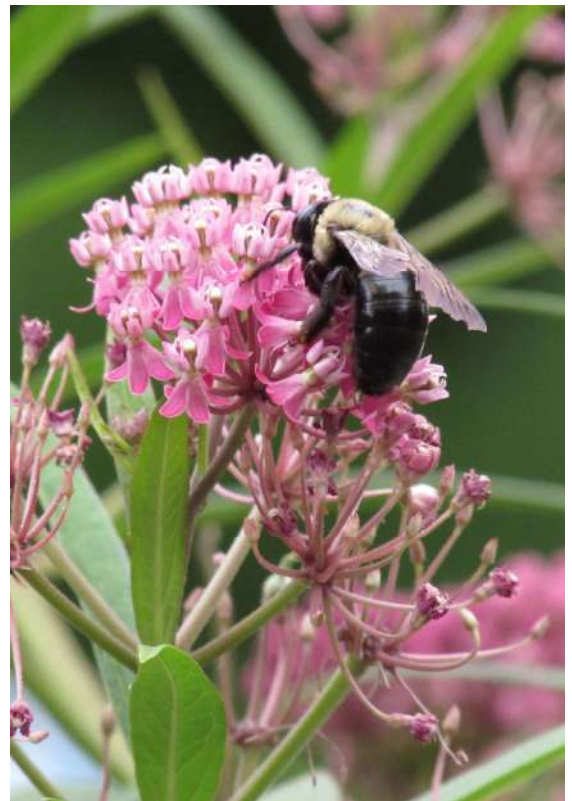


Photo by Cecile Willert

Early Spring To Do List

By Rose Mary Mason

- ☐ Winter sow seeds while the ground is still firm
- ☐ Start seeds indoors in a bright window or under grow lights
- ☐ Consider how to celebrate the Communities in Bloom theme of the year- Edible Gardens
- ☐ Clean and sharpen your tools
- ☐ Visit the [Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival](#)
- ☐ Enjoy spring ephemerals and early blooming bulbs
- ☐ Plan a trip to a greenhouse for an early infusion of green
- ☐ Heel in any perennials that have lifted
- ☐ Enroll in a gardening seminar (see Blooming Boulevards article)
- ☐ Prune shrubs such as roses, potentilla, red twig dogwood and hydrangeas
- ☐ Leave the garden alone until the temperatures are consistently above 10 degrees Celsius to allow overwintering insects to emerge
- ☐ Add compost once the ground thaws
- ☐ Consider opening your garden to other members for Sharing Gardens*
- ☐ Think about which perennials could be divided and potted up in clean soil for the OGC Plant Sale, May 24*
- ☐ Take photos to submit to the OGC newsletter*
- ☐ Smell the earthy aromas of spring
- ☐ Think about which gardening programs you will volunteer with this spring - Giving Gardens, Hearth Place, St. Anne's School, Rossland Road Butterfly Garden or Parkwood *
- ☐ Marvel at all the insects
- ☐ Participate in World Naked Gardening Day, May 3

*For more information on these projects contact info@oshawagardenclub.ca



SEEDY SATURDAY

MARCH 29 2025



Pefferlaw Lions Hall

38 Pete's Lane, Pefferlaw - Doors Open 9 to 2

Seed-swap, native plants, children's activities & more!

Presentations

9:30 Paul Lubberts, York Region Food Network
Composting

10:30 Georgina Public Library
Children's Story Time

10:45: Durham Master Gardeners
Ask an Expert: Q&A

12:00 Joanne Mohan, Parklane Landscapes
Rain Gardens

Vendors

Over 25 fantastic vendors offering a wide variety of seeds, garden art, honey, lavender, preserves, floral items, pottery, organic compost, candles & more. Plus 6 community service groups such as LSRCA, Durham & Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners, & Seed Swap Tables.

Free admission

Co-Hosts: Cannington & Georgina-Brock Horticultural Clubs

Garden Ontario
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL

District 17 Annual Meeting

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on **Saturday April 26, 2025**.

The “doors” to the zoom meeting will open at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting will begin the meeting at 9:30 am.

Following the business portion of the meeting we are pleased to host **Niki Jabbour**, presenting **“Growing a Productive Vegetable Garden”** .

Registration is **FREE** to members of the twelve District 17 Societies.

To register and receive the link for the zoom meeting please contact Debi Foster via email debifoster.1956@gmail.com by Thursday April 24th.

Please plan to attend and learn more about what is happening within our gardening community!

Niki Jabbour is a vegetable gardener and horticulturalist from Nova Scotia. She an award-winning author of 4 books (The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener, Ground Breaking Food Gardens, Vegetable Garden Remix and Growing Under Cover). She also writes for magazines like Fine Gardening, Horticulture and Birds & Blooms. Niki, with Tara Nolan and Jessica Walliser make up the collective known as “Garden Savvy”.

Growing a Productive Vegetable Garden

Smart strategies that every food gardener needs to know for growing healthy plants and large harvests. Topics covered include soil care, raised beds vs in-ground gardens, intensive planting, succession planting, vertical growing, and more!



QUEBEC GARDEN TOUR

Wednesday June 25th to Sunday June 29th, 2025

Five days/Four nights

Featuring:

- *Reford Gardens – home of the Himalayan Blue Poppy*
- *Domaine Joly de Lotbiniere.*
- *Parc Marie Victorin.*
- *La Jardin de la Pocatiere*
- *Jardins Vivaces de Fernand*
- *Champs de Reve*
- *Montreal Botanical Garden*



Your package includes:

- Return motor coach transportation.
- Four nights' accommodation:
 - 2 nights at the Hotel Clarendon, Old Quebec City, QC
 - 1 night at Hotel Rimouski, Rimouski
 - 1 night at the 5 star - Chateau Domain Bromont, Eastern Twp, QC
- Tours/admission to attractions listed in Itinerary.
- TEN Meals: 4 breakfasts; 4 lunches; 2 dinners
- Services of Margaret Dailey-Plouffe, HNA Travels Tour Director

Cost: \$ 1,699. per person/double occupancy + HST (single \$ 2,199 + HST)

Non-refundable deposit of \$ 500. due upon booking; Balance due by May 1st

PICK-UP INFORMATION: This tour originates in the Ajax/Pickering area and then travels east with pick-ups along Hwy 401 east. Please call the office for departure information.

NOTE – from the Ottawa region? – please join us at the Kingston pick-up.

READY TO BOOK? Simply call us and you are on your way.

- Ottawa: 613-843-9900; TOLL-FREE 1-877-672-3030 OR e-mail: hnatravels@gmail.com
- Pay by Cheque/Visa/Master Card.

CANCELLATION INSURANCE AND OUT OF THE PROVINCE MEDICAL INSURANCE

is always recommended,

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hnatravels@gmail.com

www.hnatravels.com

2026 OHA 118th AGM and Convention “Gardening for Life” Logo Contest

The planning committee for the 2026 OHA Annual General Meeting and Convention is pleased to announce a contest for the creation of a logo for the 2026 Convention. The theme of the Convention is “Gardening for Life”. The logo design should reflect that idea.

The design should include:

- The theme “Gardening for Life”
- The words “Ontario Horticultural Association 118th AGM and Convention” or “OHA 118th AGM and Convention”, and “Districts 4 & 17”

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
- Easily formatted to a white, black or transparent background
- Jpg, jpeg and/or png format

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, the logo will become the property of the OHA.

Entries are to be submitted to OHAConvention2026@gmail.com **by 11:59 pm Monday March 31, 2025** with the signed entry form on the next page.

Judging will be by the 2026 Convention Planning Committee members.

There are examples of two previous logos below.



OHA 115th Convention
July 21 - 23, 2023
District 2 - Ottawa Valley

2026 OHA AGM and Convention “Gardening for Life” 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: _____

Society or Club (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____