

The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden Club



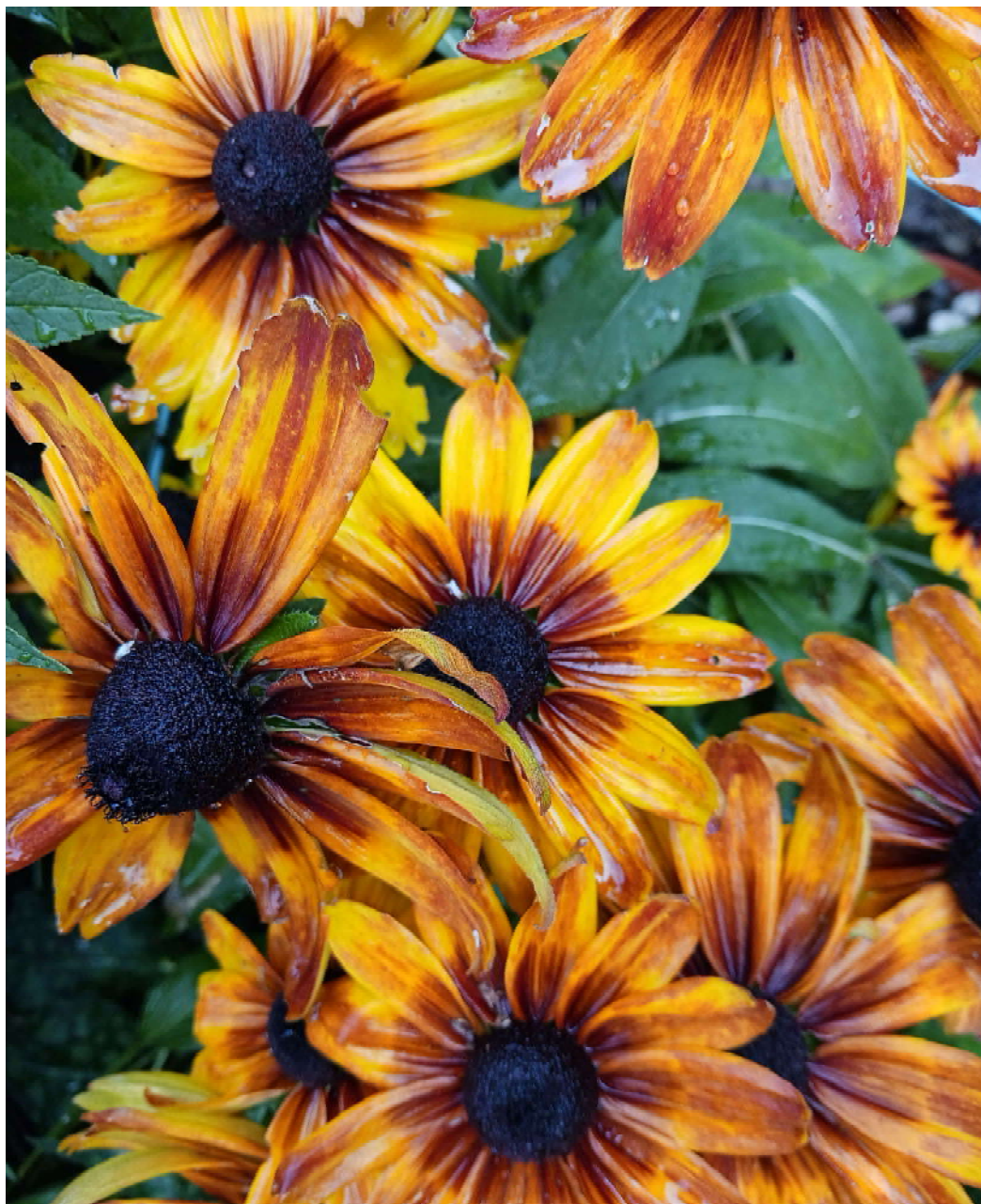
September/
October 2024

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Cover photo
(Rudbeckia) by Rose
Mary Mason

**Submission deadline
for Nov/Dec
newsletter: Oct 15**



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



President's Message

August already! I heard a lot of you enjoyed Michelle's garden the other day and both RoseMary and Alison's in July. So far we have one more coming up at Saila's on the 21st. But it's not too late if you want to show us how your garden grows! Maybe you have added something new or are trying a new veggie; and not every part of your garden has to be perfect. Gardens are a work in progress, always. Let Alison know if you want to show us your garden.

The bulb order went in and has been a success in terms of a small fund raiser. The next success will be when we get them and can plant them in our gardens! I believe there will be a few left over for sale at a meeting, in case you missed the order. Thanks to Carmen and Janice for organizing it.

I'll be MIA (missing in action due to surgery) for all of September but your board has everything in hand. Rose Mary will be sending out emails for me and Patti will be running the next meeting (September 9). Appropriately, the topic for our speaker then will be bulbs! Pam Clarke, a Master Gardener, with a title of "Bulbs-Jewels in the Garden".

Have a wonderful rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

*Jill Snape,
Oshawa Garden
Club President*



Photo by Jill Snape

The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden
Club

The Greenleaf is a newsletter of the Oshawa Garden Club.

President:
Jill Snape

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

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oshawagardenclub.ca

Facebook:
"Friends of the
Oshawa Garden Club"



September Meeting at LVIV Hall

Pam (Love) Clarke, Durham Master Gardeners

Monday September 9, 2024, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Pam has been an active member of the Durham Master Gardeners for over 14 years, and has served for many years on the Board of the Master Gardeners of Ontario. Pam has a Horticultural Certificate from the University of Guelph. She describes herself as a “generalist” gardener. Following a long banking career, Pam gained practical gardening experience operating her own gardening services business until 2014. Now Pam concentrates on sharing her gardening knowledge and finding ways to enjoy and make her garden easy to manage.



Topic: BULBS: Jewels in the Garden

This presentation covers the history and descriptions of bulbs, how you can use them in your garden, buying, planting and care tips. We will include some favourites, their blooming periods and esthetics.

Faux Show at September Meeting

By Greg Merlin

The categories for September are as follows:

Flowers:

- Begonia, 1 stem
- Chrysanthemum, 1 spray
- Coleus, 1 Stem
- Dahlia, any type, 1 bloom
- Geranium, (Pelargonium) 1 Stem
- Marigold, 3 Stems
- Rose, 1 bloom
- Zinnia, (NIP), 1 stem
- Any other annual (NIP) 1 bloom or stem

Vegetables:

- Peppers, 1 cultivar (leave approx. 1.5 cm of stem) 2 fruit
- Beans, 1 cultivar (with calyx & portion of stem attached) 5 pods
- Tomatoes, over 5 cm, 1 cultivar (preferable to leave calyx on) 1 fruit
- Tomatoes, under 5 cm, 1 cultivar (preferable to leave calyx on) 5 fruit
- Any other vegetable, 1 cultivar (NIP), unlimited entries & suitable #

Flowers in clear glass containers, vegetables on paper plates, and you may enter TWO ITEMS in each class but they must be different cultivars.

Greg has provided a copy of the Faux Show rules. These have been appended to the end of this newsletter.

October Meeting at LVIV Hall

Mike Gibbs

Floral Design

Monday October 21, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Since beginning as a floral designer, Mike's dedication to floral artistry and motivation to grow have led him to exceptional creations and experiences. Mike is the owner of Mike Gibbs Floral Designs and recently opened his own shop on the main street in Cannington offering creative combinations for weddings, celebrations and corporate events along with seasonal gifts. Mike will be leading us through one of his creations offering tips from his years of experience and artistic floristry.



Reminder of Upcoming OGC Photo Contest

While enjoying your gardens this summer, it's time to think about taking some photos for our upcoming contest. We hope to resume production of OGC bookmarks in 2025, featuring your photography! Please note below, date change to correspond with our actual meeting date!

- Theme: Oshawa gardens (in celebration of Oshawa's 100th anniversary)
- Deadline for submission: OGC October meeting (7:15 p.m., Oct. 21). Bring to the October meeting or contact Cecile Willert to arrange drop off or alternate submission of digital files, ogcgreenleafnews@gmail.com.
- Format: printed 5x7 photo, unmounted (name on back please) plus digital copy (jpeg format, under 5Mbyte email to ogcgreenleafnews@gmail.com).
- Maximum: 2 submissions per OGC member.
- Judging: Club members will vote on the photos at our October meeting.
- Consent for use: All entrants consent to unrestricted use of submitted photos by OGC.
- Ownership: All entries must be the original work of the Oshawa Garden Club member submitting them.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

September 9- Pam (Love) Clarke, Durham Master Gardeners - Bulbs, Jewels in the Garden; Faux flower show

October 21 - Speaker Mike Gibbs - Floral Design; OGC Photo contest

November - Annual General Meeting

December - No meeting

January - winter meetings will be held online

Giving Gardens Update

In June, we harvested the last of the lettuce, (4.9 lbs) and 16.8 lb of golden acres cabbage. We planted Chinese cabbage seeds and turnip seeds (not rutabaga that so many of us call turnip) where the lettuce had grown. Both of these crops should be ready to harvest late August to early September. We also planted pole beans at the end of the cabbage and squash bed. As the squash will fill that bed we won't be planting anything else there.

The last week of June, our harvest of golden acres and edox cabbage, kale, and mixed greens (beet tops and Swiss chard) totaled 29 lbs.

Community garden users are required to contribute to keeping the entire area weed-free, so as usual we weeded the paths as well as our four beds, trimmed along the fence and pruned back a tree and shrub that shaded some beds and were making walking in the paths beside them difficult.

Vegetables need dependable water to provide good crops and a rain doesn't necessarily penetrate the ground very deeply, so one or two of us visit the garden to check on it almost every day.

As always, everything that we raise in our OGC beds is donated to the Salvation Army Food Bank to help alleviate hunger and food insecurity in Oshawa. When we are watering, weeding and harvesting, it is nice to think of individuals, children and families eating these good nutritious vegetables.

Submission by Alma-Jane MacLean



Donations from kind fellow community gardeners and neighbours! Thank you!!!



Harvesting in the rain doesn't deter OGC volunteers Kate, Anne, Chris, Mary and Margaret, and Ron behind the camera.



Allison and Ron with our abundant tomato harvest, cucumbers reaching their end, Alma-Jane doing camera duty.

Giving Gardens Update continued

August 14 update: The Giving Garden is really producing thanks to the cucumber and tomato season and kale that just keeps on giving! In July alone we grew and donated 218.45 lbs of vegetables to the Salvation Army food bank, giving some help to hungry people in need in Oshawa. More veggies are coming. To date in August, we have harvested and donated 131.3 lbs of vegetables to the food bank, and the month isn't over yet. Zucchini has just started producing and I think we all know how dependable it is for harvests! Lots of squashes are maturing on our butternut and spaghetti squash plants. The bulb onions are curing for harvesting maybe early September. So there is lots going on in our 5 community garden beds. Some of our community garden friends have been very generous and donated some of their produce, as have some of our neighbours. Thank you to each of them! In case you are interested, to date we have donated a total of 431.11 lbs of vegetables to the Salvation Army food bank. The staff there are always very pleased to accept our donations. And as always, everything we harvest is donated!



Our butternut squash (pictured) and spaghetti squash are both producing fruit. They may look ready to pick but they still need a few weeks in the garden to ripen thoroughly.



Our pole beans are starting to produce beans. The skeletonized leaves are due to Japanese beetles.



Allison and Ron checking our zucchini, golden acres cabbage, and the beet seedlings growing in the bed we just got mid July. The zucchini plants have started producing already!



One of our donated eggplants has a fruit growing.

Submission by Alma-Jane MacLean. Photos by Alma-Jane and by Ron, where noted.

Sharing Gardens - A Perspective

Article and photos by Rose Mary Mason

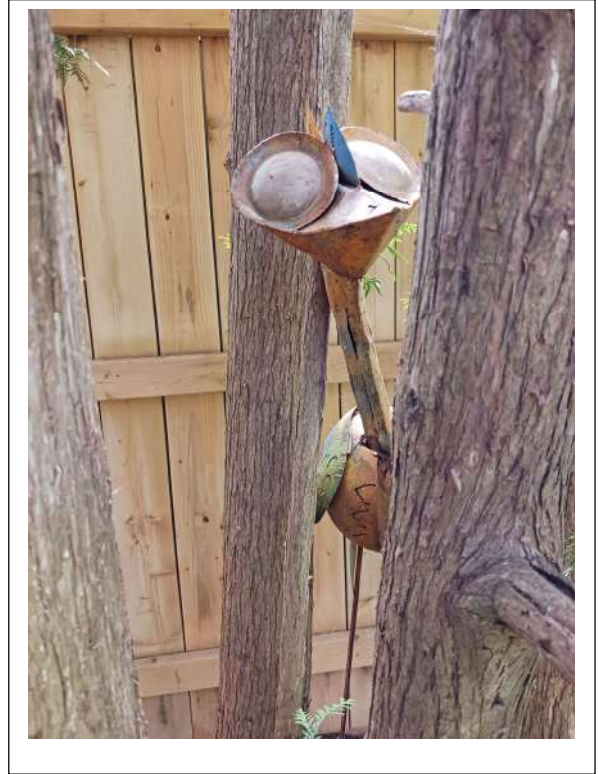
I was reluctant to put my backyard on Sharing Gardens due to my unwillingness to edit, prune or transplant, as well as the abundance of invasives. I'm aware of focal points, swaths of colour and low plants in front, tall plants in back, but I haven't managed to achieve that aesthetic. How could I measure up to the beautiful spaces that I had visited?

However, I decided to approach it as a learning experience, a time to discuss my challenges ((buckthorn in a chain link fence, dog strangling vine from the park behind me, variegated goutweed I unwittingly planted, much like Paul Zammit) and my successes (raspberries, a prize-winning peony, a variety of natives).

Rather than judgements I received encouragement, tips and found kindred spirits. I was able to introduce people to new plants, share my successes and admit my challenges. I shared stories of how plants came into my garden, making myself known to others. I met a new club member and found out we grew up a few blocks apart. I was invited to see another member's garden and helped them find a plant they coveted.

We all garden differently, we all have different aesthetics and reasons for our love of plants, but we also have common challenges (Creeping Bellflower, Japanese Beetles) that brings us all together. I encourage everyone to consider sharing their garden, I guarantee it will be a positive experience.

P.S. The Ostrich was in the cedars!



Sharing Gardens Photos

Patti Becker: *"I enjoyed both gardens and talking to new and seasoned members this afternoon."*



Photo by Patti Becker



Photo by Patti Becker



Photo by Patti Becker



Photo by Jill Snape

All About Succulents

Article and photos by Rose Mary Mason

On July 8 our speaker was Molly Shannon of [Canadian Succulents](#). Molly grows almost 300 varieties of succulents in Uxbridge and crafts unique arrangements for wedding centrepieces and favours, corporate events and gifting.

In botany, succulents are plants with parts that are thickened and fleshy, usually to retain water in arid climates or soil conditions.

They include indoor varieties such as Echevaria, Kalanchoe or Lithops (Living Stones) and cold hardy varieties such as Prickly Pear Cactus (Opuntia), Sedum (Stonecrop) or Sempervivum (Hens and Chicks).

The presentation inspired me to look at my succulents. I have a collection of differently shaped and coloured Echevaria that are currently outside (and stretching or trying to make more). They will overwinter indoors. I also counted a dozen hardy Sedums from Autumn Joy to Sunsparkler Lime Twister planted in the garden. Although they could be planted in the ground, my Sempervivum (Cobweb, Hens and Chicks) are in clay pots and I bring them into my unheated porch and stop watering for the winter.

The variety of shapes and sizes and colours of succulents is impressive and I encourage you to explore this family of plants.



2024 OHA Convention



Our District 17 Contingent in Guelph



Selected flower show exhibits (Photos by Cecile Willert)



Local garden photos taken on convention bus tour (photos by Cecile Willert)

July Buffalo Garden Walk Tour with OGC

Photos by Cecile Willert



Faux Show Rules

1. Exhibitors must be members of the Oshawa Garden Club.
2. Flower specimens and all vegetables must be grown by the exhibitor. House plants must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 3 months.
3. All design classes must contain fresh plant material, unless otherwise stated in the show schedule.
4. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry tag. Entry tags will be available at each meeting so that exhibitors can have tags prepared prior to arriving at the next show.
5. Horticultural exhibits should be named if possible (NIP), on the entry tag.
6. All shows will follow the rules and regulations in the **Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (OJES2019)** unless specifically exempted. Copies are available for purchase through the OHA or selected locations eg. TBG Gift shop
7. Species known to be invasive in Ontario should not be exhibited. Per the Ontario Invasive Species Act, it is illegal to import, deposit, release, breed/grow, sell, lease or trade a variety of plants including: a) Dog-strangling Vine (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*) (syn. *Cynanchum louiseae*); b) Black Dog-strangling Vine (*Vincetoxicum louiseae*) (syn. *Cynanchum louiseae*); c) Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica* var. *japonica*) (syn. *Reynoutria japonica*); d) Phragmites (*Phragmites australis* subspecies. *Australis*). This list is growing and a more complete and up to date list can be found at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/managing-invasive-species-ontario>
8. Species that are a special concern, threatened or endangered should not be exhibited. Links to information about these species are listed in the OJES2019 on page 14.
9. **Show entries may be placed any time after 6:45 pm up to 7:25 pm. Please do not remove entries until the conclusion of the meeting.**
10. The show committee has full charge of staging. The exhibitor, any Show Committee member or a show clerk under the direction of a show committee member may place specimens. The exhibitor may not move another entry to provide a place for his/her own. Consult with the Show Committee if there is insufficient space. Design classes are placed only by exhibitor or by permission of such.
11. Only persons designated by the Show Committee will be permitted to be in the show area while entries are being judged.
12. The Show Committee will take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of exhibits to ensure the safety of exhibits and containers but the Club will not be responsible for loss through theft or breakage.
13. **The decision of the Judge(s) is final.**
14. At this time there will be no prizes awarded. If the Oshawa Garden Club moves forward with traditional Flower Shows, this rule will be changed accordingly.

If you have any questions drop me an email: gmerlin5944@rogers.com

Greg Merlin