

The GARDEN POST

Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society



May - June 2022

SPRING UNMASKS ...

THE GOOD



THE BAD



and... THE CUDDLY

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YOTG = The Year Of The Garden.

Front Cover Collage inspired by The Masked Singer's theme.

Photo Credits for Front Cover Collage (left to right from top to bottom): 2022 Daffodils by Megan Beddows, Snow Drops and tree blossoms by Chris Robarts, Blossom-end Rot from SavvyGardening.com., Japanese Beetle from CardinalFarms.com, Jumping Worm from Inside Edition, Succulents by Karen Hostin and/or Sally Hossain, and the red tree by Megan Beddows.



The Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society is an active member of District 15 of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA)



From Doreen's Desk

On May 3rd we are planning our first HYBRID meeting. You can come to the McConaghy Centre in-person (wear a mask) or join us via Zoom. Our featured speaker will be on zoom. Get there early to chat with friends.

We are in our **spring fundraising season** and there is a lot happening! All of our fundraising projects are open to our members and the public.

- 🌱 Online sale of Succulents and Tropical Plants. This sale ran in April and there will be some more of these plants at the in-person event.
- 🌱 Worm Compost! It's back again and selling fast! Order yours online. Curbside pickup each Saturday.
- 🌱 Rain Barrels! Want to save on the cost of watering your gardens? Save rainwater and use it. Rain barrels offer a perfect solution. Please consider ordering from our Rain Barrel Fundraising partner using [this link](#). Purchase is easy, the rain barrels are delivered directly to you, and our Society receives some money from each purchase.
- 🌱 May 7th! We are delighted to announce the return of our Spring Plant sale in 2022, on Saturday, May 7th, from 9 am until noon, at the McConaghy Centre. Masks required. See page 14 for more info.

Future fun activities are also in the works. We now have enough volunteers to plan and execute each of these activities!

- 🌱 The **photo contest** is a go! Start taking pictures for entry in the approved category and classes. Get the details at [this link](#).
- 🌱 The **Bus Tour - A Day of Wine & Roses** - is scheduled for June 18th. Get your ticket online now. More info at the May and June general meetings. See the article on page 10 and our website's [Bus Tour](#) page.
- 🌱 Planning for the **December Holiday Celebration** will start soon and will be based on the feedback provided by you, our members, in the late February survey.

Keep Well & Best Regards,
Doreen Coyne, President



The Garden Post is a bi-monthly newsletter of the Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society

President: Doreen Coyne

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Email Distribution Setup: Susan Biensch

Mailing Distribution
Doreen Coyne

Front Cover: Template Photos by Judy Simon.

Location of Meetings:
During Covid-19 via Zoom. In-person at McConaghy. Hybrid meetings will use both at the same time.
McConaghy Centre
10100 Yonge Street,
Richmond Hill, ON

Annual Membership Dues:
Single \$30 ; Family \$50 (2 adults residing at the same address + children 16 years of age and under)

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rhgardensociety



NEW: Check out the SPRING issue of the OHA newsletter

Check out this new edition. Heather Ann Lowry wrote the article that starts on pg. 32 about our Society's fundraising using the Greenhouse. The Trillium is featured on the OHA website's NEWS page.

Read or download it by clicking [this link](#). If you prefer a full colour printed copy, you can sign-up for a nominal annual fee to have it mailed to you. Payment details are at [this link](#).

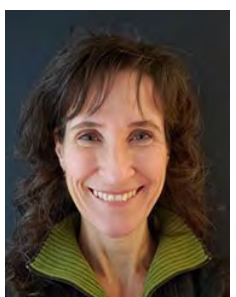
WHAT'S COMING UP AT THE HORT



May 3, 2022 - General Meeting: Niki Jabbour speaking on Veggie Garden Remix

Best-selling author Niki Jabbour invites you to shake up your vegetable garden with an intriguing array of awesome vegetables from around the world. From cucamelons to burr gherkins, ground cherries to snake gourds and much more. Be prepared to have your mind expanded and catch Niki's contagious enthusiasm for experimentation and fun in the food garden. *BIO: Niki Jabbour is the award-winning author of [The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener](#), [Groundbreaking-Food Gardens](#), [Niki Jabbour's Veggie Garden Remix](#), and [Growing Under Cover](#). She is a rare two-time winner of the prestigious American Horticultural Society Book Award and a three-time winner of a Gold Award from the Association for Garden Communicators. She speaks on vegetable gardening across the US and Canada and is the host of the Weekend Gardener radio show. Niki is also one of the experts behind [SavvyGardening.com](#) which welcomes over 15 million gardeners a year.*

May 7, 2022 - Annual Spring Plant Sale. Join us at the McConaghy Centre from 9 to noon. Bring friends and family, as it is open to the public. We are requesting all attendees wear a mask.



June 7, 2022 - General Meeting: Marina Dimitriadis speaking on The Allergy-Fighting Garden

As a landscape designer, Marina receives many requests to consider the specific needs of her clients. She received a request from a client to reduce the number of plants in her design because her child had severe allergies. Marina researched allergy-causing plants and found Thomas Leo Ogren's system for combating allergens based on plant sex. In this presentation, she will discuss how allergy sufferers can reduce or eliminate their symptoms by selecting the right plants. *BIO: Marina Dimitriadis is a certified landscape designer with Dimitriadis Design Build, a company she and her (landscape contractor) husband run together. She is a Master Gardener, a part-time professor at Seneca College and a design consultant for Evergreen Canada.*



July 5, 2022 - General Meeting: Susan Poizner speaking on Growing Healthy Organic Fruit Trees - Secrets to Success

More North Americans are planting fruit trees in their gardens, parks, or on company land, but often new growers are disappointed. Without proper care, young fruit trees are vulnerable to pest and disease problems and often produce poor-quality fruit. New growers may not realize that in order to thrive, fruit trees need skilled hands-on care including: correct annual pruning, fertility management and pest and disease prevention. Join urban orchardist and award-winning author Susan Poizner, where she will share tried-and-true secrets to success in growing healthy, organic fruit trees. *BIO: Susan is a passionate filmmaker, journalist, urban orchardist and fruit tree care educator. She created the fruit tree care certificate training program at [orchardpeople.com](#), authored the award-winning fruit tree care book, [Growing Urban Orchards](#) and hosts the monthly fruit tree care podcast, [The Urban Forestry Radio Show](#), on Reality Radio 101.*

August 2, 2022 - General Meeting: Richmond Hill's Public Gardens Maintained by our Society.

Presented by our Garden Leads: Nancy Andrews, Dinah Gibbs, Heather Ann Lowry, and Sally Hossain. They'll each be speaking about the Garden they and their team tend and beautify.



In Memory of Albert (Bert) Card

March 12th, 1924 - March 12th, 2022

Albert (Bert) Card passed peacefully on his 98th birthday at Hill House Hospice. Beloved husband of the late Joan. Both Joan and Bert were natives of Hastings, in the south of England. Bert was one of the few surviving veterans in Canada of D-Day and served in the Royal Corps of Signals. He finished the war as a Staff Sergeant and married Joan on April 5, 1947. After he got out of the military, he worked as a plumber in the U.K. The couple came to Canada in 1954. At one time he was a consultant for the Toronto police. He lived in and around Richmond Hill and moved into the Richmond Hill retirement home in 2019. Although he and Joan had no children nor other relatives in Canada, he did have nieces and nephews in England. He easily made friends as he was a friendly, outgoing man who was always ready with a smile and a laugh. He loved to sing, write poems, and grow plants! Indeed, both he and Joan were members of the choir at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church.



He will be missed by many good friends. Bert was a long-time member and then a Lifetime member of the Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society. He also served for several other organizations including the Ontario Horticultural Association, Freemason's, Shriners, and the Royal Canadian Legion 375 in Richmond Hill.

Bert belonged to our Society since the mid-1960s and served as our President in 1977-1978. Our society will plant a tree honouring Bert in the designated City Park within the Celebration Forest. He was also a Director for District 15 and the OHA President in 1991. The OHA will plant and dedicate a tree at the OHA Oak Grove in his memory later this year. He received the OHA Silver Fir award in 1994. He received the OHA Silver Medal in 1998, the highest award of the Association.

Jennifer Wingate wrote: R.I.P Bert. Card by name and "card" by nature, he always had a joke or funny saying whenever I met him. He soldiered on through a long and interesting life and he will be missed.

Jenny Rogers wrote: Bert was very proud of his accomplishments, which were many and varied. Always ready with a big beaming smile; Bert was quite a presence in any situation. I experienced some special times with Bert when he was part of a small cast of players who staged a "Victorian Christmas" at the Burr House Gallery. We would sing together and perform skits; he also performed one of his Lion and Albert recitations. He was word perfect and just right for the Music Hall selections we were performing. So, when it came time to do a little entertainment at the end of a Hort Holiday Celebration, I knew he would be willing to put on a dress and take part in some light-hearted sketches. He was certainly "One of a Kind", full of life and laughter.



Bert at our 2018 Holiday Celebration with his aid and David Biensch. Photo from our 2018 Photo Archive.

entertainment at the end of a Hort Holiday Celebration, I knew he would be willing to put on a dress and take part in some light-hearted sketches. He was certainly "One of a Kind", full of life and laughter.

Shirley (Barker) Zaky wrote: Bert Card and my father, William Barker, met through this Society, became good friends and long time members, and each served as President, Bert in 1977-78 and my father 1979

(Continued on page 5)

-1980. Bert's wonderful sense of humour was well illustrated in the poem he wrote for the roast held for my father on June 27, 1985. This poem was read again by Bert at the inaugural presentation of the William and Marjorie Barker Lecture on April 5, 2011. Each spring, I think of Bert as I plant the rooted cuttings of some beautiful deep fuchsia-coloured geraniums which I got from his greenhouse many years ago. Thank you Bert for your dedication, generosity and sense of fun. (Note: His poem can be found on page 16.)

Norman McMullen and Kevin Dark: We would see Bert at various functions and always enjoyed his warm and friendly ways. We both recall how encouraging and supportive he was when we served as Hort Presidents. Even if something went wrong he would tell us "Well done, carry on". He was a remarkable man!

Malcolm Geast wrote: Bert joined the OHA board as D15 Director for 1984/85, and carried on in that position until 1988/89. He moved up to OHA 2nd VP for 1989/90, followed by 1st VP in 1990/91. And in 1991, at the convention in Sault Ste. Marie (June 19-21), he became OHA President. I've attached a photo of the 85/86 board, as found in the annual report for 1985/86. This was his second year on the board. (See photo below)



Bert at our 2019 AGM. His shirt reads "Gone to Seed." Photo from our 2019 archives.



1985 - 86 OHA Board of Directors

Back Row (L to R): Bert Card, Erik Hansen, Ted Penwill, George Rickard, Clarence Lange, Charles Bowyer.
Second Row (L to R): Pauline Richards, Margaret Bolender, Marjorie Bell, Isabelle Challice, Gordon Winter, J.J. Sanders, Dorothy Dove, Bonnie Warner, Evelyn Moreau, Patricia Christian.
Front Row (L to R): Ed Israel, Mary Yeoman, Maurice Marshall, Madeline Hobson, Marjorie Durnford, Cam Stewart, Hazel Wilson, Harold Bartman, Nancy Larmer.



According to Brad Herrick, an Ecologist at the University of Wisconsin's Madison Arboretum, Jumping Worms, are a relatively new invasive species that is threatening gardens in 38 plus states in the US and has already started its way into Ontario. It has no predators. This worm is also known as *Amyntas agrestis*, the Asian jumping worm and is a species of worm in the family Megascolecidae. The *Amyntas agrestis* became a problem in the United States, specifically the Southern United States, starting around 1860; but more recently, ecologists and landscapers have become increasingly concerned about this invasive species.

How do you know if you have any in your garden? They have a smooth, glossy grey or brown body with a milky white clitellum close to the head of the worm. The clitellum is a thickened glandular and non-segmented section of the body wall that secretes a viscid sac in which eggs are stored. The Jumping Worm ranges in length from 1.5 to 8 inches. These worms have also earned the names of "crazy worms" or "snake worms". Their annual life cycle is spent as a larva for at least six months, then emerging as a worm between May and June. The adults start laying eggs in August. These jumping worms don't actually jump. They flop around when disturbed or when they perceive a threat. When there are several of them, their flopping around can raise them an inch off the ground! If their thrashing doesn't deter the predator, they can resort to breaking off segments of their tail to escape.



One of the main concerns is their over-consumption of leaf litter and the roots of plants such as garden vegetables. These invasive worms outcompete other earthworms and their castings degrade soil quality, leaving soil non-viable for many native plant species and susceptible to increased erosion. Jumping worms are voracious eaters; they can quickly consume the top layer of organic material, making it difficult for plants to remain rooted and allowing nutrients to be washed away by rain. Boiling that down, it means that:

- 1) The soil is depleted of nutrients thus plants can not root and grow.
- 2) Ground nesting animals and birds can lose their habitat.
- 3) Eating the roots of your vegetables of course, means that your veggies die before being harvested.

How to control their spread—if you happen to walk in an area where they are, as you leave, brush off the bottoms of your shoes or boots to avoid potentially taking a worm or larvae with you. When you buy plants, ensure the company you are buying from does not have any of these in their nurseries. At a recent District 15 meeting, several members mentioned that the soil needs to be checked when your club accepts divided plants with roots to sell at their upcoming spring plants sales. In this case, checking for larvae and worms is crucial, as many Societies rely heavily on donations from their members' gardens in order to hold a spring plant sale. BTW: Our Society grows our plants in new treated soil in "our" Greenhouse.

Many ecological scientists have created ways to control this invasive species. Here's a few ways to kill them:

- 1) A main way to control the Jumping Worm is to do controlled burning in grassy fields and some forests that have a high population of this worm. This method removes leaf litter, the worm's main food source, thus it should thoroughly control the overall population of these worms.

(Continued on page 7)

Gardening Tips & Newsletter Articles Needed Now

Gardening Tips: Thanks to those of you who've been providing some tips and ideas for tips recently. Now I am asking for tips or ideas for tips that will be topical in order to cover us in **July and August**, then **November and December**. I do like to write, but I need your help!



Newsletter articles: I'm very happy to receive your articles for our award winning newsletter. We hope you'll write about your experiences at a garden or nursery that you might visit this year, Or perhaps you could write about something that INSPIRED you—whether that was a gardening related course you took, a topic or speaker we had at one of our meetings, or something written in our Outings email or our newsletters or a book. Your efforts will become part of the highest traffic web pages on our site and on OnRichmondHill.com. **So please send your articles, tips, or ideas for tips and articles to Doreen Coyne coynedwc@gmail.com.**

Jumping Worms (Continued from page 6)

- 2) The most humane method to euthanize jumping worms is to use isopropyl alcohol, which will kill them within seconds.
- 3) Another effective method is to seal them in a clear plastic bag and leave them in direct sunlight. If you discover jumping worms in horticultural material such as soil, dispose of the contaminated material in a plastic bag, which can be left out in the sun or frozen to kill any jumping worms it may contain. But you need to see them to kill them so read on —
- 4) Mix 1/3 cup of dry mustard into 1 gallon of water. Shake well. It will turn into a slightly yellowish slurry. Pour it over each area (do one at a time) that shows a lack of leaf litter. In 30 seconds to a minute, the jumping worms will come up out the soil head first as the mustard solution irritates their "skin". Then simply pick them up and place them in a plastic bag. Repeat in the next area. When done, ensure the plastic bag is disposed of properly.

Article by Doreen Coyne. Photos from Inside Edition¹.

References and for more reading:

- 1) Brad Herrick's YouTube video as presented on Inside Edition. [LINK](#).
- 2) Wikipedia - Jumping Worms. [LINK](#).
- 3) Invasive Species Centre on Jumping Worms. [LINK](#).
- 4) CBC News. "Jumping worms", a concern for invasive species expert in Sault Ste. Marie. Asian "jumping worms" recently found in the Greater Toronto Area. (Oct. 13, 2021). [LINK](#).
- 5) The University of Minnesota Extension. Jumping Worms. [LINK](#).
- 6) OHA website on Jumping Worms. [LINK](#)

A Gardening Crossword Puzzle

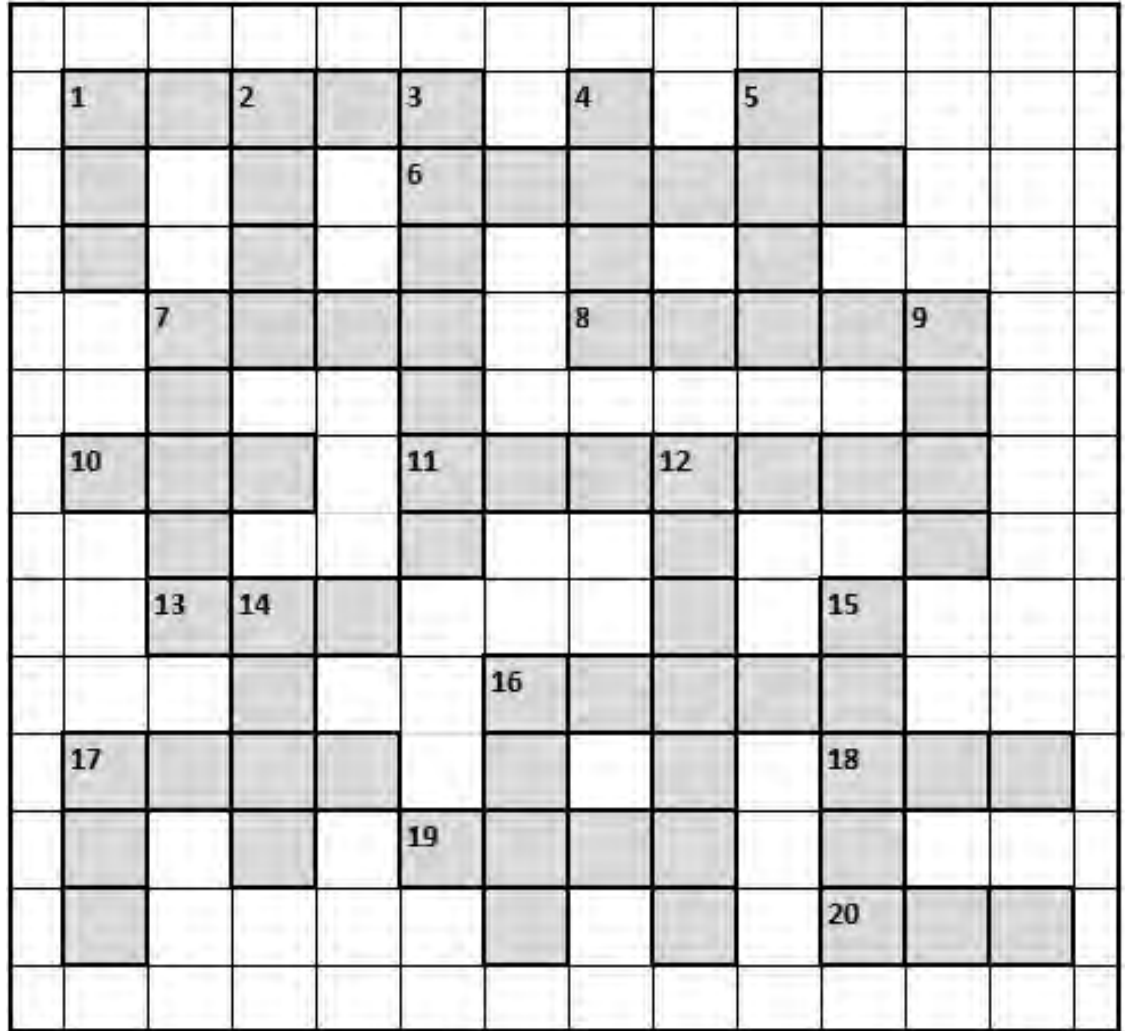
Submitted by Jennifer Pyke

Across:

1. Slice to eat.
6. Bees move this.
7. Edamame is a ...
8. Good base for many meals.
10. It's a buzzer.
11. Fruit and veg scraps go into the ____ bin.
13. Essential sauce
16. Basil needed to make this.
17. Might feel like this after digging a lot.
18. No garden. Rent this.
19. Something you hum while gardening.
20. Need lots of this to grow.

Down:

1. Corn grows on this.
2. Good source of Vitamin A
3. Popeye likes this.
4. A cutting is also called this
5. Pollinators
7. Nice pickled.
9. Nuisance insects.



12. Tasty garnish.

14. Ever grown this?

15. Peas and beans grow up them.

16. A variety of tomato.

17. What you may need to do to rest.



GRETA Van Den Bossche's EUPHORBIA (aka Crown of Thorns)

This is the Year of the Garden. Plant Red.

To the left, a red Euphorbia starting to bloom. Photo by Greta Van den Bossche. To the right, a close-up of a red peony at the McClatchy garden last year.

Photo by Ingrid Sunar.



Inspired by... Experience a garden: Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden *Located in Chonburi Province, Thailand*

Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden is about 25 km south then slightly east of Pattaya, a resort location on the west coast of Thailand. The Botanical Garden was officially opened in 1980 and was founded by Mrs. Nongnuch Tansajja, At that time it had both a contemporary Thai cultural performance and an elephant show in the theatre both of which are still a big draw. Khun Kamphon Tansajja became the manager and has developed the Garden into a famous tourist destination.

The gardens are excellent covering over 600 acres of property with more than 18,000 species of tropical plants.

Because the websites can seem confusing, I should note that there are 2 parts of this Botanical Garden. One is the Pattaya Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden . The other more simply Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden. Today the gardens host much more than just gardens. They also offer a resort and convention centre nearby.



The gardens are segmented into the French Garden, European Garden, Stone Garden, Cactus & Succulent Garden, Variegated Plants, Ant Tower, Butterfly Hill, Orchid & Bromeliad Display Garden, and Flower valley. Within these gardens, you'll see many Thai-style houses, flower gardens, ornamental plants and flowers such as orchids, fronds, pineapples, shrub gardens, Cactus, Cycads, Palms, Succulents, Zingiberales and many other plant groups.

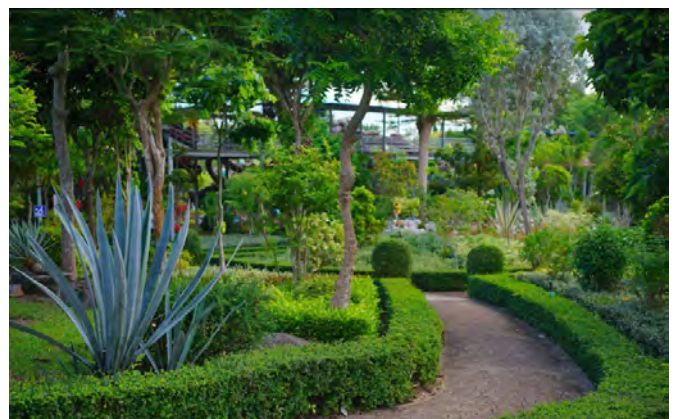
There is a dinosaur path where life-sized dinosaur statues are posed amongst various trees and plantings. That area is used to teach children about dinosaurs and the ice age. There is also a small zoo with lions. The elephants are still there performing or being walked around the parking lots and specific paths, each with a chain around one leg to remind them they can not do as they wish.

Take a virtual tour from their website using these links:

- 1) Photo Tour overviews all the Pattaya Gardens. [Click here.](#)
- 2) Photo Tour highlights the main gardens. [Click here.](#)
- 3) Dinosaur Valley: [Click here](#)
- 4) Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden: [Click here.](#)

Article was "Inspired by" Doreen Coyne's National Geographic Calendar that focuses on gardens around the world. Photos taken by staff and visitors to the garden.

See <http://www.nongnoochtropicalgarden.com/home/> or <https://nongnooch-botanical-garden.business.site/>



June 18th BUS TOUR: *A Day of Wine and Roses*

Thanks to Roberta Jennings and Kate Shaver

Date & Time: Saturday, June 18, 2022, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm **Meet at:** Elgin West Community Center

Cost: RHGHS members = \$79 non-members = \$89

Payment: Pay and register online.

Included: Transportation by coach, all fees, picnic lunch

More Details: richmondhillgardensociety.org/trips

Cancellation policy: Payment is generally non-refundable unless bus trip is cancelled by RHGHS

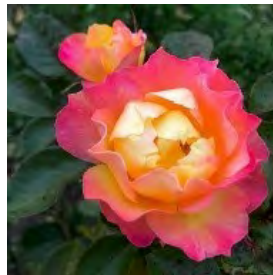
Insurance form waiver: These will be collected as you board the bus. (Download from RHGHS website)

Note: The safety of our members is our top priority. For that reason, a quality mask must be worn at all times while on the bus. Lunch will be served outdoors under a roofed terrace.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

1. Palatine Rose and Fruit Nursery

Palatine Roses is the leading bare-root rose supplier in Ontario, and the source for our RHGHS Garden Sunshine roses! They pursue organic methods whenever practical, using pheromones as well as Neem Oil, essential oils, and other organic sprays. They enrich their soil with several additives and we will be given a short presentation about their rose treatments.



2. Southbrook Vineyard

Located on a 150-acre property, Southbrook was the first vineyard in Canada to earn both organic and bio-dynamic certification. As we sample three of Southbrook's wines, and stroll through this



unusual vineyard, Bill Redelmeier will speak to us about the use of animals, and specially prepared composts to grow low-impact, vibrant crops. Environmental quality is key for Southbrook. Their Merlot is award winning and you can purchase their orange wine or a jar of their special Cab Franc mustard or wine jelly.

3. Vineland Nurseries

Vineland Nurseries, owned by Jim & Simone Lounsbery, is a retailer of dwarf and unusual evergreens, Japanese Maples, Rhododendrons, Bamboos, and other rare & unusual plants. Gardening Life lists them as one of the top 40 specialty nurseries. Jim has a background as a speaker and lecturer; we are sure that he will be able to answer all your queries. (Debit and cash only.)



4. The Watering Can Flower Market This market carries a well curated variety of tropicals, (small to tree sized), annuals, a charming array of garden art and imaginative displays of succulents.



Website Transformation Completed!

www.RichmondHillGardenSociety.org

Following a brief "Under Construction" period, on March 14th, our enhanced and fully-functional website was published and became accessible on the World Wide Web (www). Significant changes include...

Our site is mobile-aware.

What this means is that the content of our website displays in a manner considered appropriate for the type of device that a visitor is using to view it. Our Home page is a good example of this design feature. Rather than displaying a miniature version of what is displayed on a large desktop monitor, each section of the Home page now fills the width of a mobile phone screen, and sections are scrolled through vertically.



Non-mobile-aware view of our Home page.



Mobile-aware view of our Home page - each section now flows vertically on a mobile phone, improving readability and usability.



The Log in prompt moved.

The log in prompt is now in the upper right corner of every page.



Log in location on a desktop monitor. Following login, user name and prompts to change password and log out appear.

Website Transformation Completed!

Continued from prior page

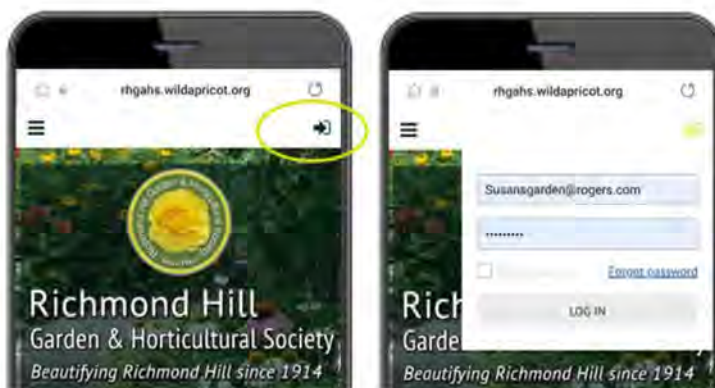
The log in prompt on a mobile device also displays in the upper right corner of every page, but may appear as an icon with an arrow, as in the example.

The navigation menu moved.

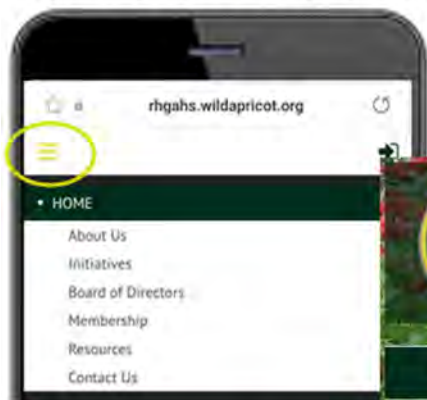
On a desktop monitor, the navigation menu is now horizontal rather than vertical, and displays under our banner on every page. Due to space limitations, there are now fewer top level menu items, so you may need to mouse over the navigation panel to find a favourite page. As well, we use a feature called

“sticky menu” to

continue displaying the menu at the top of long pages when viewed on a monitor.



Log in prompt location on a mobile device.



Menu locations and display are different on a mobile phone as compared to a desktop monitor.

Members-Only Resources are reorganized.

The list of resources available exclusively to our members has gotten so long that we popped some into a box titled “Helpful links”. We also ensured prominent, easy access to Membership Profiles (for data updates, membership renewals) and to the popular Membership Directory.

Our site is “secure”.

Visitors will now see a little lock next to our URL, indicating that every page displays in an encrypted manner.



Prominent buttons identify Membership Directory and Membership Profile.

Social Media links moved.

Links to our Facebook and Instagram sites are now in the footers of every page, visible on all devices.

Background images are custom.

The background image on our public site is of a member’s garden in summer and the image on our member-only site is of plants in the Greenhouse just before a sale. Content floats over the images, which, in the future, may change seasonally. These finesses give us a truly unique representation on the WWW!

Article and Screen Captures by Susan Biensch, Society Webmaster

Inspired by...



Society members share actions inspired by our events and activities

Inspiration: “Terrarium Design and Maintenance”

Workshop by Kiki Danninger, Jan 2021.

By Member: Susan Biensch

Following Kiki Danninger’s webinar in January 2021, Susan created a few terrariums during the cold winter months. Per Kiki’s instructions, she prepared the glass containers with layers of pebbles, charcoal and sphagnum moss before adding soil, plants and decorative materials. Although most of her glass containers did not come with lids, she instead opted for appropriately sized clear, rigid plastic lids from single-use food containers – problem solved!

Susan was particularly delighted with how happy a collection of small carnivorous plants seemed to be in their new humid environment. The terrarium in the photo contains five small carnivorous plants: a pitcher plant, two varieties of butterwort (one in bloom), and two sundew plants. There are also some tiny ferns and a chunk of driftwood.



Carnivorous Plant Terrarium, photo by Susan Biensch



Inspiration: “Festive Floral Design” Presentation by Kate Seaver, Dec. 2020

By Member: Doreen Coyne

Following Kate Seaver’s presentation Doreen took a road trip to Kate’s store - Kate’s Garden in Markham. Although small, this wonderful shop is filled with florals and other pieces to take home. She ended up with 3 centrepieces—each in a different size, and some wonderful seeded suet bells for birds. After the holidays, Doreen took pictures of the pieces and wrapped up the containers, foam (aka oasis), and decorations from the centrepieces with the intent to rebuild one next Christmas.

Following the steps Kate had outlined, the end result in 2021 was pleasing to the eye. Plus in doing this, Doreen, learned a few more things to improve how she did it next time. She shared those in a Gardening Tip, titled “[Holiday Greenery](#)”, outlining the steps and learned lessons to help others minimize expenses, while enabling them to have a wonderful centrepiece for their home. Not just for the holidays, this centrepiece can be done with different décor or by adding flowers for any celebration, get-together, or even a simple family meal.



Holiday Centrepiece. Photo by D. Coyne

The PLANT SALE Will Soon Be Here!

We'll need a lot of help! Contact Sally Hossain at email sallyhossain@gmail.com if you can lend a helping hand or can drive your SUV! Everyone helping and attending must be wearing a mask. We are providing aprons for each helper to wear during the event.

What's needed mid-afternoon on May 6th:

- Folks to drive plants from the Greenhouse to the centre.
- Placing plants on tables, etc. at McConaghy.
- Pricing plants.

Then on May 7th, we'll need:

- Someone to ensure all plants are placed & priced.
- Folks who can record how many plants a person has at each price for faster check out.
- Someone to ensure people are masked on entry.
- Checkout clerks. (We take cash, cheques, credit cards, and debit.)
- Clean-up after we are done.
- Driving leftover plants back to the Greenhouse.

Then a big **THANK YOU** for helping & we go home to rest!



Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society

PLANT SALE

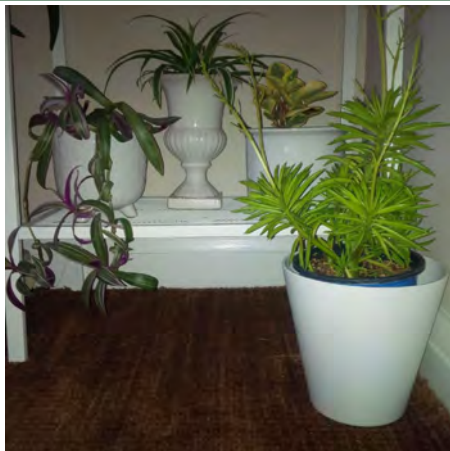
Saturday, May 7th, 2022
9 am to 12:00 noon
McConaghy Centre
10100 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill
(just North of Major Mackenzie Drive)

In memory of Sheila Celsie
former Greenhouse Project and Plant Sale Director

*Perennials, Annuals,
Herbs, Vegetables,
Native and Pollinator Plants,
Tropical Plants,
Plants from Members' Gardens,
Books, Accessories and more!*

PLEASE WEAR A MASK!

Visit us at www.RichmondHillGardenSociety.org



Everyone Loves to Buy Plants!

It's exciting to find exactly the right pot to put them in for indoor display or the right location in your garden for those plants that will stay outdoors. Don't forget to harden those outdoors plants before you set them in your "cold" soil. Member Roberta Jennings has been adding to her succulent and tropical plant collection at our Online Plant Sale in April. She has taken and shared some terrific photos of her plants which are now enjoying their new window location!

Editorial note: I am partial to geese and ducks so love her wooden mallard planter!

THANKS FOR SHARING ROBERTA!

NEW MEMBERS - A warm welcome!

Agnes Stevens rejoined our Society on Feb. 21st. She lives in Richmond Hill and has a intermediate gardener.

Sondra Kraitberg rejoined our Society on Feb. 21st. She lives in Richmond Hill and is an Intermediate level gardener. She heard about our group from a Richmond Hill Blooms award winner and from a Gardening Newsletter. Her interests include music.

Grazina Adie lives in Richmond Hill and joined us on March 8, 2022. She heard about our Society at a community event and has Intermediate gardening skills. Her hobbies and interests include reading, singing, and traveling and she is interested in volunteering as the need arises.

Bruce G Wilkinson joined our Society on March 10, 2022. He lives in Stratford and has been enjoying our Zoom meetings with speakers. He heard about us from a gardening newsletter and Open Gates. His gardening skills are at an Intermediate level.

Mona Munro lives in Vaughan and joined our group on March 12th having heard about us from a member and then visiting our Facebook page. She has Intermediate gardening skills. **Keith Munro** also joined as a part of their family membership.

Marion Garant has rejoined our Society as of March 28. She lives in Richmond Hill. She has Intermediate gardening skills and would be interested in helping to tend a Public Garden, assisting with Flower Shows, or volunteering as the need arises.

Anthony Casimiri joined on March 30, 2022 having heard about our group through past Plant Sales and Richmond Hill Blooms. He lives in Richmond Hill and his gardening skill is at the Intermediate level. He would be interested in opening his garden for a Members' Garden Visit or a Public Garden Tour.

Helen Gault from Richmond Hill, joined our club on March 30th having heard about us from a member. She has Intermediate gardening skills and is interested in tending a Public Garden and helping at the Spring Plant Sale. Her hobbies and interests include knitting, hiking, and native plant gardening.

Alejandra Villalobos Vazquez lives in Richmond Hill and joined us on March 30, 2022 having heard about us at a Plant Sale. He is a novice gardener and is interested in volunteering with refreshments, at the Spring Plant Sale, and as the need arises.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING!

A green thumbs up to each of you!



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

There are many benefits of being a member of our Society. Let your friends know so we can continue to grow!

- ☼ Six Garden Post newsletter editions per year; 12 email blasts with information of Interest to Gardeners
- ☼ Eleven+ speaker presentations each year. (20 this year!) Bus Tours. Photo Contests. Holiday Celebration.
- ☼ A chance to select and contribute your time on community and city projects that we participate in.
- ☼ New friendships with like-minded people!

Poem by Bert Card



Below is a copy of the poem that Bert Card originally wrote, then read during the Roast held on June 27, 1985 for William Barker, past President of the Hort (1979-80). In 2011, Bert was asked to read it again at the April 2011 General Meeting to honour the

inaugural speaker presentation of the William and Marjorie Barker Lecture on April 5, 2011. Since then, the Barker Foundation sponsors our speaker at every April general meeting. We give thanks to Bert for his words and to Shirley Zaky and her husband Safwat for sponsoring the Barker Lectures. *Photo is of Bert delivering this poem. It was in the May 2011 Garden Post.*

Ode to William Barker

Tha's heard of William Barker,
no doubt a lad of gardening fame.
A regular horticulturist
Large flowers is his game.

He joined the Horticultural group
Up there in Richmond Hill.
And where did all the prizes go?
They gave them all to Bill.

If Gracie Fields had known this chap
With all his gifts unfurled
No way would she have sung
"The Biggest Aspidistra in the World"*

Instead 't would be of cabbages,
And roses, pink and red
And all the other things Bill grows
Out in his garden bed.

The many hours that must be spent
Back breaking ones at that
The digging, raking, hoeing jobs
To get ground nice and flat.

The sowing, weeding, hilling up
The feeding, watering too
A full time job with so much work
How does our Bill get through?

When asked how he can do all this,
(His garden is quite large)
"Oh! I just pick the flowers", said Bill
"I leave the rest to Marge."

By Albert Card

**Editor's note: Gracie Fields' song became a hit in 1938.*

SAVE THE DATE. JUNE 26 is OPEN GATES

Open Gates Event is coming...

Sunday, June 26th., 2022

Our theme this year is...



Save the Date!

The Year of the Garden

For more information or if you would like to help out our

Open Gates Team with this event, please contact:

Heather Ann Lowry 416 985-4765

Or email: lowryhann@gmail.com

We still need more volunteers to host visitors to the gardens. One 2 1/2 hour shift gets you a free pass!

Mark your calendar for the May 7th SPRING PLANT SALE

The Garden Post Content Deadlines

Issue	Deadline Date
Jul/Aug 2022	Jun. 1, 2022
Sep/Oct 2022	Aug. 1, 2022
Nov/Dec 2022	Oct. 1, 2022
Jan/Feb 2023	Dec. 1, 2022
Mar/Apr 2023	Feb. 1, 2023
May/June 2023	Apr. 1, 2023

Do you have an original article, poem, or creative writing piece of a horticultural nature to share with your society? Have you been on a hike or trip recently to visit beautiful gardens? Please *write it up and send it in*.

Articles should be in Word format. Photos and other graphics should be attached as separate files. Photos should be high resolution with places and names of people identified, as well as the name of the photographer. Copyrighted material from 3rd party sources will not be accepted without the original author's written permission.

Submissions may be used in the upcoming issue of *The Garden Post*, saved for use in a future issue, or used for additional HORT authored purposes such as the monthly "Outings" email. Usage of all submissions is at the discretion of the editor.

Thank you!

Doreen Coyne, Editor for The Garden Post