



Tulip Times

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society

Established 1917

Spring/Summer 2016

President's Letter

Since our last newsletter we have been busy. As well as our regular meetings, many of us went to **Seedy Sunday** in St. Catharines to whet our appetites for the coming spring to peruse seeds and listen to speakers. In mid-March we had another successful **Flowers for Seniors** event thanks to **Lita Clavier** and **Pauline Meyler**. We had ordered more flowers this year which resulted in fuller, lovely bouquets. Some of us also went to the **OHA District 9 Spring Forum** in Grimsby and some of our members entered the flower show. Last fall, we planted the 700 tulip bulbs for the **Dutch-Canadian Tulip Festival** and by late April, many volunteers showed up to prepare the William/Nassau Park, otherwise known by us as the Memorial Garden. On several occasions members came to weed and prune and lay down mulch for our celebration on May 12th. As the tulips began to grow, we realized that the red tulips were growing at a faster rate than the white ones, and were afraid the white ones were smaller. Panic ensued, but by the actual day, they were closer in size, fully blooming and were looking splendid. The weather also cooperated (which it hadn't in the fall ceremony) and we had a number of speakers from the town, the Legion and some personal accounts by people from the area who had personal reminiscences from the end of the war and the liberation of Holland. It was a very moving occasion and I would like to give a personal thanks to **Bill Plummer** and **Hielke De Jong** who spoke and arranged for others to speak. Later in the month of May, the stalwarts came again to the Memo Garden to plant some annuals in the tulip bed so that the garden will be in good shape for the Garden Tour which is using the space for one of the attractions. I cannot thank

Past Happenings.....



This spring **Joanne Young**, our Vice-President, gave an edging workshop for members at the Memorial Garden, which accomplished two goals. The first was members learned how to edge properly, and second, members helped get the beds ready for our May 12th celebration.

enough all the volunteers, who have sweated over the planting of the tulips, the weeding and mulching. And all done with good humour and lots of laughs. Your work has paid off. You'll see when you're on the Garden Tour.

Our **Plant Sale** in the Virgil Arena this year was a great accomplishment. It was a miserable day, with rain and gusts which tore down the tents but not until the sale was over. Despite the weather, we had our most successful sale ever. The venue seems to work well for us and the buyers. Many thanks to **Alice Rance, Gloria Thurston, Cindy Grant, Marie Gillespie** and **Danny Lummiss** for their stellar organization.

We didn't have our traditional **Tulip Sales** this year as we partnered with Crossroads Public School and the students and parents did most of the work with **Pat Hicks and Diane Hemmings** overseeing the sales. They did very well and we're hoping to repeat the process next year. Crossroads is the perfect place to catch passers-by in their cars.

Next week we will hold our **Garden Strolls** for members to see gardens of other members, ask questions about unusual plants, get ideas and just have a lovely chat about gardening. We hope you will also get out to enjoy the gardens, musicians and artists on this year's Tour.

Have a bountiful summer and may your roses bloom till December.

Marla Percy

Step Into My Garden

Step into my garden
Step in and you'll see
A measure of peace
And tranquility.

It's the scent of the blossoms
The buzz of the bees
The sweet song of birds
As they sing in the trees.

The sweet scent of roses
Their petals so new
As they glisten and sparkle
With the fresh morning dew.

Run your toes through the grass
Beneath a canopy of trees
Hear the rustle of leaves
As they blow in the breeze.



Organizers of the Garden of the Week Contest **Marion Boon, Betty Alexander, Gloria Thurston** and **Cathy Abbott.**



Dutch-Canadian Tulip Ceremony at Memorial Garden.

Let the beauty of springtime
Fill your soul with great peace
Take it with you and share it
With each one you meet.

Author Unknown

**Upcoming Meetings – Community Centre
14 Anderson Lane, Refreshments 6:30
Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

NO MEETINGS JUNE, JULY OR AUGUST

September – November

Tues. Sept. 27th

**Topic: TEN THINGS I HAVE LEARNED
FROM OTHER GARDENERS**

Rob Howard

Rob has been the garden columnist for the **HAMILTON SPECTATOR** and does free-lance writing for various publications. He was also host of the radio garden show on **AM 900 CHML**. Rob will talk about the wisdom gained from his experience and exposure to so many other well-known gardeners.

Tues. Oct. 25th

**Topic: CARING FOR YOUR TROPICALS
INDOORS AND OUT**

Pippa DeLeonardis

Pippa has extensive experience in the design, installation, care and maintenance of tropical plants, having lived in Indonesia and worked in the field in Toronto. She will discuss the general maintenance of these plants, including fertilizers, soils, watering and general maintenance; when to bring in seasonal tropical and how to identify and treat potential pests and diseases.

Tues. Nov. 22nd

POT LUCK / ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Don't miss a great social evening of fun, friendship, great food and see what else we have in store for you.

**Please bring a canned good to donate to
Newark Neighbours**

Other Happenings

June – September

Member Garden Strolls



Plant Sale at Virgil Arena



Our donation to **St. Michael's School** enabled Principal **Blaine MacDougall**, along with **teachers, students and parents** to plant Virginia Creeper to cover the fence and mulch the garden and fence area around their school. Everyone came prepared to get the job done! We also donated a small amount to **Pat Fryer's Sparks** group who planted bulbs in front of the church where they hold their meetings. They merrily planted in the dark, remembering pointy side up.

Fri. -- Sun. July 29th – 31st, OHA 110th Convention

In District 19, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 105 King Street, East Kitchener

Sat. Oct. 1st, District 9 Fall Forum

Grace Mennonite Church in St. Catharines, Thorold. St. Catharines Hort chairing.

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Summer Gardening Tips

by Michael J. McGroarty

You are welcome to use this article on your website or in your newsletter as long as you reprint it as is, including the contact information at the end. You must include an active link back to the author's website, as well as an active link back to <http://gardening-articles.com>

Summer gardening tips . . .

Don't be afraid to trim those flowering shrubs and trees that need it. Failure to prune is probably the biggest gardening mistake a person can make. I spent 20 years landscaping homes and businesses, and I watched people make the investment in my services, then they failed to prune when the plants needed it, and before you know it their landscape looks terrible.

If you make a mistake pruning, don't worry about it. It's like a bad haircut, it will grow out. Of course use common sense and read the previous articles that I've written on pruning.

Summer gardening tips . . .

Along with summer time comes high humidity . High humidity can cause a lot of problems with the plants in your garden and around your house. One of the simple things you can do is don't water just before dark. Make sure your plants are nice and dry when you tuck them in for the night and you can cut down of the chance of fungus being a problem.

One of the more common fungi that I get asked about a lot is powdery mildew. This appears as a white film on the leaves of ornamental plants. Dogwoods and Purple Sandcherry are often the victim of powdery mildew. Powdery mildew isn't extremely harmful to the plants, it's just that the foliage is damaged, and little growing takes place once it sets in. Your local garden center will have a general fungicide you can spray if you'd like to try and control it. Usually once the plant defoliates in the fall the plant is back to normal.

Summer gardening tips . . .

If you have Perennial Rye Grass in your lawn, and you probably do if you're in the north, you must be careful not to leave your grass wet at night. There is a fungus known as **Pythium Blight** that appears in very humid conditions. This fungus attacks and kills perennial rye grasses. Here in the north most of our lawns are a blend of fescues, perennial ryes, and Kentucky Blue Grass.

If you have problems with pythium blight you will lose the perennial rye grass in large areas of your lawn, and even though the other grasses will still be there and fill in, your lawn will have areas that are much darker green than the rest of the lawn because you will then have concentrations of

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Raspberry Cobbler

Ingredients:

For the Filling: 5 cups (1 lb. 10 oz.) raspberries
3/4 cup granulated sugar
2 Tablespoons cornstarch
1/4 teaspoon coarse salt

For the biscuit topping:

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 3/4 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons cold, unsalted butter
3/4 cups heavy cream, plus more for brushing
Sanding sugar, for sprinkling (optional)

Directions:

Make the filling: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Mix together raspberries, sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Pour into a 9-inch square baking dish (2 inches deep).

Make the biscuit topping: Whisk together flour, baking powder, sugar and salt. Cut in butter until largest pieces are the size of small peas. Add cream, and use a fork to incorporate, stirring just until the cream is absorbed (there should be lots of loose pieces).

Turn out dough onto a clean surface, and knead once or twice, gathering loose bits into ball. Pat dough into a 1 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into 9 rough squares, and place on top of filling. Brush with cream, and sprinkle with sanding sugar.

Bake cobbler until bubbling in center and biscuit topping is golden brown and cooked through, about 1 hour (loosely tent with foil if biscuit topping gets too dark). Let stand at least 30 minutes before serving.

Newsletter Editor: Karen Jones

Kentucky Blue grass.

You can see this fungus in the early morning. It looks like white cotton candy laying on top of your lawn. It usually appears along walks and driveways where the soil is the wettest if you have been watering. To prevent pythium blight, water as early in the day as possible.

Summer gardening tips . . .

Another nasty little blight that likes summer time is **Fire Blight**. Fire Blight attacks ornamentals, especially Apple trees, Crabapple trees, Cotoneasters, and Pyracantha. You know you have Fire Blight when a branch on one of your plants dies and turns almost red. The leaves usually hang on but turn reddish brown. The damage usually starts out near the end of the branch and works its way toward the main stem of the plant. There is little you can do except prune out the affected branch, cutting it as far back as possible.

Fire Blight is very contagious to plants so you should burn the branches you prune out. You should also dip or wash your pruning shears in rubbing alcohol after each cut to keep from spreading this deadly fungus.

Summer gardening tips . . .

Unfortunately, I've got one more summer time culprit to warn you about. It's a handy little fungus that grows in mulch. Actually there are all kinds of fungi that tend to grow in mulches, and most of them are really disgusting looking. But this little gem is unique in the fact that as it grows it tends to swell. Then somehow it manages to explode, and it will spatter your house with tiny brown specks. The experts have appropriately named this one "**Shotgun Fungus**". Isn't that a cute name.

These tiny little brown specks will fly as high as eight feet into the air, and once they stick to your house or windows, they stick like glue. I know that right now there are people hollering across the house at their spouse, "Hey, remember those brown specks all over the house? I know what they are. It's from the mulch!" Tell me I'm wrong, but I know I'm not.

A lot of people are victims of this nasty little fungus, but they don't know it. All they know is that there are tiny brown specks on the house that look like paint. So far they have blamed everything from spiders to aliens.

There's not a lot you can do to prevent this fungus. I have found that if you keep the mulch loose so air can circulate it is less likely to grow fungi. Don't just keep adding layer after layer to the mulch around your house. You should skip at least every other year and just loosen the mulch you already have down. If you loosen it and then rake it flat it will look like you've just mulched. Mulch is great, just don't let it get



packed down hard. Loosen it up at least once a year.

Michael J. McGroarty is the author of this article. Visit his most interesting website, <http://www.freeplants.com> and sign up for his excellent gardening newsletter Article provided by <http://gardening-articles.com>. If you use this article the above two links must be active.