



FEBRUARY 2025

# NEWSLETTER



## LAKEFIELD AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### President's Message

-----SILVIA STROBL

This winter we are experiencing colder temperatures but thankfully we have snow cover to protect our dormant garden plants. Gardeners don't need to be dormant this time of year, though! I hope you are engaging in garden-related activities as you count the days to the spring equinox, whether it is giving the houseplants some extra attention, planning your 2025 vegetable garden, listening to the many virtual garden seminars now available via Zoom, or attending a Seedy Saturday or Sunday event near you. Read on to learn more about the many events scheduled over the next 2 months, including our February and March meeting presentations and a special opportunity to go back to university for a day and learn how to identify plants! If you're going to Peterborough Seedy Sunday, stop at the Lakefield Horticultural Society booth and say hello to our volunteers!

### "Seedy Sunday"

is Peterborough's annual seed swap and sale. Attend the event to learn where to buy locally grown seeds and to swap seeds, along with the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to get growing this season.



### February Presentation

### Creating a Bird Friendly Garden

Our February meeting will feature **Thom Luloff**, a Professor in the Conservation Biology and Fish and Wildlife programs at Fleming College.

Thom will uncover the essential elements that make a garden a welcoming haven for birds, from providing ample food sources and nesting materials to offering suitable shelter and water features. He will delve into the fascinating behaviors and preferences of common bird species, providing insights into their dietary needs, nesting habits, and seasonal migrations.

This meeting will be in-person unless inclement weather is forecasted, in which case the meeting will take place by Zoom and a Zoom link will be emailed to all members.

We look forward to seeing you at the Marshland Centre at 7 p.m. on February 11th.

Thanks to Janice Brown and Willy Ruiters, who will be providing refreshments for the meeting.

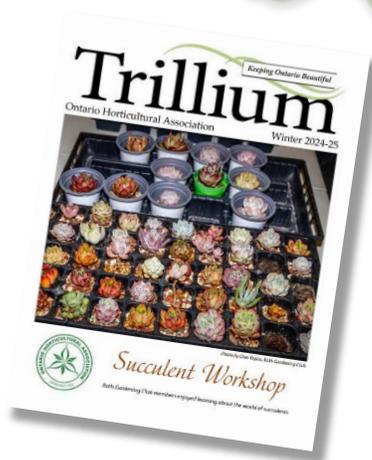
## Memberships for 2025 are due.

If you haven't already done so, please renew at the next meeting (cash or cheque) or by e-transfer to

[lhstreasurer22@gmail.com](mailto:lhstreasurer22@gmail.com)

Single membership: \$25;

Family membership: \$30.



## Trillium Now Available

Click on the link below to read the winter edition of the OHA's Trillium quarterly online newsletter. Find out what has been going on in gardening. Learn what is planned for 2025 by the OHA, Ontario Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies. <https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Trillium-Winter-2024-25.pdf>

## Plant Identification Lab

Have you ever wanted to improve your plant identification skills?

Lakefield & District Horticultural Society members have an opportunity to participate in a workshop being held jointly with the Ennismore Garden Club on **Saturday March 22nd** from 9 am to 1pm. You'll learn to identify native plants with Susan Chow using the biology lab's dissection scopes in order to see plants' reproductive parts (aka. flowers) up close. This is your chance to go to Trent University for a day! We'll be classifying plant specimens into families based on leaf, stem and flower morphology. Please contact Ceci Leigh at [cecileigh22@gmail.com](mailto:cecileigh22@gmail.com) or (705) 930-3604 to register for this session and receive details on location, parking and what to bring. Cost will be \$5-\$10 (TBD).

## Potting Day Space Needed

We are looking for a new location to hold our annual potting day (this coming year it will be Thursday May 1st). This is the day when we pot up all of the plants that are donated for our plant sale (May 17th).

In case of inclement weather, we need a covered area for potting. If you have a large covered space (such as a double garage), which could be used on May 1st, have a good water supply and would be willing to water the plants for a 2-week period, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Silvia Strobl at: (705) 872-2664



## Flower Show Judge Opportunity

Our Society has been challenged on occasion to find available flower judges. If you might be interested in becoming a flower show judge, neighbouring Districts 1 and 3 are seeking interested individuals to attend a Judging School over the next 2 to 2.5 years that will consist of five 2-day sessions. These could be run on weekends or during the week depending on availability of interested individuals. Each session will have experienced and knowledgeable design and horticultural speakers and demonstrators who will walk participants through the curriculum. If you are interested or have questions, please contact:

Penny Stewart

[pssloves2garden@gmail.com](mailto:pssloves2garden@gmail.com)

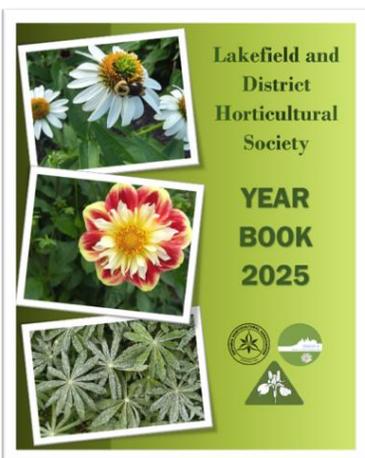
613 583-1033

and/or

Lezlie Miller [leziemiller.55@gmail.com](mailto:leziemiller.55@gmail.com)

613 921-9675

both are experienced, qualified OHA judges, who will be organizing the course.



The Year-Book for 2025 will be distributed to all members at our next in-person meeting (in February, if the weather cooperates!).

## Upcoming Community Events



**Apsley Seedy Sunday** - Seed swap, vendors with seeds, cool crop vegetable starts, tubers and gardening advice as well as educational presentations. Learn more about seed saving. Get Inspired for Spring! Hosted at: N. Kawartha Library, Apsley



**Peterborough Master Gardeners** will be hosting “A Day for Gardeners” at Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St, Peterborough.

<https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/>

# Celebrating Snow!

Those of us of a certain vintage will remember Irving Berlin's joyful ode to the white stuff in his song "Snow", from "White Christmas". At one point Danny Kaye sings "I long to clear a path and lift a spade of snow" – probably not a sentiment that most Canadians would share! We might dislike shoveling it, but here are some reasons why snow in our winter gardens is beneficial:

**Snow Makes an Excellent Blanket** – Fresh, uncompacted snow contains a high percentage of trapped air, making it an excellent thermal insulator. As snow depth increases, so does its insulating effect protecting delicate roots, bulbs and soil microorganisms against radical temperature fluctuations during hard freezes. Snow traps existing heat in the soil and limits the depth of frozen soil. Without snow, very cold temperatures can freeze the soil deeper and deeper.

**Snow is a Natural Fertilizer** – Evidently, due to its delicate crystalline structure, snow contains tiny pockets that collect other molecules as it floats to the ground, carrying elements from the air to the soil. Snow may help to improve soil by adding nutrients, such as nitrogen.

**Snow Provides Moisture** - Snow cover helps hold existing moisture in soil during winter. Snow also allows water to slowly re-enter the soil as it melts, helping to recharge aquifers.

**Snow Makes a Great Contrast for Winter Garden Plants** - Shrubs with ornamental bark, such as red and yellow twig dogwood really stand out. The striking red berries of holly provide a bright color pop against a white background. Ornamental grasses left standing from last season look stunning wearing fluffy snow-caps.

**Snow is Peaceful** – Ambient noise is reduced by up to 50% by snow, meaning that we can get out into our gardens after a snowfall and enjoy the sound of silence as we take in the beauty of the landscape. So, let's get out there and appreciate some of the many benefits of all that lovely snow!

Don't miss Lakefield Horticulture Society's **March 11th General Meeting**, featuring speaker, **Sue Chow**, who will be introducing us to **Fungi Identification**.



What are stinkhorns, velvet shanks, and conks? These are just a few of the diverse Ontario fungi you will learn about. Sue will begin with an overview of how fungi groups are organized and teach us how to recognize some of the major fungi groups. We will fine-tune our identification skills and learn to name mushrooms by examining some collected specimens.

Purchase your tickets by March 7th, to ensure your place in the next big draw. The more tickets sold the higher the 50/50 jackpot will grow. The current raffle sits at \$1000 with the winner taking half!

Tickets are available by visiting the raffle website at:

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>