



APRIL 2025

NEWSLETTER



LAKEFIELD AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

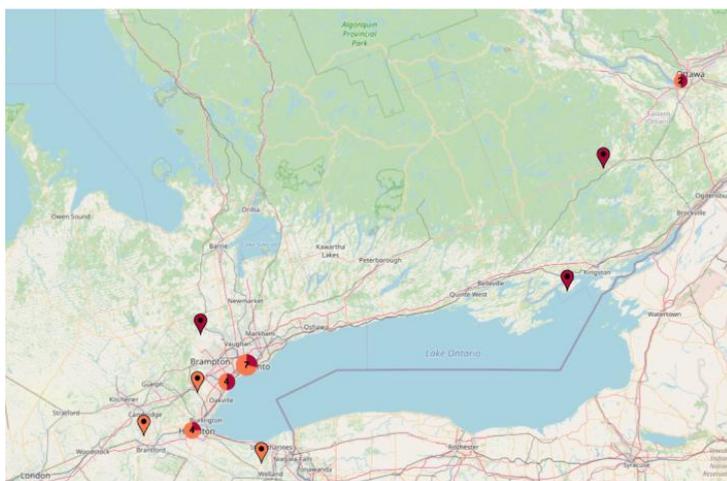
President's Message-----SILVIA STROBL

With this past weekend's ice storm, I expect many of you are still waiting for electricity, cell phone, and internet to be reconnected. I hope you are safe. As gardeners I'm sure you share my concern for the trees that were damaged again, less than 3 years since the derecho came through our area. But, gardeners are resilient and I'm sure you already have plans for the first warm spring days in the garden. Remember that broken branches can remain caught in trees and continue to be a threat for a while to come.

As weather extremes and invasives challenge our gardening practices, we have become more aware of the important roles gardeners play in supporting ecosystems. Earlier in March I gave a presentation to the Campbellford Horticultural Society on "Invasive Jumping Worms-What you need to know and how to prevent them from getting in your garden". This newsletter last mentioned Jumping Worms in 2022, so maybe time for a refresher? Since 2014, Jumping Worms have been verified at 59 locations in Ontario as far north as Ottawa which is surely an undercount. Zoom into the map link below for more precise locations.

<https://www.eddmaps.org/tools/query/index.cfm?observationDateStart=01/01/2014&observationDateEnd=03/28/2025&subjectnumber=91199&eradicationstatus=1&country=260&state=26035000&records=current>

In gardens, Jumping Worms quickly consume organic matter in the upper soil layer resulting in soil drying, erosion, loss of nutrients, and ultimately decreased plant growth.



EDDMapS. 2025. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/> last accessed March 28, 2025

Prevention is really the best strategy. Here are 3 things you can do to keep these pests out of your garden this season:

1. Learn to recognize Jumping Worms and the damage they do to soil organic matter (*see Garden Tip of the Month in this Newsletter*).
2. If you do see one, report your sighting by taking and uploading a photo taken with your smartphone to <https://www.eddmaps.org/report/index.cfm>
3. Given that only the 1.5 mm diameter cocoons overwinter in the soil, use best practices to slow the spread this spring. Get in the habit of cleaning the soles of your shoes or boots before and after visiting parks, natural areas or other gardens, especially when soil is moist. Not only will this help avoid spreading jumping worm cocoons, it will also help avoid spreading seeds of invasive plants. I keep a shoe brush in my car for this very purpose!

Thank You to Our Seedy Sunday Volunteers



From left to right: Cathy Praamsma, Carol Brewer, David Lyons, Angie Hockley. Volunteers during earlier and later shifts were Pam Chellew, Leslie James, Joan Harding and Silvia Strobl.

The seeds donated by Lakefield Foodland were mostly gone by the first hour! Thank you to Lakefield Foodland for helping to make our table popular with visitors to Peterborough Seedy Sunday.



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

Single membership: \$25;

Family membership: \$30.

April General Meeting, Tuesday April 8th

The April meeting will be held at a larger venue, the **Lakefield Baptist Church**. This venue is wheelchair accessible.

Helen Battersby will be our presenter, speaking about "Gardening in the Shade". Whether you have shady patches or a garden with complete shade, Helen will provide tips for coping with a shade garden's particular problems as well as understanding its opportunities. She'll cover garden design principles for shade gardens, and ideas for shade-friendly plants to help you discover creative ways to make a beautiful shade garden.

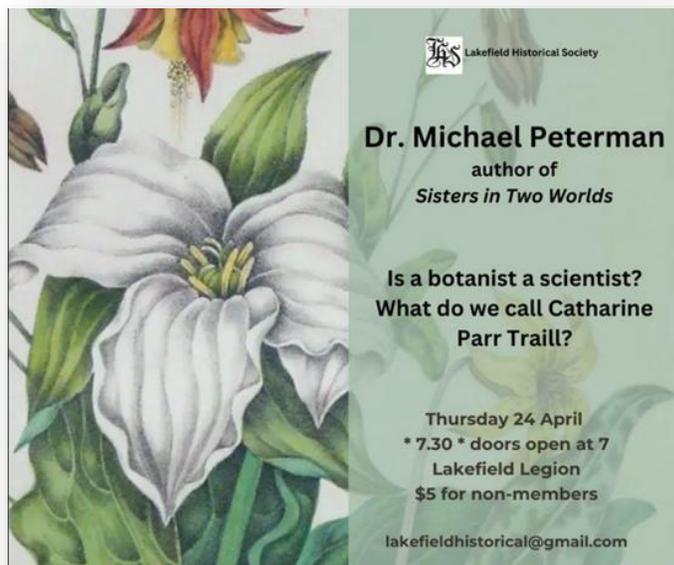
We ask that participants help with speaker costs by paying \$10 to reserve a seat. Please let Ceci know if you plan to attend. Payment can be made with e-transfer to lhstreasurer22@gmail.com

Thanks to Pam Chellew, Lucy Lowes and the board members, who will be providing refreshments for the meeting.

Gardening in the Shade



Upcoming Community Events



The Lakefield Historical Society will be hosting a talk by Dr. Michael Peterman on April 24th, about the author and botanist, Catharine Parr Traill. All are welcome, tickets \$5 for non-members.



Apsley Seedy Sunday - Rescheduled

Due to the recent freezing rain event, Apsley Seedy Sunday has been rescheduled to April 6th. There will be a seed swap, vendors with seeds, cool crop vegetable starts, tubers and gardening advice as well as educational presentations. To be held at N. Kawartha Library, Apsley Branch, 175 Burleigh St. Apsley

**Day for Gardeners
Saturday April 26th
Westdale United Church**

There are still a few spots left for the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners "Day for Gardeners" on Saturday April 26 at Westdale United Church. There will be great speakers, including Thom Luloff, excellent food, door prizes and lots of opportunity to socialize with other gardeners. Please visit <https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com> for all the details and to register!



Saturday April 26, 2025

Westdale United Church

1509 Sherbrooke St, Peterborough, ON

9:30am to 3pm (estimate)

<p>Four Seminars, lunch & door prizes</p> <p>Cost: \$60 early bird \$75 after Apr 1</p> <p>Come join us for a fun day of learning, lunch and friendship!</p>	<p>All seminars are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners</p>
	<p>Session 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Composting & Soil OR ❖ Beyond Bee Hotels: Creating Habitat for Beneficial Insects
	<p>Session 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Trees & Shrubs for Small Urban Spaces OR ❖ Shade Gardens
	<p>Session 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Vegetable/Edible Gardens OR ❖ Harvesting Rainwater: One Gardener's Experience
<p>Plenary: Friends, Enemies and Frenemies: A Wildlife Guide for Gardeners</p>	





In Memoriam

Susan Jennifer Dolbey

6 August, 1942 – 19 March, 2025

Long term member (30+ years), Susan Dolbey died peacefully at her Toronto home. Susan and her husband Mike have owned a cottage in the Lakefield area for decades. Every year the Dolbeyes contributed beautiful and unique plants to our plant sale. Susan was a wonderful gardener, a founding member of the Toronto Master Gardeners, and a member of the Garden Oversight Committee that guided the design and construction of the Toronto Botanical Gardens. She will be missed by many of our members. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/toronto-on/susan-dolbey-12291991>

May General Meeting – Free Attendance

Tuesday May 13th

Lakefield Baptist Church



Jeff Mason has over 20 years of experience delivering presentations and lectures on a wide range of topics. He spoke to our society about bulbs in September 2016. This time he will be speaking about “**Small Space Gardening**”.

Many of us are in the process of 'downsizing' (both in the house and the garden!) so this topic should be inspiring!

Jeff Mason and his mother, Marjorie, own Mason House Gardens in Uxbridge, where they specialize in unique and hard-to-find plants from around the world. Together with Paul Zammit, they also organize garden tours so that others can encounter a diverse selection of plants.

There will also be a flower show. Please review the entry classes on page 13 of the year book.

Interested in Showing your Flowers at the CNE Horticulture Show?

You can find everything you need to know for the competition which starts with check-in on opening day Friday August 15th at 8:30am and runs until Monday September 1st in this document:

<https://www.theex.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-Horticulture-Book.pdf>



Potting Day Thursday May 1st, at 9:30am

Potting Day is instrumental to the success of our plant sale on May 17th. The plant sale is our big fundraiser, where we often make enough money to pay for all the flowers in the village. This is why we are asking our members to divide and donate perennials for the sale. No invasive plants please, click the link to refer to the list of invasives:

<https://www.returnofthenative.ca/native-species/70-not%20WANTED>

Perennials benefit from division and this is your chance. Don't pot them up, just put them in a box and label by plant name and colour if possible. The plants can be dropped off at the Murphy's, 21 Katherine St, Lakefield or the Stone's 48 Parr Trill, Lakefield the week of April 28th, or on potting day at the Murphy's. At potting day, volunteers will pot the plants in fresh soil and they will be watered and cared for during the two weeks before the plant sale.

If you would like to volunteer to help on May 1st call Bev Thompson @ 705-652-0137. This is a fun-time, a great learning experience and we also have goodies!



Did you know that there are currently 16 species of bumble bees in Southern Ontario?

They are often the first bees active in early spring and the last in fall. They forage on a wide variety of plant species in an extensive range of weather conditions to support a colony. We can give them a helping hand by planting early and late season blooming flowers, which are critical for the successful establishment of their colonies.

Wildlife Preservation Canada has an excellent bumblebee identification chart

<https://wildlifepreservation.ca/bumble-bee-resources/>

Bumble Bee Watch needs your help with some community science, by submitting your photo sightings to <https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>

You may even be helping to find remnant populations of rare species before they go extinct.



Yellow bumble bee
Bombus fervidus



Garden Tip of the Month



Invasive Jumping Worms – What You Need to Know

Look for these 3 things in any garden, park or natural area you frequent regularly:



1. Loose, dry, crumbly worm casts in layers, not piles. Casts look like coffee grounds or ground beef and layers can be up to 10–15 cm thick (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Photo Credit, Michael McTavish.

2. Worms in the casting layer that thrash about wildly when disturbed



3. Adult worms with a milky white ring that completely encircles the worm fairly close (14 segments) to the head (Figure 2). As well, the skin has a distinctive glassy sheen, the body has a snappy, turgid feel when grasped, and the tail may detach when the worm is threatened. The clitellum is the reproductive structure where the cocoons are stored and secreted.

Figure 2: Photo Credit, Bev Wagar.

Cocoons hatch in May when soil temperatures are consistently 10°C. The juvenile worms don't have the identifying white ring until about 60 days later in the summer when they become adults. At that time, they reproduce asexually, and a single worm can produce several dozen egg cases (cocoons) in one season. Cocoons are small and indistinguishable from soil, hence easily transported on our shoes, tools and when moving infested plant roots and compost (Figure 3). The adult worms die in late fall when the soil freezes, but the cocoons survive the winter.



Figure 3: Photo credit, Marie Johnston, UW-Madison Arboretum
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/jumpingWorm>

Click on the links below to read more about jumping worms and how to control them.

Resources

Herrick, Brad. 2020. Invasive Jumping Worms.
<https://youtu.be/8CPQH8q1Pfc?si=7dyrzNXFl91np7BI>

McTavish, M. 2023. ATTENTION: Invasive jumping worms in Ontario. Factsheet
<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Jumping-worm-info-sheet-Updated-August-2023.pdf>

Invasive Jumping Worms – Information for Home Gardeners, Halton Master Gardener provides more things you can do to slow their spread
<https://haltonmastergardeners.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/jws-information-for-gardeners.pdf>

Act Now to Keep Jumping Worms Out
<https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/2024/05/06/act-now-to-keep-jumping-worms-out/>