



MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER



LAKEFIELD AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -----SILVIA STROBL

This week, April 27th to May 3rd, is Volunteer Week and I want to thank everyone in our Society for the work they've done this past year volunteering with our Society. Our members contributed 3,553 hours in 2024. Volunteers with the 17 Societies in our Ontario Horticultural Association District 4 contributed 32,000 hours in 2024.

This year's theme is "Volunteers Make Waves", and it certainly describes the efforts of our many LHS volunteers that through activities like potting day and the plant sale, help fund the beautification of Lakefield's Cenotaph and Isabel Morris Park, as well as the Buckhorn Library. These gardens in turn are maintained by volunteers throughout the summer, and contribute to the economic and social well-being of both towns.

In particular, I would like to salute the extraordinary contributions of two of our Board members:

- Bev Thompson, who hosted Potting Day for 6 years starting in 2011, and has organized it ever since. In addition, Bev organizes the weekly volunteers that weed and water the Cenotaph Garden each summer.
- Anne Stone who has organized the Plant Sale for the past 26 years, as well as leading volunteers each year to maintain the Isabel Morris Bee Garden since its inception.

Our Society is so fortunate to have many energetic volunteers, and we are thankful for everyone's contributions, from small to large, during this busy spring start of the 2025 gardening season.



Bev and Anne at work in
the Bee Garden

May General Meeting – Free Attendance
Tuesday May 13th
Lakefield Baptist Church

Small Space Gardening

Jeff Mason will be our May speaker. Jeff has over 20 years of experience delivering presentations and lectures on a wide range of topics and will be speaking about “Small Space Gardening”.

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.

There will also be a flower show at this meeting. If you’d like to showcase your beautiful May blooms, please refer to page 16 of the year book for information on the entry placement times and classes. Rules and regulations are listed on page 13.

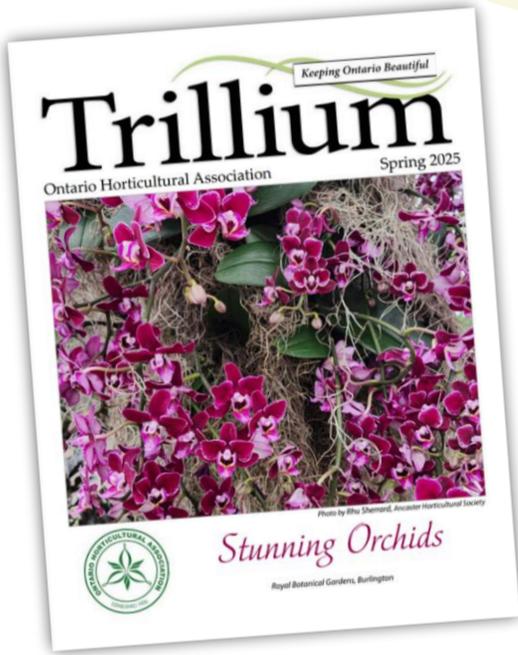
Thanks to Chris Hobin and Beryl Harris, who will be providing refreshments for the meeting.



Potting Day

On May 1st, a group of volunteers potted over 500 plants in preparation for plant sale day. Thanks to Wendy and Bob Best for hosting at their home, key organizers Anne, Bev, Carol and Cathy and all of the volunteers who helped make the event run like clockwork. There would be no potting day without plants and we thank everyone who generously donated from their gardens.





Memberships for 2025 are due.

Just a reminder to the few members who haven't yet renewed, please renew at the next meeting (cash or cheque) or by e-transfer to

lhstreasurer22@gmail.com

Single membership: \$25;

Family membership: \$30.

The OHA's spring issue of Trillium magazine is now available. Click on the link below for information and tips for the 2025 gardening season.

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Trillium-Spring-2025r.pdf>

Lakefield Horticulture Society

Plant Sale

May 17th, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The annual plant sale is our society's main fundraiser. In the past it has raised enough money to pay for the plants that we use in Lakefield.

Anne Stone (705) 742-1202 coordinates this event and is always grateful for help and plants. Many have already contributed their plants and time at potting day. These plants will be delivered to the sale site at 7 a.m. on May 17th. If you have plants that you wish to donate, please bring them to the site by 9 a.m. on sale day (**potted and labelled please**). We invite you to participate and bring your friends and neighbours to the sale.



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Scholarship

Each year, the Ontario Horticultural Association offers affiliated society members, their children and grandchildren the opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship in their pursuit of post-secondary education in a horticulture related field. Applications are accepted from March 1st to June 30th of every year.

Applications or questions should be sent to: Ontario Horticultural Association Awards Coordinator, Email: awards@gardenontario.org

The link below outlines the criteria for application and includes the application form.

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/OHA-SCHOLARSHIP-APPLICATION-FINAL-VERSION-Oct-27-2024-1.pdf>

June 10th - General Meeting David Beresford – Insects in your Garden



Our June meeting will be held at the **Marshland Centre**. We look forward to immersion into the world of insects with David Beresford - an Assistant Professor at Trent who teaches entomology (the study of insects) and invasive species biology. His research focuses on insect pests of livestock and wildlife, as well as insect biodiversity in Northern Ontario. David even has a newly discovered insect named after him - *Bryophaenocladus beresfordi*!

The June flower show will also be held at this meeting. If you'd like to enter, please refer to pages 16 and 17 of the year book for information on the entry placement times and classes.



The next OHA 50/50 Draw takes place on July 19th.

Purchase your tickets by July 18th to ensure your place in the next big draw. The more tickets sold the higher the 50/50 jackpot will grow!

All proceeds go towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful® by way of grants and education. Tickets are available by visiting the raffle website at:

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



Recognition for a Valued Supporter

After more than 35 years of nourishing the Lakefield community at the Lakefield Pantry, Jennie MacKenzie has retired.

Over the years, Jennie helped Lakefield Horticulture Society to gain sponsors for our hanging baskets, as well as contributing herself.

Our Society is very grateful for Jennie’s support. We will miss her smiling face at the Pantry and wish her a wonderful retirement.

Jennie with a pot of spring bulbs, from LHS; a token of our gratitude for her support.



Garden Tip of the Month



Dandelionization

Ugh...dandelions, the tormentor of many a gardener who aims for a ‘weed free’ lawn and flower beds.

However, there are several insect species which regard the maligned dandelion not as a pest, but as part of their early spring buffet.

Many pollinators visit a variety of different food resources, for all their nutritional requirements. The dandelion happens to be one that is handy in the early part of the year when many other plants aren’t flowering at all. In fact, dandelions are an early source of nectar for several butterfly species. These include Spring Azure, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Satyr Comma and Woodland Skipper. In addition, bumble bee queens are often seen snacking on dandelion heads in early spring; they need all the help they can get as they emerge from hibernation to establish their colonies.

Why not appreciate the charm of these little golden beauties in your garden for a while this spring and observe the pollinators that come to visit them? Dandelions can always be removed manually after flowering and before seed dispersal. They’re guaranteed to come back next year!

