



JULY 2025
NEWSLETTER



**LAKEFIELD AND DISTRICT
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -----SILVIA STROBL

I hope you kept cool during the recent heat wave and that your gardens didn't suffer too much. Environment Canada predicts this will continue to be a hot and dry summer. This issue's Garden Tip of the Month has a few suggestions that might help both you and your plants cope with our increasingly unpredictable weather.

The board of directors and many of our members have had a busy year ensuring meetings are run efficiently, producing this newsletter, organizing the Potting Day and Plant Sale, and planting and maintaining the Cenotaph and Isabel Morris gardens. We hope you have enjoyed our 2025 speakers to date, and possibly took home some new knowledge and/or ideas. Thank you to our Board members and the Society's many volunteers for their hard work in making the first half of 2025 a success! Sadly, a few of our Board members will be stepping down for a well-deserved break in November. If you would like to influence this Society's activities, please consider volunteering. We are looking for a new Secretary, a Vice-President and a couple of Board Members. Please speak to any current Board member if you are interested.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and enjoy your garden and summer activities. Perhaps I'll see you at our July Potluck or the August walkabout at Summer Roads Flower Garden?



Summer garden photos by Lynn Lavoie

Walkabout

Summer Roads Farm

Tuesday August 19th, 6 p.m.

For our walkabout in August, Beatrice (Bea) Chan, owner of Summer Roads Flower Co., will tour us through her gardens and fields, giving us an overview of the restorative and composting techniques she uses.

We'll have an opportunity to visit the farm stand with flower bouquets and other farm products, including free range eggs, local honey, preserves and more. Please bring cash for farm stand purchases.

Arrive for 6:00 pm and car pool if possible
Directions will be e-mailed in advance.



Bee Garden Clean-Up

Many thanks to Anne Stone and her keen group of nine volunteers who cleaned up the Bee Garden in Isabel Morris Park. We hope you'll have an opportunity to visit the garden this summer, where you'll be rewarded with the soothing symphony of bees weaving through the blooms as they visit the wide array of flowering plants in this tranquil pollinator haven.



Cenotaph Garden Planting Day



Twenty-one volunteers helped to plant the gardens at Cenotaph Park in early June and they are looking beautiful.

Bev Thompson did an outstanding job of organizing the day, in addition to choosing and procuring all of the gorgeous plants, aided by Pam.

Marjut & Bev kindly provided snacks for the group.

Special thanks to all those who have already committed to water and weed over the summer, to keep the gardens looking their best.



Pot Luck Picnic Tuesday July 8th

This year's picnic will be hosted by Marjut Mickels at 1005 Ivandale Rd, Douro-Dummer.

Take County Road 6 from Lakefield 21 km to White Lake Road **East (not West)** on the right (marked with balloons). Turn **right** on Ivandale Rd. (watch for a green Ivandale Rd. sign on the left with balloons).

If needed, call (705) 877-3588 for directions.

Please car pool if possible.

The event begins at 6:00 pm.

Please bring your own folding chairs, a potluck dish to share, cup, plates and cutlery. Spouses and partners are welcome. Beverages will be provided.

Marjut has a beautiful garden and we are very grateful to her for offering the venue for this social gathering.

September 9th Evelyn Wolf – Magic and Mystery in the Autumn Garden

Our next general meeting will be held on September 9th. Evelyn Wolf will discuss designing a perennial garden with all-season interest, that comes into its prime in the golden days of autumn. She will cover the rules of thumb for creating great plant combinations and highlighting the best ornamental grasses to use to create magic.




**Lindsay
Garden Club**

Garden Tour



Saturday, July 5 10 am - 4 pm

Tickets available at:
Home Hardware (Kent Street), Cathy Allan Ladies Wear, Kent Florist, Hill's Florist & Greenhouse, Euro Delight, and online at eventbrite.com

Tickets \$20

For more information, visit our website:
www.lindsaygardenclub.com, or
Call Lucille Fowler @ 705-340-2866





Garden Ontario™
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50/50 DRAW

Next Draw: July 19, 2025

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

Ticket Packages
A - 10 for \$10.00
B - 40 for \$20.00
C - 200 for \$50.00
D - 700 for \$75.00

All proceeds go towards
Keeping Ontario Beautiful™
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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! The raffle currently sits at \$3745 with the winner taking half!!

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>



Garden Tip of the Month



Gardening in the New Climate Reality

It's hot outside and although we have the luxury of retreating to the relative coolness of our homes, our gardens are suffering through whatever nature throws at them.

With global temperatures edging closer to the critical 1.5°C increase over pre-industrial levels, extreme heat and prolonged dry spells are becoming the new normal. This isn't a warning for the future — it's the reality we're already living.

With the right tools and techniques, we can help our garden plants to survive during these gruelling summer heatwaves. Here are some suggestions to improve heat and drought resistance in your garden:



1. Mulch, Mulch, Mulch

Mulching is one of the most effective ways to protect plants from summer heat. A generous layer of organic mulch — such as shredded bark, straw, compost, or even dried leaves — acts like a natural insulation layer. It keeps the soil cool, retains moisture, suppresses weeds, and gradually adds nutrients as it breaks down. In intense sun and heat, bare soil dries out quickly, but mulched soil can hold moisture for days longer.

2. Water Early and Water Deeply

Timing and technique matter more than ever. Watering in the early morning, before the sun is high, reduces evaporation and allows plants to take up moisture before the heat peaks. Deep, infrequent watering is far better than frequent shallow sprinkles. Deep watering encourages roots to grow downward, where the soil stays cooler and retains more moisture.

3. Offer Shade Where You Can

Some plants, especially leafy greens and shallow-rooted vegetables, can really struggle under relentless sun. Use shade cloths, row covers, or even garden umbrellas during peak afternoon heat. In smaller gardens, tall companion plants like sunflowers can offer partial shade to more delicate crops below.

4. Choose Native and Drought-Tolerant Plants

Native plants have adapted over millennia to local climate extremes. They often have deeper root systems. Incorporating native perennials, shrubs, and groundcovers not only conserves water but also supports pollinators and strengthens local biodiversity.

5. Build Healthy Soil

Healthy soil acts like a sponge — it holds water better and longer. By adding compost, rotating crops, and minimizing soil disturbance, gardeners can build a living, organic-rich soil ecosystem that supports plants even during tough conditions. Soil rich in organic matter can hold up to 20 times its weight in water — a huge advantage when rain is scarce.

6. Group Plants by Water Requirements

This technique, called hydrozoning, makes it easier to use water efficiently. Keep thirstier plants together in one part of the garden, and more drought-tolerant species in another. This allows for targeted watering, rather than a blanket approach.

7. Forget the Fertilizer

Using fertilizer in the heat can yield the opposite result to the desired effect. It can increase the likelihood of the plant burning. Also, because fertilizer stimulates growth, the plant needs more water, which is already limited in hot weather.

8. Give the Mower a Rest

On very hot days, it's important to leave the mower in the shed. Lawns need to retain moisture when stressed by hot weather. Leaving grass taller keeps the soil more shaded and reduces moisture loss. In addition, if you mow when a heatwave is forecast, raise the mower height.

In a warming world, every patch of green matters. By choosing climate-adaptive practices, we gardeners can help create small, green sanctuaries that persevere in extreme weather and support wildlife.

