



Kanata March Horticultural Society

November 2007

President's Message

Heather Lee, Junior Gardener Chair

Hello to all the Kanata March Horticultural Society members. David (our out-going president) was not able to write his regular address this month so he asked me to do it. Since the annual general meeting will be a portion of our next meeting I thought I would share with you why I am involved with KMHS. When we first moved to Kanata 10 years ago I needed to connect with my new community. I had a baby and was pregnant with my second. Quite frankly I needed to get out of the house and socialize! I wanted to meet new people and have a comfortable place to go and be welcome. I also gained a backyard with no landscaping of any kind. My time was limited, my days rushed and my state of health (big belly) limited my physical exercise. I thought I should learn how to plan a garden so that I didn't have to re-do everything later. I saw the advertisement in the Kanata Kourier for the club and thought I would attend a meeting.

In the last 10 years I have raised two boys, killed 2 cherry trees and an apple tree, dragged stone from Morgan's Grant to build raised beds, put in a large vegetable garden with an even larger fence, and become very skilful with a lawn tractor. I have helped to maintain the Molly Wilson gardens, organized gardening workshops for pre-school children, entered plant competitions and photo competitions. I even took correspondence classes to attain a certificate in horticulture. I now give gardening presentations though out the city.

What are your reasons for joining the club? How have you benefited by becoming a member? What would you like to learn or accomplish through your time on the first Tuesday of every month?

Our club is an endangered species. Not enough people are stepping forward to help behind the scenes. We do not have anyone nominated to be president. We have no one to put on hot water for the coffee. We do not have enough people to run our fundraisers and community events. If you would like to *consider* a position, talk to someone on the board or executive. Some jobs require sitting in on a meeting 1 1/2 hours a month. Some jobs mean arriving 15 minutes early at the meetings to help set up refreshments. If regular commitments are an issue, maybe you want to commit once to a favorite project like the pot luck or plant sale. If every one of our seventy-four members volunteered for one activity we would have to turn people away. What a glorious problem that would be! Make this your club. Get involved!

2008 Membership

Jane Bouchard

It is time to renew your KMHS membership for 2008.

Those who renew their membership before or at the Pot Luck Supper on December 7th will be eligible for a draw to be held then.

The cost for a single membership is \$15.00 and for a family membership \$25.00.

Our next meeting: Nov 6th, 7.00 pm for 7.30. Old Town Hall, March Road, Kanata
Hostas and other shady characters: David Dunn

Our guest speaker this month will be Dave Dunn from Rideau Woodland Rambles, who will be talking to us about the variety of shade plants we can grow in the Ottawa area. Dave and his partner Robert Caron grow a remarkable range of plants in their attractive nursery just outside Merrickville. They specialize in hostas, shrubs, trees and grasses, with a delightful 3 acre display garden, where you can see all these plants growing, and growing well. More information can be found on their website at

<http://www.rideauwoodlandramble.com/>

Please note that Dave's talk will follow the short AGM section of the meeting.

2008 Executive

Diana Thibodeau

Our executive has two types of members, officers and directors. The officers are:

Current

President David Davidson
 Vice-President Ron Elliott
 Treasurer Bob Barta
 Secretary Diana Thibodeau

2008

Vacant
 Ron Elliott
 Bob Barta
 Diana Thibodeau

Directors: *there are up to 10 director positions which generally run for two years to stagger the turnover*

Current

Jane Bouchard
 Norma Davidson
 Hanny Erns
 Heather Lee
 Marlene Puetz
 Giselle Robertson
 Jean Savage
 Karl Siemens
 Kenneth Wallis

2008

Continuing
 Willing to be nominated again
Vacant
 Continuing
 Willing to be nominated again
 Continuing
Vacant
 Willing to stand for 1 year term
Vacant

As Heather said in her message above, your participation is vital to the continuing strength of our society. Please step forward for an opportunity to get to know more about gardening.

Bulbs in the Fall

Heather Lee, Master Gardener

If you haven't tried forcing bulbs indoors now is the time to start. Take a trip to the nursery or garden departments and see what is left. You might get lucky and hit reduced prices. Most bulbs will need to be chilled if they were supposed to be planted outside.

To chill the bulbs I have heard of many different methods. You can pot them up place them in a paper grocery bag and stuff the bag with leaves for insulation. You can leave them in their original bag and place them in a cardboard box with sawdust. Either of these preparations can be left in the garage or cold frame. Ideally, you want a consistent temperature of between 4 and 10C. I have left mine in the fridge, but don't store fruit in with them.

Hyacinth need 11-14 weeks, iris need 15, for tulips 14 to 20, crocus need 15 and daffodil bulbs need 15 to 17 weeks of cold. Paperwhites are a type of *Narcissus* that has already been prepared for you by the grower.

If you are planting garlic from the store be aware that some producers treat their bulbs to extend shelf life at the store. Sometimes you will be successful sprouting garlic from the store sometimes you won't. You can also get bulbs from nurseries and seed catalogues. Garlic is great to plant in the ornamental flower bed. They are very pretty when they flower, the scent will repel aphids from your roses and cats/deer from your flower beds. And after garlic has done all that, it is wonderful to cook with!

Before you plant your garlic bulbs make sure the soil has good drainage or the bulbs will rot. Put the cloves in about 4 inches (10cm) with points up. In July clip off any flowers and use them as decoration in your salads. The scapes (curly necks) cost \$8.80/Kg at the Farmers market. They are great in stir-fries! Late in July or early August harvest them when half the leaves are dead. Hang them upside down in the basement to dry and store in a dry, cool place. I leave mine in a wooden bowl on the countertop until they are gone! Don't forget to save a few for planting. It saves you from hunting for more bulbs at the store.
Source: 365 Days of Gardening