



Kanata-March Horticultural Society

February, 2008

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Our meetings

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at the Old Town Hall, March Road, Kanata. Come at 7:00pm for a coffee and gardening chat. Guests are most welcome - \$5.00 (can be applied to membership of \$15.00 single, \$25.00 family)

Acting President's Message for February

At our Executive meeting this month, discussions about membership and recruiting came up, as they always do. As I sat down to compose this letter, I was reflecting on this issue. Currently we have 53 members signed up for 2008. This is a very high number for so early in the New Year. So, why the concern? As the Executive meeting progressed, we discussed the treasurer's report, heard from committee chairs and were informed about gardening activities outside of KMHS. These topics helped us identify the real concern about membership.

I think the issue we face is getting members to join our projects, not the size of the membership list. This year the board is trying very hard to motivate members to join in the work, fun and learning associated with being active in a hobby. We know gardening is an interest to you or you wouldn't be reading this. Why not take the next step and become active in your community. Instead of observing do some participating. Get your hands dirty, so to speak. When volunteers are sought, please consider whether you can spare a little time to help out.

KMHS has a very experienced Board. The committees run smoothly and there is lots of technical support. We still need a front man (or woman) who will keep us all coordinated. If you are interested in the president position please contact any of us on the Board. Make no mistake, without a president KMHS will be disbanded; it can not run like this indefinitely.

Heather Lee, KMHS member since 1998

Our next meeting: February 5th: 7.30 pm

Seed Exchange and Planning Your Garden

Our second annual seed exchange will start the meeting. Bring your excess seeds to swap for something different. Members who do not have seed to contribute may buy packets for 25¢. Heather Lee will be available before the meeting to help with packaging your seed, if needed. Please have your seed containers labeled with the name of the seed, details of plant (bloom, size etc.), any special growing instructions and your name.

Following this, Donna Christie will show us how to plan our gardens. Donna's many years of gardening experience should make for a stimulating and helpful session.

Useful web sites

<http://www.perennialplant.org/>
All sorts of information about perennials.

<http://www.toronto.ca/trees/eab.htm>
More detailed information about the ash borer and the problems it causes.

Newsletter format:

As you can see, I am trying a new format for the newsletter this year. Thanks to Karen Haddon for finding the template. Let me know what you think of it. Click here to email me at sheepsville@gmail.com

Newsletter input:

this is due to me, Margaret Turner, by the third Friday of each month. Please think about sharing your gardens ideas, visits or queries with the rest of the society. Email ideas or brief articles to me at sheepsville@gmail.com

Contact Us

<http://www.kanata-horticultural.com>

kanatamhs@yahoo.ca

2008 Perennial of the Year

The Perennial Plant Association has awarded the title of Perennial Plant of the Year® to *Geranium* 'Rozanne'. Donald and Rozanne Waterer discovered this strong performing hardy geranium in their garden in Somerset, England in 1989. It has 2 ½ inch, iridescent violet-blue, saucer-shaped flowers with purple-violet veins and radiant white centers. Bloom time is from late spring to mid fall.

- Hardiness – USDA Zones 5 to 8
- Size – 20 to 24 inches tall and 24 to 28 inches wide
- Light – Best in full sun to partial shade, afternoon shade is advisable in hot climates
- Soil – Prefers moist, well-drained soil
- Uses - *Geranium* 'Rozanne' may be used as a dynamic ground cover or as an attractive specimen plant. It is a good companion plant to Shasta daisy, perennial salvia, speedwell, hostas, and short ornamental grasses. Rozanne's energetic habit makes it a worthy tenant of patio containers, window boxes, and hanging baskets.
- Unique Qualities – The large violet-blue flowers with purple-violet veins and small white centers offer non-stop flowering through the growing season. It has one of the longest flowering periods of any of the hardy geraniums.

In case you are wondering, the members of the PPA vote for the selection.

Emerald Ash Borer



The emerald ash borer has been identified in Toronto. This is a highly destructive insect which kills ash trees. While it has not been found in this area it spreads quickly and restrictive measures are in place in various areas of Toronto to try to prevent further infestation.

Armchair Gardening

The big bonus of the Canadian winter is the opportunity to curl up by the fire, immersed in a fine gardening book, preferably one with great illustrations and ideas that might work in your garden. Here are a few suggestions for you: all these books are available through the Ottawa library system.

Perennial Gardens Design Primer: *Stephanie Cohen and Nancy Ondra*. This is a comprehensive description of how to design either a total garden or a single new bed. Accompanied by lots of pictures, practical lists of plants and suggestions for phased implementation, it's a great tool if you're planning some innovation this year.

The Pruner's Bible: *Steve Bradley*. I don't know how I've managed without this book – actually I do badly! Your trees and shrubs will thank you for reading this one.

The gap in the hedge: *Charles Elliott*. This is more of bedside table book of short articles about various and diverse aspects of gardening and gardeners. An American journalist, now living and gardening in Wales, Elliott provides witty and informative snippets about the ordinary and extraordinary challenges and delights of gardening.

The well-tended Perennial garden: *Tracey DiSabato Aust*. "This is a book that takes you step by step through your favorite perennials, detailing what you need to do to have them in peak performance all season." Natalie Walsh, *Schenectady Daily Gazette*, January 23, 2001