



The Peony Post

Summer 2017

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



Hasn't it been a wonderful summer? We had plenty of rain to keep our gardens flourishing; it was warm enough for most of us but rarely so hot that we needed 24/7 air conditioning. Now the month of August has also given us plenty of sunshine. Who could ask for more? On the other hand – if you are the proud owner of a swimming pool or dreamt of spending hot, sunny days in cottage country, this was not the kind of summer to get enthused about.

A brief re-cap of the last three months:

- ❖ June 17th – our public flower show once again delighted visitors to the Pickering Recreation Complex. We had a total of 147 exhibits, including 7 design entries. Congratulations to 'Best in Show' winners Barbara Twiner (3), Karen Bardeau (3), Sigrid Squire (design).
- ❖ June 27th meeting – Paul LaPorte presented a very inspirational talk about the need to 'Nurture Nature'. He strongly encouraged us to plant native plants. Insects need them to feed on or they will disappear. Without insects there is no pollination; without pollination, there is no food. Life as we know it would change for the worse.
- ❖ The Rose & Clematis show was lovely – we had a total 32 roses and 15 clematis on display. This year's rose trophy winners are Hermie Schmalz for the Pickering Nurseries Trophy, Susan Saunders will again be the caretaker of the Red Rose Tea Award trophy. Barbara Twiner had the best clematis.
- ❖ July 8th – our annual bus trip was another big success. We visited a wonderful variety of gardens, starting with the trial gardens at the University of Guelph. Private gardens ranged from suburban size to huge, from perfectly maintained to more casual to wild and exuberant. There was something for everyone's taste. Lunch at Arkell United Church was most satisfying. Thank you, Barbara, for another great day.
- ❖ July 21/22 – OHA convention – Barbara Twiner attended both days, I only attended on Saturday. It's amazing how even the morning plenary sessions can be interesting (entertaining?) as there are always some people objecting to any resolutions, even if

Next Meeting

**September
12th, 2017
7:30 pm**

Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker, James Graham, found it necessary to cancel and we will not be led 'Down the Garden Path'. Instead, we will get a preview of what's in store for us when we go shopping for spring bulbs this fall.

they are favourable to the societies. The flower show was absolutely outstanding! District 5 must have a lot of amazing gardeners and very talented floral designers. The afternoon seminars are always very educational with titles such as: *The Winning Entry*, *Garden Smarter*, *Caring for the Earth*, *Judges on Judging*. The evening banquet brought awards to some well deserving individuals. Then came the highlight of the evening: Paul Zammit. Paul was at his most passionate best and the standing ovation at the end was well deserved.

Public Plantings

Our garden maintenance team has been very busy looking after our public plantings. We have a very dedicated team who come out every Tuesday morning, rain or shine. All of the garden beds are well cared for and in great shape. The rainy weather has kept everything lush and healthy; residents tell us they are the best looking public beds in Pickering. I don't know if City staff would agree with that but we'll gladly take the praise. Now, if only we could do something about the Japanese beetles demolishing some of our plants.

Next Meeting – September 12th

This will be our first meeting in our fiscal year and the beginning of a new membership year. Your membership fees are due now - \$20.00 single, \$30.00 per household. Please don't forget to bring your wallet.

The September flower show is our biggest of the year. Show us what's been growing in your garden. Perennials, annuals, roses and vegetables are all represented in the show schedule; everybody should have something to put on the exhibit tables.

We look forward to seeing you on September 12th.

The Peony Post is published by the Pickering Horticultural Society eight times per year. Comments, suggestions or contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor, Sigrid Squire, at asquire8347@rogers.com