



Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com

Issue 32, May 2016

"To be a successful farmer one must first know the nature of the soil."

--*Xenophon, Oeconomicus, 400 B.C.*

SPEAKER TONIGHT

The perfect soil for your garden.

--Chelsea Stroud

FYI

Environmental Days will be held at various community centres. Pick up free mulch; exchange your broken blue box, composters for sale and more.

Visit vaughan.ca for dates and locations.

Backyard composters can also be purchased for \$20.00 year round at the Joint Operations Station, 2800 Rutherford Road.

www.vaughan.ca/waste

The OHA District 15 Annual General Meeting was held May 7 in Mississauga. It was hosted by the Streetsville Horticultural Society and was attended by three WHS members: Joan Stubberfield, Hazel Harper and Nina Nolan. Attendees were welcomed

by former Mayor Hazel McCallium.

The guest speaker was Bill Andrews, who led his audience on 'An ecological Journey: From Meadow to Forest in 45 years'. After 6 years, Carol Spraggett stepped down from her duties. Next year's meeting will be hosted by the Thornhill Garden and Horticultural Society.

Bring On Spring

A Community Gardening Fair, Saturday, May 28 at the Woodbridge Fairgrounds, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For more information visit bringonspringfair.com

Check out garden enthusiast Crys Stewart's blog, The Ministry of the Fence, a wealth of gardening ideas.

GARDEN TOUR 2016

Tickets for the 2016 Tour are available for sale tonight, \$10.00 each.

If you wish to purchase more, please contact Sue or John.

NEAT THINGS ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS

Hummingbirds have a one-note chirping sound that is called a chip note. They also use their wings and

tails to make sound and communicate. If you hear a clicking sound, it could be two males dueling over a female with their beaks. They will not hesitate to attack crows, hawks or jays if they feel are impinging on their territory.

Tip from the Nature Store- to attract more Humming birds to your humming bird feeder: Place a bright coloured artificial flower near the feeder.



FLEXING GARDENING MUSCLES

Prepare soil for the best harvest ever.

Add 1 part worm castings to 10 parts soil, along with finished compost.

Rake lawn to remove winter debris and fertilize. Add seeds to thin spots and keep well watered.

Set lawn mower to 6-8 cm. high.

Plant trees, shrubs and roses.

Dig and divide perennials- share or hold a plant sale.



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Buy a hummingbird feeder.

For lots of free gardening advice, check out [gardenersworld.com](http://www.gardenersworld.com)

WORTH A TRY

Propagate your own rose bush and save money. With clean garden shears, cut a stem from your favourite rose bush or even a rose from a bouquet, at least 8" long, at a 45° degree angle. Make a hole thick enough to accommodate stem in a large potato. Dip stem in rooting hormone, insert into potato hole. Bury 3-4" deep in a moist potting mix of peat moss and top soil, either in a large pot or a bright location in your garden, away from direct sun, making sure only the cutting is exposed.. Cut off spent flower, foliage and hips down to the first set of leaves. The potato will provide nutrients and moisture. Cover the cutting with an empty and clean 2 litre plastic bottle to create a mini greenhouse-cut off bottom of bottle and twist in deep enough to ensure it is securely in place. Save the

cap for more protection in very cold weather. Remove bottle when warm weather is here to stay. If planted outdoors, replace plastic bottle during winter to protect from cold, covering with saved cap. You may remove just the cap during warm days in the spring, but wait till mid June to remove bottle completely.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to Mary Cicchirillo, Teresa Papasodaro, Nadina Scarpelli, Gail Stevenson, Silvia Ciuciura, along with students Robert and Jonathan, as well as little Lucas, who insisted on helping. Thanks to those who clean and tidy up on their own time. Bags for yard waste are in the yellow container on back porch of the House. Please

leave full bags on back porch so they will be collected by city workers.

Armstrong Park

Thanks to Madeleine Sisti-Petrucelli, Gilda Ferrone, Gail Stevenson, Mace Blundell and Liz Langenberger who volunteered in the April 23rd spring clean-up of Armstrong Park. Please mark your calendars for future cleanings – Sept. 17th, and October 22nd 10:00-12:00 noon, rain or shine! Any help is greatly appreciated.

IN MEMORIUM

Ron Chaston passed away April 30. He was married to the late Peggy Chaston, a long time WHS member, for whom the Peggy Chaston Trophy was named for. This trophy is given for 'Most points in Design classes'.

SUBMISSIONS

If you have a newsletter submission, please call or email Mary no later than one week before the next meeting.