



Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com

Issue 58, April 2021

Nature does not hesitate to interfere with me. So I do not hesitate to tamper with it.

--Henry Mitchell, *One Man's Garden* (1992)

SPEAKER April 12, 2021

Cathy Nikolaidis, on Gardening Basics for the Urban Potager

TRENDS IN GARDENING

Backyards have become the new living rooms, perfect for achieving the sense of contentment one feels in a garden and nature in general. Extend your living space by adding outdoor furniture in the garden; instant oasis!

People want and need greenery in their environment and are discovering that houseplants are an easy way of getting it. When you have that Zoom meeting, you'll want to show you're in on the trend by putting a houseplant or two in the background, especially for our monthly Horticulture meetings!

A trend carried over from previous years, but gaining in popularity with condominium and apartment dwellers, is container gardening. Even suburban homeowners, who have plenty of growing space, are putting containers everywhere: decks, stoops, and stairways. Containers give you the freedom to garden where you want to, drastically cut down on weeding, and they can be moved indoors, especially if you're lucky enough to have a sunroom. Experiment with exotic fruits: kumquats, dwarf avocados, figs, olive trees, etc. Other than the usual 'clean the air' house plants, why not brighten your home with more flamboyant and colourful tropical plants as well?

EARTH DAY

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. The theme this year is 'Restore Our Earth.'

This Earth Day, join **Vaughan Public Libraries** for eco-friendly activities, featuring a Tomatoes from Space experiment and special visit from the U of T Trash Team, all live on Zoom, April 24, 2:00-3:00p.m. Please complete only one online registration, as only one kit is provided per family. The Zoom link will be emailed to you the day before the program. Priority will be given to confirmed VPL members. The program materials kit will be available through curbside pickup at the Resource Library of your choice (Bathurst Clark, Civic Centre, or Pierre Berton). You will be contacted to pick up your materials kit after you have registered.



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As seasoned gardeners, have your say by taking part in the city's beautification program. Complete the on-line survey on Flowers, hanging baskets, shrubs and more at

[Flowers hangingbaskets shrubs and more \(vaughan.ca\)](http://flowers.hangingbaskets.shrubs.and.more.vaughan.ca)



Some of the most interesting flora is located in our natural areas.

Perhaps you've heard of Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) in the news. This is an existing planning tool available to the province through the Planning Act. In special instances, the province has used MZOs to fast-track development for various reasons. Wetlands play a vital role in sustaining biodiversity, water purification, and flood mitigation. They are currently protected from development under planning and other environmental legislation. However, the recent Bill 257 proposes a legal interpretation of MZOs in the Planning Act, suggesting that MZOs are not required to be consistent with the provincial direction to protect provincially significant wetlands. This bill is being presented in Queen's Park after the Pickering MZO was approved in late 2020.

Over the course of the next couple of months, look out for follow up pieces on what types of flora you can find in these settings, how they are currently protected and what we can do to support them.

A wetland is defined as lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water; the water table is close to or at the surface. The two other requirements are the formation of hydric soils, which are permanently or seasonally saturated by water, resulting in anaerobic conditions. The area is dominated by water loving or water tolerant plants. In Ontario, the four major types of wetlands are swamps, marshes, bogs and fens.

A provincially significant wetland is designated using a standardized points-based system. This means not all wetlands are deemed significant. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry determines this based on whether the wetlands have an important contribution to the ecosystem and/or a human utility value such as recreation. Next time you spot a wetland and write it off as just another wet meadow, take a moment to consider whether it's an important bird stopover for migrating species, home to species at risk or maybe a rare feature on the landscape.

SUBMISSIONS

If you have anything you'd like added to the newsletter, please call or email Mary no later than one week before the next meeting.