



# Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



[www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com](http://www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com)

Issue 36, March, 2017

We must cultivate  
our garden.  
**VOLTAIRE,**  
**CANDIDE (1758)**

**SPEAKER TONIGHT**  
Koidu Sulev on  
Herbs

**FYI**  
Please collect the outer plastic milk bags and bring to monthly meetings. After the 2010 Haitian earthquake, a volunteer initiative launch in Toronto has helped countless people in need, including those in disaster zones, by providing mats made of recycled milk bags. In addition to mats and mattresses, milk bags are also used to stuff pillows and are woven into handbags. For more information on this worthy cause, please visit <http://toronto.ctvnews.ca/mobile/from-milk-bags-to-mattresses-volunteers-weave-mats-for-a-good-cause>

The Historic Wallace House will be holding a Spring Arts & Crafts Sale Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## **FLEXING GARDENING MUSCLES**

The weather in March is most unpredictable. Don't worry about emerging snow drops, tulips and other spring bulbs; they'll survive the constant change in temperature.

In the event of a unexpected heavy, wet snowfall, gently knock snow off hedges, evergreens and shrubs to prevent limbs breaking from the weight.

On a spring-like day, prune cedar hedges. Being quite hardy, they can take this any time of the year.

Buy seeds. There's still time to order from seed catalogues.

Enjoy the return of robins as you watch them hopping along grasses eating worms.

## **WORTH A TRY**

Grow an avocado tree just for fun.

After washing and peeling the pit, insert three toothpicks and immerse in a glass or jar of water, pointed end up. Place on a sunny window sill. Make sure it's always in at least one inch of water, changing and topping up

to prevent bacteria growth. Be patient, it may take two to three months for roots to develop. When roots take up most of the container and leaves are growing from the top of the pit, it's time to transplant to a pot using regular potting soil. Place in sun and keep moist. Move outside during the summer and watch your plant grow into a tree. Remember to bring it inside in the fall. Do not expect any fruit for at least seven years.





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## THANKS ☺

For their help in decorating the bridge on Woodbridge Avenue for Valentine's Day:  
Thanks to you Gail Stevenson, Liz Langenberger, Mace Blundell, Chris and Sally Andrews, Sue Fava and Madeleine Sisti-Petrucelli.

# Volunteers!



Please mark your calendars for the Armstrong Park clean-up dates:  
Saturday, April 22,  
September 16 and  
October 14.  
Please add your contact information to the sign-up sheet for the Wallace House garden clean-up. You will be contacted as soon as the weather is favourable.

## NEAT THINGS ABOUT LATIN NAMES

When choosing plants, gardeners should refer to them by their Latin names for accurate information about a specific plant. This ensures chances of surviving in its native climate, as well as growth habits and colour. It describes and distinguishes genus, species and cultivars. Binomial means two-name; the two names are the genus - which refer to the plant. Purple coneflower is easy to pronounce and very general, but there's a difference between *Echinacea purpurea* and *Echinacea angustifolia*. *Canadensis* means native to Canada. *Sinensis* means from China, *Japonica* means from Japan, *Occidentalis* means from the western hemisphere, while *orientalis* means from the eastern hemisphere. *Montana* or *alpina* is from the mountains, *sylvestris* is from the forest, and *martima*, near the sea. To learn more about this fascinating subject, read *Gardener's Latin*, by

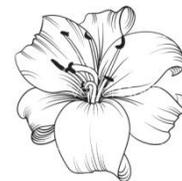
Bill Neal and *Name that Plant*, by Martin Page.

## IN MEMORIUM

One of our faithful Life members, Constance Ellen "Connie" McCallum, passed away in her 97<sup>th</sup> year.



Hank Vroom passed away December 29. He was the husband of long time member, and one of the society's past presidents, Cynthia Vroom. They donated the Vroom Trophy awarded for Fruits and Vegetables.



## SUBMISSIONS

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