



Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com

Issue 41, October, 2017

"Think of the fierce energy concentrated in an acorn! You bury it in the ground, and it explodes into an oak!"
--George Bernard Shaw

TOPIC TONIGHT

Sean James, on *Growing Gracefully*.

THANK YOU ☺

To all volunteers who helped in the final clean up of Armstrong Park Saturday, October 14.

BEST IN SHOW FOR SEPTEMBER

John Mazzella for his Dahlia.
Doreen Smith for her Fall Ablaze, Design class, novice.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

Several positions are available for anyone wishing to get more involved with WHS. We are always looking for fresh, new ideas. As well, if you are interested in writing the monthly newsletter, please speak with anyone on the executive for further information.

FLOWER SHOW CONVENER

The role of the flower show convener is to organize the flower show at the monthly meetings. This includes the following: Acquire a flower show judge, (information is available from Deb Estey). Organize tables for flower show entries. Assist members with their entries, if necessary, including how to properly fill in entry card. Assist the show judge with the flower show if needed. Record entries on paper (form is available from Sue Fava). Record results on excel (document is available from Sue Fava). Present trophies to winning recipients at the November Bash.

FLEXING GARDENING MUSCLES

Enjoy your harvest. Look on the bright side of this unusually warm autumn and see if it will extend ripening of more produce, especially tomatoes. Kale, Swiss chard, leeks and parsley improve with cooler temperatures, so leave them till just before a hard frost, same for arugula and chicory.

Sunflowers, zinnias and dahlias seem to thrive under fresher conditions. Dig, divide and share perennials while the soil is still warm enough to allow enough time for roots to establish. Plant spring flowering bulbs-tulips, daffodils, crocuses. Plant some garlic cloves now till December. Read Ontario Garlic, the Story from Farm to Festival, for some great information on how to get the perfect crop. Tidy the garden, but leave seed heads for birds to feed on. As long as they are not diseased, add spent plants to compost bin.

NEWS!

A very special addition to the Wallace House garden will be a Vimy oak sapling, honouring fallen Canadian soldiers. After fighting in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, Lieutenant Leslie Miller of Scarborough, Ontario gathered acorns from an oak tree on the ridge and sent them home to Canada to be planted on his farm. Today, ten of these trees exist on the Vimy Oaks woodlot owned by the



Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com

Issue 41, October, 2017

Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church. The Vimy Oaks Legacy Corporation, a volunteer non-profit organization, has partnered with the church and the Vimy Foundation to repatriate over one hundred saplings that are direct descendants of the Vimy Oaks woodlot in France. The trees will honour the memory and legacy of Canadians who fought in the First World War. A limited number of surplus trees were available to purchase and plant at commemorative sites throughout Canada: Royal Canadian Legions, municipalities, schools and other qualifying organizations. The Wallace House garden qualified! It will be planted in the back corner of the garden by the bench.



NEAT THINGS ABOUT MAPLES

The maple is the symbol of generosity, balance, promise, and practicality. Its botanical name, *Acer*, is the Latin word for sharp. There are ten maple species that are native to Canada. Our national emblem in Canada was inspired by the sugar maple, native to eastern Canada. In an attempt to make it acceptable for all of Canada, its shape has been stylized, reducing the sugar maple leaf's 23 points to 11, representing the ten provinces at the time. Though the maple leaf has been on our flag since 1965, the tree itself was not adopted as a national symbol until 1996. There is even a maple leaf tartan which was adopted as Canada's national tartan in 2011. Created by David Weiser, the tartan was inspired by the colours of the leaves over the seasons. It takes 40 litres of maple sap to make one litre of syrup. Maple is a tonewood, meaning it carries sound waves very effectively, therefore making it the favoured wood for many musical instruments-violins,

guitars, drums, even bassoons. Red, sugar and black maple trees live 200 years or more, even while being tapped for their sap. It is said that the oldest maple tree can be found in North Pelham, Ontario and is estimated to be over 500 years old. Maple pulp makes quality paper.



WHS NOVEMBER BASH

Buy your tickets tonight for our annual dinner November 21st at DaVinci Banquet Hall. Tickets are \$36.00 each. Please speak with Sue or John if you'd like to purchase more.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please call Mary no later than one week before the next meeting, at 905-856-6907 or email at mccchi@sympatico.ca