OHS OTTAWA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

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WAITING FOR SPRING

Communal Gardening,
Maple Syrup & More

THE WINDSOR ARMS GARDENS

by Bill Brown & John McKinven

The Windsor Arms gardens, at 150 Argyle Avenue, were begun about 25 years ago after John and I asked the City to install bollards to keep vehicles off a muddy bit of land in front of our building. In addition to the bollards, City staff planted five Norway maples and grass. The death of the grass coincided with a growing wish of ours to have our cake and eat it too: Keep our 1920's apartment, but also be able to garden.

One summer's day, sitting on the front steps, we saw the dead grass in a new light, and though deeply ignorant on the subject, decided to become guerrilla gardeners.

Ignoring the five then-small trees, we had several summers of sunny beds, including our favourite — waves of colourful zinnias. But soon enough the maples asserted themselves and forever set the direction of what would become a deeply shaded urban garden. As the canopy grew higher and denser, the garden took many twists and turns to arrive at its current balance of potted annuals, shade-loving perennials and shrubs. And while we have struggled against the obvious restrictions imposed by five maples, we now understand they provide what passersby refer to as the garden's "oasis-like" feel, a brief respite from the city's harsh summer heat. And while there are now flowers and therefore some structure and colour, the garden is and has been largely appreciated for its cool shade, vivid greens and slightly wild air. Lashings of goldenrod, Queen Anne's lace, milkweed and mullein have arrived on their own to a hearty welcome, mixing seamlessly with the many cultivated vines, shrubs, perennials, evergreens and grasses.

One defining moment came about twelve years ago when the Museum of Nature, across the street, changed their landscaping. Their gift of four or five dozen redundant rocks of most extraordinary beauty and size gave our garden both a new shape and weight, while providing passing kids with something to clamber over and adults something to sit on while texting.

But one of the features most remarked upon in our garden — one we have no control over — has been the sidewalk transporting people right into and through its middle, enveloping all in cool greenery, as well as bringing them up close and personal with our small water features, bowling ball sculpture, bird baths, a Little Free Library, Adirondack chairs and a bench to suggest a pause in busy lives. The sidewalk also means when we're out

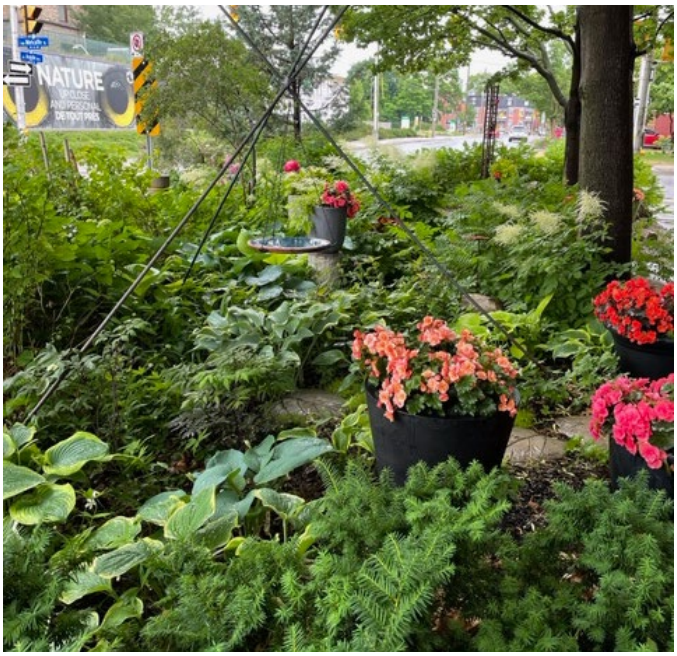
Bill Brown and John McKinven were the recipients of the OHS's Trillium Award and the George L. Myles Trophy in 2017 for their gardens at the Windsor Arms. The Windsor Arms is an apartment building that was constructed in 1929-1930 at the corner of Argyle and Metcalfe Streets in downtown Ottawa, just south of the Canadian Museum of Nature. The gardens have been delighting the neighbourhood and pedestrians passing through for almost 30 years.

working there is much time spent chatting with both Windsor Arms residents and passersby. And because the latter are often gardeners themselves, over the years we've received as much valuable advice as we have unusual plants. In fact, the lion's share of our perennials come from other gardens in Ottawa, Almonte and as far away as Bruce County in western Ontario.

We've also had help with money. After the initial years of carrying the garden largely on our own, when our landlord invited us to jump the sidewalk and garden on Windsor Arms property, he also began generously subsidizing almost all ongoing expenses — any gardener's dream come true. This also began a less-well-known aspect, what we call our side garden. It mostly minds its own business in a three-sided courtyard that stretches along the building's Metcalfe Street flank. Because of the busy street, the garden's original design focused on two concepts: Give tenants who overlook it an interesting visual counterpoint to the rushing traffic while also providing a bit of a buffer from the same. Seen from above, with low hostas on the building side, a rising berm of *Stephanandra* along the sidewalk, and a central undulating river of stone, the garden's design was meant to mimic the meandering Ottawa Valley. Several decades later, the basic image remains, but the work of an artist, Alice Hinther, who lived in the Windsor Arms, has brought an air of whimsy and with it some inevitable bits of controversy; inevitable, because when a garden is on someone else's land and so open to public comment, how do you please everyone and oneself?

Still, the joy for us, apart from mucking about with plants, has been to see a kid explore a pathway, another hang a homemade birdhouse, a stranger straighten books in the Little Library, a neighbour lean back in the Adirondack chair with a glass of wine and a good novel, another one bent over helping with the weeds, and even — knock on wood — a few cyclists dismounting to walk their bikes through our "oasis."

The Windsor Arms gardens, both with their informal, ever-changing openness, have brought residents, neighbours and passersby together in such unpredictable ways, turning what began as a private affair into a very public one.



Gardening
FROM A LAWN CHAIR

by Kelly Noel

My husband and I live in a condo now, after 43 years in a house that had served our family well. With only two of us left, we were heating too many rooms in winter and cooling them in summer. There was a half-acre lot with many gardens, a lot of lawn to be mowed, a pool to be maintained and a circular driveway to be cleared of snow - and a basement with lots of spaces where too much "stuff" had gotten stored over the years.

When the idea of moving came up, it turned out that neither of us wanted to be left alone to deal with that big house, should the other die first. With that realization, it was an easy decision to down-size while we could do it together. We decided to give up stairs, mowing and shovelling, keep garage space for 2 cars, find enough room for two people who were used to having plenty of space and be as close to the ground as possible. We started looking for a condo – and found one that suited us three years later!

We found a spacious ground floor unit in an older building. It has a back door leading to lawn and two small gardens. When the real estate agent told us "If you want to, the condo will allow you to plant and manage these gardens as if they were your own," I was delighted - happy to continue gardening on a smaller scale!! I cleared out those beds and transplanted many favourite plants from my old garden.

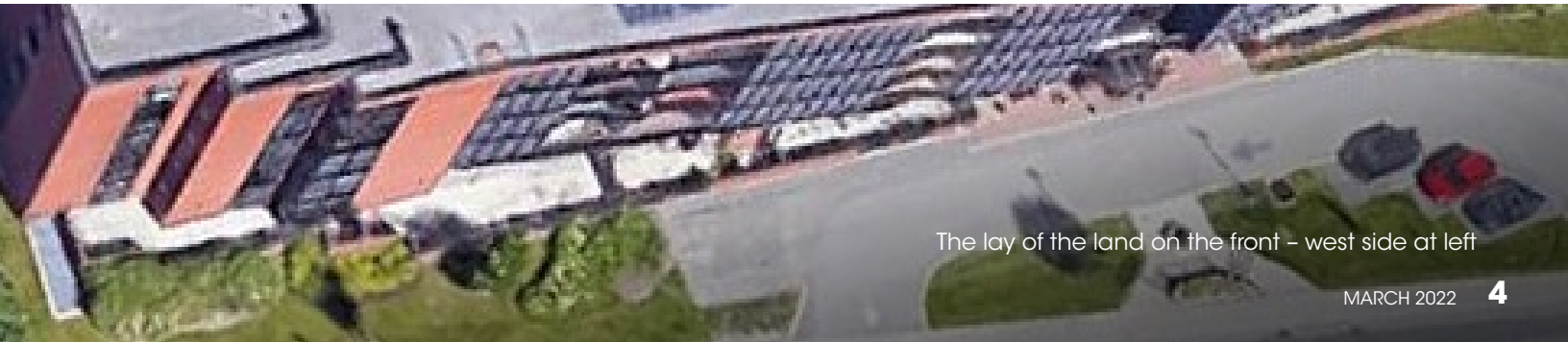
Not many condos give owners the freedom to take over a common space like this but, in this smallish building with only 40 units, allowing interested owners to tend these back gardens had been the practice for a while.

Not long after we moved in, another opportunity for garden involvement came along. The board hired Green Thumb Garden Center (GT) to do grounds maintenance in front of the building. I volunteered to be the liaison with GT. The west side was jammed with short and tall spiraeas and honeysuckle bushes. One patch of spiraea was flattened by plowed snow each winter! On the east side, there was a small perennial garden along the wall and, in the curve of the ramp down to the garage, a young catalpa, a healthy Japanese maple, stumps of several long gone lilacs, and a mix of hostas and ferns that bleached in this sunny area.

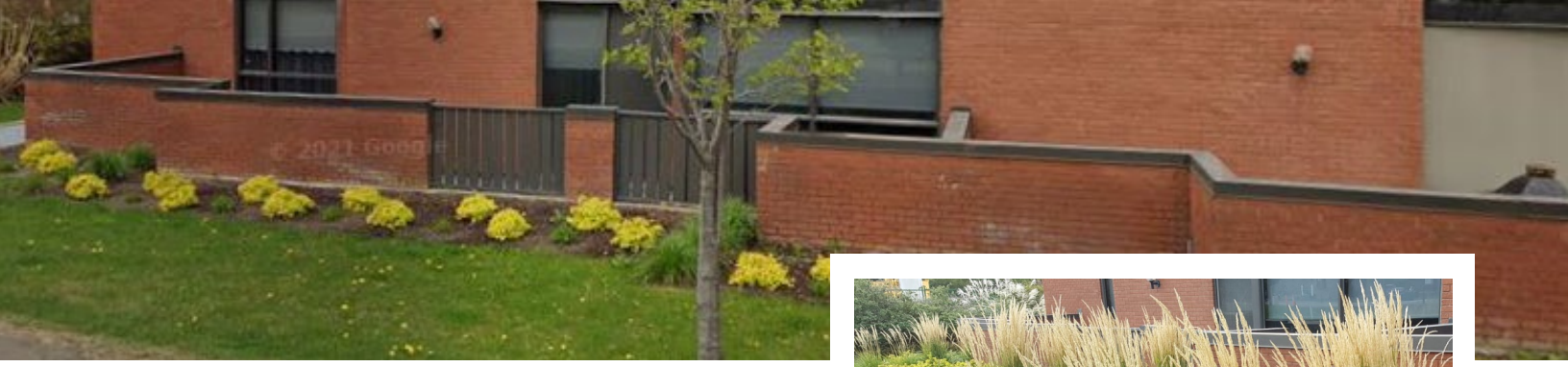
My part was to decide what work should be done on each of the GT visits. I soon got into the habit of taking a chair outside so I could sit and watch them work – they worked quickly but carefully and clearly knew what they were doing. The entire area was in need of renovation and renewal but the budget just allowed for weeding and tidying – even so, it was enjoyable watching it get done. I regularly referred to the work "we" did although I was just watching!

Imagine my delight when I was told that the "podium project" would require digging up the entire area along the front patio fences!!! All the densely planted overgrown bushes had to go!!

Every condo has a fund for major repairs and our big project for 2019 was podium water-proofing. I soon learned that a podium is not only what you stand behind when giving a speech (or on when getting a medal) - it also



The lay of the land on the front – west side at left



refers to the roof of an underground garage which extends beyond the footprint of the building. There is a membrane covering such a roof and it should be renewed every 35 years or so to make sure it is still watertight. (The danger of water penetrating a podium was demonstrated in June 2021 when a Miami condo building collapsed!!)

When our property manager said the contractor would do some "restoration," I asked if they could give us a budget and allow us to manage it ourselves - and that was approved. I did the planning and consulting and the GT gardeners did all the work!

Since the digging and backfilling would not be finished until mid-September, we left the east side for spring and did the west side in the fall. We left a large area for plowed snow and made a wide bed with straight edges along the remaining 18m (60ft) of the wall. We used 'Karl Foerster' feather reed grass and 'Golden Mound' spiraea (yes – spiraea!!). They were planted with space to grow and with space behind to allow for wall and fence maintenance. Both plants are hardy, easy to maintain, and look good all season.

For the east side, we decided to keep a perennial bed, but bigger and with shrubs included. A perennial garden is relatively high maintenance but it provides a succession of colourful highlights during the season. We drew up a plan, ordered the shrubs for delivery in spring 2020 and potted up the perennials we wanted to save.

The ramp area was not disturbed during

Photo captions from top to bottom: 1. In late April 2020, before the grasses bloom, the spiraea are "gold". 2. Mid-September 2021 – filling in and looking good. 3. The newly planted ramp area - burgundy and yellow barberries and feather reed grasses with the burgundy-leaved Japanese maple. 4. Daylily colour in July.

the dig but needed change. We removed the hostas and ferns (put some out back – a shadier area). I got permission (from the board) to have the catalpa removed and the area stumped. The catalpa was 5m tall heading for 18m – way too big for the area. This left the Japanese maple with room to shine!

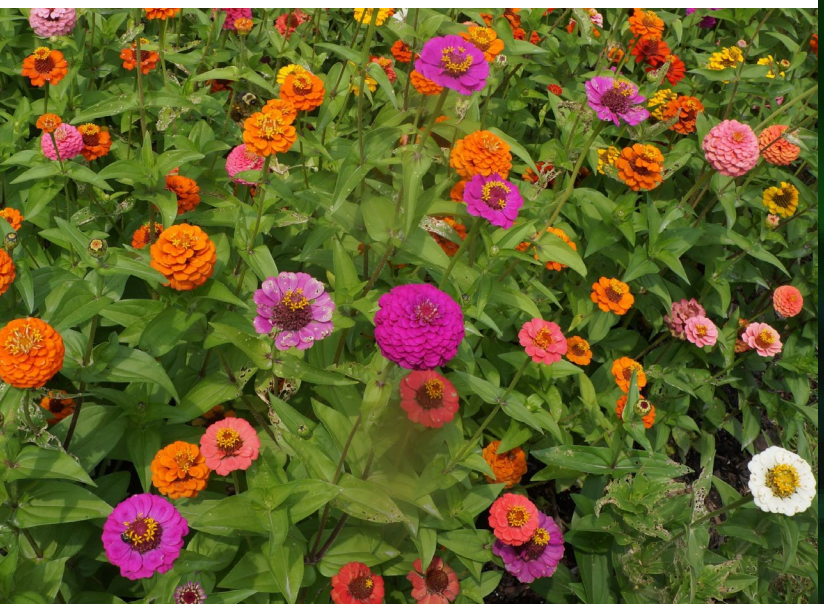
Not surprisingly, Covid slowed things down in 2020 but eventually the beds were prepared and the shrubs arrived and were planted.

There were peonies and irises saved from the previous garden and I provided about 30 different daylilies. In fall 2020, we planted some scavenged tulips (I had happened upon the NCC dumpsite in spring 2020) and we left an area open for a patch of annuals.
I started seeds in the winter – tall verbena, annual black-eyed Susan, coreopsis and zinnias. We planted these throughout the garden in spring 2021, with the zinnias massed in the large patch.

Although this garden is still very new, it was colourful – a succession of tulips, irises, peonies, daylilies, and chrysanthemums while the zinnias and other annuals bloomed for four months. Many residents told me that they really enjoyed the colour!

The only "work" I do for this garden is some deadheading and seed-starting in winter. I have discovered a new and very enjoyable form of gardening – someone else provides the money and muscle, and I sit in a lawn chair and just enjoy!

Photo below: Zinnias still fresh and colourful in late August.



The Book Nook

30 TITLES SUGGESTED BY THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR OHS MEMBERS

Ottawa Public Library / Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

The Collection Development staff at the Ottawa Public Library have specially selected a list of materials for OHS members. This list includes new titles added to the OPL collection.

Among the titles for this issue are books, in English and French, relating to:

- Kitchen gardening
- Forager's garden
- Wild plants
- Tree identification
- Lilacs
- Pests and diseases
- Pollinators
- No-dig gardening
- Dried flowers
- House plants, including bonsai
- Natural and green gardening
- Philosophy of gardening
- Medicinal plants
- Succession planting
- Western gardens
- Weed-free gardening

Click on the link below to see the complete list from the Library. This also allows you to view availability and place a hold from the link.

https://ottawa.bibliocommons.com/list/share/354296247_collection_development/2048445407_ottawa_horticultural_society_spring_titles

CONDOMINIUM GARDENING

BY SHEILA BURVILL

I've written previously about the big adjustment my husband and I experienced when we moved from a single-family house with back and front gardens to a third-floor condominium apartment with a roof terrace. (See the March 2020 and June 2020 issues of the OHS newsletter.) But there was another aspect of gardening in a condominium setting that I didn't mention – that of gardening in a shared space along with other condo dwellers.

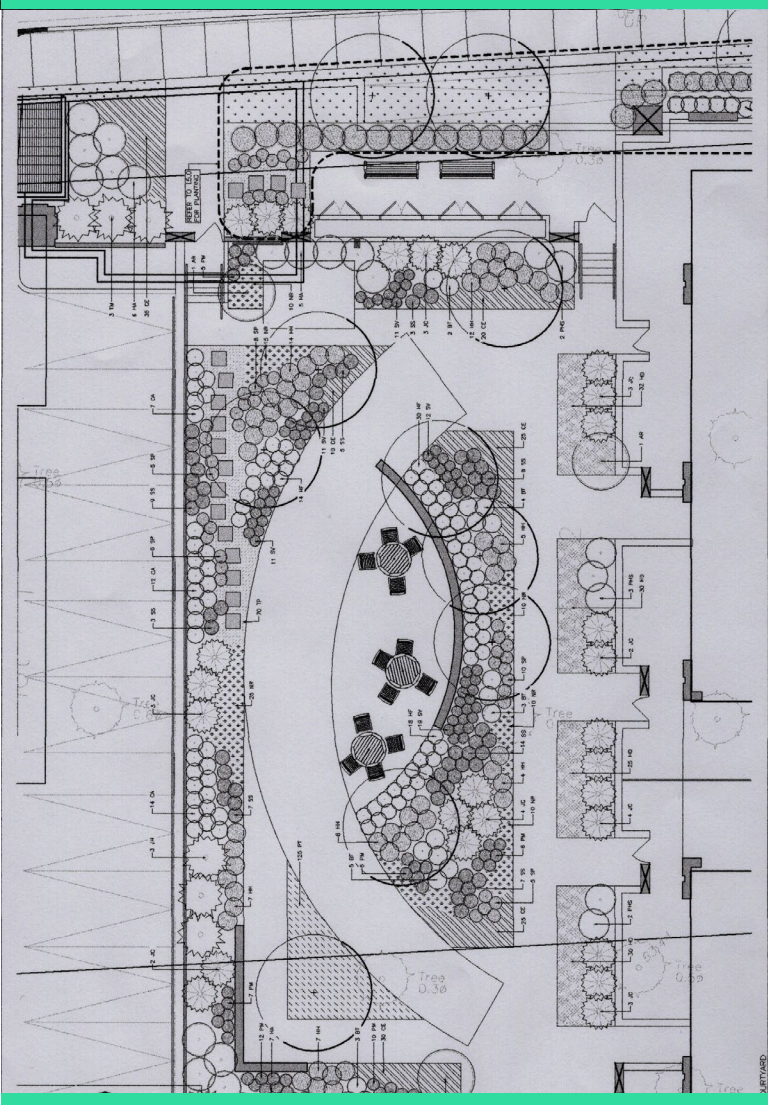
When we were buying our condominium apartment, we were informed of the difference between what property we would actually own and what parts of our building were deemed "common elements." That distinction and its attendant regulations influence the collective gardening effort in our complex.

To understand that, you'll need to know what "common elements" are. The category includes the visitors' lot, the building's roof terrace, the gym, the party room, the guest suite, and other areas in and around the buildings.

The most important common element to me is the courtyard garden that sits in the space between the two six-storey buildings that form our condominium complex. (The buildings are joined by a two-storey linkage that is not nearly as deep as the two apartment buildings so the garden is pretty much surrounded by buildings.) The courtyard is for the enjoyment of everyone who lives in either of the buildings. Residents enjoy the garden for coffee chats at the tables, yoga classes, carol singing at Christmas, and evening picnics under the trees. We had a July 1st gathering there, pre-COVID, and there's an annual jack-o-lantern display, created by residents for everyone's enjoyment.

Photos by Monica Helms except where noted.
Photo: East side

New Mulch



Courtyard Design

Eric and I bought our condominium before it was actually built but, as it was the second of the two to be built, we knew about the courtyard garden from the get-go. Finding out that there was a group of interested residents in Building One, who had formed a kind of garden committee, was a definite bonus to me.

Once Building Two (where we live) was completed and being occupied by the various buyers, several of us new residents enquired about the garden committee and asked to join. There were several meetings of interested residents from both buildings and that's when the common element aspect of the garden became more evident.

To a greater or lesser degree, any garden space around a condominium building or complex has been defined by the developer. In our case, the developer included the courtyard garden as one of the green spaces in the plans. (There are also several large planters to the north and south of Building Two and landscaped areas surrounding Building One that contain trees and shrubs for the most part.) We were fortunate because the landscape design for our courtyard was well done by a professional company. It's a harmonious melding of hard- and soft-scaping with eight or nine honey locust trees forming a canopy over the paths and seating areas.

The plants were well chosen too, with hardy perennials such as *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low' (catmint), *Salvia verticillata* 'Purple Rain,' *Hemerocallis* 'Dad's Best' (daylily) and *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' contributing colour for most of the growing year with *Hosta* 'Halcyon' adding their fragrant white flowers in late summer. There are also some sedums, some grasses (*Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster,' *Carex eburnea* and *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hamlyn'), shrubs (*Philadelphus* 'Snowbelle,' *Amelanchier alnifolia* 'Regent,' *Berberis thunbergii* 'Rose Glow'), ground covers such as Solomon's seal, *Thymus pseudolanuginosus* and *Pachysandra terminalis*, and two different varieties of juniper adding contrast in colour and texture.

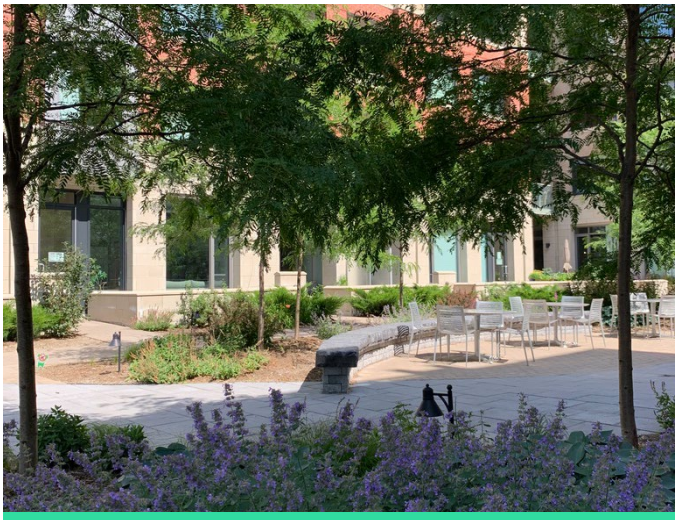
I should explain that the courtyard is not at street level and is, in fact, entirely constructed over our underground garage roof. Its length runs north and south and along one side is

the parking area for visitors. All in all, it tends towards being shady, with a fairly consistent wind blowing through it and with limited soil for the plants to grow in. If your ideal garden is one full of flowers blooming in different colours and in all seasons with a lawn area to sit upon, this would not suit you, so I expect not everybody who lives here loves the garden. But that's one of the important aspects of this common element – the garden is not the domain of a single gardener; it is a collective work that was designed to be easily maintained and enjoyed by all, given the growing conditions in the space. As such, no one on the gardening committee can make unilateral decisions on changing plants, introducing new ones, or trimming trees or shrubs to suit individual desires. One cannot dig willy-nilly in the garden, as who knows what wires or lines might be encountered deeper in the bed.

There were several things the developer seemed to overlook for the courtyard – easy access from both buildings being one of them and how to supply water to the garden being another important challenge. There are two water outlets flush with the pavement at either end of the courtyard. (Ours are apparently called loose key hose bibs.) We've had to find and buy suitable access tools to get into the bibs to turn the water on and two types of hoses to keep the plants watered. We use long drip hoses for the two borders closest to the outlets and expandable lightweight hoses used for hand watering other areas. And we have a schedule detailing who will do what watering when.

Other maintenance chores our group does are weeding and deadheading, activities that lend themselves well to joint efforts, but we've been thwarted by Covid-19 in our hope to have gardening bees. More difficult or complex garden work such as pruning or spreading mulch is carried out by hired professionals.

Acquisition and storing of gardening tools turned out to be a project for the gardening group. With a 'wish list' put together by an experienced volunteer to serve as a basis, we used a season's experience to determine how many of what kind of tool to buy. Once we knew what tools we needed, several of us hit up friends and otherwise scrounged what



Nepeta

North Border

tools we could find to reduce the overall cost. One couple was tasked with finding a durable tool chest big enough to hold our tools. They worked with the superintendent to situate the large chest in a convenient but relatively unobtrusive place. That effort revealed another check on what we could do – how much money did we actually have to purchase gardening equipment?

Things got complicated. As I've said, there are two buildings in our small complex but because one was built and occupied a full year before the other, under Ontario law, each building has to have its own condominium corporation registered. Also, the Tarion new home warranty system in Ontario administers a series of engineering and other inspections for repair work according to a set schedule. So Building Two is on a different place in that schedule than is Building One. It makes decision-making and budgeting complicated for common elements. Now, we do have a

joint committee with representation from the two condominium corporations and, luckily for the gardening folk, one committee member has been designated to be the liaison with us and she keeps tabs on our spending. Last year, we did manage to get all the tools we needed, we sorted out the watering problems successfully, kept the garden weeded, and used professionals to put down some lovely composted pine mulch - all, as far as we know, within the budget. Mind you, because all the city water we used is charged to Building One, some reckoning as to how much Building Two's residents should pay back is something the joint committee must deal with. Or perhaps the joint budget will be re-structured to achieve water cost equality.

To help keep within the budget, I, along with another gardening volunteer, dug up and divided some of the *Hemerocallis* (daylilies) so as to cheaply re-populate a few of the beds where people and pets had trampled over plants. (Years of volunteering at OHS plant sales, doing plant potting-up work, have trained me for this cost-saving chore.)

We also had to deal with damage to plants caused by contractors carrying out repair work to the garden surround. In two cases, tree branches were apparently whacked off by a contractor who found them in his way. We also witnessed workers repairing a wall and carelessly stepping on hydrangeas and Solomon's seal. I guess we'll see in the spring whether the damage is permanent or whether the plants will bounce back.

I've told you about our particular condominium gardening experience. Other condo developments have taken different approaches. One, close to Dow's Lake, formed a gardening committee but found that decision-making and volunteer scheduling created delays and, in some cases, ill-feeling. So now the person most interested in the gardening makes all the decisions and does most of the planting and maintenance work with others showing up to contribute when they can. Another large development that has extensive landscaped areas simply hires a company to maintain what's there. There's another condominium high-rise I have visited (on an OHS garden tour) that had a very active group of volunteers, each of whom with a particular area or type of garden they were responsible for. The health and beauty of those gardens was impressive.

Gardening in a condominium setting is different for sure. It's still a rewarding experience though, getting out in the fresh air to do work that keeps our courtyard garden healthy and attractive.

Table Area

Fall Photo

Halloween by Linda Pollock

GARDENING BY Committee

AT THE MONTMARTRE

By Helene Williams

The Montmartre is a small mixed commercial and residential development in the heart of the Byward Market. Most of the 22 units are in the four-storey main building, B block, which is accessed through a gated courtyard. The rest, a mixture of apartments and townhouses, surround the courtyard. I fell in love with the apartment on the ground floor of B block because it has a private patio with a small garden and opens to the lovely courtyard.

The development was just over two years old when I moved in but a gardening committee was already well established. It mostly comprises residents like me whose condos open directly to the courtyard, although there are members who live upstairs in B block. In addition to taking care of the courtyard, the front garden, the back garden and one of the individual patio plots, the committee decorates the courtyard for the holiday season. I choose and buy the plants for my patio garden but the committee members are always willing to help with the heavy lifting and include my plants when they water.

The first activity of the year is usually a meeting in May to set a date for the spring clean-up and discuss the budget and what plants we should purchase for the season. At the beginning, the committee had to buy containers for hanging on the railings, large pots for placing around the courtyard, gardening tools, hoses, and so on. A set amount is allocated each year from the condo general fund for purchasing plants and equipment.

We have spent a considerable amount of time and money on the front garden over the years as there are several maples which hog all the water and the soil was very poor. We had to amend it with many bags of topsoil and mulch before we could even begin to replace the developer's plants with our own selections. Sadly, we lose perennials

Photos by Helene Williams.
Photo: Clematis in front garden.

Front Garden

Courtyard 2014

in the front garden every year because they fail to adapt to the conditions or can't survive being buried in salt-laced snow every winter. It is still a work in progress.

In the early days, we purchased flats of annuals to do our own garden box arrangements for the courtyard. However, this proved costly as well as labour intensive since we had to replace the soil in the containers each year. We eventually switched to pre-planted baskets instead of customizing the containers and we get several large potted ferns to replace most of the big pots. I miss the explosion of colour and the creative aspect of coming up with our own plant combinations.

Planting the garden boxes

On spring-cleaning day, we bring the courtyard furniture, boxes, pots and tools up out of winter storage. We clean up winter debris from the front garden, patios and courtyard, set up the table and chairs, mount the boxes and place the ferns and pots around the courtyard. We then set up a rota for watering, with committee members volunteering to water on certain days every week. A couple of members also take care of maintenance such as deadheading and fertilizing.

When the weather begins to get cold, we set a date for fall clean-up and spend a day emptying the baskets and pots, cutting back plants in the front and patio gardens, cleaning up the courtyard and taking the furniture, boxes, and so on, back to the basement or utility room. We usually have lunch together afterwards.

Christmas Wreath

Our last gathering is in early December when we go to the Market to pick up a tree, a large custom wreath and holiday greenery. We spend the morning decorating the tree, arranging pots of holiday boughs, mounting the wreath and stringing lights around the courtyard. Two of the members always invite everyone over to their condo for a chili lunch afterwards. During the first year of the lockdown, we did manage to have one chilly chili lunch out in the courtyard with tables set up buffet-style and everyone wearing masks and sitting far apart.

Some of the strengths of gardening by committee are that the ideas, the labour and the pride are shared, and strong friendships are developed. We get together just for fun and help each other out throughout the year. We even had an annual Epiphany party for a few years, hosted by two French residents who have since moved out.

That brings me to one of the challenges: many committee members have come and gone over the past 12 years and some are very much missed. Not every new resident is interested in gardening and there have been too few people doing all the gardening some years. Another issue is that some members are inexperienced gardeners and occasionally purchase plants that are not suitable or that do not fit in with the overall look of the other plants. These members often underwater the containers, not realizing that the plants need to be soaked, especially on hot summer days.

Another big challenge has been that some voices are stronger than others in the committee and their ideas tend to win out even when there isn't consensus. This has mostly affected decisions about the large perennials in the front garden, not the courtyard, although it also led to me being told when I first moved in that I wasn't allowed to decide what to plant on my own patio. However, when I brought up this issue at an annual general meeting, I was told that my patio belongs to me even though it is part of the common courtyard. Apparently, one of the gardening committee members was worried that I might plant "ugly" things. When I asked for an example, she came up with "corn." After I finished laughing, I promised never to plant corn and that was that.

In spite of the ups and downs, I would highly recommend this form of communal gardening. Our gardens are a source of pride for everyone in the development and the courtyard is a lovely oasis. Passersby frequently ask if they can look in and we have had many people tell us that it reminds them of gardens in Europe. But best of all, is bonding with your neighbours and making lifelong friends.

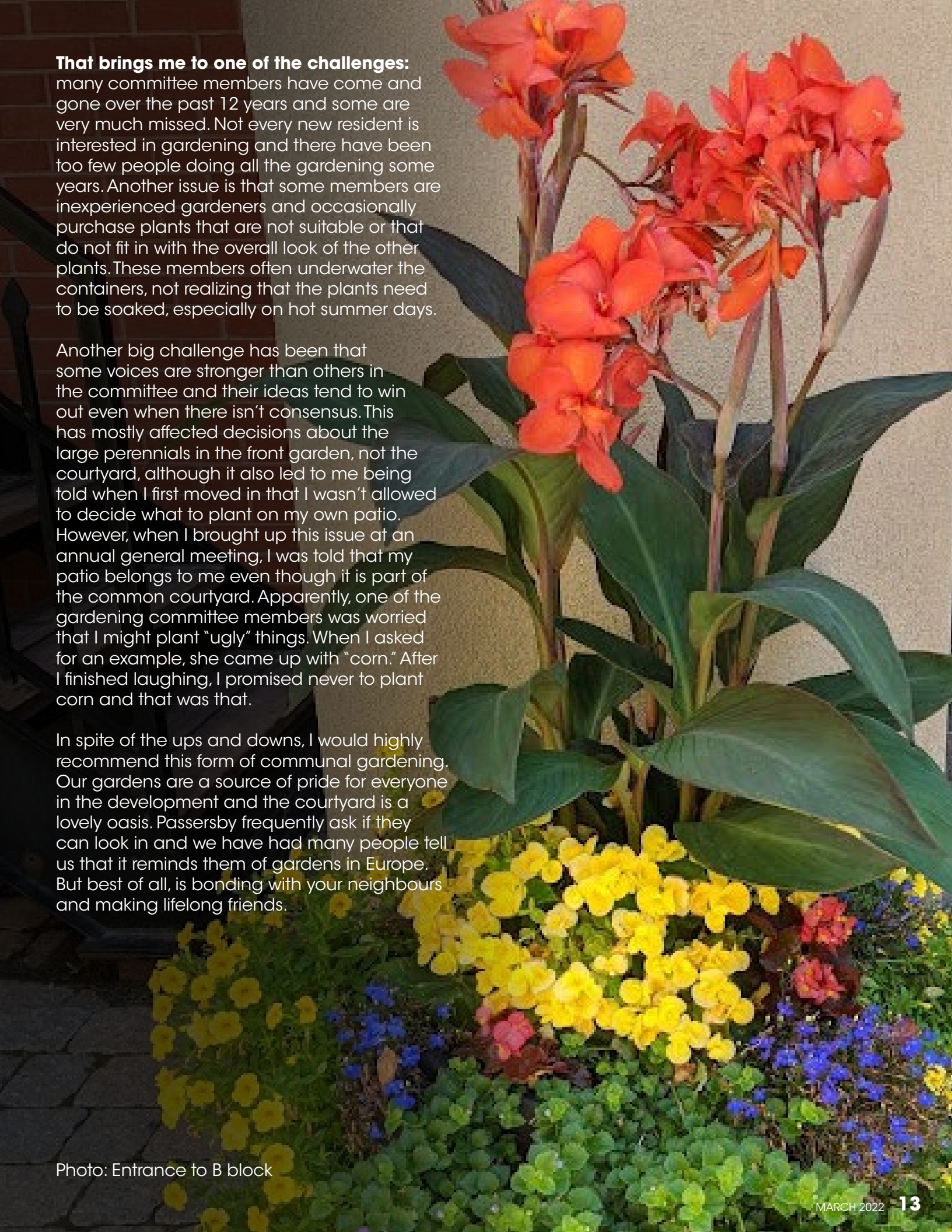
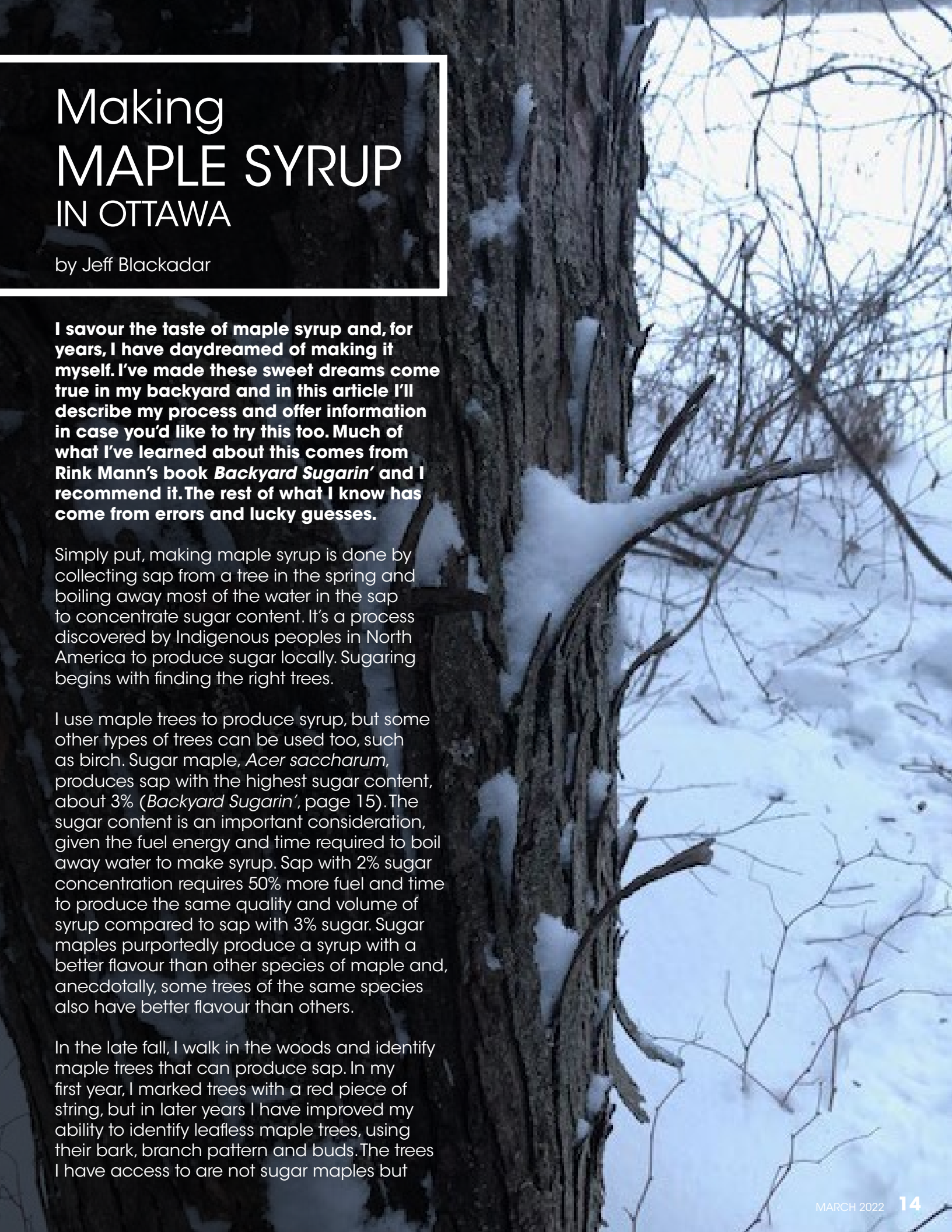


Photo: Entrance to B block

Making MAPLE SYRUP IN OTTAWA

by Jeff Blackadar



I savour the taste of maple syrup and, for years, I have daydreamed of making it myself. I've made these sweet dreams come true in my backyard and in this article I'll describe my process and offer information in case you'd like to try this too. Much of what I've learned about this comes from Rink Mann's book *Backyard Sugarin'* and I recommend it. The rest of what I know has come from errors and lucky guesses.

Simply put, making maple syrup is done by collecting sap from a tree in the spring and boiling away most of the water in the sap to concentrate sugar content. It's a process discovered by Indigenous peoples in North America to produce sugar locally. Sugaring begins with finding the right trees.

I use maple trees to produce syrup, but some other types of trees can be used too, such as birch. Sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*, produces sap with the highest sugar content, about 3% (*Backyard Sugarin'*, page 15). The sugar content is an important consideration, given the fuel energy and time required to boil away water to make syrup. Sap with 2% sugar concentration requires 50% more fuel and time to produce the same quality and volume of syrup compared to sap with 3% sugar. Sugar maples purportedly produce a syrup with a better flavour than other species of maple and, anecdotally, some trees of the same species also have better flavour than others.

In the late fall, I walk in the woods and identify maple trees that can produce sap. In my first year, I marked trees with a red piece of string, but in later years I have improved my ability to identify leafless maple trees, using their bark, branch pattern and buds. The trees I have access to are not sugar maples but

their second-place sugar producing cousins, silver maples, *Acer saccharinum* (according to my reference for tree identification, *Trees in Canada*, by John Laird Farrar).

Tapping a tree for syrup causes damage to the trunk and removes some of the tree's reserve of energy, so it's necessary to select trees that can recover from being tapped.

A tree must have a minimum trunk diameter of 30 cm and be in healthy condition to be tapped. Rink Mann's book *Backyard Sugarin'* has more considerations for choosing trees, such as accessibility and sun exposure. However, I have few trees to work with, so my criteria are only tree health and size. It would be unacceptable if my harvest caused a decline in the health of the trees I harvest from. Fortunately, I've observed these trees healing tapping holes made each year, and over several years, so it seems the trees are fine. In more established sugarbushes, trees have produced maple syrup for decades (*Backyard Sugarin'*, page 21).

In early winter I make further preparations to tap trees. Where it's safe to do so, I clear out the dead ash trees that have collapsed on maple trees. Emerald ash borer has devastated the woods where the maple trees are and, maybe eight years after they were infested, the standing dead ash trees are falling over. I also prune suckers and dying branches from the maples to reduce the chance the tree will grow to be structurally unsound, which some silver maples tend to do. I remove invasive glossy buckthorn to reduce competition with native species and make the maple trees more accessible. The wooded areas I am fortunate enough to use are forested windbreaks between fields on leased farmland, where I have kind permission to tap the trees. Even though I am making a human impact on the landscape, I would like to keep the wooded areas in as natural a state as possible and, hopefully, improve the health of the trees there.

Early winter is also a time to gather fuel. I collect dead ash tree logs that have fallen into the farmer's fields as well as trunks of glossy buckthorn. None of this wood burns well on its own, so when I am using a fire to boil sap, I add broken-up wood pallets I have picked up from being thrown out. I use unpainted wood from furniture my neighbours throw out too.

In February I get my tools ready. To tap, I use a hand crank drill with a 5/16 inch bit. I have a spile (a spout) for each tree I tap, and reuse them each year. I have converted to using the smaller diameter "Tree Saver Sap Spouts." From Home Hardware I also purchased pails to collect sap and lids to keep precipitation out. Inventive people have improvised their own covered containers with items like plastic orange juice jugs hung from spiles, so you can get creative for less cost. I have other food grade buckets to carry and store sap. I will describe my boiling apparatus further below. I collect, clean and sterilize bottles with flip tops to store syrup in. My snowshoes are also a tool. By February, the snow is deep around the trees and they are best reached on snowshoe.

Maple trees produce sap in the spring before their leaves bud out but only after the daytime temperature rises above zero. In Ottawa this occurs in mid-March and so I tap the trees a few days before that, while keeping an eye on the weather forecast. Tapping too early risks the holes drying out.

To tap, I select part of the trunk that allows the bucket to hang well, is accessible and off the ground away from animals. I try to use a south-facing part of the trunk since, according to Mr. Mann, syrup flows better there (*Backyard Sugarin'*, page 18). Since the snow is deep and will melt, I don't tap too high on the tree. I carefully drill a hole horizontally into the trunk, 3 cm deep. I insert the spile and gently tap it home with a small hammer. I don't ram it in since I don't want to split the wood. Later the spile may pop out; I just tap it back in so I don't need to make a second hole.

I hang the bucket on the hook and put the lid on. Working with a partner makes this process much faster. I check the buckets for sap daily. Some days the buckets will be dry and on others, completely frozen. When liquid sap is available, I pour it in a bucket to bring home. If some ice has formed, I throw that away since it's water I won't have to boil off later. Some days I convince my sons to collect the sap. Bits of debris, such as bark, will be in the sap, so I pour the liquid into another bucket through a strainer lined with a dish towel. Sap will spoil and so it should be boiled soon after it's gathered. I store sap outside to keep it cool, but don't want it to freeze solid. During the

maple syrup season, I try to boil sap twice a week.

Boiling is both an art and science that requires patience most of all. Turning 97% of a 5-gallon bucket of sap into steam takes time. Don't do this all on a kitchen oven either! The steam produced by boiling a large volume of sap creates a lot of humidity in a home.

For this reason, I do most boiling outdoors. In my first year of production, I repurposed a propane-fuelled turkey fryer to boil sap. This worked well, but I wanted to get away from using propane. Also, the pot was deep. Wider, shallower boilers seem to work better. I moved to using a wood-fuelled fireplace made of concrete blocks with barbeque grates on the top. For a boiling vessel, I found a turkey roasting pan at Value Village. This apparatus worked, but the concrete blocks cracked and the stove was not efficient.

I splurged on a steel stove that is constructed to circulate air and burn more efficiently. This "Solo Stove," while expensive, works well, is efficient and almost smokeless once it gets going. It goes without saying that burning anything must be done safely and according to laws. Fires must be attended, have a nearby extinguishment, be sited well away from buildings and trees and conducted in calm weather. Boiling sticky sap is a hazard too. A boiling area must be safe to move around in and sap must be moved with care using gloves and non-slip footwear.

The art of boiling can be done by eye and mouth. Once the fire is going, I can set the roasting pan on the stove, half full of sap. This will come to a boil. After the level of sap goes down from boiling, more sap is added from a bucket to bring the level back to half the depth of the pot. It seems best to add new sap to the pot gradually so as to not stop the boiling. Thus, I add 2 cups of sap to the boiler every few minutes. The sugar concentration will increase and the colour, taste and even bubbling of the sap will change. Outdoors, I aim to boil the sap to a near syrup state that I can finish on the indoor oven using more exact methods. When boiling, I need to prevent the level of the boiling sap from getting too low or it will scald the pot and affect the quality of the sap. I also watch the bubbling. As the sugar content increases, the bubbles on top will be more persistent and likely to boil over, which is to be avoided. The thickness will change too. The closer it is to becoming syrup, sap will drip from a spoon like a sheet, rather than as drops. I transfer sap from a dipping spoon to a tasting spoon to sense that as well. Taking these observations into account, I stop the outdoor boiling process before the sap boils over or becomes too thick and concentrated. Stopping the boil on my stove is as simple as ceasing to fuel it. The fire quickly dies down, as does the boiling, allowing me to ladle the thickened sap into a jug for refinement on the kitchen oven.

The science of boiling is done using a candy thermometer. As Rink Mann writes, the boiling point where sap fully becomes syrup is 7 degrees Fahrenheit above the boiling point of water, which varies slightly according to altitude and barometric pressure. At the time of writing, I measured the temperature of boiling water and I was surprised to see it was 101 degrees Celsius. The high-pressure weather system at this time, or a poor thermometer, may explain this higher boiling point. In any case, measuring the boiling point of water on the day you plan to produce maple syrup will produce the most accurate target temperature. For my purposes in Ottawa, I simply use 104 degrees Celsius/219 degrees Fahrenheit as a target boiling point while using taste as well. I'm careful to use a separate spoon for sampling and also not swallow scalding syrup.

To finish syrup on my stove, I will boil the sap concentrate and watch its bubbles and temperature carefully. I want to avoid making molten candy, like I did once, or having syrup boil over and make a huge mess.

Although boiling takes a long time, the most tedious part of making maple syrup, and least thought of, is filtering. If you, the reader, are still with me, don't give up now at the filtering stage - we're close to finished. Boiled syrup contains niter, or "sugar sand," composed of non-sugar compounds from the tree's sap. Niter in the syrup badly affects its taste and appearance, so it must be filtered out.

I have filtered syrup in two ways. I've used a large funnel with cone-shaped coffee filters. This works, but it takes a very long time for a small quantity of syrup to run through the filter. I have also used a colander lined with paper towels suspended over a large bowl. This works faster and is satisfactory. Cheese cloth is too loosely woven and lets niter through the filter. Better equipped maple syrup producers purchase a felt filter which is much superior to paper towels. Warm syrup flows through a filter faster than cold. Once the syrup is filtered it can be put in a bottle and enjoyed immediately.

The sugaring season is complete when leaves break from their buds. This will happen faster for some trees. When the buds break, I immediately take out the spiles from the trees. I wash, rinse and dry all the sticky equipment and put it away for the following year.

Maple syrup can go mouldy if it has too much water content or is left in storage too long. To avoid this, I use the syrup and give it away. This year I plan to experiment with making maple sugar.

One thing that is on my mind is that boiling sap produces carbon dioxide. I am trying to mitigate that by using fuel that would otherwise decay or end up in landfill. I have looked for an electric boiler that would work outdoors, but don't have a good option yet. I am also concerned whether this activity is having a net-negative affect on the woodland I'm operating in. I am hoping that removing buckthorn will allow more native species of plants to grow and so improve the overall health of those woods. I am planning to transplant some woodland plants to increase plant diversity as well. Plant diversity may not directly contribute to maple syrup production, but it does sustain overall forest health, something savoured even more than maple syrup.

My son Sam Blackadar who is watching the sap boil while roasting a hot dog.

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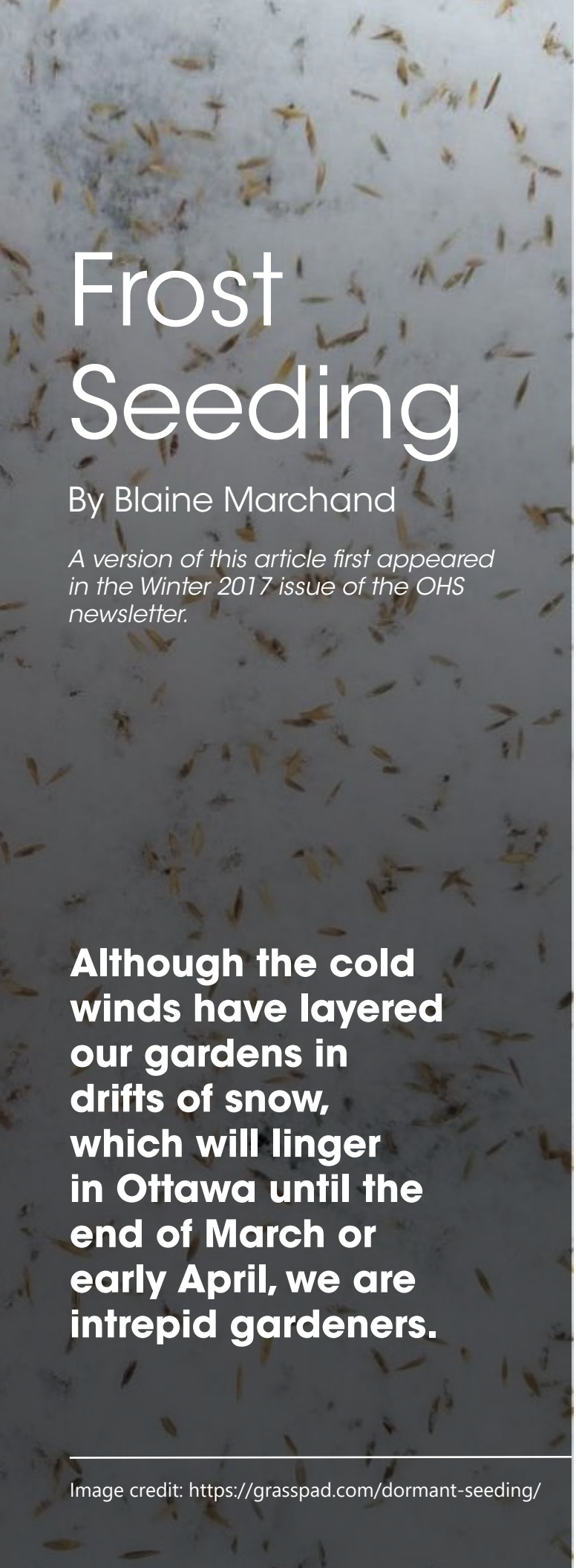


Frost Seeding

By Blaine Marchand

A version of this article first appeared in the Winter 2017 issue of the OHS newsletter.

Although the cold winds have layered our gardens in drifts of snow, which will linger in Ottawa until the end of March or early April, we are intrepid gardeners.

Image credit: https://grasspad.com/dormant-seeding/

And so, our thoughts are already turning to the upcoming gardening season. We eagerly anticipate the earth softening and the ground firming up so we can make our way into the greening world.

But for those who simply cannot wait that long, do you know that you can seed your lawns as early as February and continue into March? According to the latest trend, these months are an ideal time to get outside and start building the lawn that will complement gardens. The process is called frost seeding and is being promoted on the Ontario government website (http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/98-071.htm).

The site suggests that as the frost begins to leave the earth, the soil surface expands and contracts allowing the moisture to escape. This creates a "honeycombing effect," so called because the soil's surface is composed of a web of holes. Broadcasting the seed by hand – well, by mittens really, as February in Ottawa can be downright frigid – puts the kernels in contact with the soil where they will work their way into that honeycomb and the kernels then start to germinate. As the sun strengthens, the soil heats up. The melting snow and the late winter and early spring rains ensure adequate moisture for the seed. So, the grass begins to sprout.
The key to success is to ensure the ground's surface remains damp. In fact, continual watering is required until the turf is fully established and has been mown three or four times. Watering after this is only on an as-needed basis.

Frost seeding is also being promoted for use in agricultural fields. It has been found that frost seeding, fed by the thawing and freezing through spring, creates a thicker pasture, which means better grazing for livestock.

In 2009, the Agriculture Canada Research

Station in Kapuskasing, Ontario, designated selected fields to test frost seeding the following year. The station used cattle in the autumn to ensure that the chosen fields were grazed bare. This allows the seed to be broadcast on free soil and guarantees more light for the germinating grasses.

The following April, when snow was still on the ground – remember, this is Kapuskasing – red clover seed was spread on the fields from an all-terrain vehicle. The rate of seeding done was 10 lbs per acre. In early June, tests showed that the red clover made up 50 per cent or more of the forage areas. Further, as a control in 2011, red clover was spread in other fields, but only at a rate of 5 lbs per acre. It should be noted that this time, the grass on the fields had not been grazed off by the cattle. In this case, tests showed the red clover percentage increased less than 15 percent.

In agriculture, frost seeding is beneficial in areas where the pasture or hay field has been depleted of legumes. As gardeners know, legumes take nitrogen from the air and fix it in the soil for plants, in this case grass roots, to use.

While frost seeding is being promoted as the latest concept, it actually replicates nature's way of spreading seed from plants onto the ground during the fall. However, with global warming and more frequent winter thaws, seeds can be tricked into germinating too early or can be washed away. Frost seeding allows seeds to germinate in a welcoming environment just as the soil temperature warms.

For many years I observed my former Italian neighbour using another early spring technique for lawns that involved broadcasting granules of fertilizer across the snow still covering his lawn. When I enquired what he was doing, he informed me that the fertilizer melts through the snow. Then, as the warming spring sun melts the remnants of snow, the moisture brings the fertilizer down to feed the roots and the emerging grass. His lawn was always a deep rich velvety green, of which he was immensely proud.

WANTED:

Articles for the OHS NEWSLETTER

We need your help! The OHS newsletter is intended to provide information, advice and entertainment for members. It is designed to encourage an exchange of views and experiences.

Since the revival of the newsletter two years ago, a number of members have come forward and contributed articles and photographs – for which we are extremely grateful. We have received many compliments on the design and content of the newsletter.

All OHS members are encouraged to submit articles to the newsletter. Tell us about your garden experiences, about a plant that you have recently grown, or about a genus of plants that you specialize in. Have you had recent experiences with insects, plant diseases or soil issues? Are there things that you would like fellow members and the community to do to combat climate change or

help nature? Is there a garden that you have visited recently that you would recommend? How about a garden book you have recently read or value? Whether your experiences are good or bad, we want to hear from you!

You don't have to be an experienced writer. We have recently put together Guidelines for all contributors to the Newsletter. These are posted on the OHS website at https://ottawahort.org/previous-ohs-newsletters/. Articles can vary in length, with most being 500-1000 words, although shorter ones are always welcomed.

Photographs are important and always appreciated. The Newsletter is published in March, June, September and December, with articles requested at the beginning of the preceding month.

We need more people to write articles – so please help us if you can. **If you have an article - or an idea for an article – or if you would like to discuss getting involved, please contact:**

Jamie Robertson at jamesrossrobertson@gmail.com

Image credit: https://www.geranium.com/blog/inc/uploads/2014/04/gardencomingsoon.jpg

SPRING INTO Gardening

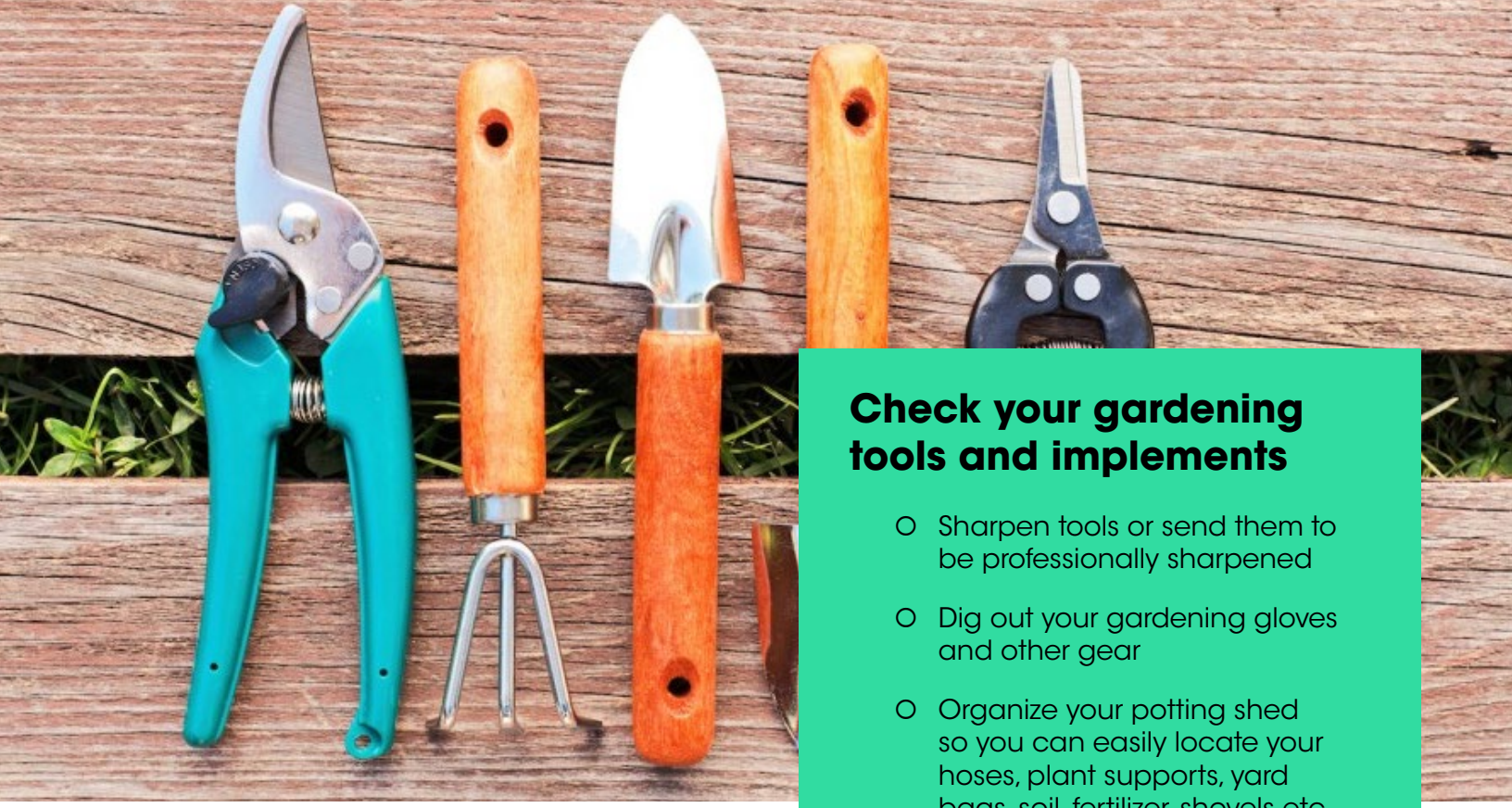
BY LORI GANDY

As I write this in mid-February, spring is pushing its way into town, showing its face in a stream of mucky run-off from the snow banks. It's tempting to believe that we've turned the corner.

But of course, winter hasn't finished with us yet. I know that, in a few days, we'll be yanked mercilessly back into winter.

There's just enough of a tease to get me thinking about gardening though, and where to start when the spring thaw happens.

Before we can turn the soil and start planting, there are numerous tasks to do to get ready for the garden season.



Check your gardening tools and implements

- Sharpen tools or send them to be professionally sharpened
- Dig out your gardening gloves and other gear
- Organize your potting shed so you can easily locate your hoses, plant supports, yard bags, soil, fertilizer, shovels etc.
- Inspect your rain barrel(s) and set them up
- Reconnect your garden hose if you brought it inside for the winter

Get outside and walk around your garden — carefully.

Avoid walking in the garden (or on the grass) when the soil is damp; wait until it has dried out sufficiently and the ground is firm, to avoid compaction. Here are some early spring tasks to keep you busy.

- Pick up any branch or twig debris that has fallen over the winter
- Tidy up garden edgings
- Remove winter covers from trees, shrubs and plants and inspect for winter damage
- Remove any dead, damaged or diseased branches
- Add stakes, trellises or other supports the plants will need
- Trim back dead growth on deciduous grasses, careful not to cut new growth
- Cut back late summer and fall raspberries
- Rake up the dead leaves and clear dead plant debris from the garden, being careful not to disturb new growth*

- Cut away dead leaves and stems from perennials*

**Note: as many insects over-winter in dead plant stems and leaf litter, it's best to leave these last two tasks until temperatures are high enough that the insects have emerged.*

Image credit: 1. https://porch.com/advice/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Fotolia_55892752_Subscription_Monthly_XXL-960x5001.jpg 2. https://www.geranium.com/blog/inc/uploads/2014/04/spring-cleanup-500x281.jpg

Image credit: https://glaszart.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/feeders.jpg

Don't forget to take care of the birds

- **Clean and set up bird feeders and bird baths**
- **Clean out and set up bird houses**

Prepare your soil

- Pull any weeds you see coming up, roots and all
- Work a good layer of fresh compost into the soil
- Add any organic fertilizers if needed
- Top with mulch

Prune your shrubs – but be careful and know what you are cutting

As a general rule, plants that bloom in late summer or fall are pruned in spring. Plants that appreciate a good spring pruning include hydrangeas, fruit-bearing woody plants, roses, rose of Sharon and clematis.

Note that spring-blooming shrubs, such as forsythias and lilacs, start to produce next year's buds over the summer. So the best time to prune them is as soon as their blooms die back.

Create your outdoor living space

- Set up patio furniture
- Reinstall garden lights if you stored them over the winter
- Put out garden art and decorations

And on those days when it's pouring rain and you just can't get out into the garden, visit a nursery or two or four. Stock up on seeds, veggie transplants, potting soil, fertilizer, and that glorious feeling of spring. Happy gardening!

Sources

https://www.canadianliving.com/home-and-garden/article/how-to-plant-a-garden-in-spring
https://empressofdirt.net/spring-gardening-checklist/

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

What Can We Do?

AN INTERVIEW WITH Catherine Kavassalis

by Rebecca Last

Globalized trade brings us luxuries from around the world. Unfortunately, it can also bring us invasive alien species (IAS). For example, scientists believe the emerald ash borer (EAB – *Agrilus planipennis*) was introduced to North America via wooden packaging. Some plants, such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.) and Japanese honeysuckle vine (*Lonicera japonica*), were deliberately introduced as ornamentals in the 19th Century. Only more recently have we come to realize the damage they can do.

Every time we turn around, there seems to be a new invasive threat. I asked Master Gardener Catherine Kavassalis to help me sort out the most worrying and what we can do to mitigate. Cathy is my idea of a Master Gardener's Master Gardener. More than just a passionate gardener and conservationist, Cathy is a former chemist and teacher. She did her doctoral work at M.I.T. and later received a Masters in environmental education from the University of Toronto. She has taught and worked with not-for-profit organizations promoting biodiversity. Now she volunteers as an educator and inspirational speaker, and is an active member of the Halton Region Master Gardeners.

Above photo: Master Gardener Catherine Kavassalis in a recent selfie. Top photo: Adult spotted lanternfly (*L. delicatula*) Source: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

RL: Cathy, thanks so much for agreeing to talk to me. I'd like to start by getting a better understanding of why we should worry about invasive alien species (IAS).

CK: Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are non-native species that do ecological and socio-economic harm. They spread easily and are difficult and expensive to control.

Ecological impacts include: disrupting essential ecosystem functions (e.g. loss of pollinators); changing organic litter, which leads to changes in soil formation, soil chemistry and soil organisms; and suppressing, displacing or extirpating native plant species.

Some invasive species, such as giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), are serious threats to human health. Others threaten food production. All invasive species threaten our unique natural legacy.

Economic impacts include the costs of removing these species, and increased costs for food production, fisheries and lumber. IAS also increase the risks of fire, erosion, and property damage.

Phases of growth and development in wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*). This plant delivers a nasty chemical burn! Photos by Amanda Carrigan.

RL: I shudder when I think of an Ontario spring woodland filled with garlic mustard instead of trilliums! What new IAS threats keep you up at night, and why?

CK: The globalization of trade and travel provides many pathways for invasive species to enter Canada. Climate change is projected to allow more potentially harmful organisms to survive here. That worries me.

On the immediate horizon are things like spotted lantern fly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an Asian planthopper that threatens production of grapes, stone fruits, and apples. Oak wilt (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) is also at the Ontario border. Like Dutch elm disease, oak wilt has the potential to kill all oaks in its path. Oaks are keystone species supporting more forms of life than any other tree genus in North America. That greatly worries me.

RL: At a recent gardening seminar, I learned that Canada's regulations on IAS aim at limiting their economic damage. Given how much damage these species can do to ecosystems, do you think this approach is sufficient? What regulatory approaches do you think would work better?

CK: Canada's legislative approach to IAS is unfortunately fragmented. A nationally coordinated, multi-jurisdictional framework is badly needed. For instance, the horticultural trade has been identified as the largest pathway for the introduction of invasive plant species in Canada and yet little regulatory action has been undertaken to address the problem. The newly formed Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulations (CCIPR) is calling for:

- Effective pre- and post-border invasive species risk assessments;
- Bans on the sale and movement of high-risk invasive plant species;
- Labeling to identify and educate the public about lower-risk invasive plants;
- A verifiable industry-wide Code of Conduct;
- Public education including alternatives to invasive plants (e.g. Plant Wise; Grow me Instead).

RL: Recently some garden clubs in the Ottawa area, including ours, adopted guidelines to discourage gardeners from donating invasive species to plant sales – a kind of "thanks but no thanks" list that accompanies the call-out for plant donations. What other measures can garden clubs take to help be part of the solution to IAS?

CK: Garden clubs can support the CCIPR initiative. More news to come on that. Garden clubs can also share lists of alternative non-invasive species, particularly regionally appropriate native keystone species. (Visit Forest Gene Conservation Association for lists of appropriate trees and shrubs - FGCA.net). They can help to spread the word about jumping worms and other soil-borne invasive species. And garden clubs can ask the provincial government to restore funding to the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, an organization that has worked to develop "Grow me Instead" lists as well as "Best Management Practices" for addressing the invasive species we gardeners have helped to release.

Early spring shoots of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) are edible – one way of controlling this invasive species! Photo by R. Last.

RL: What about gardeners? Many of us are "plant-aholics" – always looking for new plants to add to our gardens. Are there measures that gardeners can take to minimize the risk of introducing IAS to our neighbourhoods?

CK: When considering a new plant for your garden, do a bit of research. Type the plant name into a search string and the word invasive, e.g. "yellow flag iris invasive" (it is best to use botanical names). If you see hits that suggest it has invasive tendencies, put it back. Avoid sharing aggressive non-native plants with friends and neighbours. Take precautions when disposing of plant material and/or soil. Burn, solarize, tarp, chip, bury or drown if there is a risk of spreading IAS. Follow best management practices, BMPs. If you are moving plants between locations, consider bare root planting to minimize movement of soils that can contain invasive seeds and/or other invasive organisms.

Cathy, thanks so much for your wisdom on this important topic. You've helped us to better understand the magnitude of the threat and you've given us some strategies so that we can help become part of the solution, not part of the problem.




HOLIDAY CRYPTIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY TUULA TALVILA & LELAND McINNES

Here is the solved puzzle from the December 2021 issue of the OHS Newsletter, along with an explanation of how each answer was constructed. Hope you had fun doing the crossword!

Please email me (tuula@ncf.ca) and let me know if you did the puzzle!

C	E	D	A	R		B		P				I		
	L		S		E	L	D	E	R	B	E	R	R	Y
	M		H			E		T				I		
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S				R		I				L				E
P	E	C	A	N		N			C	L	O	V	E	R
A				A		G				Y				V
T	O	M	A	T	O			T		H	O	S	T	A
H				I				U		O				I
E			P	O	R	T	U	L	A	C	A			N
		P		N		H		I		K				
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L	E	N	T	E	N	R	O	S	E		Y		I	
		E				N				H	E	A	R	T

THE ANSWERS EXPLAINED:

ACROSS

1 CEDAR ("good decking wood"): CLEAR ("apparent") – L ("lacking fifty") + D inside ("around five hundred") – makes use of Roman numerals

7 ELDERBERRY: it's a bit punny – a small purple fruit that's only for elders

10 DANDELION ("might be in a yellow-spotted lawn"): sounds like 'dandy' ("natty") + LION ("feline")

13 PECAN ("pie nut"): PEN ("enclosure") around AC reversed ("backed-up cooler," i.e air conditioner)

14 CLOVER ("four leaves are lucky"): C ("a hundred") + L ("left") + OVER

15 TOMATO ("red edible in the veggie garden"): anagram of "to atom" (indicated by "changed")

17 HOSTA ("a shade plant"): anagram of "a shot" (indicated by "scattered")

18 PORTULACA ("flowering succulent annual groundcover"): PORT ("on a ship, left") + ULAC, an anagram of "UCLA" (indicated by "confused") + A

23 LENTEN ROSE ("a very early evergreen bloomer – a Helleborus in fact"): anagram of "tense loner" (indicated by "mixed-up")

24 *See 4 down*

DOWN

2 ELM ("shade tree"): EL ("Chicago train", i.e. the elevated train) + M ("male")

3 ASH ("a tree disappearing from Ottawa"): AS ("like") + H (short for "hospital")

4 *With 24 Across*, **BLEEDING HEART** ("old-fashioned pink flower"): double meaning (with "very liberal")

5 PETAL ("part of a blossom"): sounds like 'pedal' ("part of a bicycle") indicated by "I hear"

6 IRIS ("elegant rhizomatous flower"): double meaning (with "rainbow goddess")

8 CARNATION ("buttonhole flower"): the United States might be a "car nation"

9 HOLLYHOCK ("tall flower"): HOLLY ("girl") + HOCK ("a joint", i.e. of meat)

11 VERVAIN ("a purple bloomer"): hidden in "ever vain" (indicated by "must be concealing")

12 SPATHE ("part of a jack-in-the-pulpit"): SPA + THE ("the" and "spa" swapped places)

16 TULIPS ("some spring flowers at an Ottawa festival"): sounds like 'two lips' ("you kiss with these")

19 THORN ("a rosy prickle"): anagram of 'north' ("pole"), indicated by "reconfigured"

20 PINE ("tree with cones"): double meaning (with "to yearn for")

21 RYE ("grain crop"): hidden in "every environment" (indicated by "planted in")

22 FIR ("evergreen"): sounds like 'fur' i.e. plush-sounding

ABOUT US

This Newsletter is published by the Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS) and is distributed to OHS members free of charge.

We depend on our members for ideas, articles and information about what is going on in the gardening community.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:
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The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the individual authors. They do not purport to reflect the position of the OHS or its members.

The newsletter welcomes articles about all aspects of gardening. **A Submission and Style Guide has been prepared and is available on the OHS website: https://ottawahort.org/previous-ohs-newsletters/**

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