



Galt Horticultural Society
Ferguson Cottage 

JOIN US MON MAR 27TH @ 7:00 PM FOR OUR MONTHLY MEETING

We are happy to have **Sharon Garner present 'Alternatives to Oasis'.**

Sharon's interest in gardening started at an early age thanks to her grandparents who created a floral business back in the early 50's. Living next to greenhouses inspired her love of flowers, growing plants and floral design.

Since her retirement from the Ministry of Education as a teacher and consultant she has had time to attend many horticultural presentations as she belongs to three local societies.

In 2017 Sharon completed the Ontario Judging certification for both Horticulture and Design. Completing her Master Gardeners courses from Dalhousie University in 2017 helped further her education. Presently Sharon is working on her certification to judge roses through the Canadian Rose Society.

**Meeting Location: Cambridge Centre For The Arts (David Durward Building)
60 Dickson Street (corner of Dickson & Wellington St)
Enter through the Wellington St entrance
6:30 pm social---meeting starts @ 7 pm
Don't Forget To Bring Your Mug For Tea or Coffee!**

Recent GHS 30th Annual Dream Garden Conference

This past Sunday the GHS held their Dream Garden Conference. It was a full house! We would like to say thank you to all of our members who attended. Also, thank you to the vendors who put out wonderful displays with many beautiful items to purchase and, last but not least, to our speakers for the day...Robert Pavlis, Dave Hobson and Dugald Cameron. Thanks again Dave Hobson for filling for Helen Battersby.

Helen, who was scheduled to present, had a family emergency and unfortunately had to cancel. We hope all is well with her family and hope she will be available to present at a future conference. The Polish Club was a lovely venue to have our 30th conference in.



SAVE THE DATE

GHS 31ST ANNUAL DREAM GARDEN CONFERENCE

WILL BE ON SUNDAY MARCH 3, 2024

And The Winner Is...GHS February 2023 Photo Contest!

Congratulations to Gerri Korec as the winner of our February Photo Contest! That is two in a row for Gerri!!!

Gerri submitted her photo #4: primula in snow



All the photos submitted were wonderful! Congratulations again Gerri!

Don't forget to send in your photos for our [GHS March Photo Contest](#). Our subject this month is '**Most Unusual Plants**'. These could be in your gardens or as houseplants.

Send your photos with '[GHS March Photo Contest](#)' in the subject line to lynne@galthort.com by Fri Mar 17th @ 6pm.

The list of photos will be sent out and **voting will take place between Mar 18th – 25th. The winner(s) will be announced at our Mar 27th meeting.**

For Your Interest...

Halton Master Gardeners March 2023 Newsletter



by Kirsten McCarthy, Halton Master Gardener

Myth: Adding Sand to Clay Soil will help drainage

Many people in Southwestern Ontario struggle to plant in a garden of clay soil. Although clay is very nutrient rich, it isn't the most well-draining soil and is often very difficult to work with, especially during a drought when it turns rock hard. It is common to want to "fix the problem" by adding sand to the soil in the hopes of making it more "well-draining" and easier to work with.



The danger of adding sand is that large sand particles mixed with tiny clay particles will result in a concrete-like mixture. It takes the addition of 50% of total soil volume to significantly change the texture of clay soils. That means adding a truckload

of sand to a small garden patch to change soil texture and using a fairly aggressive means to mix it together thoroughly. The problem with clay soil is not the texture, but the lack of aggregate structure. Adding sand will not fix this.

Clay Soils are Forever

Like diamonds, clay soils are highly structured at the atomic level. No amount of sand added to a clay soil will change its texture. The large sand particles provide a surface onto which the tiny clay particles adhere. The result can be more difficult to manage than the original clay.

[Linda Brewer, Senior Faculty Research assistant in Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences.](#)

Instead, use organic matter, such as compost, to loosen heavy soils; it is light in composition and also improves nutrient quality. Also, use mulch to improve the aggregate structure of clay soil and protect it from compaction. Even walking the same path down your garden can injure your soil. No need to dig it in—just lay mulch on top of the soil. Give it time and you won't believe the difference! An undisturbed four-inch layer of arborist wood chips can turn a hard clay soil into a surprisingly workable soil in just a few years.

More Information:

- [Like Diamonds, Clay Soils are Forever - Oregon State Univ.](#)
- [Managing Clay Soils in The Home Garden - Univ. of California](#)

MARCH 'TO-DO' LIST

by Claudette Sims, Halton Master Gardener

- ☐ **General Pruning** – March is a good time to prune, repair winter damage & check for disease such as Black Knot Fungus. Always use clean, sharp tools. Remove dead, damaged, diseased wood. Cut back branches to just above another branch or a bud. Do NOT prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom. Detailed pruning information [here](#).
- ☐ **Pruning with Wildlife in Mind** – Use the '[chop & drop](#)' method to leave prunings in your garden to replenish the soil & provide nesting material for native birds. Leave larger pieces of wood in the garden for wildlife & consider leaving '[snags](#)' in place as long as it is safe to do so.
- ☐ **Overgrown Shrubs** – Use [rejuvenation or renewal pruning](#) to restore scraggly or overgrown shrubs. Which shrubs can you renew or rejuvenate? Here's [a list!](#)
- ☐ **Hydrangea arborescens** – (Smooth Hydrangea or 'Annabelle') Prune before new growth appears. Remove old weak stems, leaving about 1/3 of stems 30 cm long for structure and support. Detailed [hydrangea info here!](#)
- ☐ **Clematis** – Starting at the top of the plant working down, cut out all deadwood on each stem until you reach a live bud. Secure vines as needed. More info on our [clematis factsheet](#).
- ☐ **Fruit Trees** – [Prune](#) apple, cherry, plum, pear before flower buds swell. Remove any dead, diseased twigs and prune for open shape. Pear trees generally don't require pruning, except for shaping.
- ☐ **Raspberries** – Summer-bearing red and yellow raspberries, cut canes back to 4-5 feet tall before growth begins. Fall-only primocane raspberries- cut all canes to the ground before growth begins. Detailed [info here](#).

☺☺ Try this March break activity with your family or just for yourself. Create a nature mandala with help from the [RBG](#). ☺☺



Look for more nature mandala ideas on [Pinterest](#).

- ☐ **Blueberries** – Early March, prune out dead, damaged, diseased wood to an open shape to increase air circulation. [More info here](#) about blueberries.
- ☐ **Houseplants** – Increase water and feeding as plants start actively growing.
- ☐ **Amaryllis** - After the flowers have faded, cut the flower stalk to within 1" of the top of the bulb. Give plants a maximum of sun and feed 'weekly, weakly' to produce a large healthy bulb & flowers for next year.
- ☐ **Start** onions, garlic, yellow onions when the soil can be worked. Separate cloves just before planting and plant about 2" below soil.
- ☐ **Order Plants** – Check our map on nurseries in Ontario for ideas. Nurseries specializing in native plants are marked with green stars.
- ☐ **Learn New Skills** – Watch this [RBG webinar](#) to find out how to **Manage Rain Where it Falls**: Webinar.
- ☐ **Plan your 2023 Garden!** [Learn how on page 4!](#)

Did you know March was National Noodle Month? Find out why!



There are many food festivals celebrated around the world that we are simply not aware of until we are told about them. For example, how many of you new that March is National Noodle Month? Yep, there aren't many hands up there. There are quite a few reasons bandied around as to why somebody at sometime decided that the noodle needed celebrating, and also why it was decided that March would be the month to do it.

According to doyen of noodles; the NPA, or National Pasta Association, is is because there is a sharp rise in the amount of noodles eaten at the beginning of the year in an effort to thwart the cold weather. In other words, a steaming bowl of delicious pasta is real comfort food. March is also a month where certain religions give up meat for lent, depending on when Easter falls of course, but rather than changing noodle month to fit in with Easter, it was decreed that March was it.

Spaghetti with spicy tomato, bacon & mushroom sauce



This delicious spaghetti dish is ready in under 15 minutes and you could serve it cold for a packed lunch the next day!

Prep: 5 mins

Cooking: 20-25 mins

Serves: 4

Nutritional information:

Energy(kcal) 453

Protein 18.6

Fat (g) 13.4

Of which saturates (g) 3.7

Carbohydrate (g) 68.9

Of which sugars (g) 6.6

Fibre (g) 4.0

Salt (g) 1.3

Two of your 5-A-DAY

What you need:

- 350g/12oz spaghetti
- 15ml/1tbsp olive oil
- 150g/5oz smoked streaky bacon, sliced
- 250g pack white closed cup mushrooms, sliced
- 400g can chopped tomatoes with garlic
- 2.5ml/½ tsp dried chilli flakes (according to taste)
- 45ml/3 tbsp chopped fresh flat parsley
- pinch of caster sugar
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

What you do:

1. Cook the spaghetti in a large pan of boiling salted water for 10 mins or according to packet instructions.
 2. Meanwhile, heat a non-stick frying pan and when hot, add the oil and bacon, then sauté for 3-4 mins, then add the mushrooms and cook for 5 mins or until the bacon and mushrooms are golden.
 3. Add the chopped tomatoes and chilli and simmer over a high heat for 3-4 mins or until the sauce has reduced. Remove from the heat, stir in the sugar and season to taste.
 4. Drain the spaghetti in a colander and return to the pan, add the spaghetti to the sauce and toss well to mix. Finally add the parsley and serve.
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Consider Volunteering

VOLUNTEER



Many hands make light work and the GHS is always looking for help. If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours for an event or on a committee please reach out to any of our Board members.

Wear Your Galt Horticultural Society Logo Wear With Pride!



GHS Logo Wear

Get your own Galt Horticultural Society T-Shirt and/or Hoodie. This is a sample of the embroidered crest included on the item.

T-shirts: \$20.50 + tax.

Unisex Hoodies: \$36.00 + tax.

For more information or to place an order, follow this link:

GHS Logo Wear: **GHS Website:** <https://galthort.com/>

Do you enjoy our GHS monthly newsletter? Are there topics/items you would like to see added to the newsletter. Please offer your feedback by email to lynne@galthort.com.



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