



# "The Foxglove Fanfare"

"We bring gardening down to earth"

**The Uxbridge Horticultural Society**

www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

May 2008 - Series 5, Volume 3

## Quote of the Month

from Pam

*"Gardening is medicine that does not need a prescription... And with no limit on dosage."*

*Author unknown*

## Support the Businesses who support us:

A special "Thank You" to the following who donated April's door prizes:

Colleen Dunlop  
Canadian Tire  
Zehr's

## Member's Notice board

Please give your Zehr's (Uxbridge) tapes to Marg Saban or drop them in the Zehr's box at the reception desk.

If you would like to advertise your business by leaving flyers or business cards at the info desk, please feel free to do so; simply clear it first with Rick or Pam.

Dear Fellow Confused Weather People,

I am sitting at my kitchen table, looking at my beautiful vase of daffodils, wondering where spring has gone. We have gone from winter to summer and now we are having fall weather all within a few weeks. Just think, because of this wacko weather we probably have our gardens all cleaned out and that's a good thing; just call me Martha.

Seventeen of our members attended the Annual District 17 meeting in Udora on Saturday, April the 26<sup>th</sup>. The Flower Show was very nice and the arrangements were spectacular. MILDRED MILNE won first price for her tulip, and I say "go Mildred go". I told her that I would put her name in capitals, and so I have.

Of course our amazing Sharon Bognar won tons and tons of ribbons. Our Julia Ross won two first and one second place. One of the firsts was the Director's Photography Award for which she won an Elephant Teapot. Well Julia every gardener needs an Elephant in her cupboard. Now to our fearless leader Rick, who during the auction bid on the mother of all raspberry pies, and he got it for a mere \$25.00. Now if Rick shows up at our meeting with a red stained face we'll know that he ate the whole thing.

2010 is the year that our Society will be hosting the District 17 Annual Meeting. We are looking at venues now. This is a big undertaking, and soon we will be setting up our committees. This way there will be as little last minute panicking as possible. We have thousands of talented artistic members in our Society, so I'm sure that we will do a "knock your socks off" job. Please contact me if you want to be part of this great event.

My husband asked me if anyone reads my article, and I told him that I had no idea. So if you read my stuff come over and give me a big hug at the meeting or give me money, it's your choice.

See you at the meeting.

*Pam Kuiper*

905-985-1550      abelkuiper@sympatico.ca

## *April's Meeting*

*I heard that John was very Informative and had a real nice slide presentation.*

*I'm sorry that I had to miss it, thanks to the flu bug that is going around.*



Pictured are John Statham and Gerald Lawrence.  
(Thanks for taking the picture Yvonne)

## Important Notice

Martin Galloway will be the guest speaker at our June meeting.

This will be a delightful evening. Make sure not to miss it. As a matter of fact, don't miss any of them because they're all great.

You've  
gotta read this...



*From the desk of Gini Sage*  
Durham Master Gardener

### **Herb of the Month**

Chervil – *Anthriscus cerefolium*

Garden Chervil is a close relative of the common cow parsley, or wild chervil, but is only found in cultivation.

It was first introduced by the Romans, and is still a staple of modern French cooking. Chervil is a delicate herb, with a subtle, sweet flavour of anise or liquorice. It is often used as an alternative to parsley as a garnish. Chervil is a key ingredient in the classic *fines herbes* flavouring for omelettes, béarnaise sauce, and is often added to vinaigrettes and salad dressings. The leaves may be dried, but retain the best flavour when used fresh.

Chervil is an aromatic annual that grows to approximately 18 inches, with pale green, deeply divided, fern like leaves. The seeds should be sown in light, well-drained soil. It requires moisture and some shade in the heat of the summer, and grows well in planters or window boxes. The mature plant should be cut back regularly to keep it from going to seed.

### **Recipe of the Month**

Herbed French Dressing

2 tablespoons wine vinegar  
½ teaspoon Dijon-style mustard  
1/3 to ½ cup olive oil, or to taste  
1½ teaspoons minced fresh parsley leaves  
1½ teaspoons minced fresh chives  
1½ teaspoons minced fresh tarragon or ½  
teaspoon dried  
1½ teaspoons minced fresh chervil or ½ teaspoon  
dried

In a bowl combine the vinegar, mustard, and salt and pepper to taste, add the oil in a stream, whisking, and whisk the dressing until it is emulsified. Stir in the parsley, chives, tarragon, and chervil.

Servings: Makes about 2/3 cup.



### **Flower of the Month: Cranesbill – *Geranium***

The common name Geranium often refers to the colourful annual *Pelargonium*, with its large rounded heads of white, pink and red with wide, rounded green leaves, but in the same family is the genus *Geranium*, or perennial Cranesbill. This genus of plants was named Cranesbill because of the shape of the seedpods - once the petals have faded, they snap open like bird beaks to release the seeds. Cranesbills come in a variety of sizes ranging from 6-8" all the way to 3' or taller. Colours range from white, pink, blue to the deepest purple, some with solid colour flowers, and others with delicate veining. Cranesbills have always been considered a mainstay in the English country garden, mixing well with other perennials and shrubs in the border. All prefer light shade to full sun, in well-drained soil. These plants are easy to grow, and seldom require any extra care except fertilization at the beginning of the growing season. Do not over-fertilize, as the taller varieties can become 'leggy' and have a tendency to sprawl. Propagation is best achieved by division every 3 to 4 years in the spring. Cranesbills are not affected by any pests or diseases in the garden. To encourage a second bloom, deadhead the spent blossoms, and water deeply in mid to late summer, and they will continue to bloom until frost.