



# "The Foxglove Fanfare"

"We bring gardening down to earth"

The Uxbridge Horticultural Society

www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

April 2007

Series 4, Volume 2

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*Spring is when you feel like whistling  
even with a shoe full of slush*

*Doug Lason*

Dear Fellow Gardening Dreamers;

I'm back and all pumped up by spring so here we go.

Our first meeting really kicked off our year with a bang. Yvonne de Ruiter did a fantastic job on this year's yearbook. We all thank her for all the hard work she did. I'm still waddling around after stuffing myself at the best ever potluck dinner. To top the evening off Sharon Bognar and Marg Collingwood gave a very informative presentation. Our club is very lucky to have such talented gardeners who are willing to share their knowledge with everyone.

I have been walking in my garden every day to see what is peeking up in the soil, I'm not sure what everything is but hey it is alive and growing and that is enough for me.

Now is the time that we are pruning and cleaning our gardens so remember to get some muscle rub and get a very cute person to rub the cream into your sore aching body; oh oh am I allowed to write about stuff like that!

We need volunteers to help with our Society gardens. It will involve a few hours in the spring and then in the fall again, so if you could help out it would be great.

Finally the question box that I made at great expense, well it was a shoe box with some paper on it, has disappeared. There has been no ransom note and this makes me think that some no good nick has disposed of it. The cards to write your questions or suggestions on will be at the sign-in table and you can give them to Gini Sage or me.

Always remember to take the time to dream.

*Pam Kuiper*

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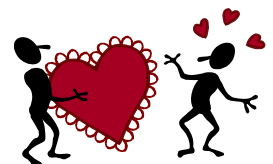
## Gardening Question of the Month:

Please do not forget to submit your questions. We are very fortunate to have Gini Sage, Durham Region Master Gardener in our Society, so take advantage of it. Your questions can be directed to Gini via email at [ginisage@can.rogers.com](mailto:ginisage@can.rogers.com) or by phone at (905)985-8654.

## Thank You Gini.



For a long time, Gini Sage was the Editor of this Newsletter. Even though she had a very hectic schedule, she always managed to have it done. Gini, thanks for your dedication and your continuous support.  
Christiana Carter.





Margaret & Rose were quite busy renewing your membership. Please don't forget to renew your membership if you haven't done so yet. It not only gives you the privilege of belonging to a great group of people full of knowledge but your membership will also give you discounts at certain establishments and provide you with a Yearbook full of important information.



Thank you to all the members who brought all that yummy food. This was a real nice way to start a new season.



## Tips for the May Flower Show

### *African Violet*

- ❖ Do not show in decorative container or jardinière, only in growing pot
- ❖ Plant should be centered in it's pot
- ❖ Foliage should form an even symmetrically-arranged circle
- ❖ Flowering is most effective when blooms are concentrated near the center of the plant
- ❖ Spent blooms should be removed

### *Asparagus*

- ❖ Stalks approx. 8" (20cm) in length
- ❖ Buds at the tip of the stem with well closed scales
- ❖ No white part should be present at the base

## From the Goodwood Gardens Newsletter

March/April 2007 Volume 11, No 1

**Skunks** (divots) and **moles** (tunnels) working in your lawn indicate the presence of grubs. Grubs damage the roots of grass. Let them do their job. Once they have consumed all the grubs they will move on. The critters have just aerated your lawn and eliminated the grubs free of charge.

Rake the disturbed soil, scattering it as a top dressing and over-seed where necessary. If you prefer, control the grubs biologically with nematodes.

## Highlights of our Last Meeting

Our President, Rick Causton opened the meeting with a big smile after a wonderful meal provided by the members.

He thanked everyone for bringing a dish for the potluck.

After the Minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurer's report were dealt with, Rick made a special presentation to three of the Society's members, after which we enjoyed a very informative demonstration by Sharon and Marg.



Muriel Taylor shown here with the trophy for the best Cosmos, donated in memory of her husband John.



Now look at these beautiful smiles and happy faces. That's how YOU would look and feel when you volunteer. Thanks ladies, you are great. Don't forget we can always use more helping hands.



Rick presented Lifetime Memberships to Frank and Helen Hogson and Muriel Taylor



Thanks Marg and Sharon for your very informative talk about what the judges look for during a show and the importance of the dos and don'ts about presentations. And yes, we are very lucky to have you in our Society.

Our appreciation to Zehr's and Keith's Flowers for the donation of the beautiful flowers. They added a nice visual understanding of what was being talked about.

### Important Notice

The new Garden Tour Coordinator is Gerald Lawrence. Please correct your Yearbook on page 9.

## Herb of the Month

### French Tarragon – *Artemesia dracunculus*

French tarragon's name is derived from the Greek *drakon*, meaning 'little dragon', which is most likely a reference to the plant's serpentine root system. Historically, tarragon was thought to ward off exhaustion, and this belief led pilgrims during the Middle Ages to place sprigs in their boots prior to starting out.

Today it is not used medicinally; however, it is one of the most important culinary herbs in classic French cooking. Tarragon is used to infuse flavour in vinegar, and is a key ingredient in "fines herbes" mixtures as well as sauces such as béarnaise, hollandaise, and tartare. It is almost always used fresh, as it loses much of its flavour when dried. Make sure you do not try to cook with Russian Tarragon, as it has little or no flavour.

French Tarragon must always be started from cuttings or seedlings, as the seed always produces the Russian variety. Since it is a tender perennial, it is best to grow tarragon in pots, and over-winter it indoors. Plant it in a well-drained soil, and place in full sun to partial shade, in a sheltered location.

## Recipe of the Month

### Chicken with Tarragon Vinegar Sauce

2 Tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter  
2 chicken breast halves with skin and bone  
3 shallots, chopped  
½ cup tarragon vinegar  
1 cup canned low-salt chicken broth  
1½ Tablespoons fresh tarragon

Melt butter in a heavy medium skillet over medium-high heat. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Add to skillet and cook until golden, about 4 minutes per side. Transfer chicken to a plate. Add shallots to skillet and sauté 30 seconds. Add vinegar; boil until reduced to glaze, about 2 minutes. Stir in broth. Return chicken, skin side up, to skillet. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer until cooked through, about 12 minutes. Using tongs, transfer chicken to 2 plates. Add tarragon to liquid in skillet. Increase heat to medium-high; boil uncovered until liquid is slightly reduced, about 2 minutes. Spoon sauce over chicken. Makes 2 servings; can be doubled.



## Flower of the Month

### Tulip – *Tulipa spp.*

Tulips are one of the most beloved of the spring bulbs, available in a myriad of colours, forms and sizes. The classification of tulips is according to time of bloom, parentage and flower form. For early season bloom, try Single Early (12-16") or Double Early (12") cultivars. In the midseason range are Triumph (16-20") and Darwin Hybrids (24"). Among the late season are Single Late (long stemmed and large flowered), Bouquet (3-6 branches, each with its own flower), Lily-flowered (22" with pointed arching tips on the blooms), Fringed (24", with fringed petals), Viridiflora (24" with green-edged petals), Rembrandt (streaky colours), Parrot (large, twisted blooms) and Double Late (or peony flowered). Most of the tulips on the market today should be planted in moist, well-drained soil, 8" deep and in full sun. The newer hybrids should be lifted and replaced after three years, as the bloom quality and quantity will decline in subsequent years. Species or Botanical tulips and their hybrids, which are closer to the original wild tulip, are smaller in stature (6"), and although not as showy as their hybridized cousins, are suitable for naturalizing. They require a fast-draining, light-textured soil that is not too fertile, in full sun, and will continue to thrive and spread in years to come.

## A Very Special Thank You...

....to the following establishments for giving our members a discount on their purchases: Canadian Tire Uxbridge, Garden Artifacts & Water Gardens, Handlebar Hosta, Pine Ridge Garden Gallery in Pickering & Unionville and Mason-Hogue Gardens. *See the back of your membership card.*

## Article Suggestions

If you have any suggestions for articles, please do not hesitate to contact me, as this is Your Newsletter.

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## 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.