



# ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY

SUMMER 2008  
NEWSLETTER.

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 4

## CONTENTS

Presidential Musings	1
Web page update	2
Membership Info	2
New Members 2008	3
South west Picnic	3
Bob-Bob-ing Along	4
Name That Hosta 2008	5
SW Picnic Potting Shed	6
Bus Tour 2008	7
Help Wanted !!!	9
Hosta Virus X	10
Calendar 2008	11
Your E-mail please	12
Executive	12

## PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

Who doesn't love a road trip? And again this year we had just the best time on the bus. Saw some splendid gardens (more inside) and had another opportunity to learn some great gardening tips from one another.

We have a wonderful article on the bus trip written by one of our members, Lynda Lou Gourlie – thanks Lynda Lou. It's always special to get a new perspective on things and have an article unfold with fresh new insight.

We have had some interest in getting involved with Bob for the Bus Tours and we are grateful for that. Bob can show the ropes and get it organized for a smooth transition to new talented volunteers. Anyone else who would like to work on this annual project, please let us know. Always nice to have a variety of input.

Looks like our web site is going to be having a new face on it this fall. **YEAH!** We are very excited about that and want to thank Kevin Plumley for having taken it on when he had so much else on his plate – we appreciated your help very much Kevin. This is a very exciting new endeavor and we want you to keep checking back while our new creative talent has it under construction. I'm sure in a very short time you won't recognize it. It's going to be colorful and be a reflection of the fabulous Society that we have.

I look forward to seeing you all at our exciting 2 day auction in September.

*Sandra*



## AT LAST ...

Our Web page is re-born, and we are all extremely excited!

Please visit us at  
**[www.ontariohostasociety.com](http://www.ontariohostasociety.com)**

Please let us have your thoughts and feedback,  
good or bad.

Drop an e-mail to the Editor  
[hostaed@rogers.com](mailto:hostaed@rogers.com)

### Ontario Hosta Society

Ontario Hosta Society Membership can be obtained by writing to (**new address**):

**Ontario Hosta Society  
2301 5th Street Louth,  
St. Catharine's, Ontario,  
Canada L2R 6P7**

**Annual Dues: \$15.00/YR    \$40.00/3 YR**

**American: \$16.00/YR    Foreign: \$17.00/YR**

The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Members joining after October 1st in any year are deemed to be paid-up until December 31st of the following year. **First-time members receive a bonus copy of "The Hosta Adventure –A Grower's Guide"**

### American Hosta Society

Memberships can be obtained by writing to:

**Sandie Markland  
AHS Membership Secretary  
P.O. Box 7539  
Kill Devil Hills,  
NC 27948-7539 U.S.A.**

E-mail:

[ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net](mailto:ahsmembershipsecretary@earthlink.net)

Membership for Canadians  
\$39.00 US per year or \$107.00 US for 3 years.  
Money order or cheque drawn on a US bank.  
Memberships can now also be paid by VISA  
or Master Card online at the AHS website  
**[www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org)**

# WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

## 2008

Peter Kinsella	Rothesay	Ron Lemon	Welland
Suzanne Hanna	Sault St. Marie	Terri Hobbs	Ridgeway
Ron Drury	Sarnia	Wendy Brown	Pefferlaw
Susan Dickens	Toronto	Linda Haist	Waterdown
Loyd Quesada	Toronto	Charles & Elaine Grierson	Waterloo
Lynne Jeffreys	Toronto	Paul Follett	Lakefield
Shirley Macleod	Markham	Terry Thompson	Blind River
Kerry Berger	Scotland	Diane Crawford	Grand Valley
Mori Gardens	Niagara-on-the Lake	Miesje Barr	Campbellcroft
Brian Mako	Welland	Niagara Nurseries - J. Alexander	St. Catharines
Rhea Konig-Cruise	St. Catharines	Cindy Mitchell	Barrie
David White	Niagara Falls	Rosemary Durante	Milton
Liz Wightman	Welland	Rosemarie Laird	Niagara-on-the Lake
Velma Kucy	Fenwick	John Fehlow	St. Catharines
Richard Bearss	St. Catharines	Pauline Woods	Rockwood
Mary Lombardo	Toronto	Audrey Fehlow	St. Catharines
Kate Freiman	Toronto	Cathy Herbert	Ridgeway
Anna Brewster	Crystal Beach		

## **Bob-Bob-ing Along**

What to do on a nice summer's day?

As we have in the past, Bob Murphy and I decided to hit the road and find out what's going on in hosta land – at least part of it. So we made a bunch of phone calls and planned an itinerary, well at least a tentative one, consisting of about 8 stops. Unfortunately we didn't make all our planned stops and our apologies to those we missed. As it was, we started at 8:40 in the AM and arrived back at 10:50 PM – about 500 Km later. Only got lost three times.

We headed straight to Aylmer to visit Lynn Bisschop and her Shades of Green nursery. Started about six years ago, it is amazing to see the growth in a large variety of trees and shrubs that form the background to the hosta beds. And these beds are spectacular in their own right. Along with some monsters and babies, Lynn has come up with some very interesting sports that have the TC houses interested. We can hardly wait. Picked up some newer varieties to satisfy the craving.

While there, we got word that Elizabeth Ingolfsrud requested our presence to watch her weed her garden near Port Burwell. So off we went and after a short visit to her garden ended up enjoying lunch with her. Hosta people are so nice.

And back on the road heading easterly we missed a stop because real men don't ask for directions (or follow instructions). Anyway we ended up at Chris Potze's in Waterford where we learned about Japanese beetles and chickens while perusing his vast collection and stock of hostas. And of course ended up with a few plants in the trunk.

From there we headed east again to check out Jack Kent's new digs in Dunneville in anticipation of the upcoming picnic in August. Jack has certainly added to his space for growing and display and he was in the middle of tickling the fancy of certain daylilies when we arrived. He is looking forward to being your host.

cont'd on pg 5.....

## **NAME THAT HOSTA 2008 - WE HAVE A NAME!**

### **OHS MARGOT'S DELIGHT**

**Congratulations Bob Murphy whose entry  
was chosen.**

**Bob will receive a gift of the newly named hosta**

**Thank you to all those who participated.**

**Look out for our  
"NAME THAT HOSTA 2009 COMPETITION"**



### **Bob-bob-ing along cont'd..**

Hoping to catch Kevin Plumley on the way through to Niagara on the Lake, we went cross country and were literally within spitting distance of his driveway but didn't know it. A phone call which threatened to steal all his hostas didn't get a response as he wasn't home from work yet. We look forward to a visit in the future.

We continued on over to Bruce Cumpson's Olde Towne Gardens. That place just keeps growing, and getting more beautiful all the time. Bruce was his usual hospitable self and we were taken to various parts of the garden where he showed off his new displays and then into the inner sanctum where he does his secret magic stuff. His collection is second to none and he has many interesting sports that I think he should register and put on the market

So just as the sun sunk behind the escarpment, we headed home with a trunk full of plants. Hosta people are great and we are grateful that they share their enthusiasm and knowledge.

Pick a day, call some people and have some fun.

Contributed by

**Bob Leask**

## **S.W. ONTARIO PICNIC-THE POTTING SHED**

This year's southwestern picnic was held at Jack Kent's new location near Dunnville. Although rain and thunderstorms threatened, a few sprinkles did not deter approximately 40 hostaphiles from having a good time.

Before the picnic, and while the rain held off, we spent time looking through Jack's wonderfully displayed selection of hostas, daylilies, Perennials and shrubs looking for the perfect addition to our own gardens. The gift shop was the perfect place to find a piece of "garden art".

We soon found ourselves immersed in a "Name that Hosta" contest, vainly studying each numbered, unnamed hosta in the garden—10 in all. Our thinking caps on, we carefully examined each hosta for identifiable traits, then a quick dash to the greenhouse to see if we could find a match. This is a fun game for both veteran and new hostaphiles.

Our hunger soon overtook us and we moved inside for lunch - Paul and Jack graciously supplemented our picnics with hotdogs, muffins and watermelon.

As the rain began, Cindy Deutekom delivered a very educational DVD presentation by Chris Wilson of Halston Gardens covering Hosta Virus X. The presentation dispelled several hosta myths and also showed us the many symptoms and variations of the virus. Following the DVD, Cindy showed us how to test suspect leaves for Hosta Virus X using a test kit.

Following Cindy's presentation, Bob Leask took the stage and with, "What's New - What's coming from Foosf (The Fraternal Order of Seedy Fellows) ([www.foosf.com](http://www.foosf.com)), whet our appetites with a sneak preview of some of the hostas that will be available at our Auction, September 13/14th (see insert) - man are THEY NICE! The auction is not to be missed—mark your calendars now.

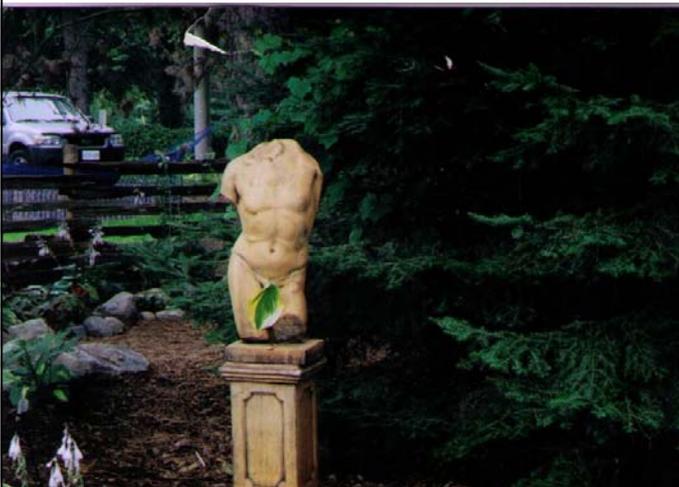
Our picnic concluded with the announcement of Anna Barger as the winner of the "Name that Hosta" with 6 correct names—Congratulations Anna. Myrna Riley and David and Lesley Chapman took home the other draw prizes.

A very special thank you to Jack, Paul, Linda and Dorothy for hosting this year's picnic (and "Sara" for showing the way).

Contributed by **Olga Elchuk**

**Photos courtesy of Pat Loy**

**DAVID WITH HOSTA LEAF ?**



Ontario Hosta Society

**OUR HOSTS**

Dorothy, Jack, Linda and Paul



## OHS BUS TOUR JUNE 2008

With 'Great Expectations' a 'Not So' small band of hosta enthusiasts, armed with Hosta Handbooks, water bottles, and walking shoes were hosted by the ever popular 'Big Daddy' Bob Leask on the OHS garden tour departing from Landscape Ontario on a glorious 'Bright Glow' and 'Blue Skies' day. OK, enough with the hosta metaphors!

The first garden in Etobicoke, the 21 year creation of Uli Havermann and Paul Zammit, greeted the visitors with its breathtaking fairy tale setting. Talk about your 'Touch of Class' and 'High Society'. Proudly greeting us in its Regal Splendor', with its Scottish hospitality, out front was a beautiful tall stately Scotch Thistle—apparently a magnet for attracting Orioles & Yellow Canaries. The lush front, sides, and back yards were beyond a kind of Paradise gone wild. With grasses for border hedging and containers for décor, an eclectic collection of 'Fireworks' grasses, festival cordeline, coral & green dracaena 'tutti frutti' nestled among the familiar and rare hosta array. Where to begin ~ to gush over 'Rainforest Sunrise', 'May', 'Radiant Edger', 'Java' Peanut 'Hekumuo' or 'Fire Island'. Many people gasped over the multi-levels of eye-catching containers forming head to toe a palette of exquisite colors, design, and sheer beauty. Nestled around some well-aged concrete urns, weathered iron patio décor, a stunning arbor gate, you could mingle with the hostas virtually mushrooming up everywhere and anywhere, peaceful basking in the shady protection of a mature South Kingsway, lawn long gone, lush garden. Flourishing, also, is the Uli-Paul family who are new, proud grandparents of a 2 month old baby boy. Congratulations! Thanks for the enthusiastic informative tour de jour, Paul!

Under the canopy of the mature Kingsway trees, off Brentwood, north of Bloor we visited Randy Manning's garden. I was taken by the unique back door, draped inside with 3 beautiful Siamese cats the obvious 'Guardian Angels' of his lovely back garden. Randy has been gardening for 15 years and has a huge 'Ginko', just 10 years old but really a glorious tree. He also has a most beautiful Pieris and over 100 different varieties of Irises, many peonies, and gorgeous rhododendrons. This well-protected little backyard Oasis also included pots whose survival of winter's harshness is a testament to his tender-loving-care and nature's more nurturing ways.

Our third garden, as in a great drama the third act is usually the climactic peak and we were more than exhilarated in Milton, to be greeted by Norm & Lynne Limpert's 37 acres and over 380 varieties of hostas and row after row of tenderly sprouting succulents. At first blush, you feel the open landscape a combo of Muskoka, with the 2 Muskoka chairs overlooking one of two scenic ponds. And a sense that ...

Cont'd.....

... just beyond, one could relax after golfing three holes –three tees on an executive 3 par golf course, if ever Norm proceeds with this new ambitious project in the future. The property is fed by well-water and displays a vast array of houses — greenhouses, outhouses, farm equipment, dog houses, a collection of bird houses and crowned by a beautiful two-storey custom 2600 square foot home overlooking beds upon beds at the back of fully matured giants and dwarf hostas alike, en mass. At lunch we relaxed around the decks and stone patio to reminisce over the loss of Margot & Udo. This garden is a must-see again, as Norm & Lynne’s work ethic and new projects will continue to blossom and stun even the least of enthusiasts. It is no wonder that Canadian Gardening magazine has been in touch and proceeding to feature this spectacle of modern human gardening ‘slave labour’, to offer up some of the most spectacular scenery of hostas at their best.

Next, we visited Belinda Gallagher’s lush Georgetown yard, greeted by the big happy trickling pond and the granite carved namesake in the front yard. Bordering on a light misty drizzle, we felt the lush growth suited the collections of Hostas around the small pathways leading around the lovely gardens. A new species to many of us was the mature Tulip Tree...offering up baby seedlings around the property itself. And to many of our delights...we were treated to mini-seedlings to take home to start up our own specimen Tulip Trees. Apparently Rosy Reds for ponds eat mosquitoes. We scored a few hostas like ‘Gypsy Rose’ and ‘Striptease’...so most were pleased with their purchases.

Our fifth and last stop, we arrived at Bob Leask’s, rain underway. We were treated to his front yard forest and hosta sales. Bob’s garden survived the hail storms but some plants were tattered or torn, but for the hosta addict it is simply a matter of time to restore their beauty. He had rescued over 50 varieties of container hostas from the Margot & Udo sale and virtually decorated the front decks of his & Linda’s country property. Bob boasts over 1000, not planned, hostas. He likes the ‘wild natural’ look, guess ‘cause his hostas have taken on a life of their own and retirement is about relaxation not farming.

Thanks to the organizers and participants for another enjoyable, informative and pleasurable Bus Tour, par excellence.

Contributed by

**Lynda Lou Gourlie**

(Thank you Lynda Lou)

(See Colour Insert for great pics!)



Bob would really love someone to assist him in arranging the bus tour and sourcing out new and interesting locations for our members to see.

If you are interested or know of anyone who would help, please e-mail Bob - [rleask@hotmail.com](mailto:rleask@hotmail.com)

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANY GARDENS THAT WE CAN VISIT ON OUR BUS TOUR OR GARDENS THAT WE CAN HOLD OUR PICNIC/SEMINARS IN, PLEASE CONTACT BOB [rleask@hotmail.com](mailto:rleask@hotmail.com)**



PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS OF ARTICLES, FEATURES OR COLUMNS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR NEWSLETTER

**WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!**

EDITOR

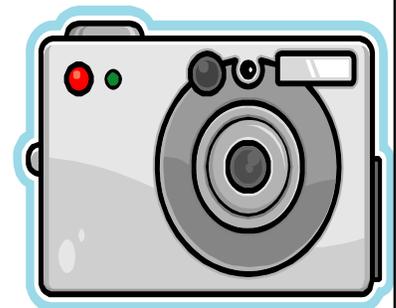
DO YOU ENJOY WRITING?



If you enjoy writing, please let us know—we are always on the look-out for new articles for the newsletter or would you be interested in doing a write-up of one of our functions—please contact [hostaed@rogers.com](mailto:hostaed@rogers.com)

DO YOU ENJOY PHOTOGRAPHY?

Have you taken any good photographs?  
Would you like to have them published in the newsletter?  
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## Hosta Virus X Update

Just to keep you current on X progress, I thought I'd pass along a few things that have happened in the past couple of months and give you some ideas as to what we can all do as individuals to help solve this problem.

### Shopping

If you see suspicious plants on the shelf, inform the manager of your concern that you "suspect" virus X is present in a plant. Unless you have positive proof, do not claim that it is positively X. However there are a couple of things that you can suggest to help ease the tension that has probably built from your "accusation".

1. Try to find out who the grower or supplier is of that batch. I find retailers most willing to co-operate. Note this info and pass along to us so we can target bad sources.
2. Ask the retailer to contact the grower and voice their concern and even ask for a refund for the suspicious plants.
3. Contact growers and suppliers to voice your own concern. E-mail works great and judging from the responses I have had, they are as concerned as we are and are applying pressure on their sources to clean up their growing practices and ensuring virus-free plants are coming to market. Ask what guarantees they will provide!
4. Make the suppliers/growers/retailers aware of the relatively inexpensive test strips that are now available. It is likely that one X in a batch is going to represent the whole batch, which should be disposed of. Tough for all concerned but needed in the relentless pursuit to eliminate infection.
5. Pay a return visit at a later date to see what, if anything, has been done by the retailer. By fanning the warning fires at this level, it is surely going to go up the chain.

As a side note, one concerned retailer invited me to scour his greenhouses and the result was 14 varieties that looked suspicious. I contacted the grower/supplier, as did the retailer, and received support from them and I made both aware of the new testing strips.

Offshore growers must be feeling some pressure because there is rumour of a threatened lawsuit because of all the fingers being pointed at their operations. However, it all starts at the bottom and knowledgeable hosta people such as yourselves are at the forefront of this campaign.

Cont'd .....

## In the Garden

.....Hosta Virus X cont'd

This is the time of year to be particularly vigilant. Even if you haven't seen signs of X, care should be exercised when cutting back spent flower stalks and cleaning up faded leaves. Be sure to dip your shears in bleach or disinfectant between cuts as it is the sap transfer that spreads X.

Since X is plant-borne, if you have to remove an infected plant, try to sterilize the hole left and leave it vacant just in case root pieces remain.

Dispose of infected plants in the garbage, **NOT** the compost pile.

If you have a prize specimen that you are suspicious of, try a test strip first before taking the last step.

Educate your friends, neighbours and horticultural societies. Give them the reference sites and literature.

We are making progress through education, consumer power, and practicing safe gardening. Keep it up!

Contributed by

**Bob Leask**



## **Upcoming Events - 2008**

### 2008 Hosta Auction

**When:** Saturday 13th Sept, Sunday 14th Sept  
**Where:** R.H. Murphy Auditorium  
**Time:** Sat. 12:30/5:00 p.m. Sun. 11:30/3:30 p.m.  
**Addr:** 6435 Edward Blvd., Mississauga.



## IMPORTANT

We would like to start sending our members reminders, in advance, of upcoming events - if you would like to receive these reminders, please let the OHS have your e-mail address by sending the Editor an e-mail - [hostaed@rogers.com](mailto:hostaed@rogers.com).

**Please be aware that your e-mail address will be kept confidential and will not be sold or divulged in any way.**

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