

Hi All,

1. At the beginning of each year, we have to submit a year-end report to the OHA and to OMAFRA. One of the many items in the reports is the total number of volunteer hours of our Hort members.

Attached, please find a form for reporting your **volunteer hours for 2020** - in 2 different formats, i.e. Excel and PDF.

To assist you, the 2nd page of each form provides further info and details of the various volunteer work which should be included in your reported hours.

(If you cannot complete the form in Excel, please print either form, complete it manually, scan the completed form and then email it to me. If you are unable to scan the form, just email me with a list of the various headings and your # of hours for each.)

To allow time for me to create a master record of all volunteer hours, **I will need your completed form returned to me no later than January 15th.**

Please contact me if you require any assistance with the above.

2. As reported in the last newsletter, there are a number of activities we are planning (and hoping) for this year, while keeping in mind the restrictions and public health guidelines associated with the COVID-19.

**We will need many volunteers for these events so if you are interested in helping with 1 or more of these activities, please advise me, or any of the other Board members, by email or by telephone. Your help would be greatly appreciated.**

3. The members of the sub-committees planning the **Seed Swap** will be meeting in a couple of days, with a goal of completing the Seed Swap by the end of this month.

For those interested in participating in our Seed Swap, we request that you email me and Esther Ravka ([e\\_ravka@hotmail.com](mailto:e_ravka@hotmail.com)) a list of all seeds you have available to share with other Hort members and / or a list of all seeds you are looking for as well. It would be very helpful to have the names of the seeds in **each list written in alphabetical order and also an estimate of the quantity available and/or the quantity required for each seed you have listed.**

**Please submit your list(s) no later than January 12th** so that the committee members can then prepare the seed packets which will either be hand-delivered or mailed to those participating in the Seed Swap. We will also notify you if the seeds you are hoping to receive are indeed available or not.

4. Just a reminder that **Membership fees for the year 2021 are now due.**

Thank you to those who have already renewed their membership.

The annual fees continue to be \$25 / single and \$35 / family and these cover the period of January 1st to December 31st of each year.

Those wishing to renew their membership via E-transfer (and who have not done so previously) should first contact our Treasurer, Lenore Sheward, by email ([Ls4898@rogers.com](mailto:Ls4898@rogers.com)) or by telephone (905-881-4898) for further info.

Those wishing to renew by cheque (made payable to the Thornhill Garden & Horticultural Society) should mail this to Bernie Burns, 1 Royal Orchard Blvd., # 711, Thornhill, Ont. L3T 3C2.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of all of our members.

5. Our last ZOOM speaker, Jode Roberts, forwarded to me the link for his recorded presentation which was to be posted on our website in the Members Only portal. (He had also offered to provide us with a copy of the recording if needed.) However, there is a problem with the link as sent.

I have been unable to connect with Jode as he is away from the office until January 11th. I will follow up with him after that date and will then advise you when the recording will be available on our website.

6. The Thornhill Heritage Foundation (THF), owners of the Robert West Heritage House, had planned to have a Heritage Day community event on September 19, 2020; however this was postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

This event is now scheduled for Saturday, June 26, 2021. Many activities are being planned, including an Art Contest celebrating the 2020 Group of Seven Centenary.

Attached, please find an information page about the Art Contest and an Artist's Entry Form. Also included is info regarding the THF's "Pick a Picket" fundraising campaign and an application form for those who wish to make a donation. (A tax receipt is available if requested.)

Please feel free to share this THF info with family, friends, neighbours, etc.

#### 7. Reminders -

As indicated in our last newsletter issue, -

a) We would like to plant many **Dahlias** in the raised bed at the Percy Bone Parkette this spring in honour of the late Dr. Errol Falconer and

b) **Coir** is still available. The purchase price is \$10 per block of Coir while a package of 12 Coir pucks are \$2.00 each or 3 pkgs. for \$5.00.

**If you would like to contribute one or more Dahlia tubers and/or if you wish to purchase COIR, please contact Martin van Dijk ([mvandijk4@outlook.com](mailto:mvandijk4@outlook.com) or 416-988-0181).**

8. Once the 2021 Speakers' programme schedule is complete, it will be emailed to all and published in the January / February 2021 newsletter issue. Due to the continuing presence of the COVID-19, all monthly general meetings, flower shows, workshops, etc. will be via ZOOM this year.

We know our members have truly missed our monthly meetings and flower shows at the Thornhill Community Centre, as well as other "get-togethers", especially our annual Awards' Night Potluck Dinner at the Heintzman House. We look forward to the time when we again will meet in person and as a group of great and enthusiastic gardeners.

Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy 2021!

Take care.

Bernie

**Bernadette (Bernie) Burns**  
**President**  
**Thornhill Garden & Horticultural Society**  
**Tel. 647-527-6948**