



# PINE RIDGE GARDEN CLUB

*"Where Gardeners Come To Bloom"*

March-April 2025 Newsletter

NESTLETON, ONTARIO

MEMBER OF DISTRICT 17 ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

President: Libbi Hood 416-455-5624

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**PineRidgeGardenClub.com**



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Nestleton Community Centre,  
3971 Hwy 7A

**Tuesday, March 11**

**7:30 p.m.**

### **Sweet and Savoury Buffet!**

Please bring donations by 7p.m. to be enjoyed during the meeting. Please no foods that need to be heated.

Coffee and tea provided—please bring your own mug.

**Speaker:** Anna Mizyn

**Topic:** My Favourite Perennials and Trees

**Tuesday, April 3**

**7:30 p.m.**

### **Swap Night!**

We're trying something new this year—it's been successful at other garden clubs. Please bring any gently used garden-related items to the meeting to put out for others to take. Any items not taken by the end of the evening must be taken home with you.

**Speaker:** Jillian Bishop

**Topic:** Seed Starting

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm excited to get going again with my gardening AND with Garden Club for 2025! Please remember—our March meeting is the SECOND Tuesday of the Month, March 11. The rest of the meetings are the first Tuesday of the month, except for July 8 this year, due to Canada Day.

Our March 11 meeting will be a sweet and savoury finger food buffet. Some ideas for savoury items are sausage rolls, mini quiche, cheese or raw vegetables. Sweets could be fruit, brownies or anything in between! And remember, you don't need to bring enough for everyone—just for 10-12 people. Please bring your items by 7 p.m. so we can start the buffet and get to our first speaker of the year: Anna Mizyn of Anna's Perennials Nursery and Gardens.

Our April speaker is all about seed starting... just in time to try it. I've already been out purchasing new flower and veggie seeds to try in 2025. Also in April will be our first-ever Swap Night. A description is to the left.

It's been a very snowy winter and I'm hoping that's actually good for our gardens. Plants were protected for much of the season under an insulating blanket of snow! I guess we'll see once the big melt begins.

All the best, Libbi

NOTE: Membership renewals began in November, as our fiscal year is November 1 to October 31. If you haven't already, please renew your membership at the March meeting. It's only \$20 for individuals and \$25 for two adults at the same address.

## Sharing Info from the Scugog Lake Stewards

Phragmites grass is a profound threat to our wetlands and shorelines. And now this non-native, aggressive grass is spreading into the vitally important 8,000+ acre Osler Marsh to the south of Scugog.

The good news is, a long-term solution may be available to help moderate its growth ... two moths are being introduced in the Toronto and Durham regions that just attack Phragmites Australis.

For more information read the report from Dr. Ian Jones of the University of Toronto about the grass, the moths and where the current releases are taking place: [www.scugoglakestewards.com/research](http://www.scugoglakestewards.com/research)

## 2025 D17 AGM: FREE & VIRTUAL!

The District 17 Annual General Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday April 26, 2025.

The “doors” to the zoom meeting will open at 9 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Following the business portion of the meeting, our speaker will be Niki Jabbour, presenting “Growing a Productive Vegetable Garden.”

You can sign up at the March or April PRGC meeting to receive the Zoom link.

Please plan to attend and learn more about what is happening within our OHA District 17 gardening community! More details about speaker Niki Jabbour will be shared in the 2025 yearbook.

## Gardening Jobs for March & April

March – With the first warm days in March, you may be tempted to get out in the garden and begin tidying up. Stop! Before you cut back the stocks of last year’s perennials, wait a full seven consecutive days with daytime temperatures above 10 degrees Celsius to ensure you are not disturbing over-wintering pollinators that are hunkered down waiting for warmer days. You can also remove excess leaf mulch from around crowns of perennials at this time. If you have a bare spot in the garden, scatter perennial seeds on the soil surface, (rough it up slightly) no need to cover. The colder night temperatures **might** be sufficient to encourage them to break dormancy.

Parsley seeds require a long germination period. Soaking seeds overnight in warm water might speed up germination. I start mine in damp paper towel placed in a sealed plastic bag placed in a warm spot. Check regularly for roots to emerge. Once you see a tiny white root emerge, transfer them immediately to containers with good dampened potting soil. Don’t let them dry out. Visit [TorontoMasterGardeners.ca](https://torontomastergardeners.ca) for more info.

April – If you are planning to have tomato or pepper plants ready for our plant sale, you should start them indoors the first week of April. Once they germinate, place in tray with a plastic dome, under grow lights or in a south-facing window. I found Steven Biggs article most informative: <https://www.foodgardenlife.com>

## Reminders and Updates

- Our annual Plant, Bake and Yard sale will take place May 17, the Saturday of the May long weekend. Consider volunteering or donating!
- The Winter issue of [the Trillium](#), the OHA quarterly magazine is available online. It includes an article about the Pickering Garden Club (p50) celebrating the awarding of the OHA's Silver Trillium Award to Barb Twiner for her contributions to horticulture. Barb will once again join our own Norma Haney for our design demonstration meeting in August 2025.
- The next Garden Ontario 50/50 Draw takes place March 8. Tickets are available online at: [https:// www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha](https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha)
- Calling all volunteers! We need a webmaster. Talk to Libbi or Rita Barrel.
- SEEDY SATURDAY—March 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pefferlaw Lions Community Hall, 38 Pete's Lane. Get ready for spring with lots of garden vendors, speakers, seeds, seed-swap, native plants, children's activities and more. Co-hosted by Cannington and Georgina-Brock Horticultural Clubs.

