

Florascope

65 Years of Beautifying Ancaster

Happy New Year! Welcome to the 65th year of Ancaster Horticultural Society!

Our Society reaches another milestone in this our 65th year. From its beginnings, in 1961 through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, to our present active volunteer group, our Society has continued to grow and adapt to the interests of our members and the community. We hope you'll find topics of interest to you in our speaker program (page 3). If you can, make this the year you get involved in an event, a committee or a volunteer gardening group.

We also welcome your ideas and photos. Just contact us →

Many of our members were recognized for their outstanding efforts and contributions to our Society. The awards were presented at our November AGM and Potluck Dinner. (page 2).

Once again we will be offering locally grown Heritage Tomatoes for pre-sale. All the information will be sent to you in early March. Thanks to everyone who participated in decorating the Old Town Hall for Christmas and to all of our members for your support.

Happy New Year! Betty, Bob, Jill, Sharon
Your Executive Council

Contact List

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Welcome New Members

Christine Boyd
Luisa DaSilva
Jacqueline Newton

Presenting our **2025 Volunteer Award Winners**

Awards were presented at our recent AGM by Bob Wilt, Chair of the Awards Committee. Photos: David Puskas

The **Mayor's Award** is awarded annually to the member who has shown exceptional volunteer service for 10 or more years. This year's winner is:
Jill Macaulay



The **President's Award** is given to newer members who have shown outstanding service. This year's winners are: **Babs Dawson**
Mae Louie **Ruth Queroub**



The **Ancaster Blue Ruffle Award** is awarded to those members who have shown outstanding volunteer service for at least 5 years. This year's winners are:
Laurel Galea **Ingrid Davitsky**



Life Memberships are given to those members who have actively volunteered for at least 15 years. This year's life memberships are given to:
Laurel Galea **Joyce Radford**
Wendy Spangenberg



Our Speaker Program for 2026

Program Director, Betty Howitt, has put together an exciting group of speakers.
All meetings will be held IN PERSON at Ancaster Old Town Hall.

Ancaster Horticultural Society 2026 Program

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| January 20, 2026 | Duane Hewitt, Forest Fruits Mushrooms, Founder, Farmer, Scientist

"Health Benefits of Growing and Consuming Mushrooms" |
| February 17, 2026 | Daryl MacTavish, Ancaster Historian

"Six Degrees of Historical Separation" |
| March 17, 2026 | Darryl Cheng, House Plant Journal

"An Engineer's Approach to Houseplant Care" |
| April 21, 2026 | Melissa North , Certified Holistic Health Practitioner

"Wild Edibles" |
| May 19, 2026 | Kirsten McCarthy, Master Gardener

"How to Judge a Biodiverse Garden and Support Pollinators" |
| June 16, 2026 | Colin Phillips and Mandey Moote from Sycamore Hill Flower Farm

"From Garden to Farm, Scaling up the Love of Flowers" |
| * June 2026 | Road trip to Purple Haven Lavendar Farm and Beth Powell's garden in

Canfield, Ontario, more information to follow. |
| September 15, 2026 | Dr. Mike Dixon, University of Guelph, Professor Emeritus and Director

"The Contribution of Plants to Life Support in Space" |
| October 20, 2026 | Irene Kicak and Veronica Tunzi, Fancy Farmerettes

"Growing with Hemp" |

Winter Pruning of Trees and Shrubs

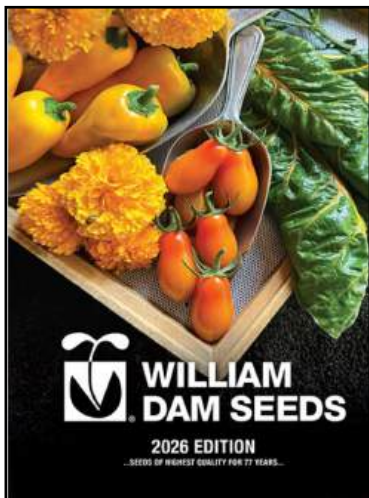
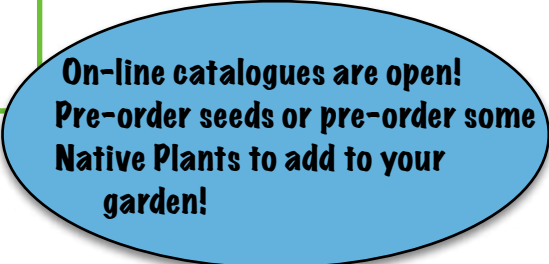
Late winter is a good time to prune many trees and shrubs.

- deciduous trees & shrubs are dormant
- the structure of a tree or shrub is easily visible
- damaged limbs can be removed

What NOT to Prune in Winter

- shrubs that bloom in spring & those that bloom on old wood
e.g. coloured mophead hydrangeas
- Maples—pruning will cause sap to run.

Here's a full guide: <https://www.almanac.com/winter-pruning-guide-trees-and-shrubs>



damseeds.com



onplants.ca



Meet Your 2026 Board~

Lto R: Teresa Zywulko, Jeanne Robertson, Bob Wilt, Wendy Spangenberg, Betty Howitt, Carol Howe, Marilyn Burjan, Ingrid Davitsky, David Puskas, Jill Macaulay, Sharon Lee, Donna Fraser, Donna Parker (Absent Rhu Sherrard) Photo: Not Known

Members' Page

**Great Turn Out! Great Food!
Our Nov. Potluck & AGM**
Photo: D Puskas



Photos: D. Puskas

**Decorating Day
at Fieldcote
Museum**



Mavis Baker, Laurel Galea, Mae Louie,
Gerry Lynes



Gerry Lynes,
Laurel Galea



L to R
Mae Louie
Laurel Galea
Gerry Lynes
Mavis Baker
Bob Wilt

**Decorating Day
at Ancaster Old
Town Hall**

Photos: J. Newton



Coming Events

Meetings are held at Ancaster Old Town Hall, 210 Wilson St. E. Ancaster on the **3rd Tuesday** of the month (Sept. —June, except Dec.)
7:30 Informal Chat & Refreshments
7:45 Brief Business 8:00 Speaker & Questions

- January 7** Christmas Decor Take Down
9:00 am Old Town Hall
- January 20** AHS Meeting 7:30pm In Person
'Growing & Eating Mushrooms for Health
- February 3** AHS BOARD MEETING 7:15pm
Fieldcote Museum
- February 17** AHS Meeting 7:30pm
'Six Degrees of Historical Separation'
- March 17** AHS Meeting 7:30pm
'An Engineer's Approach to Houseplant Care'

Watch for our Heirloom

Tomato Pre-Ordering!

Coming to our website in early March



Thoughts for 2026

“Some people look for a beautiful place. Other people make a place beautiful.”

~Hazrat Inayat Khan



Ancaster Horticultural Society Membership Dues

\$10 Single Membership

\$15 Family Membership

New Member

Date: _____ Cheque Cash

Payments can be made in **cash** at meetings or by cheque payable to Ancaster Horticultural Society
Cheque can be mailed to: P.O. Box 81056, Ancaster ON L9G4X1
Payments can also be made by **e-transfer** to ancasterhort.soc@gmail.com

Name(s): _____
Street: _____
City: _____ Postal Code: _____
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

(Our newsletters are issued quarterly, by mail, or monthly by email. Please check box to receive by e-mail.)
Your information is used solely for administrative purposes of Ancaster Horticultural Society.

The Ancaster Horticultural Society is a duly incorporated, non-profit, charitable organization whose registration number is 88925 5462 RR0001. Contributions to the Society are always appreciated. Official Tax receipts will be issued.