

**Open Meeting
Tuesday, May 6th
2014**

**Carol Dunk
on Pollinators**

Did you know a pollinator is an animal/bird/insect that causes plants to make fruit or seeds?

They do this by moving pollen from one part of the flower of a plant to another part. This pollen then fertilizes the plant. Only fertilized plants can make fruit and/or seeds, and without them, the plants cannot reproduce.

Check out her website at

<http://roadsides.caroldunk.com>

BGC Day Trip!

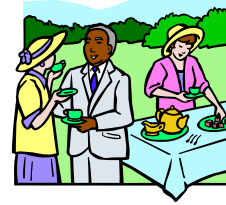
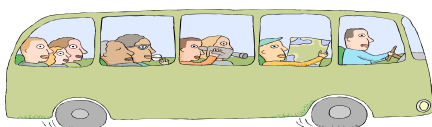
June 18th 2014

Spadina House - tour of the house and gardens @ 10:00, (approx. 2 hours)
& Casa Loma - self guided audio tour of the house & gardens and video on the history of "Sir Henry Pellatt: The Story Of a Lifetime"

****Self paid lunch at the Liberty Café @ Casa Loma.
Time 12:00 to 1:00pm****

Departs at the rear of Kozlov Center at 8:00am & returns to Barrie @ about 6:00pm (depending on traffic)

Contact Jane Falls @ (705)721-1481
Or email - janefalls@rogers.com
Cost of Tour & Bus: \$60.00



**140th Garden Party and
Flower Show**

Come and join us for afternoon tea
Behind the South Shore Center
Saturday May 10th 2014
& (hopefully) enjoy the 1400 daffodils
we planted last fall!

11:00am - 1:00pm

** flower show arrangements need to be at the South Shore Center by 8:30am. for judging.**
-see website for show details -



Rain barrel Sale

The City is hosting their annual sale this weekend!

For details go to:

<http://www.barrie.ca/Living/Environment/Conservation/Pages/RainBarrels.aspx>



Canadian Gardening

Early-spring gardening checklist

- m As days get longer, start feeding indoor plants with a fertilizer solution at 1/2 the recommended strength.
- m Start seeds for annuals, tomatoes and peppers indoors.
- m Give summer-flowering bulbs, such as cannas and dahlias, a head start by potting indoors under lights until after the last frost date.
- m Clean up fallen twigs, branches and other winter debris.
- m As soon as the ground is workable, plant cool-weather crops such as sweet peas, onions, cabbage, radishes and leeks.
- m Prune deciduous trees and shrubs (except those that flower or flow with sap in spring).
- m Spray scale-infested trees and shrubs with dormant oil before their leaves appear.
- m Cut the stems of 'Annabelle' hydrangea back to the ground.
- m Apply slow-release fertilizer to flowering shrubs and vines, including roses, rhododendrons and clematis.
- m Pull out annual and perennial weeds when they appear in the garden.

Essential early-spring plants:

- a Bulb: Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*)
- a Perennial: Hellebore (*Helleborus x hybridus*)
- a Shrub: Forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*)
- a Tree: Saucer magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangeana*)

Tip:

To prevent soil compaction, wait until the soggy ground of early spring has dried out before walking on lawns and flowerbeds.



Visit CanadianGardening.com for more spring tips and advice!

Print your own checklist off at

<http://www.canadiangardening.com/what-to-do-now/jobs-in-the-garden-by-season/early-spring-gardening-checklist/a/20654>

Tips for Starting Seeds Inside

1. **Timing is very important.** To start your seeds on time, you need to know when, in relation to the **frost-free date in spring** (ours is May 26th this year in Barrie) to plant them. Get a great seed starting chart and how to use instructions at:

<http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/seed-starting-chart>

2. The **best "edibles"** to start from seeds are basil, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, chives, leeks, lettuce, onions, peppers and tomatoes.

3. Any container 7-8 cm. deep will do. Protect your seedlings against plant disease by thoroughly cleaning your used containers: Wash them first in hot, soapy water, and rinse with distilled white vinegar. Remember to punch

holes for drainage into the bottom of containers and set them into trays.

4. Make your own **seed-starting mix** by blending equal parts of perlite, vermiculite, and peat. Add 1/4 teaspoon of lime to each gallon of mix to neutralize the acidity of the peat.

5. Sow carefully! First moisten your growing soil in the containers before sowing the seeds. Next, drop seeds onto the surface of the mix, spacing them as evenly as possible. Cover the seeds to a depth about **three times the thickness** of the seeds.

6. Lightly sprinkle **milled sphagnum moss**, a natural fungicide, over everything to protect against "damping-off", a fungal disease that rots seeds and seedlings. If the seeds need light to germinate however, sprinkle the moss first and then drop the seeds onto the moss.

7. **Keep seeds cozy** by covering the flats with plastic wrap or glass and place them near a heat vent or on a heat mat made especially for seed starting. Most seeds germinate best at about 21 degrees Celsius.

8. **Keep them damp** by misting them regularly with a spray bottle.

9. At the first signs of sprouting, uncover and move the containers to a bright spot. Florescent lights are good as they provide a steady source of high-intensity light. Short days restrict window light, and **your seedlings need 12 to 16 hours of light a day**. Suspend the lights just 2 inches above the plants and gradually raise them as the seedlings mature. If plants have to stretch or lean toward the light, they can become weak and spindly. And turn the lights on and off at the same time each day (try hooking them up to an electric timer for consistency!)

10. Seedlings don't have to stay as warm as germinating seeds. Move them away from the heat and **lightly ruffle the seedlings once** or twice a day with your hand or a piece of cardboard... this helps them to grow stocky and strong. Or, set up a small fan to gently, continuously blow on your seedlings.

11. If you're using the above or soilless mix without compost, begin to fertilize your seedlings as soon as they get their first true leaves. (These leaves emerge after the little, round cotyledon leaves.)

12. About 1 week before the plants are to go outside, **harden them up** to the harsh conditions of the outside world Each day (unless the weather is horrible) move the containers to a shaded, protected place for a few hours, gradually increasing their exposure to sun and breeze. At the end of the week leave them out overnight; then transplant them into the garden.



April is a promise that May is bound to keep. ~Hal Borland