

The "Niagara Rhodo"

The Niagara Chapter,
Rhododendron Society of Canada
January 2007 Newsletter



Website: <http://www.rhodoniagara.org>

Our Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose aim is to promote, encourage and support interest in the genus *rhododendrons*, including *azaleas*. **Our goal is to encourage gardeners to grow and appreciate these plants, by providing educational meetings with knowledgeable speakers, access to topical publications and hosting joint meetings with other chapters.**

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Upcoming Events

**** All events are open to the public. Bring a gardening friend. ****

February 11, 2007 (Sunday). 2 P.M. Rittenhouse Hall, HRIO (Guelph University), Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Harold Pellet, *Professor Emeritus of Horticultural Science at the University of Minnesota*, developer of the Northern Lights series of very hardy deciduous azaleas, will speak on his current work of breeding cold hardy, pollution tolerant plants (clematis, ornamental pear, viburnums, red maple, honeysuckle, azaleas) and propagation of difficult-to-propagate species such as oak.
See <http://www.rhodoniagara.org/activities.htm>

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March 11, 2007 (Sunday). 2 P.M. Best Western Beacon Harbourside Inn, Beacon Blvd., Jordan, Ontario, Canada.

Sally and John Perkins, Growers and Hybridizers in Salem, New Hampshire, will speak on **hardy rhododendrons & azaleas and bulbs, corms & rhizomes as companion plants**. They are avid and knowledgeable gardeners who, since 1985, have attempted to grow more than 500 different cultivars of rhododendron in the potentially hostile environment of New Hampshire. They will discuss their successes and failures. A one hour talk is planned for rhodos and a one hour talk for Bulbs Corms and Rhizomes. An intermission will follow the first hour.
See <http://www.rhodoniagara.org/activities.htm>

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April 21, 2007 (Saturday) 10:00 A.M. HRIO (Guelph University), Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station, Ontario, Canada Annual Plant Sale. See <http://www.rhodoniagara.org/plantsales.htm>

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Niagara College Rhodo Project

Hard landscaping work has commenced on the Niagara College Rhodo Demonstration Garden, our joint project with Niagara College to help beautify the campus and to educate horticulture students on growing rhododendrons and azaleas. Designed by Michelle Purchase, Niagara College's Landscape Designer, this bed is located by the back entrance to the College. **The Niagara Chapter will be helping to select the rhodos and companion plants during the next two months for planting this spring. If you would like to be involved in this phase of the project, please contact Nick Yarmoshuk.** Pictures, capturing the progress on the Rhododendron Garden, will be shown on our website after February 1, 2007.

Elections

Elections for the Board of Directors are being held this year using a mail-in ballot process. The slate of nominees is provided on the attached ballot sheet. An addressed return envelope is provided for your convenience. Irma Purchase is the scrutineer for the election and all ballots are addressed to her. You may vote for as many individuals as you wish. Also, you may write in the names of people for whom you wish to vote but who do not appear on the ballot. We welcome the addition of further names to the existing list. Please mail your ballot in the accompanying envelope before February 2, 2007. If your ballot arrives after February 2, 2007, please call in your ballot with a message to Irma Purchase at (905) 892-2732.

Financial Statement

A recent Balance Sheet for the Niagara Chapter of the Rhododendron Society of Canada is included as the last page in this newsletter.

Membership

Membership Renewal Reminder Notice: *If you have yet to renew your membership, please contact Bob Dickhout at 905-356-3432.*

Membership is open to anyone interested in the growth and culture of rhododendrons and azaleas. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact our Membership Chairman: Mr. Bob Dickhout, 5200 Timothy Drive, Niagara Falls, L2E 5G3, Telephone # 905-356-3432. Remember, a local membership costs only \$10.00

President's Message - Sondra Meis

The year 2007 is off to an excellent start. Our Speaker's Program kicks off with two events that are "Must to Attend" if you are keen to get new ideas and inspiration for improving your gardens, and to network with your fellow enthusiasts.

Successes for 2006:

1. Knowledgeable guest speakers including:
 - Ken Parker on "*Native Plant Gardening –A Joint Venture with Nature*";
 - Nick Yarmoshuk on "*Proper planting instructions and care for rhododendrons and azaleas.*"
2. Successful Annual Plant Sale in April. (Our raffle indicated many newcomers came to our sale.)
3. Initiated One-Stop Shopping at the Annual Plant Sale by selling bags of chunky peat moss and fertilizer to ensure a healthy start for purchasers' plants.
4. Great turnout for our Members' Plant Sale of proven Niagara hardy plants in June.
5. Social events: In April, chunky peat bagging. In July, the summer picnic at the Looye's. In December, the Christmas party.
6. Starting of our new initiative in September: The Rhododendron Garden Project with Niagara College.
7. A more robust website. <http://www.rhodoniagara.org>

Your Board of Directors looks for your input to find new ways to add value to members. Please share your ideas and suggestions with us. Even better, join the Board and help to implement your ideas.

**ELECTION 2007, BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
NIAGARA CHAPTER, RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF CANADA
FEBRUARY 1, 2007**

Elections to the Board of Directors of the Niagara Chapter of the Rhododendron Society of Canada, this year, are being conducted by mail.

Please write in the name of any member of the Society, in the space provided, to indicate their candidature.

Show below is the ballot with names of those who have allowed their names to stand for election.

Any individual's name submitted must have been authorized by the person named.

Six people have been nominated to stand for election to the Board. **The Board of Directors must be enlarged for more effective performance of the Society.**

If 11 or fewer people are nominated, election will be by acclamation. If more than 11 candidates are nominated, a final vote for membership will take place at the annual meeting of the membership of the society on February 11, 2007, at 2:00 P.M. at the Horticultural Research Station, (Guelph University), Vineland Station.

We ask you to please nominate additional candidates who would be willing to serve on the Board.

BOARD MEMBERS - 11 TO BE ELECTED

Current members of the Board of Directors nominated for re-election.

Barbara Agnew: A long time member of the society, active in hosting social events and developing the plant sale; an active gardener in Welland.

Bob Dickhout: Founding member and long time Membership Chair for both the RSC and the Niagara Chapter; awarded ARS Bronze Medal for service to the society; very knowledgeable in plant protection and in government regulation of imported plant products.

Marian Little: Long time member and instrumental in acquiring and growing-on plants for members; owner of Nettle Creek Nursery in Fonthill and highly knowledgeable in plant species relevant to the Niagara environment.

Mike Little: Current Treasurer; Past-President, Niagara Chapter and RSC; owner of Nettle Creek Nursery; developed Rhododendron garden at Brock University; experienced internationally in project management.

Jackie Looye: A mainstay of the Society for 2 decades; with her husband Jack, Jackie has hosted many Niagara Chapter social events; active on publicity, served as Secretary, and has moved cuttings across the border for transmittal to Van Veen Nursery for rooting "Plants for Members"; provided, with Jack Looye, quality rhododendrons and azaleas; Owner with Jack Looye of Rhodo Land Nursery.

Sondra Meis-Simpson: Current president; long term gardener at Point Albino (Fort Erie) Ontario; Senior Business Development Advisor with the Ontario Government.

Nicholas Yarmoshuk: Founding member of the Society; current Secretary & Webmaster; Past-President, Niagara Branch and RSC; Chair, 1998, ARS National Convention at Niagara Falls, Ontario; grows rhododendrons and azaleas in St.Catharines.

*See reverse side of this page for space on which to nominate
Society members to the Board of Directors*

Ballot
Nominations for Election to the Board of Directors

___ Write in candidate's name _____

___ Write in candidate's name _____

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___ Write in candidate's name _____

Please mail your ballot in the accompanying pre-addressed envelope to Irma Purchase, at 728 Memorial Drive, RR#3 Fenwick ON, L0S1C0, before February 2, 2007. If you received your ballot after February 2, 2007, please phone in your ballot to leave a message with Irma at (905) 892-2732.

Balance Sheet
December 31, 2006
The Niagara Branch
Rhododendron Society of Canada

Net Worth - As of 31/12/2006

(Includes unrealized gains)
As of 31/12/2006 (in Canadian Dollars)

Account 31/12/2006 Balance (In Canadian \$)

Assets

Cash and Bank Accounts

ARS NIAGARA	806.89
Cash Account	16.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	822.89

Investments

Brokerage	4,488.91
Brokerage 2	2,244.45
Brokerage 3	2,244.45
TOTAL Investments	8,977.81

TOTAL ASSETS 9,800.70

LIABILITIES

Credit Cards

ARS NIAGARA VISA	0.00
TOTAL Credit Cards	0.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES 0.00

OVERALL TOTAL 9,800.70

See 2007 program of Speakers and Plant Sales to end of May 2007

**Rhododendron Society of Canada,
Niagara Region.**
2007 Meeting Dates and Topics to end of May 2007

Niagara Dates & Speakers	Related Community Events
<p>February 11, 2007, Sunday 2:00 PM. HRIO (Guelph University), Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station.</p> <p>Dr. Harold Pellet Developer of Northern Lights Deciduous Azaleas Lifetime Research Other Cold & Drought Tolerant plants</p>	
<p>March 11 2007, Sunday 2:00 pm. Best Western Beacon Harbourside Inn, Beacon Blvd., Jordan.</p> <p><u>Sally & John Perkins</u> - Rhododendrons that do well in New Hampshire, PLUS Bulbs, corms & rhizomes as Companion Plants</p>	<p>March 7-11, 2007 <u>Canada Blooms</u></p> <p>This event is held in Toronto.</p>
	<p>Sunday, March 24 or 25, 2007 Time TBA</p> <p><u>Niagara College open House</u> Glendale Campus Growing Rhododendron at Niagara College Speaker : N.Yarmoshuk</p>
<p><u>Note: April 18 event</u></p> <p>The talk will describe experiences of growing 300 Rhododendrons and Azaleas in a downtown lot in St. Catharines & Descriptions of plants to be available at the Plant sale April 21, 2007</p>	<p><u>April 18, 2007. WED. 18:30 hrs - 20:00 hrs. St Catharines Public Library sponsored event at Grantham Library.</u> Grantham Plaza, L2M 3W4. Location: Scott Street between Vine Street & Niagara Street.</p> <p><i>Success with Rhododendrons in Niagara.</i> <i>Speaker : N.Yarmoshuk</i></p>
<p><u>April 21, 2007 (Saturday)</u></p> <p>General Plant Sale. HRIO (Guelph University), Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station. 10:00 am</p>	
<p><u>May 13, 2007 (Sunday) HRIO (Guelph University) Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station</u> Special sale - Plants for members - 120+/- Plants now in poly-house ready for sale to members.</p>	