

From the Archives

As many of the Horticultural society members know, Orangeville has a rich history documented back into the 19th century. With our archives digitized and catalogued, I share with you some of our story, back to the first Orangeville Horticultural Society.

From the *Orangeville Sun* in 1874, “we are glad to learn that an Horticultural Association has been organized in Orangeville.” This early society started with 94 members. As noted by our late President, Peter Phillips: “On January 20th, 1876 Dr. H.F. Tuck was elected President, with A.M. Kirkland as Vice President, Secretary was T.G. Poyntz and the Treasurer was P.M. Baker.” This day was a rich one in worldwide history as well. It was the day Alexander Graham Bell officially patented the telephone. In August of 1876, the first summer Flower Show was hosted with judges from Weston, Guelph, Erin and Cooksville. Featured in the *Orangeville Banner* in 1968, a record from 1898 describes the Flower Show in Town Hall as: “Decked in flowers and fruits, the auditorium looked like a beautiful inside garden. Immense crowds came in from the surrounding country-side to view the spectacle of beauty.” From various newspaper reports through 1880-1890s, the Orangeville Horticultural Society was re-organized several times – even amalgamating with the local Agricultural Society.

Stay tuned next month for more stories from the archives....

Vivian Petho - Archivist