



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside

# MGOI

## *Happy New Year!*

Welcome to 2021, the promise of new hope and new beginnings. And welcome to the January edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter. This is the sixth year of publication.

The Newsletter focuses on you, Master Gardeners! This is your vehicle for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 30 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome!

Contributions to future editions of *Inside MGOI* may be sent at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Isabel Belanger, [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).

### **MGOI Board Members:**

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Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener  
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 Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County  
 Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Anne Bossart, Georgian Bay  
 Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Dianne Azzarello, Toronto

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### **INSIDE MGOI**

**Newsletter of the  
Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.**

**January 2021**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

#### In Memoriam – Diane McClymont Peace, 1945-2020

It is with deep sadness that MGOC shares the news that **Diane McClymont Peace**, Master Gardener, community volunteer and friend, has passed away.



Diane became a Master Gardener in August 2006. She was a dedicated, caring, kind and highly skilled volunteer who shared her expertise and knowledge with fellow MGs and with the Ottawa gardening community. Diane provided advice at farmers' markets, gave public lectures, wrote about gardening and served on the MGOC executive including a term as Coordinator.

#### 35 Year Anniversary

Lee Boltwood  
Polly McColl  
Fran Dennett  
Joan McNab

#### 20 Year Anniversary

Stephanie Sleeth

#### 10 Year Anniversary

Helena Dlab



### Grey County Master Gardeners

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

2021 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grey County Master Gardeners. We are kicking off the celebration with a newly designed website. Check it out at <https://www.greycountymastergardeners.com/>, and stay tuned for events during the year.

While none of the founding members are still active Master Gardeners, four of the original group are **MGs Emeriti** and provide advice and counsel. They are:  
Verna Beckenhauer  
Ursula Karalus  
Diana Lenk  
Paul Statia

#### Retiring

Margaret-Ann Brennan

Due to her husband's deteriorating health, Margaret-Ann has decided to retire from Grey County MGs. She was a member for nine years and, in addition to participating in many advice activities, she was Co-Coordinator in 2014 and 2015.

We'll miss you Margaret-Ann!



### Stratford Master Gardeners

#### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Nancy Burnett  
Chris Harwood  
Karen Potter



### Etobicoke Master Gardeners

#### 5 Year Anniversary

Linda Gordon



## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

by Ren Duinker, Coordinator, PEC

2020 was a blockbuster year for our group: five new members and many celebrations. Our members work hard, even in these difficult times. We're all learning as fast as we can, getting ourselves up to speed with new technology and new ways to get our advice out to our communities. It's not been easy, as I'm sure many groups have discovered.

We all miss our face-to-face meetings, catching up with one another, socializing and sharing news - and hugs. But we're adapting.

In this issue we celebrate seven outstanding members. We welcome Lee Scott, our newest member, we celebrate the many years Maxine Thompson, Marianne Malachowski, Virginia Mitchell, Joyce Young and Andie Wiens have given to their communities. And we congratulate Gail Walker who has achieved her certification.

As soon as things get back to 'normal' - however that may look - we'll be getting together to share a meal and thank these members in person for all they have done for the gardeners of Prince Edward County.

### 25 Year Anniversary

Maxine Thompson



The smile you see here is what we have all been greeted with for many years working with Maxine. She has been a devoted Master Gardener and a good friend to so many of us. Maxine has for years got us all organized to do our shifts at a local garden centre and has acted as a liaison for us.

Maxine and her husband Doug lovingly tend their vast garden

on the Bay of Quinte and are happy to give a tour to any of us who drop by for a taste of their extraordinary hospitality.

Our group is indeed blessed to have the wisdom and kindness of long-time members such as Maxine and we're all delighted to take part in celebrating her 25 years of service as a MG.

**Congratulations Maxine - and Thank You for all your work!**

### 20 Year Anniversaries

Marianne Malachowski

Virginia Mitchell



*Marianne, left with Virginia*

These two good friends have given so much to our group, I hardly know where to begin. Virginia has led the maintenance of the Macaulay Heritage Gardens and we all enjoy the cookies and cold drinks that Marianne supplies for us on our break. They usually work in tandem and what a workforce they are! Seniors' Fairs, County Blooms, Seedy Saturday and of course our Plant Sale – they are always there. They have both been recognized over the years – Marianne with a Volunteer of the Year award, Virginia with an Ontario Volunteer Service Award. Always a smile from these two, always a helping hand.

**Congratulations you two on 20 years of the best service a group could ask for - THANK YOU!**

### 20 Year Anniversary

Joyce Young

Joyce is amazing. She is one of the original founding members of our group, and our most senior member. When she turned 90 in May 2018, the group took her for a celebratory lunch where she enjoyed her favourite, steak and kidney pie.







She has done so much for our group – it's a lengthy list. Our first meetings were at her dining room table. She was Treasurer for many years, as well as our 'in house' sewer/designer of aprons, bags and anything that the group needed.

A few years ago, we decided we wanted

to have aprons to wear at all our events; Joyce just sat down at her sewing machine and made twenty!

Every year at our Plant Sale Joyce is the one who looks after all the money. She keeps track of it - to the penny - and reports on our success.

She is often chosen, as a sign of respect as our



oldest member, to give out awards and she loves that role, especially at the Children's Garden Award with all the kids. Oh, and did I mention she has a wicked sense of humour!

**We celebrate Joyce again and thank her for 20 years of service.  
Thank you Joyce!**



## 10 Year Anniversary

Andie Wiens

New members are often directed to Andie as "one of our most knowledgeable MGs". It's very seldom she doesn't know the answer to your questions. As a past Coordinator, she guided the group through lean years and great years and has had a memorable impact, not only on our group but on her community.



"A Jack of All Trades", Andie is an accomplished artist, great cook, amazing gardener and very much an outdoors kind of girl. She is devoted to her beautiful Nakita (pictured beside her) and her community.

If there's a fund raiser somewhere in The County, chances are Andie has baked some cookies and helped raise some money, either for the Humane Society or the hospital. She juggles her very demanding job with all her other commitments and is often seen with Nakita, who is also very well known in the neighbourhood!

Andie makes time for a lot of things and we're lucky she makes time for us.

**Congratulations and thanks Andie for 10 great years - we appreciate all that you do!**

## Master Gardener Status Achieved

Gail Walker

Gail is a very hard worker, incredibly organized and brings her vast experience in marketing to our group. Every task or event she has taken on has been a huge success and we are very lucky to have her in our group.



Yes, she's an over-achiever - even Gail would agree with that - but what she achieves brings so much to the group. When our major fundraising plant sale event was not happening because of COVID, she suggested an online bulb sale in the fall. The sale was hugely successful and surpassed all our expectations, including the bulb provider's. We look forward to her next successful project!



It is with great pleasure that we celebrate Gail's certification, and we join with all of you in welcoming her into the world of Master Gardeners.

**Congratulations Gail!**

### **New Master Gardener in Training Lee-Ann Scott**

For Lee, being outside with her hands in the dirt nurturing plants has always been her happy place and she has gardened for as long as she can remember. As a child, she watered and weeded the gardens at her parents' home and was given a section of the lawn to dig up and plant whatever she liked – mainly flowers! "Every house we have lived in we have created gardens, both flowers and vegetables, for the enjoyment of anyone walking by."



Recently retired from a long and varied career, it was Lee's husband who suggested she become a Master Gardener as her love of gardening and nature was obvious to him. Lee has been self-taught until starting the Master Gardener in Training programs.

Her interests include historic garden restoration, native wildflower gardens, rock gardens, vegetable gardens, pollinator gardens, fruit trees, and creating a dye garden for her other passion: spinning and weaving.

**Welcome Lee!**

### **Member Transfer**

June Crocco



Having recently moved to The County June comes to us from Lake Simcoe South and we are delighted she's joined our group. June works full time remotely at ADP Canada as a Project Manager. Born in Singapore, she has been in Canada for over 30 years. She is currently single and

has two children in their 20s.

June loves to travel, so this lockdown throws a damper for sure. Her next adventure will be to tackle Patagonia and Chile. She loves all types of cuisine and cooking them as well!!

Vino pairs well with food and she's hoping to learn more about wine and viticulture in the years to come living in PEC. June's next gardening challenge will be to convert the grounds at her new house into low maintenance native plant gardens.

**Welcome to The County June!**



## Niagara Master Gardeners

### 30 Year Anniversary

Beckie Fox

Beckie has received her 30 year pin. Beckie joined our group from the Toronto Master Gardeners. Most will likely know her from Garden Making Magazine; there is still a website for listing events online. Beckie has proven to be a welcome addition to our group. Her keen insights and opinions are always on point, and she is always willing to volunteer in doing presentations and assisting at our Seedy Saturdays. Beckie is a great asset to Master Gardeners.

### 15 Year Anniversary

Karen Walsh

Karen came to us from Halton Master Gardeners with the intention of moving to Niagara. She has served as our Coordinator. Her willingness to assist in whatever we have asked is so valuable. Karen has presented to Horticultural societies and at Seedy Saturday events. Currently she assigns mentors to our new members. Also, she is now our recording secretary.

Karen is invaluable!



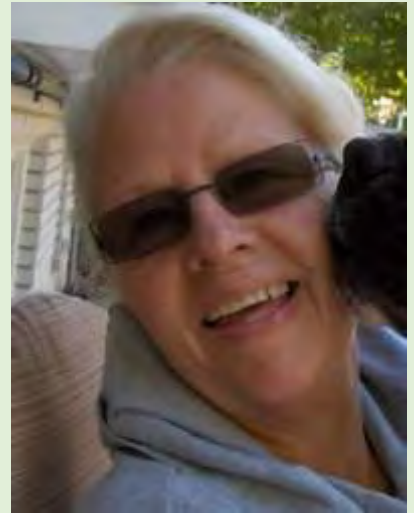
### 10 Year Anniversaries

Pat Bowman

Pat is another veteran of our group who proves to be an asset. She currently looks after our website and does a great job. She willingly assists at various events such as our plant sale and Seedy Saturdays.

Jennifer Qusen

Jennifer came to us from Barrie. She regularly volunteers for our hotline, assists at plant sales and Seedy Saturdays. Jennifer is a great asset.



### 5 Year Anniversaries

Michele Young



Michele came to us with a great background in horticulture. She did self study and passed the exam easily. Michele adds keen insight into issues and has been a fixture at our plant sales and Seedy Saturdays where she looks after the educational component for the children. She is fantastic at that!

Gail Richards

It's hard to believe that Gail has been with us for only five years. When she first joined, she looked after things like clothing and items that could be purchased with the Master Gardener logo. Currently, she is the intake person for our new members, and we have a lot.





Between Gail and Karen Walsh, they look after assigning mentors for our new members to make a fit for whatever avenue they choose to pursue to become certified Master Gardeners.

### Master Gardeners in Training

Chrissy Wozniak



Chrissy has been in the horticulture business for some time. Her expertise lies in a full-service marketing agency which serves agribusiness and horticulture.

We are looking forward to her assistance in social media.

Brenda Sawchuk

Brenda is already a certified Master Gardener in Arizona. She brings a broad range of knowledge and willingness to participate and volunteer where she's needed. Brenda has a wealth of background in the business world and her expertise is very apparent.

All she has to do is write the exam, get her hours and she's certified here in Ontario.



### Muskoka Master Gardeners

#### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Sara Drawehn

We are so excited to mention that Sara Drawehn successfully completed all her MG courses through Dalhousie University in October 2020. Sara joined our group in October 2018 and has contributed so much over



the past two years, e.g. working on a gardening article for Cottage Life, etc. We are all looking forward to being able to celebrate her becoming a Master Gardener when we host our first in person meeting this year. Congratulations Sara!!



Mark Denee

Mark has been a professional horticulturist for 20+ years working for large commercial nurseries/greenhouses in Niagara. He has gardened at work and home for 10+ years. He says "I love all plants (including a large collection of tropical houseplants), but I'm particularly fond of herbaceous perennials. I like to saunter in the woods as per John Muir, photographing native plants and sharing them on social media."



Other interests include cooking and pints of fine ales and lagers. As one can see, a welcome addition to our group.



## Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

by Lynda Bobinski

### 25 Year Anniversary

Gordon Ward

We are pleased to congratulate Gordon Ward on receiving his 25 year badge this month. Gordon has a special interest in growing kiwi and grapes and has shared his experience and expertise with local gardeners interested in doing the same. Master Gardeners have had the opportunity to taste the kiwi he has grown in our area and were pleasantly surprised at the unique taste! We thank Gordon for all that he has contributed to our group and gardening community over many years and look forward to celebrating his achievement once we are able to get together again!



### Member Resignation

Holly Rupert



In her eleven years of volunteering with Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners Holly has readily shared her gardening enthusiasm and expertise with our gardening community. During this time, she participated as a MGOI Board Member and led TB&D MGs as our Coordinator for a number of years.

During this time Holly's attention to detail focused on the update of our policies and processes. She always ensured education for new Master Gardeners in Training and updates for Master Gardeners were available and relevant to our needs. Two excellent Tech Days under her watch led to a review of how we could support MGITs wanting to do self-study. That is commendable!

A proposal was prepared with Holly's guidance and will be implemented as we support future MGITs who wish to participate in self-study.

Holly was instrumental in implementing a mentorship arrangement with the Cochrane Master Gardeners to assist them in establishing a new group in their region. It is through her efforts and important to note that in 2021 the Cochrane Master Gardeners are no longer under our group and are officially their own stand-alone MG group.

Not to be forgotten is her success with "Straw Bale Gardening" that will certainly be remembered by all of us! Holly - we wish you the best as you set course to enjoy life to its fullest!

### Member Retirements

Lynne Thornburg

In her seven years volunteering with the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners Lynne has generously shared her gardening expertise and horticultural knowledge with our gardening community. Lynne has always been one of the first Master Gardeners to put her hand up, volunteering to do the work of our organization. She has worked effortlessly to help plan events, divide, pot and care for plants for our plant sales, provide presentations and offer advice at our events and for others as requested by churches or community groups. On top of all of this Lynne continued to seek information from others to help make her own garden a success. I especially like the *Liatris spicata* that she so beautifully grew.



Lynne has served as our secretary for many years providing both effective and accurate minutes of our meetings. She also took on the job of updating our welcome guide and governance policies, guides and processes. With that not being enough work Lynne also completed a detailed update of all the activities in which our group participates. These documents have made it





easier to find the information needed in planning events. For this and many other reasons, Lynne will be missed by our group. Lynne, we wish you the very best and hope that you are now enjoying some peace & tranquility in life!

Susan Jaward

The Master Gardeners program was initiated in Thunder Bay in 1990. An application to join the provincial Master Gardeners association had been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture in August 1990 by the local Horticultural Society. Only one or two bids were usually approved each year so good news when word was received that Thunder Bay gardeners would be able to join. Susan Jaward was one of the first fourteen Master Gardeners in Training who committed to the two-year training program. From being one of our founding members to thirty-one years of readily sharing her vast knowledge of plants, trees, soil and horticulture with all of us and our gardening community we thank Susan who is retiring from Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners.



Susan will leave behind her beautiful garden lined with towering trees, and an extensive array of perennials and beautiful annuals she has so tenderly cultivated over the past thirty-five years. We are sure that when her move out to beautiful British Columbia to join family is complete, she will look back fondly with joy and pride at one of the beautiful gardens that she created and so willingly shared on local Garden Tours. Many have had the opportunity to experience the beautiful “bloom of the day” or a walk down the ravine to enjoy all Susan’s prized perennials along the way to the rushing creek below. We know Susan will no doubt miss the tranquility and beauty of her garden but hopefully she will have time to enjoy a well deserved rest while also reflecting on her many accomplishments.

We celebrate Susan as an inspirational and talented role model. She has enhanced the desire of many Master Gardeners to be the best that we can be in carrying out the

important work that she has so graciously cultivated over the years. Her hard work, effort and practical “know-how” has not gone unnoticed and will be greatly missed. From the very beginning she has raised the profile of the TB&D MGs through her many valuable contributions. Susan, we thank you and wish you the very best as you begin a new phase enjoying the many other things life has to offer!



## Durham Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Robynne Dunn  
Laurelee Stocks  
Norine Blyth  
Amanda Steinberg

Back in the fall of 2020 Robynne, Laurelee, Norine, and Amanda achieved and received the certificate and status of Master Gardener. Congratulations Everyone!

### New Master Gardener in Training

Lindsay Code

Our newest member, Lindsay, brings an education background in Biology and Environmental Science to our group. She has been a member and chair of the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee and, even though she has spent the last 10 years working in landscape maintenance, her interests are more inclined to: fruit and vegetable gardening; endangered and at-risk species; invasive species; and gardening for reduced water consumption. Welcome Lindsay!



## ***Wanted – MGOI Treasurer***

### ***MGOI is currently without a treasurer!***

The treasurer is an essential position in our organization and we need to fill this position ASAP! Without a treasurer, we are unable to pay bills or process donations and other transactions. **(Please see application and role description at the end of the Newsletter.)**

#### **Qualifications and Workload**

A Treasurer doesn't have to be an accountant or bookkeeper, but it certainly helps. If you are particular about how reports are prepared, are detail oriented and like things to add up, we'd love to hear from you.

The accounting records are maintained using QuickBooks software. This software is used to print cheques, enter deposits and journal entries and prepare monthly bank reconciliations. The busiest time of year for the treasurer is the first half of the year. Group membership fees are received in January and February. "Good News to Grow On" funds (if offered) are distributed in March. Year-end is April 30 when everything has to be tidied up and balanced. Records are sent/taken to our accountant in late June or July for him to prepare the Review Engagement financial statements and the Charities Return. In October, it is time to prepare a short summary for the Annual General Meeting informing members of the financial transactions undertaken by the Board during the fiscal year.

Are you interested? Feel free to email for more details or questions (please see below).

#### **Interested, but not sure if you have the time? How about job sharing?**

If the time commitment or responsibilities are holding you back from stepping up to help as Treasurer, consider sharing this position. Two people could divide the duties and share attendance at meetings, or the position can be broken down into a "treasurer" and a "bookkeeper". The treasurer member could attend Board meetings and hold the vote on motions. The bookkeeper could do the day-to-day work or journal entries/bank accounts. They would support each other and work together to fulfil these essential duties.

#### **Know someone who would make a great treasurer?**

Please recommend the name of a fellow member who might really enjoy this role and we'll reach out to them. We can't do this without you!

To apply, ask questions or recommend someone, please email Past President Claudette Sims at: [pastpresident@mgoi.ca](mailto:pastpresident@mgoi.ca).

Thanks for your support,

*Claudette Sims, Past President, MGOI*



## 2021 Toronto Virtual Technical Update – Beat the Winter Blues Sunday January 10

by Maureen Hulbert, Director of Membership

We couldn't meet in person, but the terrific Tech Update team in Toronto, led by Chair Margaret Rousseau, put together a wonderful day of virtual sharing and learning that was attended by 350 registrants. Gardening enthusiasts from Prince George B.C. to Thunder Bay to Nova Scotia, and even Connecticut, France, and Scotland joined us for a lively day of *Beating the Winter Blues*, which helped us all to feel connected in a shared passion.

Margaret set the tone right off by reminding us that washrooms were “upstairs and on the left” and were gender-neutral. Her deadpan delivery of a few easy to remember gardening jokes (what do you get when you cross a four-leaf clover with poison ivy? A rash of good luck!) made us all smile, while the raffle draws and wide selection of easy-to-mail prizes added to the anticipation of the day.

Niki Jabbour got us started with an enthusiastic, information-packed talk on ‘Growing Under Cover’. From willow cloches to keep birds from snipping cucumber vines to stand-up poly houses, Niki has tried it all and had many practical, low cost tips for extending the season, protecting plants and increasing your range of plant possibilities. With the pandemic-inspired increase in veggie gardening, this was information we can all use as Master Gardeners.



Joyce Hostyn then set a completely different tone.



Her gentle voice, and poetic and meditative talk on ‘Re-Wilding: Re-Enchanting our Gardens and Cities’, helped to remind us that we should be taking an “earth-centric”, not human-centric

approach to our gardens and to planting in general, and to remember that “You breathe the Earth, and the Earth breathes you.”

Darryl Cheng, who gave us *An Engineer's Approach*

*Care*, pointed out that engineers measure everything. In Darryl's case, he means the vast difference

in indoor light levels for house plants that may be only two feet further away from a window. But he also touched on the ABCs of Houseplant Appreciation: Aesthetics (they are beautiful), Biology (fascinating living beings), and Companionship (we are interacting with these living beings and they provide companionship.)



Three very different perspectives but one overarching theme: The interactions between humans and plants run both ways. If we take the time to observe and interact with our gardens and our plants, we will both benefit. And so will our Earth.





## A Message from the President

*Karen Sciuk, President MGOI*



### ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2020

Information for the Annual Review will be collected in two parts this year. Coordinators are responsible for submissions.

1. The Annual Review 2020 Part 1 Online Form must include your Membership list and Financial statement. Provide the name of your Group, the name and email address of the person completing the form, and information regarding who joined, resigned, retired and who became certified. **The deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup> this year (2021); please make every effort to send this in on time.**
  - Once our database manager has confirmed your member numbers and dues amount, she will send you the Annual Dues Mail-In Form with instructions on how to pay.
2. Later in March, you will receive a link to the Part 2 Survey which will ask for information on the various volunteer activities and services your group undertook in this COVID-19 year. Note that the Part 2 survey will take into account that the minimum number of volunteer hours and education credits were not required in 2020. However, we would like details about how everyone managed despite the challenges and where they wanted more guidance.

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## Master Gardener Group Websites/ Links

*A Message from Jim Cook, MGOI Webmaster*



<https://smejoinup.com/5-google-webmaster-tools-alternatives/>

The MGOI website lists current links to group websites and social media, such as Facebook and Instagram:

<https://www.mgoi.ca/groups/groups.html>.

This is a reminder to please inform myself, Jim Cook, MGOI webmaster of any changes to your links to keep them up-to-date. My address is: [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca).

Thanks



## Master Gardeners Out & About: *Projects & Events*

### Etobicoke Master Gardeners

#### **Name: Soil Health: The Natural Approach**

**Details:** Etobicoke Master Gardeners is presenting the Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series (see poster below under Events) in partnership with the Humber Arboretum. The first of the 2021 workshops was offered virtually on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.

The free workshop on Soil Health covered the basics of what soil is made from, what good soil provides to plants, and how to test for basic soil types. The presentation also provided information on the benefits and methods of composting and the benefits and use of mycorrhizae.

### Durham Master Gardeners

#### **Name: Holiday Antics of the DMG Social**

*by Amanda Steinberg*

**Date:** 26 November 2020

**Details:** Two months ago several DMGs (except yours truly due to never-ending technical ~~allergies hatred~~ issues) sported their finest holiday attire and cheered the holidays. Definitely not a smidge like the year prior but for the three seconds of visual I did have, there were plenty of happy faces!

I had a quick glimpse of a bow-and-ribbon-on-plate-Christmas hat our mothers would be proud of (Pam Love Clarke), a sweater every Ugly Sweater Party would be envious of (Laurelee Stocks) and a drink...THE DRINK I was proud of! It wasn't mine but I wish it was (Isia Yeo).

Well done friends!

#### **Name: Volunteer Opportunities**

**Details:** Despite the limitations we now live with as a society, there is still a demand for the sharing of plant knowledge and plant growing expertise. We already have several requests from multiple entities for multiple presentations per entity (say that five times fast)!

Regardless that these presentations won't be in person, our calendar has started filling up. Something of a norm which provides a sense of hope that we will be passing plugs in person one day soon.

Frankly it feels like nothing has changed EXCEPT faces are now pixelated (sometimes frozen in that horror face with eyes half closed, mouth open) and no matter how much we plan and how hard we try, sometimes the kid(s)/cat/-dog/spouse get their three seconds of fame anyway.

### Stratford Master Gardeners

#### **Name: Leslye Glover Garden Chat**

**Details:** On January 18, 2021 Leslye gave a garden chat about Keystone Species to members of Garden Ontario. It was very interesting and informative and gave the audience a lot to think about. There were lots of references providing opportunities for follow up. If you haven't seen this information about re-introducing wolves to Yellowstone National Park, or David Attenborough's "A Life on Our Planet", you should take a look.

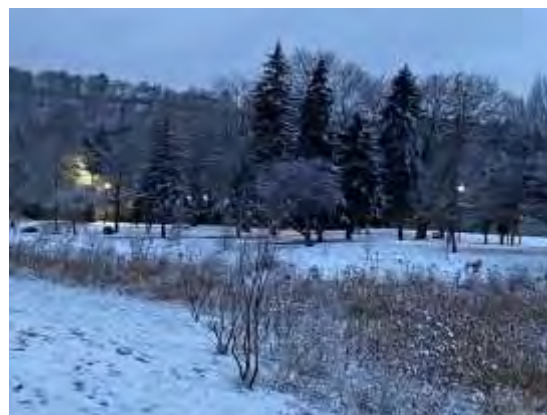
Links

*How Wolves Change Rivers:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch/ysa5OBhXz-Q?reload=9>

*A Life on Our Planet* (trailer):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8hhAfSPBq8>



## Upcoming Events

### Grey County Master Gardeners

#### Name: Zoom Seminars

**Details:** As part of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, we are hosting “The Eco-Responsible Gardener”, a series of 3 free Zoom seminars, each 90 minutes in length, to help you create and maintain a garden that is both beautiful and sustainable.

Seminar #1 is being held on **Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m.** Lorraine Johnson, well-known author, environmentalist and wildflower expert is speaking on native plants and how to incorporate them effectively in the home garden. This seminar is now fully subscribed.



Don't despair if you miss the first seminar. Join us for the second one on **Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** Julie Anne Lamberts, owner/operator of “By The Bluffs”, an ecological plant nursery and fruit & nut permaculture orchard in Lake Charles, Ontario, is presenting “Gardening With Nature – Building Ecological Gardens From the Ground Up”. Details of Julie's presentation and registration details will be on our website in early Feb.

<https://greycountymastergardeners.com/>



### Etobicoke Master Gardeners

#### Name: EMG/Humber Arboretum Virtual Gardening Workshops – 2021

#### Dates & Topics: Workshops include:

Jan. 16 – Soil Health: The Natural Approach  
Feb. 20 – Good Bugs – Bad Bugs  
Apr. 17 – Growing Your Own Food  
May 15 – Bird Friendly Gardening  
Jun. 12 – Benefits of Gardening  
Oct. 16 – Pruning  
Nov. 13 – Pests & Pathogens

Zoom meeting details will be provided after registration.  
Register at <https://humber.ca/arboretum/events>



### London Middlesex Master Gardeners

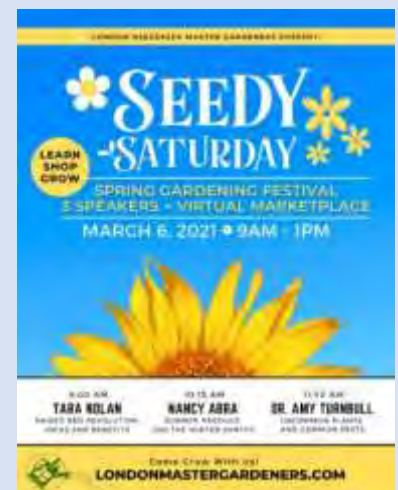
#### London's Seedy Saturday is going virtual!

**Date:** March 6, 2021

**Details:** 2021 will be the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Seedy Saturday for London Middlesex Master Gardeners (LMMG) and it will be different from any other Seedy Saturday we have planned!

London's Seedy Saturday roots go

back more than twenty years, from an original gardening forum with 25 attendees in a church basement to the event just this past March with more than 1000 attendees and 70 booths.





Seeds of Diversity helped us get started by sharing organizational coaching and support, some advertising, and links to national seed companies. They continue to support this event every year by bringing their seeds to swap and knowledge to share.

Our typical event includes 3 speaker presentations, plus a large marketplace of vendors and educational exhibitors such as garden clubs and environmental groups.

Again this year we will offer 3 great talks but the format will be virtual.

We considered cancelling the event or shifting it to later in the year when we could hold it outdoors, but in the end have decided to hold onto our 'first Saturday in March' tradition and take the leap to learn how to do it virtually.

So... now we are researching and testing various methods of hosting online events. There's quite a learning curve! Our plans include advertising on social media, and preregistration for three presentations.

We're also exploring ways to include our valued vendors and exhibitors by offering onscreen links to their video ads or educational messages.

Local gardeners look forward to Seedy Saturday every year. In 2021 we will continue our tradition of sharing some knowledge to educate and encourage new and experienced gardeners alike...and this year they can enjoy it all from the comfort of their homes! Planning continues for our event on **March 6, 2021** ....stay tuned! Registration is now open.

**Registration:** Click Here to Register.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/london-middlesex-master-gardeners-seedy-saturday-festival-marketplace-tickets-135892310559>

## Events on Hold until Further Notice

**Name: 2020 Atlantic Master Gardener Conference – Cancelled until Summer 2021 – Stay Tuned**

**Topic: Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada**

**Location:** Truro, NS on July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Keynote Speaker:** Julie Moir Messervy, award winning landscape designer from Vermont and author of *New Landscaping Ideas that Work* and other books, has indicated that she is willing to come in 2021. Registrants will have their money refunded ASAP.

## Stratford Master Gardeners

**POSTPONED!! Technical Update**

**Topic: *Gardening for the Planet: Creating Biodiverse Habitats in Our Gardens***

**Information:** We had asked you to save the date of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for our Technical Update. As a result of COVID-19 we postponed the event rather than leave people uncertain as to whether it would go ahead.

We will re-schedule as soon as the situation becomes clearer. We hope to see you there!

## Halton Master Gardeners

**Postponed! Technical Update! Stay Tuned!**

**Topic: Refugia: the future of gardening**

**Original Date:** Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Location:** Waterdown, ON

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Christina Davy, Research Scientist with the Ministry of Natural Resources
- Catherine Kavassalis, Halton Region Master Gardener
- Paul Gellatly, Director of Horticulture, Toronto Botanical Garden
- Claudette Sims, Past President MGOI
- Other special guests TBA



## Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners

### University of Guelph Arboretum

#### Name: 2021 Virtual Workshops

**Details:** Guelph Arboretum is putting on a number of on-line courses which may be of interest.

Further information is available here:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/educationandevents/workshops>



**University of Guelph  
ARBORETUM  
2021 Virtual Workshops**  
Gardening and Plant I.D. Programs

Our programs are great for general interest or perhaps to update your skills or your employees' skills. Please pass this flyer on to others that would be interested as well.

Wildlife Garden Design Course	Winter Tree Identification	Wild Plant Identification Series
 February 9 & 10 12 - 1 PM	 Tuesdays, February 16 - March 2 12 - 1:30 PM	 Tuesdays, February 23 - March 16 7 - 8 PM
 Tuesdays, March 23 - May 4 7 - 8 PM	 Week 1: Understanding soil Week 2: Selecting the right soil for gardens, raised beds & containers Week 3: Perennials Week 4: Trees & shrubs Week 5: Spring & summer bulbs Week 6: Ornamental grasses & garden myths Week 7: Weeds, pests & diseases	 March 31 12 - 1 PM

Visit our [website](https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/educationandevents/workshops) to check out our other programs such as:  
Nature in Winter Series  
Winter Watercolour Painting  
Tips for Heightening your Winter Nature Walks (with a Certified Forest Therapy Guide)  
March Break Series  
Birding Programs (coming again soon)

Click on the image to go directly to the website for further details, with registration, pricing and all program and MGT information.

  [arbworks@uoguelph.ca](mailto:arbworks@uoguelph.ca)  
519-824-4120 ext. 52113  
[www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/educationandevents/workshops](https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/educationandevents/workshops)

## Events Currently on Hold

### Canada Blooms 2021

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 a notice that Canada Blooms has been cancelled for 2021 appeared on the Canada Blooms Website:

[https://legacy.horttrades.com/nostylecanada-blooms-newsletter-merry-christmas-2020?utm\\_source=epic48&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=35792](https://legacy.horttrades.com/nostylecanada-blooms-newsletter-merry-christmas-2020?utm_source=epic48&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=35792)

'Sadly a couple of weeks ago, our Executive Director, Terry Caddo made the decision, "I am heartbroken, after having to cancel 2020, that we are unable to have an in-person event in 2021."

Currently, Canada Blooms has been exploring other options in place of the in-person event, and we will keep you up-to-date via our newsletter and social media once we have any plans finalized.

We thank each and everyone for your support of Canada Blooms and hope to see everyone at our 2022 festival. We miss you, and can hardly wait until we can all be together in person. Until then, please stay safe.





**Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.**  
**Application for Director, Board Officer or Committee Member**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info (phone and email): \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a member of your Group? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like best about being an MG?

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How have you been involved in the administration side of your Group? (ex: Roles held, duration, involved in a project, planning of a group activity, etc.)

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Which role are you applying for with MGOI and why? Committee or Executive

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What skills/strengths/experience do you have that will help with this position?

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The Board consists of members across the province and often needs to make decisions via email or teleconference. How would you manage your multiple priorities to respond to Board matters in a timely manner?

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What area would you need to work on to be successful as a MGOI Director?

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Please forward to [pastpresident@mgoi.ca](mailto:pastpresident@mgoi.ca) & [secretary@mgoi.ca](mailto:secretary@mgoi.ca)





# Treasurer

(Individual or shared position)

The MGOI Treasurer is an essential member of the Board of Directors & a signing officer for the Corporation.

## Overview

- The Treasurer shall understand and review the Corporation's finances and report on them to the Board of Directors and the Member Groups.
- This position may be shared, e.g. the responsibilities & vote can be shared between two people, or the responsibilities can be divided into "Treasurer" (attending Board meetings, voting, preparing financial reports) and a 'bookkeeper' posting transactions & record in accounting system.
- Term of the position is 2 years. A maximum of 3 terms can be served.

## Functions & Duties

- Maintain all necessary financial records of MGOI
- Ensure everyone handling money keeps proper records and documentation
- Conduct all financial transactions, e.g. bank accounts, term deposits, payments of bills, donations
- Receive & process deposits from fundraising, donations, GST/HST rebate and any amounts applicable to the organization that are not received by other board members
- Prepare periodic statements of the financial position of MGOI, or reports to the Board of Directors as requested
- Develop the annual budget with input from Board members
- Conduct business in accordance with the budget, Board motions, financial condition and proper accounting procedures
- Submit accounting reports to Canada Revenue Agency and Corporations Canada as required
- Cooperate with the chosen accountants in presenting all materials necessary for the financial review engagement report

## Qualifications

- Ability to conduct business effectively and efficiently
- Ideally an accounting/bookkeeping background/experience
- Knowledge of QuickBooks software (or willingness to learn)
- Access to a TD branch bank

## Communication

- Liaise with MGOI President re issues, concerns or problems
- Reply to correspondence in a timely fashion
- Communicate with Officers/Directors/Groups as necessary

## Supports for Board Members

- Eligible for travel expenses relating to the position as described in our MGOI policies/procedures
- Communications Guidelines for Board Members document
- MGOI Governance Guideline document
- Insurance to cover liability of the Corporation & indemnify directors

