



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the July edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter.

The Newsletter focuses on you, Master Gardeners! This is your venue for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 29 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.

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INSIDE MGOI

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

July 2021

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

In Memoriam - Remembering Karen Hawley

By MGOC MG Julianne Labreche



Karen Hawley, a Master Gardener in Training with MGOC, died peacefully on July 8, 2021. Her death, at age 58, followed a recurrence of breast cancer and complications from Covid-19.

Karen joined MGOC in October 2018. She was

keen to get started and signed up for the required courses at the University of Guelph. In February she was just finishing the last one (IPM). She volunteered to do a presentation on this topic in June and to manage the MGOC plant sale. A month later she was too unwell to continue.

Karen would have been a passionate, committed Master Gardener in so many ways. Her background was in biology and her focus was environmental activism. She was a former staff person at Ecology Ottawa, working to green the Nation's Capital. She became involved with Tree Ottawa, a volunteer group working to increase the city's canopy by planting trees in the local community.

Karen loved nature and gardening. In her self-profile on the MGOC website, she wrote: "I have always grown a vegetable garden where there was space or a plot nearby". Karen grew up in the west end of the city where her parents had a large property, including a big vegetable bed. Later, as she raised her two children, she worked in community gardens, planted trees and helped with schoolyard greening.

One of her many projects at Ecology Ottawa was a greening project at Kitchissippi United Church. Big chunks of asphalt were removed and a pollinator garden was created there, called The Alcove Garden. A few years later, MGOC decided to hold their monthly meetings at the church and this year a partnership was forged with the congregation.

MGOC was invited to take over The Alcove Garden and turn it into a teaching garden. Soon after joining MGOC, Karen agreed to help the MGOC team to re-design, re-plant and provide educational materials about native plants growing there. Sadly, she was never able to help out because of her worsening medical condition.

Karen is survived by a daughter, Ana, a son, Max, and her husband, David. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family. MGOC has made a donation to a local charity, Ottawa River Keeper, helping to protect the Ottawa River watershed.

New Master Gardeners in Training

Denise Bonomo
Chris Rowland
Morgan Whitehead



Durham Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Helen Vander Byl

Helen has been a very big asset to Durham Master Gardeners as she has taken on the position as Co-Event Coordinator which manages all the requests that come to DMG for speakers, plus sending out weekly emails to the group to keep us up to speed.

To add to this very busy position, for the past two years Helen has been the co-lead for the Adopt a Garden program in partnership with the City of Oshawa and Oshawa Garden Club. This program designed the garden beds, planted, maintained and harvested the produce. All the harvested food is donated to Feed the Need Durham. Last year DMG donated 372 pounds of produce and this year is looking like another bumper crop. A big thanks and round of applause goes out to Helen and the rest of the team for working on this awesome program.

Helen's passion for gardening and the outdoors started as a child growing up on a farm in Eastern Ontario. She is particularly interested in composting, vegetable gardening and native plants. Helen joined DMG in 2018, went on to receive her MG training through the University of Guelph, and looks forward to being a lifelong learner. Helen, all of us at DMG say thank you and congratulations!



Master Gardener Status Achieved

Kelly Mitchell

Congratulations Kelly! Kelly started gardening with her grandmother at a very young age and has rediscovered that interest now that she has a family of her own. Her current interests include empowering people to create suburban gardens that balance form, function, food production and native plants. This interest had Kelly involved with a DMG presentation on 'Gardening in Subdivisions' and helping with 'Giving Gardens' in Oshawa. Kelly received her Master Gardener training through Dalhousie University. A big whoop whoop for a job well done from all of us at DMG!

New Master Gardener in Training

Rabeeya Amjad



Please welcome one of our newest members, Rabeeya, to DMG! Rabeeya is currently completing her Horticulture Certificate from Guelph University. She has already completed the required courses for Master Gardeners. She is involved in team volunteer

events and community gardening. Her background is in business planning and she works in a family business.

Rabeeya's special interests in gardening are native plants, eco-friendly, bird- and bee-friendly gardening. She also brings knowledge about growing tropical plants. The other skills she brings to our group are presentation, leadership, people skills, strategic planning and finance. Rabeeya, we are very happy to have you as part of our team and putting some of those skills to work.

New Master Gardener in Training

Dolly Konzelmann

Another new member – Whoop Whoop! Please welcome Dolly to DMG.

Dolly has been interested in gardening since she was 8 years old. Her love for cooking led her to start growing herbs and vegetables. For the last several years she has been actively enjoying growing vegetables, flowers and herbs in both her greenhouse and around the property. Dolly is always looking for new ways to expand her knowledge and share her love for gardening.



Joining Master Gardeners is something Dolly has been looking forward to for some time. She believes that in learning through other's experiences as well as one's own is a powerful way to become successful in all you aspire to do. Dolly is going to start the self-study option for her MG education. Dolly, we are very happy to have you onboard and look forward to working together in the future!



Mississauga Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Karolina Marques

Karolina joined Mississauga Master Gardeners in July and is already enrolled in her first course on Plant Identification at the University of Guelph. Karolina is currently the Vice President of the Brampton Horticultural Society. Her gardening interests include vegetable gardening, native plants, container gardening and house plants. Karolina is anxious to learn and share her knowledge with her colleagues and the gardening community.



Lanark County Master Gardeners

25 Year Anniversary

Renai Rennick

Member Profile

Renai achieved 25 years as a Master Gardener in January but our July meeting was our first in-person meeting and we were at last able to present her with her 25 year pin.

Renai is one of our top plant identification experts and willingly volunteers to man our bimonthly advice clinics at local Farmers Markets. She attends the Master Gardener table at our local Seedy Saturdays and Sundays.

Early in her time as a Master Gardener, Renai worked with the Perth Museum as they planted two gardens at the museum. The first garden was a kitchen garden and the other an ornamental garden that reflected what a garden would have looked like when Perth was first established in 1865.

Congratulations Renai for all your help and support over the past 25 years!



Coordinator Dale Odorizzi, right, presenting Renai with her 25 Year Badge



Grey County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Courtney Brill
Cathe McIntosh

We are pleased to welcome two new MGITs, Courtney Brill and Cathe McIntosh to the group.

Courtney lives in Owen Sound and is especially interested in urban gardening. She has chosen the self-study education option.

Cathe lives in Southampton, and she will be starting her courses through Guelph University in September.



*Daddy long-legs spider on Petunia
Photo: Mississauga MG Maureen
Neglia*



*Coleus scutellarioides with
Elephant Ears (Colocasia
esculenta 'Illustris') in the
middle of the pot
Photo: Mississauga MG
Maureen Neglia*



Responding to Member Concerns:

Reduced Contract Policy and Form Revised

By Maureen Hulbert, Director of Membership

Many of you reported in the Member Retention Survey of 2019 that you would like more flexibility when managing volunteer hours and life's ups and downs. And that was before the pandemic added levels of stress and uncertainty no one could have imagined.

While we still have a 30-hour minimum yearly volunteer commitment, we have relaxed some of the restrictions around the Reduced Contract Policy to allow groups more flexibility to retain members. Coordinators have been emailed the updated Policy pages (or will have been shortly). The online Handbook is in the process of being updated.

What do you need to know?

1. We have eliminated the "Resigned" category. Members may either retire completely or ask for a reduced contract if they can no longer meet the 30-hour minimum commitment. A member who retires no longer pays dues or needs to acquire CEUs or volunteer as a MG in the community. If a member wishes to contribute some hours to the group, he or she will ask for a reduced contract. He or she will pay full dues and is required to obtain CEUs.
2. Trainees are now eligible for reduced contracts. However, a trainee must complete 2 full years of service before being certified as a Master Gardener.
3. The two-year limit on Reduced Contracts has been eliminated.

The policy changes above are changes to the province-wide policy that all groups must follow. At the group level, any group is free to add extra details to their own retirement/resignation/reduced contract policy that suits the group if they so wish. For example, if you currently use the "Resigned" category and wish to continue this policy change does not prevent that.

If any group would like me to virtually attend and explain the new Policy, I would be happy to oblige. Please email me at membership@mgoi.ca.

Master Gardener Group Websites / Links

A Message from Jim Cook, MGOI Webmaster

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. Thanks!



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

YouTube Slideshows

MGOI is running the YouTube slideshows from May to October this year. Please forward 1 or 2 pictures of your garden as it evolves through the seasons for the 2021 MGOI YouTube Slideshows. Although we would like to suggest you pay special attention to more unusual plants, native plants and pollinator magnets this year, please feel free to also send favourite pictures of your plants, garden and landscape. Send your photo(s) to photos@mgoi.ca.

Put in the subject line or all in one line in the email:

your name, group, a caption and date

That will make it quick and easy to copy and paste it on the slide. *Example:*

Flora Green Ottawa Monarda fistulosa with bee July 28

Note: iPads / iPhones sometimes automatically downsize an image before sending. Try to avoid that – the photo gets blurry when it's increased back to slide-size.

We will send a link to the slideshow each month from May to October with *Inside MGOI*.



Thank you for participating.

*Adrienne Hanbidge,
MGOI Director of Communications*

Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Town & County Garden Tour

Details: On Saturday July 3rd, PEC MGs partnered with the local branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) to provide an advice desk as part of their Town & Country Garden Tour in and around Belleville. We set up shop in one of the eight beautiful gardens and had a steady flow of questions from the participants. We also had several inquiries about how to become a Master Gardener, how to book a speaker for local garden club meetings and for home garden consultations.

This open-air event was a welcome return to our “more normal” activities and provided a mentoring opportunity for Master Gardeners in Training who have joined our chapter during the pandemic.

We were represented by MGs June Crocco and Gail Walker and MGITs Aleksa Kaye and Katie Middleton.

The hosts at the garden where PEC MGs were stationed were Dave and Sharon Little. They had created a very elaborate children’s garden and path for their grandchildren and all the MGs were quite taken with it. Following Photos: Katie Middleton



PEC Master Gardener Gail Walker
Photo by Katie Middleton



Dave on his 'Flintmobile'
Photo: June Crocco



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Ecosource Community Gardens

Details: A recent partnership with Ecosource's Community Gardens has provided a great opportunity for MMG volunteers to provide monthly virtual advice clinics for gardeners. Guidance includes companion planting, pest management and suitable apps for reference. Volunteers are looking forward to community garden site visits over the summer.

Name: Mississauga Master Gardeners and Blooming Boulevards – Growing a Partnership

Details: When we work together to raise awareness about pollinators and native plants, more people will learn that protecting biodiversity is vital to our survival.



MG Diane Westland learning to collect native plant seeds

As a new Mississauga not-for-profit incorporated community organization, Blooming Boulevards (BB) is pleased to partner with MMGs on behalf of a shared goal "teaching ourselves and the general public". Our MMG group is ready to stretch its wings in this regard – how great is that!

As President of Blooming Boulevards and as a proud member of MMGs, Jeanne McRight is ready to help in any way she can. So far, Jeanne has presented a number of free educational webinars at MMG meetings as well as interesting hands-on training opportunities. We eagerly anticipate the development of future partnership ventures that will further the mandates of both groups. So many exciting possibilities are out there, and partnering can make them happen!



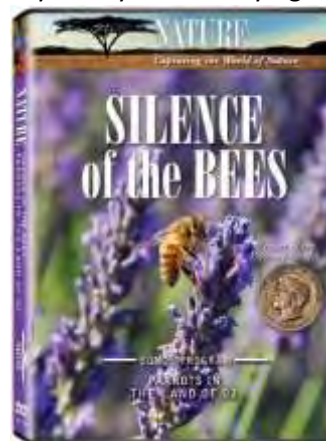
MMGs Catherine Fleming, left and Diane Westland with native plants they helped propagate from seed

Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: BMG Movie Night

Details: On Wednesday July 21, 2021 @ 7 PM via Zoom Brantford Master Gardeners presented the movie '**Silence of the Bees**'.

This film explores one of nature's most baffling mysteries...the disappearance of the honeybee. Researchers follow the trail for clues from the USA, southern France, Spain, Europe and Australia to discover why honeybees are dying in record numbers and how to stop this epidemic.



Durham Master Gardeners

Name: The Parkwood Tennis Court Garden Rejuvenation Project 2021 Update

by Ingrid Janssen

Details: The Parkwood Tennis Court Garden Rejuvenation project is a partnership between The Parkwood National Historic Site, the Oshawa Garden Club and Durham Master Gardeners. The project was initiated in 2019 after the completion of the White Garden rejuvenation project which was also led, planned and designed by DMGs.

While there are no remaining plans or plant lists of the original borders, one of the objectives of the project team is to recreate them in the style of the grand English country house perennial borders inspired by the renowned British garden designer, Gertrude Jekyll. The borders are each approximately 150' long and 12'-14' wide. We created a 5-year project plan which allowed us to divide each border into manageable amounts of work. Each year we will focus on half of one of the borders and in the final year we will evaluate the plantings and help to create an ongoing maintenance plan for the team of volunteers who will look after the borders.



September 2020: The planting areas outlined with white marker paint



September 2020: The design



September 2020: The volunteers from the Durham Master Gardeners and Oshawa Garden Club planting the perennials

Durham Master Gardeners are playing a key role in this project through plant identification, pest identification and management, designing and selecting the plants for the new plantings, and guiding the digging and planting activities.

The challenges have included the removal of

various invasive plants such as goutweed, lily of the valley, honeysuckles and aggressive spreaders such as *Rudbeckia laciniata* (cutleaf coneflower) and *Yucca filamentosa* (Adam's needle). We also lobbied to get a very large and overgrown cedar hedge removed. We have had to contend with Iris borers, Japanese beetles, squirrels and rabbits as well as soil that was alternatively too wet or rock hard.

Despite the pandemic, we have been able to continue to make progress in the rejuvenation of the gardens and to meet our timelines and budget targets for the project. The planting of the second half of the first border was completed in the fall of 2020 with a dedicated team of volunteers who planted 1250 bulbs and 170 perennials.



October 2020: Planting the bulbs



The spring display in the gardens was amazing although with the ongoing lockdown only the Parkwood maintenance staff got the opportunity to enjoy it. But next year's display of bulbs and perennials we hope will be even better with the completion of the next phase. Regular visitors to the garden have already commented on the amazing transformation that has taken place.



April 2021: The bulbs in bloom

so they put-up eavestroughing and purchased three 1250 imperial gallon water storage tanks and a pump system to pump the water the 700 feet to the drip-tape irrigation portion of the gardens. Next came the purchase of a large rototiller and tractor to cultivate the land which had formerly been used as a sheep pasture.

Now came the fun part — getting the seeds and plants and planting them. Plant donations came in from farmers and people who grow plants for a living. Over a thousand tomato and pepper plants were donated. Now more volunteers were needed. Lanark MG Gerda Franssen became the team leader of one of the volunteer groups. Every Monday Gerda and her team went out to plant, weed and do what is needed at the garden. One of Gerda's early jobs was to scrape the sheep manure off the barn floor! Five days a week, Monday to Thursday and Saturday, a team shows up to work on the garden. The Food Bank manager organizes the teams and ensures they show up. It is a mix of young and older people. Some people volunteer because they appreciate and want to support the Food Bank and some because they are doing court-ordered community service.

Early May and June were a long solid drought. Carrot and beet seeds were planted but received no water for a month and did not germinate. Seedlings were planted in their rows. Because the water tanks were sitting empty and no rain had come, the project purchased a load of water and filled the tanks. Shortly after we got rain and guess what – the carrots and beets sprouted. Potatoes are coming into flower. Swiss chard and kale are ready to be harvested and there are lots and lots of squash hills.

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: July 2021 Mini Garden Tour

Details: For the first time since September 2020, Lanark County Master Gardeners met in person. After almost a year of email and Zoom meetings, we were all excited to get together outdoors for our July 2021 meeting.

Our first stop on the mini garden tour was the Lanark County Food Bank, Blakeney Project. This is an exciting project that two of our members are actively participating in. It started with a donation of two acres of farmland by David and Maurine Dern. Lanark County MG, David Hinks, a

Vice-Chair of the Lanark County Food Bank, became the project manager.



David Hinks demonstrating the Pump

Working with members of the food bank they prepared a grant application and received a grant of \$37,000. They also signed an 8-year lease with the Dern family to secure the land and use of the barn.

There was no readily accessible water source



Vegetable gardens



After the Food Bank Garden, we travelled to the Almonte Library where the Almonte Horticultural Society is renovating the 30-year-old ornamental gardens to honour their 100th Anniversary. While none of the original members is alive the longest serving member has been there for 59 years, and one of our MGs, Helen Halpenny, for 41. Our MG group has close ties to the five Horticultural Societies across Lanark County and four of our members are members of their society.

The garden reflects their passion for gardening. They created the Alameda (Spanish for tree-lined street), planting 200 sugar maple trees along a part of the TransCanada trail where it passes through Almonte. In August there will be a celebration in the garden to honour the Horticultural Society and their 100 years.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Partnership with the Ottawa Public Library (OPL)

Details: MGOC had been invited by the library to give Zoom talks on gardening in April and May and are now continuing the series throughout the summer. Several members have stepped up to provide talks. Of particular interest is that some talks are in English and some in French.

Check out topics and register for any of the remaining sessions via the OPL website [here](#).

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Invasive Species Education Initiative

By Judith Lavin, TMG; Contact: Lucy Saunders, lucy.saunders@gmail.com

Details: This initiative aims to raise awareness of the problems and major ecological impacts caused by invasive plant species, and to encourage removal of existing invasives, preventing introducing new ones, and the planting instead of native plants which will help support healthy ecosystems.

The foundation of the Invasive Species Education Initiative is a microgrant we received from the Invasive Species Centre and our work is being undertaken with their support.

On the purely educational side we have undertaken extensive research and self-education and have used this as a basis to identify a number of priority invasive plants available in the horticultural industry, and to create fact sheets about each plant. These will shortly be available on the Toronto Master Gardeners website.

As a cornerstone of this initiative, we are developing a detailed presentation which we will be regularly offering, including internally within our organization, to the public, and to our horticultural partners. In drafting the presentation, we were delighted to receive input from Halton Master Gardeners and Katherine Baird, who was working as the Toronto Botanical Garden Ecologist – an example of how this initiative has allowed us to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones. Our first educational offering, provided last month via Zoom, was in the garden chat format that we have been offering throughout the pandemic, “Lunch and Learn”.

We have started to raise awareness of this Initiative via social media, including posting photos of the damage caused by invasive species, and taking videos to provide advice on identification and removal of invasive species.



TMG Dianne Azzarello at the TMG Invasive Species Education Initiative booth, Withrow Park Farmers' Market



In addition, we will be going live this month with regular tables at Farmers' Markets. As well as raising awareness of the initiative, we will be answering questions and offering advice to Farmers' Market attendees on an individual basis. We will be offering free giveaways of native plants and seeds that can be used as alternatives to invasive species as an incentive to interested persons.



Upcoming Events

Master Gardeners of Ottawa – Carleton

Name: Trowel Talk Live – Learn over Lunch

Dates: Every Tuesday until November 2, 2021



Learn over Lunch with
Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton
Tuesdays at 12:30pm, April 6 to November 2
Live on Zoom

Each session will include a presentation on the topic of the week followed by Q&A - 25-30 minutes total.

Registrants will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link and a weekly email reminder with upcoming topics.

Click [here](#) to register for these meetings. All past presentations are on the MGOC [YouTube channel](#)

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Invasive Species Education Initiative
Advice Clinic – Withrow Park Farmers' Market

Date: Saturday, August 14, 2021; 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Withrow Park Farmers' Market, 725 Logan Avenue, Toronto, ON M4K 3B9

Name: Invasive Species Education Initiative
Advice Clinic – East Lynn Park Farmers' Market

Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021; 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: East Lynn Park Farmers' Market, 1949 Danforth Avenue, Toronto ON M4C 1J4

Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: BMG Fall Plant Sale

Dates: Saturday September 11 & 18, 2021 11AM – 4PM

Location: TBD

BMG will be holding a plant sale as well as providing mini lectures throughout the day. Topics will include native plants, planting, best cultural practices for plants, etc.

Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Plant Sale

Date: Saturday, September 18

Details: We are happily making plans and potting up plants for our annual fall plant sale at the Heritage Place Shopping Centre in Owen Sound. Hopefully a year without this event has sharpened the appetites of all gardeners and would-be gardeners in Grey and Bruce counties, ensuring our main fund raising event is a success.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa – Carleton

Name: Lecture Series

Details: THE FRIENDS OF THE FARM PRESENTS LECTURES BY MASTER GARDENERS OF OTTAWA-CARLETON

Please join us from 7pm to 8pm
VIA ZOOM.



MGOC presented 3 lectures in April and May: "Our Gardens and Climate Change", "Colour through the Seasons", and "Into the Night Garden". The series resumes in September.

Tuesday September 21: "Another Gardening Year Behind Us"

Come fall, there is still lots to do in your garden. Planting, planning, cutting, trimming, composting ... tasks to enjoy as you wrap up all things gardening for another rewarding season.

Tuesday September 28: "A Garden for the Birds"

Wild birds are currently facing a multitude of threats across North America. Many bird species are in decline. This talk will review the most common threats and provide gardeners with some practical, positive ways to encourage birds to visit your garden.



Make your garden more bird-friendly year-round.

Cost: \$10 for Non-Members of Friends of the Farm

TO REGISTER AND OBTAIN MORE DETAILS:

<https://friendsofthefarm.ca/fcef-annual-events/master-gardener-lectures>

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: EMG/Humber Arboretum Virtual Gardening Workshops – 2021

Dates & Topics: Further Workshops include:

Oct. 16 – Pruning

Nov. 13 – Pests & Pathogens



Register at: <https://humber.ca/arboretum/events>

Name: 2021 Atlantic Master Gardeners Association (AMGA)

Webinar Series: *Spring, Summer, & Fall via Zoom*

Fall: Growing Under Cover - Techniques for a more productive, weather-resistant, pest-free vegetable garden

Date & Time: Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00pm ADT

Details: Join award-winning author Niki Jabbour as she shares her secrets to growing more food, reducing pest problems, and dealing with unpredictable weather in her vegetable garden.



She will spotlight a wide variety of season extenders like shade cloth, row covers, cold frames, and polytunnels, as well as show you how to use garden covers to prevent damage from pests. Put Niki's techniques to work in your garden so you can enjoy a year-round harvest in any sized space.

Registration: Opens 31 July, 2021 for non-members.

Cost: \$20 for non-AMGA members via e-transfer.

Register here:

https://www.atlanticmastergardeners.ca/fallwebinar?utm_campaign=c49ae866-0a2e-4aba-8cdf-28c3982dd2b7&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail

Events on Hold until Further Notice

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 17th, 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.

Halton Master Gardeners

Postponed! Technical Update! Stay Tuned!

Topic: *Refugia: the future of gardening*

Original Date: Saturday, October 24th, 2020

Location: Waterdown, ON

Speakers:

- Dr. Christina Davy, Research Scientist with the Ministry of Natural Resources
- Catherine Kavassalis, Halton Region Master Gardener
- Paul Gellatly
- 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 continues to run on-line courses which may be of interest. Sign up for a series or for an individual session. Further information is available here:

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

Ask the Arb

Tuesdays, August 31, September 28, and October 26, Noon - 1 PM

Format: Online

Instructors: Arboretum Staff

[Learn more](#)

Bring your garden, nature, and wildlife related questions to our free one-hour live session on Zoom.

FREE!

[Click here to register](#)



Shrub ID

Thursdays, September 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021, 12 - 1 PM

Format: Online via Zoom

Instructor: Shelley Hunt

[Learn more](#)



Ontario has dozens of native shrub species, from dogwoods to viburnums, blackberries to spicebush, and everything in between. Where to start in learning to identify them? In this workshop, spread over 4 zoom sessions, we will cover basic shrub morphology and learn the key ID features of a wide variety of these diverse woody plants. The 3rd session will include a virtual tour of shrubs in The Arboretum's collections.

Fee: \$50 (plus HST) per person.

[Click here to register](#)



Message from the President

Karen Sciuk,
President MGOI



It is with pleasure and excitement that the Canadian Garden Council, supported by *Canada's Garden-Family*, is proud to proclaim 2022: Canada's Year of the Garden.

MGOI, as part of Canada's Garden family, is proud to support ***Year of the Garden 2022*** in principle. Interested groups are encouraged to send letters of support to their local Federal MP (see below). The following is an excerpt from their website: <https://mailchi.mp/31db1d978b80/kvutnht865-13371271?e=116ef0a728>

Join Us! There is so much to do and there are so many benefits to gardens and gardening that this year we are going to celebrate the many joys of gardens and gardening with daily themes.

- Every day we will offer suggestions of great ways everyone can engage with our themes.
- Our experts will weigh in on their favourite topics.
- We will share links on great articles, books, podcasts.
- We will use our social channels to connect with everyone who loves a garden.
- We will invite our "Garden Family" and the public to tell us how they relate to the daily themes.
- Scotts Canada Ltd. will offer prizes to those that participate.

Toronto City Council unanimously proclaims 2022 the Year of the Garden in Toronto

Toronto became the first municipality to commit to being a Garden Friendly City through proclamation.

Communities in Bloom in collaboration with the **Canadian Garden Council** invites each municipality to do the same to celebrate the importance of gardens and gardening for the quality of life of its citizens. We can send you a model Proclamation of the **Year of the Garden 2022** that you can submit to your elected municipal officials.

Government Support

The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau's motion to parliament to recognize 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden should be tabled in the days to come.

Government still needs to hear your voice

If you have not yet done so, please express your support to your Member of Parliament for an official designation of 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden. [Contact your Federal MP today!!!](#)





Remember: Time to Plan for 2022

How can you as a member of Canada's Garden-Family benefit from the Year of the Garden 2022? We invite you to engage by thinking about how you will celebrate, how you will engage your clients, what will be your special project, and how you will engage with the nation-wide **Year of the Garden 2022** marketing and promotional campaign. Are you joining Canada's **Year of the Garden 2022** celebrations?

The Garden-Family Resource Guide provides you with ideas and links to various tools and information to help you plan your participation. Check the website for the Resource Guide: www.yearofthegarden.ca

Reminder: Hope Is Growing

We encourage you to accept [Communities in Bloom's invitation](#) to plant a Hope Garden in 2021. These very special gardens will set the stage for the **Year of the Garden 2022**.



We keep receiving letters of support. We are happy to share them with you and quotes from them on the website.



Ctrl+ Click to learn more

