



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside

# MGOI

Welcome to the September 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](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).

#### **MGOI Board Members:**

President:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener
Past President:	Claudette Sims, Halton
Corporate Secretary:	Terri Briggs, Lake Simcoe South
Treasurer:	Sheila Campbell, Algoma
Director of Communications:	Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto
Co-Directors of Education:	Kate Sault, Halton
Director of Events:	Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Director of Membership:	Maureen Hulbert, Toronto
Director of Operations:	Pamela Dallaire, Cochrane District
Director of Central Region:	Robynne Dunn, Durham
Director of East Region:	Sue Flinders-Adams, Peterborough
Director of North Region:	Kathleen Gorsline, Lake Simcoe South
Director of South & West Region:	Jim Fitzgerald, Stratford

#### **Committee Members**

Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener  
 Webmaster: Jim Cook [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca)  
 Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca)  
 Database/Supplies: Kelly Noel, Ottawa [database@mgoi.ca](mailto:database@mgoi.ca), [supplies@mgoi.ca](mailto:supplies@mgoi.ca)  
 Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County  
 Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Cathy Kavassalis, Halton  
 Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: vacant

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#### **INSIDE MGOI**

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

**September 2021**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### Niagara Master Gardeners

by Susan Lusted, Coordinator

#### In Memoriam

Wendy Fletcher



Wendy passed away unexpectedly on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at her home in Grimsby where she lived alone.

Wendy was the treasurer of Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) for a number of years.

In our Niagara group she served as coordinator, treasurer, and programme director. Her

passion for all things related to horticulture led to her being involved in the Lincoln Garden Club, the Rhododendron Society, and the Grimsby Garden Club. The gardens at McNally House Hospice in Grimsby received her care and attention. Wendy also served as a grief counsellor at the hospice.

Wendy will be missed by all of us in the Niagara group. Her calm demeanor and quiet confidence benefitted all of us in the group when we needed assistance.

Rest in peace Wendy.



### Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

By Ren Duinker, Coordinator

#### 30 Year Anniversary

Barbra Stock

When the Master Gardener program in Ontario became independent from OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs) in 1998, Barbra Stock was one of the members who signed the Letters Patent forming MGOI as we now know it. She has served on the Board of Directors as Treasurer and Director of Zone 7. Barbra was instrumental in forming the Quinte-Tweed group and was coordinator for many years.

Barbra immigrated to Canada in 1985 from England and brought all her English gardening knowledge with her. She settled in Prince Edward County and, looking around at the gardens in her area, realized there was a big difference between gardening in England and gardening in Canada. Back in those days the Ontario Master Gardener programs were run through OMAFRA and all expenses, including the certification courses, were paid for by the Ministry. Barbra decided the best way to familiarize herself with Canadian gardening was to become a Master Gardener. She wrote the exam and passed, and then did the courses at Guelph, just to add to her knowledge.

Barbra's contributions to the gardeners of Prince Edward County and our group specifically are legend. She's always on hand to give a talk to groups in The County or give advice at a garden show or help one of our members. In 1992 Barbra organized a day of speakers at Isaiah Tubbs Resort to promote Master Gardeners. She hired a local film crew to film the speeches and sold 120 lunches plus many overnight stays. In 2018 she started the Children's Garden Award to introduce gardening to the children of The County. For many years Barbra had an herb business in The County and became friends with Conrad Richter of Richters Herbs. In 2019, she called Conrad and asked him if he'd come to The County to give a presentation on herbs. He came and brought his very knowledgeable and lovely wife, Aku. That was our first Technical Update, *Wild About Herbs*, and it all started because of Barbra. In 2021 she organized Wine and Roses at Macaulay Heritage Park, bringing together local rose expert Tim Buckley and winemaker Deborah Paskus to offer a luncheon in the garden, a wine tasting and a raffle for the roses.



These are just a few of the events Barbra has started; there have been many more.

We are honoured to have Barbra as a member of our group, and we thank her for all her many contributions over the years. Congratulations Barbra on your 30 years as a Master Gardener!



### Retirements

Marianne Malachowski  
Virginia Mitchell  
Maxine Thompson  
Joyce Young

We are always happy to welcome new members into the group – not always so happy to see older members retire. We've had four of our most honoured members hang up their aprons in the past couple of months. Joyce Young, now 93 who is shown tending the cash at our plant sale, has contributed so much to our group and her community. It will be difficult to fill those shoes.



Maxine Thompson spear-headed our afternoons in the greenhouse in Trenton and kept us all organized for many years. Marianne Malachowski, who received The Volunteer of the Year Award in her community of Prince Edward County, always has a smiling face and a kind word for everyone who crosses her path. She always knew what was going on in The County and was always there when we needed her. Virginia Mitchell, a recipient of the Ontario Volunteer Service Award, was very active in our group at Seedy Saturday, Seniors Fair, County Blooms, Milford Fair, and countless other events.



*Marianne Malachowski, left with Virginia Mitchell*

This group has given almost seventy-five years of service and we want to thank them for everything they have done. It was a unanimous decision to award them all with Emeritus Status – they've all earned it. We'll miss you and we'll keep in touch.

Thank You Marianne, Maxine, Virginia, and Joyce!





## New Master Gardeners in Training

Pam Piercey

Pam is one of our most recent MGITs and is an absolute delight!

Originally from Newfoundland, Pam has lived in The County for the past six years. She has been gardening for 20 years and brings a fresh, friendly approach to our group.



Quentin Wyne



Quentin is Dutch and his family has been gardening since 1659, so it's certainly in his blood! He is a truffles farmer and is hoping to introduce the art of truffles to The County. As a retired military public affairs officer he brings a vast experience in public speaking. We're all looking forward to working with Quentin and learning about truffles.



Diane McDonald



Diane is anxious to begin her studies at Dalhousie and is looking forward to her educational path. She is interested in native plants, trees, water conservation and soil amendments.

We're looking forward to working with Diane and we are delighted she's joined the group.



## London Middlesex Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Barb Geddes  
Larry Hogg

Barb and Larry joined us in March 2019 and both achieved MG status earlier this year. Due to COVID, it was just recently that we had a chance to meet face-to-face and present the well-earned certificates to these two graduates. Congratulations!



*Barb Geddes proudly displaying her certificate received in Nancy's garden*





*Larry Hogg happily accepting his certificate from Coordinator Nancy Abra*

## Ontario Volunteer Service Awards 2019

The MGOI Board of Directors nominated the following members to receive Ontario Volunteer Service Awards for the year 2019. Since their names were not mentioned in a previous newsletter, we are recognizing them now for their significant contribution to our MGOI organization.

Beryl Harris, 30+ years with Peterborough MGs / past Zone Director, MGOI

Mary Ann Gilhuly, 30 years with Kitchener MGs / past Zone Director, MGOI

Claudette Simms, 15 years with Halton MGs / Past President of MGOI / past Zone Director, VP

Rhonda Grein, 10 years with Kitchener MGs / Recording Secretary, MGOI / Co-Director South & West Region

Tracey Smyth, 5+ years with Durham MGs / MGOI Coordinators' Conference registrar



## New Master Gardener in Training

Andreea Nicola

Andreea, we're so glad to welcome you to our group!



## Ontario Volunteer Service Awards 2020

The MGOI Board of Directors has nominated the following members to receive Ontario Volunteer Service Awards for the year 2020, recognizing them for their significant contribution to our MGOI organization at the Board level.

Karen Sciuk, 10 Years – President / past Regional Director of South & West Region / Coordinator

Kathleen Gorsline, 15 years – Regional Director of North Region / Coordinator

Terri Briggs, 13 years – Corporate Secretary MGOI / Acting Treasurer / Recording Secretary

Susanne Flinders-Adams, 10 Years – Regional Director of East Region / Coordinator / Education Committee Member

Cathy Thompson, 5 years – Treasurer of MGOI 2017-2019 / Treasurer of Prince Edward County MGs

Katherine Mathewson, 5+ years – Regional Director of Central Region





## Master Gardeners of Ontario

### Annual General Meeting & Coordinators' Conference

**Date & time:** Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual Meeting using Zoom

#### REGISTRATION for AGM & COORDINATORS' CONFERENCE

*Due to Covid-19, the 2021 Conference & AGM will take place in virtual format using Zoom.*

#### Annual General Meeting

- To keep voting simple for the AGM, each group can have one member attend and carry their vote. If no one from your group can attend, a proxy can be named.
- (Name ), (email address) will vote at the AGM on behalf of (Enter Group Name Master Gardeners). If NO ONE from your group is able to attend, please fill out and return the **proxy form** to our Corporate Secretary, Terri Briggs at [secretary@mgoi.ca](mailto:secretary@mgoi.ca). This will allow your group's vote to be counted at the AGM. If needed, Terri can also help you to choose a proxy.
- Once our registrar receives the name of the voting representative, that person will receive an email invitation to the AGM. Look for "Panelist for Master Gardeners of Ontario AGM & Coordinators' Conference" in the subject line of the email. An email reminder one week and one hour before the AGM will also be sent.
- Forms are accessible on the members portion of the MGOI website under Coordinator AGM & Conference: <https://www.mgoi.ca/login/memberresources.html>

#### Coordinators' Conference (Presentations & Regional Meetings)

- Each group can have up to 10 members attend the presentations.
- A webinar link will be sent to the Coordinator and can be forwarded to the members who wish to attend the educational portion. Attendees need to register using the link. (If you would like additional members, please let us know and if we can accommodate, we will let you know.)

#### Regional Meetings Meeting

- A separate Zoom link will be sent for the regional meetings that will begin, along with topics the board would like to have some feedback on. These will be separate links provided by region.

#### Conference Agenda (tentative)

8:30 Sign into Zoom	10:40 Keynote Presentation
9:00 Welcome & Formal AGM	11:45 Wrap up
10:00 - 10:10 break & additional members sign in	12:00 Break
10:10 Annual Report and Mentorship	12:30 to 3:00 Regional Meeting

Please return the completed form to our registrar Anja Lowrance at [mgoi.coord.conf@gmail.com](mailto:mgoi.coord.conf@gmail.com) by **5:00 p.m. October 4<sup>th</sup>** to help our volunteers finalize the lists.





## 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 send favourite pictures of your plants, garden and landscape. Send your photo(s) to [photos@mgoi.ca](mailto:photos@mgoi.ca).

### **Put in the subject line or all in one line in the email:** **your name, group, a caption and date**

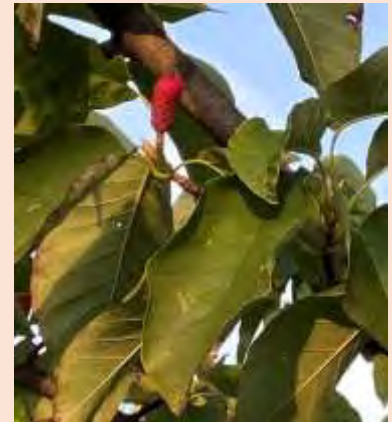
That will make it quick and easy to copy and paste it on the slide. *Example:*  
Flora Green Halton *Magnolia acuminata* September 26

**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 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!

## Opportunities – MGOI Board

Three (3) MGOI Board positions are coming up for renewal within the next year. The positions include Corporate Secretary, East Region Director and North Region Director. Each incumbent will have completed their maximum six year terms soon, and the East Region Director needs a replacement by the end of 2021.

Stay tuned for further details including job descriptions in an upcoming issue of *Inside MGOI*.



## Master Gardeners Out & About Projects & Events

### Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

#### Name: County FM Radio Talks

##### Details:

We are very lucky in The County to have a fantastic radio station that everyone listens to and enjoys. If you walk into anyone's house in The County, chances are you'll hear 99.3 on the radio. They have a program called "The Grapevine" that informs listeners about what's going on in The County. Part of that program is "The County Grows" that covers all things horticultural. Back in January, Krista Hepburn, the host of "The Grapevine", approached us and asked if we'd like to contribute on a regular basis. We jumped at the chance.



Of course, we're all scrambling, learning new technology and trying to get information out to our communities during the pandemic restrictions. Krista made it very easy for us and arranged for all our interviews to be pre-recorded by telephone in the comfort of our homes. This has been working very well for us and we really appreciate the easy-going guidance of Krista and her audio wizard, JJ Johnston.

We've covered a wide variety of topics from *Seed Starting to Saving Seeds*, *The Physical and Mental Benefits of Gardening*, *How to Start a Vegetable Garden*, *Pests and Diseases in the Vegetable Garden*, *Tomato Pests*, *Food Stability*, *Spring Pruning*, *Gardening in Small Spaces*, *Worms and the Soil Web*, *Japanese Beetles*, *Identifying Plants*, *Feeding Your Plants by Feeding Your Soil*, and *How to Protect Yourself from Ticks and Other Critters in Your Garden* – just to name a few.

We've also added all our radio talks to our website for anyone who missed the shows. They can be listened to anytime at: <https://pecmastergardeners.ca/99-3-county-fm-radio-talks/>.

We're having a lot of fun and getting a lot of information out there. Many thanks to County FM for such a wonderful opportunity!

### Simcoe County Master Gardeners

This September, some members of the Simcoe County Master Gardener group visited Tony Spencer's garden in Mono, ON. Inspired by Piet Oudolf and his New Perennial planting design, Tony has been creating gardens on his property since 2017. We saw four different planting designs: the sand garden; the fern pit garden; pollinator gardens; and the pond garden.



The large swath behind the house is a grass matrix planting with large sweeps of Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) and Autumn Moor Grass (*Sesleria autumnalis*) with clusters of seasonal perennials scattered throughout for year round interest. The garden is framed with Serbian spruce (*Picea omorika*), native sumac cultivars (*Rhus typhina* 'Laciniata', *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-Low') and river birch (*Betula nigra* 'Cully'). The garden is designed to capture light and movement from the wind.

The pond garden is an example of what Tony calls "wildscaping: using plant-driven landscape design to create and sustain dynamic garden spaces, filled with beauty and wildlife, to rekindle our relationship with the natural world."





## Toronto Master Gardeners

### Name: “Ask a Master Gardener” & “Infoline”

**Details:** One of the most popular services offered by the Toronto Master Gardeners – and never more so than over the past couple of years – is “Ask a Master Gardener” which invites gardeners in Toronto to submit their questions online. A dedicated group of volunteers works over two-day shifts to research and respond to questions on a wide array of topics. In 2020, forty-five “Ask” volunteers spent more than 1,200 hours helping Toronto gardeners solve their gardening problems. Our “Ask a Master Gardener” database now has a searchable archive of nearly 5,000 entries which are reviewed regularly by a “Best Practices” team who also act as a second set of eyes to read over all answers before they are published.

And we have not forgotten the many Toronto gardeners who may be less computer-savvy: a team of 12 “Infoline” volunteers sign on for weekly shifts to call back all the gardeners who ask their questions on our phone line. This is always popular, but especially over recent months it has been particularly welcome for gardeners who are housebound or isolated.

### Name: Toronto Master Gardeners Summer Garden Tour

**Details:** One of the high points of the summer for Toronto Master Gardeners was a chance to visit some of our members' beautiful gardens over a weekend in late July.

Organized by Toronto MG Georgie Kennedy, several Toronto MGs opened their private hideaways for socially distanced visits. It was a wonderful opportunity to see some lovely spaces and marvel at the artistry and horticultural talents of our members.



These pictures were taken in Toronto MG Brigitte Richter's beautiful west end "oasis in the city".



## Mississauga Master Gardeners

### Name: Lakeview Farmers' Market

**Details:** In mid-September, Mississauga Master Gardeners held an advice clinic at the Lakeview Farmers' Market. It was our first community event since the start of the pandemic and it sure felt good to be out in the community again!

We had a good number of people stop by to ask us their gardening questions, show us photos of their gardens and sometimes just to talk. It was a very successful day and we look forward to returning to the Lakeview Farmers' Market again next year.



*Mississauga Master Gardeners at the Farmers Market –  
Diana Westland, MGIT*

### Name: Pollinator Planting

**Details:** On September 18<sup>th</sup>, two members of Mississauga Master Gardeners took part in the Pollinator Planting at the Small Arms Inspection Building (1352 Lakeshore Rd. E.) with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). It was hosted by CreativeHub 1352.

Diane Lapointe (MGIT) who is also associated with CreativeHub 1352 coordinated the event. Emma Chow (MG) and Mohan Iyer (MGIT) represented MMGs, actively taking part in various tasks such as digging, weeding and moving plants around, while at the same time exchanging knowledge and experiences about gardening in general and pollinator plants specifically.

It was a great group representing people of different age groups with various levels of experience.



*MMGs at the Pollination Planting by CreativeHub 1352*

## 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. Past presentations are on the MGOC [YouTube channel](#)





## 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

Tuesday October 26,  
Noon - 1 PM

**Instructors:** Arboretum Staff

**Format:** Online

The October session will have our horticultural staff on-line to answer your questions. Bring your garden, nature, and wildlife related questions to our free one-hour live session on Zoom.



[Click here to register](#)

FREE! [Learn more](#)

### 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 proclaimed 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](http://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.

