



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside MGOI

Welcome to the November 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:

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 Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County  
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 Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Vacant

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

**November 2021**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### Durham Master Gardeners

*Input by Norine Blyth*

#### 15 Year Anniversary

**Pam (Love) Clarke**

Wow, OK where to begin with Pam's accomplishments. It might be easier to list what Pam has not been involved with in both DMG and MGOI!

I had the wonderful pleasure of interviewing Pam as I really wanted to hear from her about her years with Master Gardeners.



Pam's working career was in the banking industry for 37 years. During those years she developed skills working with customers, as people manager and mentor, that she has been able to incorporate in many roles in Master Gardeners.

A few years before Pam retired she started her own garden business – "Love to Garden" (I so love the name). Her main focus was to help people with their gardens – seniors who could not garden anymore, busy people who did not have the time or interest but wanted a nice garden, and others who wanted advice and guidance. Starting this business is what got Pam interested in joining Master Gardeners to expand her knowledge and meet people in her community. Pam ran this business until 2014. She told me some wonderful stories of people she met during this time.

I asked Pam what some of her gardening loves are. She loves the beauty and serenity gardens provide, and having a creative outlet like painting with plants.

Pam took her Master Gardener training with Guelph and went on to get the Horticulture Certificate with them. Recently TREES have piqued her interest and Pam

has been taking some courses to enhance her knowledge in in this area. One course Pam mentioned was through LEAF – Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests. Pam was also very excited that she finally got to attend the International Master Gardener Conference that was held in Virginia, even though she participated from her living room ha-ha.

In our group Pam has held many roles, developed and delivered presentations, and mentored new members and committee members. Now we get into the committees that Pam has been involved with. The list is mind blowing! I have to say that before I talked with Pam, I also reached out to Claudette Sims, Past President of MGOI, who is a good friend of Pam's. Claudette gave me the list of what she knew Pam was involved in with MGOI and I have taken the liberty of copying the list from Claudette's reply.

'Pam took on the role of Director of Membership when the Board reorganized in about 2016. We had all been what were called "Zone Directors" before then, representing a geographical area of Ontario. The Board then pivoted to "functional" roles which have proven to be much more effective. We had a lot of fun working together on [Grow Your Own Coordinator!](#) to help groups structure their group in a way that nurtures future coordinators.

In her role as Director of Membership Pam worked with many individuals to create a number of important documents. The two of us produced a "MGOI Governance Guideline" together. It may sound rather dull, but it was an important step in creating a positive environment for Board members to work.

Pam also worked hard to create support documents, many of which are featured on our website. They include tools for membership like: [Three Tools to Grow and Nurture Membership 2015](#) (advertising, mentoring and recognition); [Help! I need somebody! presentation](#) (setting goals, planning, organizing, decision making, setting expectations, succession planning); [Volunteer Positions / Committees for a Master Gardener Group](#) (descriptions of various positions/committees); and [Dealing with Difficult Volunteer Situations, The Three R's of Recruiting, A Moment for Mentors](#) (Master Gardener Mentor Guidelines, Overview and Suggestions).



Pam's most recent involvement is "Mentoring – The Journey begins".

My final question to Pam was: "Any words you might want to say or have written?" Pam's reply and I quote her "I love the learning, helping people in my community and making new friends in the group".

I would also like to include what Claudette wrote as I truly feel she says it best about Pam: "Pam is always so much fun to be around and radiates sunshine and positive energy, but she also has a solid understanding of how to problem solve difficult situations. I relied on her good judgement a number of times when I needed advice. She was one of the most hard-working Board of Directors members I had the pleasure to work with, and for sure one of the most delightful ones!"

Pam THANK YOU for all that you have done for all Master Gardeners in Ontario and beyond. You truly are an inspiration!

### **New Master Gardeners in Training – October Michelle Lewis**



We are so pleased to welcome Michelle, one of our newest members, to DMG. Every new member is a great gift!

Michelle is an accountant who has been actively

involved in her family's school and sports activities including Ringette and Synchro. She also has a personal interest in horses. She brings strong skills in bookkeeping, organization, Excel software and doing public speaking and presentations.

Her gardening interests are landscape design, perennials, and low maintenance gardens, as well as native and naturalized plants and spaces. Michelle is looking forward

to her MGIT training and educational courses through Guelph. Michelle, welcome to DMG from all of us! I have the great honour of working with Michelle as her mentor.

### **Carol Anderson**



Now please welcome Carol, our next new member. Carol is a retired nurse / administrator who has served on a variety of community boards and committees. Since she retired in 2020, she has moved house to Oshawa and has kept busy in her gardens and helping friends with theirs.

Carol is very enthusiastic about becoming an MGIT with Durham and is eager to start her courses with Dalhousie. Her special interests are in garden design, perennial gardens, soil

preparation, and creating gardens with year round interest.

Carol has strong leadership skills, is used to working with and speaking to the public, and enjoys planning events and travelling. Carol, welcome to DMG! We all look forward to working with you!

### **New Master Gardeners in Training – November**

Before I introduce our new members, our group would like to say a big THANK YOU to **CORI WHITTINGTON** (responsible for new membership) for all her hard work with all the new members in the past while. Cori, three more members this month alone, so very cool, you rock! Our little group is growing in leaps and bounds! Now onto the introductions.

### **Carmen Lint**

Please welcome Carmen, a new member of DMG! Carmen is recently retired and looking to gardening and joining Durham Master Gardeners as her retirement hobby. She is a snowbird and is looking forward to being able to travel again.





Carmen and her husband live in Oshawa. She worked in transit and with her transit union before retiring. As a member of the Oshawa Garden Club, she volunteered at the Parkwood tennis court gardens and plant sales. Carmen has registered for the Master Gardener training courses through Dalhousie for November.



Her special areas of interest in gardening are garden design and garden maintenance. She brings public speaking, computer, leadership, organizational, event planning and people skills.

#### **Sherrie-Lee Neill**



Hello and welcome to Sherrie-Lee Neill, a self-employed property developer who lives with her husband and children in Whitby. Sherrie-Lee participated in Landscape Ontario's GROW Program. She describes herself as an entrepreneur and avid lifelong learner.

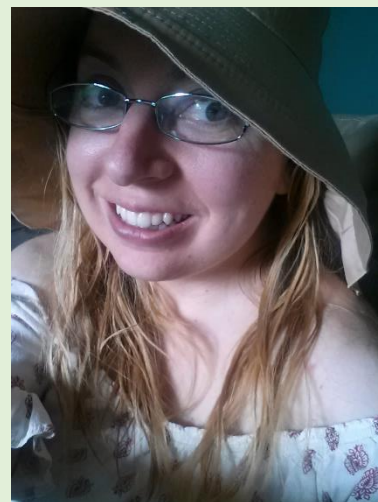
Sherrie-Lee enjoys redoing the overgrown gardens that always come with buying and renovating properties. Her current goal is to build her own cottage, managing everything herself including all landscape and design work. She has a successful edible garden in her back garden. She is going to take courses through Guelph.

Sherrie-Lee brings resourcefulness, enthusiasm, project management, event planning, organization, people and computer skills.

#### **Holly Norwick**

Please welcome yet another new member to DMG!

Holly is a Social Worker at the Oshawa Hospital and is interested in getting to know people who share her interest in gardening and how it is a healing activity for many. She has a love of learning and helping others. She has registered to take the Dalhousie courses.



Holly brings with her skills in organization and computers. Her special gardening interests are in gardening and alternative healing, sustainability, flowers and native plants.



#### **Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton Recipient – Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers by Julianne Labreche**

#### **Gillian Boyd**



It is a great pleasure to share the news that Master Gardener Gillian Boyd recently became a recipient of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (SMV).

Gillian was informed recently by the Governor General's office that her name would be added



to the list of those Canadian volunteers slated to receive this distinguished medal. Earlier, several MGOC members submitted the detailed paperwork required to support her nomination.

MGOC is thrilled to congratulate Gillian on winning this significant volunteer award, well deserved because of her many contributions to the local gardening community. She has been an active member of MGOC since 1990, giving talks, writing articles, providing gardening advice and mentoring many new members.

Many of us consider her skills and expertise to be ahead of her time. She has long had an interest in native plants, healthy soil and organic gardening, well before these topics became acceptable practices in the gardening community.

Gillian volunteered in other community garden projects, too. She was active with the Canadian Organic Growers and became the coordinator of their organic demonstration garden at the Central Experimental Farm. She also ran organic gardening courses for the Ottawa chapter. She volunteered her time at the Fletcher Wildlife Gardens, a lovely natural habitat created by the Ottawa Field Naturalists also located at the Central Experimental Farm.

Gillian continues to help with the editing of the MGOC newsletter *Trowel Talk* and, until recently, wrote for that newsletter too. Her talks and lectures were always well attended because of her level of expertise and depth of knowledge regarding native plants.

Many fellow MGs, garden enthusiasts and nature lovers have visited her lovely gardens over the years. She is quick to share her knowledge with visitors, as well as her plants, and feels her garden has finally become a successful garden habitat.



## London Middlesex Master Gardeners

### Celebrating London Middlesex MG Milestones

by Linda Armstrong

It isn't everyday we can applaud and honour our valuable members in our MG group. The last few years it has been difficult to celebrate member milestones in person, but their contribution and hard work cannot go unnoticed.

### 10 Year Anniversaries

Linda Armstrong

Sarah Ragalyi

**Linda** has been an active member since she joined the London Middlesex MG group in 2011. She has taken on many roles within our group over the years, including chair of our 'Seedy Saturday'. For several years now Linda, as our 'Communication Captain', has coordinated, written, edited and cajoled others to help with establishing our successful website and newsletter.



*Coordinator Nancy Abra, left with Linda Armstrong*

**Sarah** came to us from Michigan in 2011 when she moved to London. She also has been an active member since she joined us, including taking on important positions within the Executive such as Membership.

The last few years she has been chair of our 'Seeds to Table' program. This popular program extends for eight weeks in the Spring, but Sarah's work begins in late fall







## Northumberland Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Shelly Fredericks

Victor Freiberg

Congratulations to Shelly and Victor who have achieved Master Gardener Status!



*MGs Victor Freiberg (left) and Shelly Fredericks (right)*

with organizing supplies, aligning teachers, promoting the event, and connecting with students so we are ready to go in March.

London Middlesex has been an active group since 1985 when the Master Gardener program began in Ontario. It is because of the dedication of our members that we continue to be active and successful.

### Transfer In

Louise Nadeau

Louise has joined us from Thunder Bay Master Gardeners. Louise retired and moved to London in the spring...and brings a lot of expertise and experience to our group!



# Invasive Alien Species

by Catherine Kavassalis, Halton Region Master Gardeners

MGOI recognizes that Invasive Alien Species (IAS) cause harm to the environment, the economy and human health across Canada. The horticultural trade is the largest pathway for invasive plant species to enter Canada, and therefore should be the focus of preventative measures. Halton Region Master Gardener Catherine Kavassalis has drafted a proposal that calls for federal and provincial governments to better regulate the introduction and sale of invasive species.

To reduce introductions of new invasive species, plants imported or offered for sale in Canada should be better vetted for their invasive potential. Those known to be highly invasive should either be prohibited or phased out and removed from the marketplace. This can be done over time to mitigate potential harm to growers and sellers. Invasive plants offered for sale should carry labels that inform consumers that a plant has invasive characteristics and requires special containment and management to prevent its release outside of cultivation. In addition, vendors and landscapers should provide recommendations for non-invasive alternatives for landscaping needs.

If you wish to read the draft proposal, it is available online here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_xbKOXaGvA0WRjx9Msz8NTI1Akm3wzrp/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_xbKOXaGvA0WRjx9Msz8NTI1Akm3wzrp/edit)



If you wish to be part of the working group that will sharpen this proposal and reach out across the country to achieve the critical mass necessary for change, please contact Catherine Kavassalis, [c.kavassalis@gmail.com](mailto:c.kavassalis@gmail.com).

Please use in the subject line IAS Regulation.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/phragmites>



## A Message from the President

*Karen Sciuk, President MGOI*

MGOI is advertising three upcoming positions on the MGOI Board. Vacancies include:

1. Secretary
2. East Region Director
3. North Region Director

Our East Region Director Sue Flinders-Adams will complete her six year term this month, and both our North Region Director Kathleen Gorsline and Secretary Terri Briggs will similarly have completed their six year terms sometime next year before the 2022 AGM. Terri would like someone to join soon as a board member at large so that the Secretary training can happen well in advance of the October 2022 AGM.

If MGs are interested in any of the positions we like to appoint them to the Board as Directors at Large with a few months of overlap where possible.

The job descriptions are posted on pages 17-19 at the end of this Newsletter. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact the Board member whom you may potentially be replacing.

Also note that MGOI will be looking for a Vice President soon.

Thank you.

## Volunteer Opportunity

*Maureen Hulbert, Director of Membership*



### Timeframe:

Ongoing.

This opportunity takes about half an hour every other week or so. It's an easy way to get in your hours from the comfort of home!



*Welcome Potential Master Gardeners!*

**Description:** Would you like to be the first MG to welcome potential new recruits to MGOI? We are looking for a friendly front person to respond to inquiries about joining Master Gardeners. All the templates with information about each group are already set up. Simply locate where the inquiry is coming from and reply with the appropriate template. Training and support are available. Please reply to Maureen at:

[maureen@downtoearthtoronto.com](mailto:maureen@downtoearthtoronto.com).

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## Master Gardener Group Websites / Links

*A Message from Jim Cook, MGOI Webmaster*



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

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

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

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!





## Welcome MGOI Treasurer Sheila M. Campbell!

### *Sheila's Autobiography*



I have been a Master Gardener for over 10 years now and am a member of the Algoma Master Gardeners. In this role, I have taken part in many public sessions at local greenhouses, Seedy Saturdays, Sustain Algoma and the farmers' market. I have also given presentations to groups and

recently on Zoom meetings.

In the Fall of 2019, I initiated the Algoma Lost Apple Project. Our goal is to locate lost or nearly lost varieties of apples in the old orchards of the area. We have worked with the Rural Agricultural Innovation Network Algoma and with the Brian Husband lab at the University of Guelph. In 2020, despite the restrictions imposed to fight Covid 19, we were able to collect over 80 samples from 13 properties for DNS testing at the Husband lab. We found 6 old varieties and hints of several others. We hope to collect samples from several other sites this year even if they cannot be tested right away.

I have held the Secretary, Vice-President and President positions on the St. Joseph Island Horticultural Society. I am currently the Vice-President.

I was treasurer for 5 years and Chair of the Board for 2 of the Matthews Memorial Hospital Association which is responsible for physician recruitment and retention for our local hospital.

I live alone in a restored old farmhouse on 14 acres on the mountain of St. Joseph Island which presents it own set of unique challenges and rewards.

I am an avid gardener and amateur naturalist. I enjoy music and theater when I can.

My goal in life is to make a difference. My motto is "Why not?"

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## Welcome MGOI Bookkeeper Jim Cook!

### *Jim's Autobiography*



*The real Jim Cook*

I've been the MGOI webmaster since 2013 and recently took on the role of bookkeeper.

My love of computers has led me down a few paths, including courses at McMaster University in web design. Many of the websites I'm responsible for are garden related and the courses have helped combine things in the garden with these design and computer skills.

My wife, Tracey, is a Master Gardener and we have a beautiful garden that is currently under development in our new home in Nova Scotia. Although I'm not a gardener, I have an appreciation for great natural surroundings and love being immersed within them. I also have a love of kayaking and this is something I can do with pleasure here as there are numerous opportunities to do so. For me it's all about being out in nature. Combining this with computer skills, such as my roles with MGOI, is an absolute pleasure.



# Plant Sale Best Practices to Stop the Spread of Jumping Worms

by Claudette Sims, Past President MGOI

## Introduction

As you know, Invasive Asian Jumping Worms (JWs) were confirmed in multiple locations in Ontario in the summer of 2021. They pose a serious threat to our gardens and forests. There is currently no viable option for controlling JWs so it is critical to stop them from spreading.

Many MG groups have already started planning their spring plant sales. There are crucial steps you can take when selling or buying plants, especially at local plant sales.

## Plant & Site Preparation

- Make sure ALL plant sale members are aware of JWs – what they and the soil they contaminate look like.
- DO NOT ACCEPT plants from gardeners with confirmed cases of JWs.
- Sell bare-root plants whenever possible; completely submerge plant roots in water and wash away remaining soil. Actively check for JWs. If plants must be sold in soil repot them with clean potting soil.
- Do not use mulch, leaves, backyard compost etc. to repot as they may harbor jumping worm eggs (cocoons).
- Gather and transport plants/pots where they cannot pick-up contaminated materials like soil, leaves or mulch, e.g. on concrete, tarps or trays.
- **Arrive clean and leave clean.** Ensure volunteers clean shoes/boots/tools before arrival and brush off any soil before returning home.
- **Vehicles:** Be aware that vehicle tires may also transfer JW cocoons to and from the plant sale site. Where possible park vehicles on paved areas such as the street or parking lot.

## Introducing New Plants to Your Garden & Testing for Jumping Worms

- Isolate & inspect all new plants before adding them to your garden.
- Inspect the soil. Is it intact or granular? Intact soil is likely OK, granular soil may indicate the presence of JWs.
- If unsure, test for Jumping Worms:
  - Mix 1/3 cup ground mustard seed in one gallon of water.
  - Remove/brush away any leaves or mulch that are on top of the soil.
  - Slowly pour mustard solution onto the soil. The solution irritates the worms, driving them to the surface. All earthworms will react but look for the white clitellum of the JWs. Remove them as they appear.
  - Destroy all JWs and solarize the soil. (see below)

## Jumping Worm, Cocoon & Soil Treatment

- Handpick and destroy JWs using one of these options:
  - **Solarize** JWs by placing them in a plastic bag in the sun for at least 10 minutes.
  - **Soak** JWs in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol.
  - Put JWs in a bucket of alfalfa pellets. They will dry up very quickly and leave no odor.
- Dispose of dead JWs in the garbage. Do not put them in the compost pile or garden.
- Cocoons are sensitive to heat and can be destroyed with clear plastic solarization. In late spring or summer, cover moistened soil with a sheet of transparent polyethylene for two-three weeks or until the soil temperature exceeds 40°C for at least three days. This method works best in full sun.

## Treatment of Soil/Containers:

- Containers: Use boiling water to rinse the container thoroughly. This should kill any cocoons.
- Soil: Strain any tested soil through a cheesecloth or tee shirt to remove water and then bag the filtered medium. Solarize the material if possible before throwing it out in the garbage.



## Purchasing Soil, Mulch & Compost

- When purchasing bulk mulch or compost, use a reputable producer that has heat-treated the material to a temperature of at least 40°C for at least three days to destroy the cocoons.
- It is possible for bagged mulch or soil to also be contaminated.

## Jumping Worm ID

- Become familiar with the appearance of JWs & affected soil by studying photos and videos of their movement. Say tuned for more detailed JW identification in future issues of Inside MGOI.

### ATTENTION: Invasive jumping worms found in Ontario

- Jumping worms (snake worms, crazy worms) refer to several species of invasive earthworms that damage gardens and natural landscapes.
- Previously rare in Canada, jumping worms have recently been found in gardens and ravines in Toronto, Hamilton, and Kent County (summer 2021).



If you see jumping worms in your area, please contact  
Dr. Michael McTavish ([michael.mctavish@alum.utoronto.ca](mailto:michael.mctavish@alum.utoronto.ca)), University of Toronto.

## Stop the Spread in Your Garden

- Produce your own compost or leaf mulch.
- Purchase plants and garden products from reputable sources. Ask nurseries, landscaping companies, and soil, compost & mulch providers if they've had JW issues. If they know nothing about JWs, be concerned.
- While compost that was properly heated up should not have worms or cocoons, they can be contaminated via backhoes, handling etc.
- When visiting private gardens, botanical gardens or trails, arrive clean (shoes, tires) and leave clean, removing all soil and debris.

## Learn More

- [Jumping Worms](#) - University of Minnesota Extension
- [Plant Sales and Jumping Worms](#)
- [Heat kills invasive jumping worm cocoons, could help limit spread](#)
- University Place: [Invasive Jumping Worms](#) (Video)
- [Invasive Asian Jumping Earthworms](#)
- [NC State Extension Jumping Worms](#)
- [Stop the spread of jumping worms and other invasive species](#)
- [Jumping Worms](#) (MGOI Facebook post)
- [They are here!](#) (MGOI Facebook post)
- [Map of Jumping Worm Sightings](#)
- [Confirmed invasive jumping worm sightings along the Canada-USA border](#)
- [New Asian pheretimoid "jumping earthworm" records in Canada](#)
- Asian pheretimoid earthworms in North America north of Mexico: [An illustrated key to the genera Amyntas, Metaphire, Pithemera, and Polypheretima \(Clitellata: Megascolecidae\)](#)
- [Using Organic Products to Reduce Earthworm Castings](#)
- [General Earthworm Diagram](#) (Worm Watch)

Please see *Upcoming Events* for details re: The Jumping Worm Conference to be held January 26 & 27, 2022 online.





## Master Gardeners Out & About

### Projects & Events

## Stratford & Area Master Gardeners

### Name: Hensall Tree Planting, October 2021

**Details:** MG Liz Sangster formed a small committee together with concerned citizens of Hensall, ON and they are currently doing a scoping study to decide how best to proceed with maintaining and planting trees in Hensall.

So far, a survey of the village is underway to see if there are:

- any heritage trees needing protection;
- vacant lands adjacent to large industrial sites where a small arboretum could be maintained; and
- any empty spaces for trees on local school properties.

The committee is in the process of contacting local industries for support in the form of financial donations and potential land for planting. Rehabilitation of the local park forest, which has been decimated by emerald ash borer and poor management, is under consideration. The local Conservation Authority has been contacted as a supplier of potential native tree species, including some edible native species (e.g. service berries - *Amelanchier* spp.). Numbers and species of trees chosen will depend on available sites and the number of residents wanting trees.

There is a strong commitment to this ambitious plan. Liz will be writing a series of articles and press releases on the project and creating a dedicated Facebook page to educate and inform residents on the importance of a healthy urban forest. Trees will be made available to residents to plant on their properties. The committee will be applying for grants from Forests Ontario and Trees Canada for 2022.

### Name: RELEAF Stratford – RELEAF STRATFORD IS ON THE GROW

**Details:** ReLeaf Stratford is a project of the Stratford & Area Master Gardeners promoting the planting of native species to support our area's biodiversity. The goal, with the aid of our partner groups, is to plant 2022 trees and shrubs in the year 2022.

Our website [releafstratford.ca](http://releafstratford.ca) contains a plethora of information about native plants, where to purchase them, how to correctly plant a tree, tree activities for families, and more. New content is being added regularly.

In Spring 2022, in conjunction with tree sales and planting, ReLeaf will be presenting a series of speakers hosted through the Stratford Public Library. Look for details in the next MGOI newsletter.



*Here is Master Gardener Don Farwell planting a back cherry tree on October 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year in the T.J. Dolan Natural Area, Stratford*

### Name: Not Fall Clean up

**Details:** During the month of October 2021, MG Leslye Glover has presented, via Zoom, a Slide Show information session about NOT doing a fall clean up of your garden. She has presented it to the Stoney Creek Horticultural Society, Winona Horticultural Society and the Stratford Kiwanis Club.



## Mississauga Master Gardeners

### Name: Collecting Native Plant Seeds

**Details:** On November 13th, 2021, MGIT Mohan Iyer and a few others were with MG Jeanne McRight (<http://www.bloomingboulevards.org/>) to collect native plant seeds again. The group gathered in the parking lot at Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga and then proceeded into the woods to look for a particular late flowering native plant – zigzag goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*).



We did not have to go to far to find a small patch of these plants growing under the shade of the large trees. Jeanne pointed out some of the key characteristics of this plant: the green and smooth or pubescent central stem that usually changes direction or zig-zags between the nodes and the leaves that are ovate to lanceolate with sharply pointed tips and coarsely toothed edges. Each one of us collected some seeds from the dried flowers. Jeanne also showed the group how to differentiate between the common goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) and the zigzag goldenrod.

From here, the group drove to Sawmill Trail, a 5-minute drive from Riverwood conservancy. The group got to do some fall tree and shrub identification. We identified several interesting native and non-native species: redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), American basswood (*Tilia americana*), oak (*Quercus spp.*) and burning bush (*Euonymus spp.*). Jeanne explained to us the importance of growing and conserving native plant species and their role in creating a healthy and self-sustaining ecosystem. Non-native *Euonymus spp.* are invasive in Ontario (not to be confused with our native *Euonymus obovatus*).

As mentioned last month, Blooming Boulevards follows ethical seed collection practices and has a letter of permission from the city to collect seeds on this site. Anyone who wants to collect wildflower seeds can find the Seed Collectors' Code of Ethics here: <http://www.bloomingboulevards.org/ethical-standards-forr-naseed-collecting>.



Blooming Boulevard member Ella Dicker and MGIT Mohan Iyer at Riverwood Conservancy



## Halton Master Gardeners

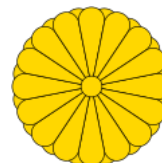
### Name: Hamilton Fall Garden & Mum Show

by Isabel Belanger, Editor 'Inside MGOI'

**Details:** This year's show ran from October 22-31 and marked its 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary. The show has taken place at the Gage Park Operational Greenhouse since 2011 when it opened and all the mums and other flowers are grown there. The display space features over 20,000 square feet. It is transformed in 10 days to host the show.



The Chrysanthemum came to Japan from China in the 8<sup>th</sup> century CE and is '... the "official" Japanese flower, the 16-petal [yellow] chrysanthemum used for the imperial seal. Japan has no legally defined national flower or seal, but you will see the imperial seal on the cover of Japanese passports, on some [Japanese coins](#), and over the doors of Japanese diplomatic facilities overseas.' <https://www.nippon.com/en/guide-to-japan/b08104/>. Chrysanthemums are celebrated throughout Japan in fall chrysanthemum festivals.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial\\_Seal\\_of\\_Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Seal_of_Japan)

The theme for this year's show was 'A Walk Down Memory Lane' and featured vignettes of favourite themes throughout the years using more than 200 varieties of mums and 100,000 blooms. Some popular themes were:

Japanese Garden





The  
Jungle



A Walk through the Woods (Bruce Trail Conservancy)



Mums  
Touchdown

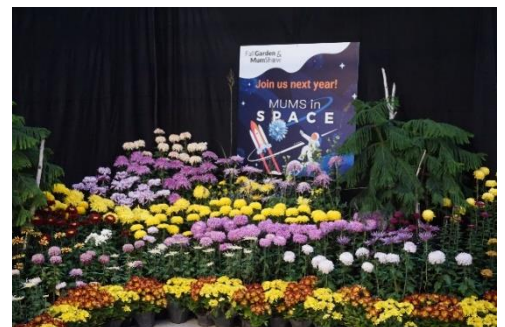
Mums in Steel



Preparations for next year's show begin the day after the current show closes. The mums are cut back to about 8 inches to ensure numerous cutting points and the plants are repotted into slightly larger pots. They need to be placed in a long day lighting program (lights are turned on from 10pm to 2am from November 1<sup>st</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>). This ensures the plants stay in a vegetative state, helping them produce a higher quantity and better quality cuttings.

They are heavy feeders and are given a steady supply of nutrients. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) helps maintain pest populations at a manageable level. Plants are staked and tied using a triangle staking system – three bamboo stakes per pot to provide support. Three of the strongest and tallest shoots are eventually chosen and are supported against the stakes with plant clips.

In the fall before the next show the greenhouse utilizes a blackout system to force the plants into bloom for the show. Mums are short day plants but critical day length can be affected by both temperature and the variety which complicate the blackout period. The greenhouse roof is blacked out automatically, is set on a timer and controlled by a computer. The side blackout curtains are closed manually and stay closed for the entire blackout period, i.e. all day and night. Having the blackout cloth work properly can mean the difference between lots of blooms, closed buds, or spent blooms. Stay tuned for next year's show!





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Toronto Master Gardeners

**Name:** Toronto Master Gardeners Virtual Technical Update - Ecological Gardening: Connecting with Nature

**Date:** Saturday, January 8, 2022

**Time:** 9:00am to 2:30pm Eastern Time

**Tickets:** \$30

**Zoom Registration & Speaker**

**Information:** Opens November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



Here is the link:

<https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/technical-update-2022/>

### Jumping Worm Conference

**University of Massachusetts Amherst**

*Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment*

*UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program*

**Event date/time:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022

- 9:00am to 11:45am

Thursday, January 27, 2022 - 9:00am to 11:45am

**Event Type:** Online

**Price:** \$25 for individual days, \$40 if registering for BOTH days - Jan 26 and Jan 27

**Participation:** Pre-registration is required. The link to the webinar(s) will be included in your confirming email.

**Agenda:**

[https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/jumping\\_worm\\_conference\\_2022.pdf](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/jumping_worm_conference_2022.pdf)

**For More Information:**

[https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/events/jumping-worm-conference?fbclid=IwAR0VI5SDldW6j8r1OSNkf7Ain9jVtY3WmDuDmLytB4V8lrbZp3tf3v\\_m0](https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/events/jumping-worm-conference?fbclid=IwAR0VI5SDldW6j8r1OSNkf7Ain9jVtY3WmDuDmLytB4V8lrbZp3tf3v_m0)

## OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO MASTER GARDENERS

**Name:** Garden Masterclass – 20% Discount

**Details:** Garden Masterclass is a British-based garden and landscape education portal with a wide global reach. We offer live webinars with everyone from big names to little-known experts, recordings of these webinars, and very soon, recordings of our British in-person sessions. We also do a weekly public service broadcast, the recordings of which can be seen on YouTube and on our website.

As an introduction to what we offer, we'd like to offer members of the Master Gardeners of Ontario 20% off our recorded webinars until the end of December 2021, with this code: MGOI21.

We look forward to welcoming you to:

[www.gardenmasterclass.org](http://www.gardenmasterclass.org).

**Speakers Wanted:** And don't forget, we are looking for speakers who are doing inspirational or innovative stuff. Please recommend them to us. We want to hear more from Canada!



Garden Masterclass – we are the future of garden media! Featuring interviews & presentations - many free, plus webinars and live events. Tune in for our pro bono **Thursday Garden Chat** at 18:00 London time (13:00 or 1:00 pm EST):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83781125288>.

Further details on the pro bono chat can be found here:

<https://www.gardenmasterclass.org/home-page/tgc>

**Dr. Noel Kingsbury**

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**design, consultancy, media, education**

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<http://noels-garden.blogspot.com>



## 2022 Year of the Garden

### Update November 2021



The **Canadian Garden Council's Year of the Garden 2022** development team has been very busy in the past few months, and is pleased to share these important updates with **Canada's Garden-family**:

Thanks to *Minister Bibeau*, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, 2022 was recognized as **Canada's Year of the Garden** [via a declaration in the House of Commons on June 21st](#). Minister Bibeau, an avid supporter of the **Year of the Garden 2022**, is back as Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood following the election. We are expecting an important announcement soon regarding the **Year of the Garden 2022**.

Sincere appreciation to our Founding Partners, Scotts, Premier Tech, and Proven Winners for confirming their generous commitments to become **Year of the Garden 2022 Founding Sponsors**. Thank you to Vesey's Seeds who has signed on as a Silver Sponsor. These companies are preparing to unveil exciting **Year of the Garden 2022** programs soon. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.

The latest Year of the Garden Newsletter is available here:

<https://gardenscanada.ca/november-19-2021-year-of-the-garden-2022-newsletter-to-the-garden-family/>

### How can you, a member of Canada's Garden-Family, benefit from the Year of the Garden 2022?

If you want to benefit, we invite you to engage. It's time to think about how you will celebrate, how you will engage your clients or members, what your special project will be, how you will engage with the nation-wide **Year of the Garden 2022** marketing and promotional campaign. Join Canada's **Year of the Garden 2022** celebrations!

**The Garden-Family Resource Guide** provides you with ideas, 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)

Not-for-profit Garden-Family organizations can raise awareness for their cause by becoming Garden-Family Partners. We welcome the Perennial Plant Association as our latest Garden-Family Partner, featuring their Perennial Plant for 2022: *Schizachyrium* 'Carousel' (credit Richard Hawke).



*Michel Gauthier*  
Executive Director, Canadian Garden Council  
[director@gardencouncil.ca](mailto:director@gardencouncil.ca)



## Annex 1

# MGOI Corporate Secretary Job Description

### Authority

The Corporate Secretary position of a non-profit organization plays a critical role in fostering communication and diligence through proper management and utilization of important records such as meeting minutes and the organization's bylaws.

The Corporate Secretary position has wide-ranging responsibilities, requiring more than simply being present at all board meetings. The Corporate Secretary should be knowledgeable about the organization's records and related materials, providing advice and resources to the board on topics such as governance issues, amendments to provincial laws, and the like, that will assist them in fulfilling their fiduciary duties. The Corporate Secretary's address is the corporate address of Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. as there is no physical address.

As the custodian of the organization's records, the Corporate Secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate documentation and meeting any legal requirements such as annual filing deadlines. The Corporate Secretary is responsible for reviewing and updating documents as necessary and ensuring all documents are safely stored and readily accessible.

### Requirements

Organizations are required by law to maintain specific records for several purposes, including:

- accurate recollection of decisions
- determination of eligibility to vote
- continuity of policies and practices
- accountability of directors and officers.

The Corporate Secretary is responsible for ensuring that accurate and sufficient documentation exists to meet legal requirements, and to enable authorized persons to determine when, how, and by whom the board's business was conducted. In order to fulfill these responsibilities, and subject to the organization's bylaws, the Corporate Secretary ensures the accuracy and availability of meeting minutes, proposes policies and practices, submits various reports to the Board, fulfills any other requirements of a Director and Officer, and performs other duties as the need arises and/or as defined in the bylaws.

### Accountability

The Corporate Secretary is accountable to the Board of Directors (if elected or appointed by them) as specified in the bylaws. Through the Board of Directors, certain duties of the Corporate Secretary may be delegated to the Executive Director, Board members and/or committees as appropriate; however, the accountability for them remains with the Corporate Secretary.

### Minutes

The Corporate Secretary takes and reviews for accuracy the minutes of meetings, including the Annual General Meeting. Requirements of minutes should include at a minimum:

- date, time, location of meeting
- list of those Directors present and absent
- indication of the presence of a quorum
- list of items discussed
- list of reports presented
- text of motions presented and description of their disposition





### Custodian of records

The Corporate Secretary ensures that the records of the organization are maintained as required by law and made available when required by authorized persons. These records may include founding documents, (e.g. letters patent, articles of incorporation), lists of Directors, Board and Committee meeting minutes financial reports, and other official records.

### Membership Records

The Corporate Secretary ensures through review, that official records are maintained of members of the organization and Board and ensures that these records are available when required for reports, elections, referenda, other votes, etc.

### Bylaws

The Corporate Secretary ensures that an up-to-date copy of the bylaws is available at all meetings.

### Communication

The Corporate Secretary ensures that proper notification is given of directors' and members' meetings as specified in the bylaws.

### Meetings

The Corporate Secretary participates in Board meetings as a voting member. In the absence of the President (and Vice-President), the Corporate Secretary calls the meeting to order, presiding until a temporary chairperson is elected.

### Signing Officer

The Corporate Secretary may be designated by the Board of Directors and/or bylaws as one of the signing officers for certain documents. In this capacity, the Corporate Secretary may be authorized or required to sign or countersign cheques, correspondence, applications, reports, contracts or other documents on behalf of organization.

### Filing of Documents

The Corporate Secretary is the registered agent with respect to the laws of the jurisdiction: the person upon whom legal notice to the corporation is served, and responsible for ensuring that documents necessary to maintain the corporation are filed.

### Procedures

- Provincial Filing
- Annual General Meeting
- Record keeping



## Regional Director

(Four positions)

Master Gardener Groups in Ontario are organized into 4 geographic regions. E.g. South-West, East, Central and North.

Each region has one Regional Director.

### Overview of the position of Regional Director:

- Serve as a liaison between Master Gardener groups in their region and our MGOI organization, e.g. Board of Directors, other Regional Directors, committees and individuals.
- Be a voting member on the Board of Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.
- Follow best practices in our Board of Directors' Governance and Communications Guidelines.
- Work with groups in the Region to fill the position of outgoing Regional Director.
- The term of the position is 2 years. Maximum of 3 consecutive terms can be served in this office.
- This position can be shared with another member in the same group or region.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- Maintain regular communication with groups via the coordinators in their region, e.g. email, phone, video conference.
- Facilitate communication among groups in the region, e.g. virtual meetings, closed Facebook groups
- Lead Regional meetings with Master Gardener group representatives at the yearly Coordinators' Conference.

### SUPPORT

- Seek answers to group questions in response to inquiries.
- Bring forward group concerns to the Board of Directors.
- Make recommendations for budget needs to support groups, e.g. special initiatives, gardening / administrative resources.
- Assist in identifying, supporting & maintaining groups at risk, e.g. declining/stagnant member numbers
- Assist in starting up new groups or helping groups who fold.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

- Participate in Board of Directors meetings.
- Share relevant information from Board meetings with groups as needed.
- Share upcoming relevant agenda items with groups for input as needed.

### SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL DIRECTORS

- Eligible for travel expenses relating to the position as described in our MGOI policies/procedures.
- Access to Policy Handbook to answer group questions/concerns. Questions can also be directed to other relevant Directors.
- Communications Guidelines for Board Members document
- MGOI Governance Guideline document
- Insurance to cover liability of the Corporation & indemnify directors