



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.

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INSIDE MGOI

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

November 2022

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Member Profile

Margaret Stewart



I have always loved flowers. As Margaret Atwood says in her famous novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*, "Where would we be without them?" From first planting pansies with my mother to "squandering" my teenage babysitting earnings at the cut flower stalls at local farmers'

markets, flowers and plants in general have beckoned. But it wasn't until my young children were in school that I actually began what has become my major preoccupation--growing plants, making gardens.

And this rapidly developing obsession led me to the Guelph-Wellington MG group 15 years ago. With a limited background in science, learning to understand the technicalities of plant life and the rhythms of the natural world is an ongoing, exciting challenge. Our group's consistent program of excellent monthly speakers, coupled with online courses, lectures and discussions with other dedicated MGs continues my education. Through our group, friendships with like-minded people have become a significant part of my world. Seed sharing and plant sharing with these warm and generous gardeners is a true pleasure. In fact, growing perennials, many of them unusual, and trees from seed is one of my most favourite things to do. Volunteering at the University of Guelph Arboretum opened up the world of growing trees from seed, and there are several specimens of mostly native trees in our large rural garden that are a result of that experience.

One of my favourite activities in our group is participation in our annual plant sale. Potting up divisions and new seedlings for sale I find an incredibly contemplative activity.

Doing it with MG friends is even more meaningful. Engaging with the public during the sale is tremendous fun. To advise and support young gardeners just setting out on this life-long learning experience is really rewarding and an important dimension of calling oneself a Master Gardener. If we can encourage them to become stewards of their individual plots and maybe develop an ecological relationship with even the smallest of gardening spaces then we have achieved something significant for our threatened world. This I think is a gardener's most important contribution, to create and/or preserve whatever space/plants/trees/shrubs we can, making a welcoming habitat for life of many kinds.



Northumberland Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Christine Westbrook

Christine is our newest member. She has been gardening on her property in Castleton for 27 years and has a shaded forest garden full of hostas as well as many perennial beds with plant blooms all year round. Christine's favourites are spring bulbs, lilies and dahlias. She also has a large vegetable garden where she grows all the ingredients for her salsa.



Christine is excited to be joining Northumberland Master Gardeners so she can learn more about her favourite passion and share what she has learned with others.



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

25 Year Anniversary

Louise Nadeau

Louise is celebrating 25 years with Master Gardeners. She started in 1997 with the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardener group and recently transferred to the London Middlesex group when she moved to London, Ontario. She has been a very active member of both groups and currently is on the Executive committee as our Membership Captain. Louise, who has a teaching background, will be helping out by teaching at our *Seeds to Table* course in the Spring. Thank you Louise for your volunteerism!



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left, presenting Louise with her 25 year pin

15 Year Anniversary

Agnes Burroughs



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left, presenting Agnes with her 15 year pin

Agnes is celebrating 15 years as a Master Gardener. She began with the group in 2007 and is a very engaged member as our Volunteer Captain as well as chairing the Seedy Saturday committee. Agnes is also a very active member of the Dorchester Horticultural Society.

Thank you Agnes for your continued support of the London Middlesex Master Gardener group.



Peterborough Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Laura Gardener



Laura Gardner, Secretary, Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

The Peterborough and Area MGs congratulate Laura on receiving her Master Gardener Certificate. Laura is a very accomplished and enthusiastic member as one can see by reading Laura's bio.

Born in Toronto, Laura moved to the country near Port Perry with her family when she was 4. Her Scottish immigrant parents fostered a love of gardening in Laura at an early age—the family had a large vegetable garden and did a lot of canning and freezing for the winter.

She started her career as a teacher but switched paths to become a librarian. Some of her unique life experiences include a teaching stint in Russia at a school for diplomat families and as an ESL teacher in the Czech Republic. Her first job out of library school was working for a dot.com start-up in Ann Arbor, Michigan. After working in Michigan, Laura re-located back to Peterborough to be closer to friends and family and to take a position at the Peterborough Public Library as the Collections Acquisition Librarian—where she still works.

Within Peterborough and Area MGs, other than her Secretary role, Laura has been involved in a number of other activities including writing posts for the group's blog, propagating plants for the group's annual plant sale, and assisting with the installation and maintenance of a native plant garden at the Peterborough Public Library—a 2022 Year of the Garden project.



She would like to express her gratitude to everyone with Peterborough and Area MGs for their kindness, support, and camaraderie in her growth as a trainee.

Since May 2021, Laura has contributed as a moderator for the MGOI Facebook site. She is grateful for this opportunity as it has been a tremendous learning experience. All the other participating MGs and MGITs have been instrumental in her development.

In May 2021, Laura completed a certificate in Horticulture through the University of Guelph and recently completed the Pollinator Stewardship training through Pollinator Partnership Canada. She is currently working on the final steps towards certification by transforming her front yard from primarily a hosta monoculture to a more native species diverse habitat. She will be busy winter sowing and will be expanding the number of keystone plant species in her garden in 2023.

Other than gardening, Laura spends her spare time mothering and entertaining two Galgos (Spanish Greyhounds), reading, doing genealogy, watching baseball, and playing Scrabble with friends.

New Master Gardener in Training

Silvia Strobl

Peterborough and Area MGs are thrilled to welcome Silvia to our group. Silvia kindly provided this bio to help us get to know her and appreciate her many accomplishments.

Silvia has always loved the outdoors, and it was this appreciation of nature that led her to complete both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Forestry. She started gardening by helping her mother in the vegetable garden, and was inspired to start her own garden at her first house. At her second house, Silvia and her husband converted the substantial lawn of their Peterborough home to native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Each year they undertook a new garden project, including building a pond. In 2019, the garden was featured on the Activity Haven Garden Tour.

In 2020, Silvia redesigned her mother's garden in Hamilton to be more visible to the street. The garden now garners almost daily expressions of appreciation from passers-by and was recently featured in the

Hamilton Spectator:

(<https://www.thespec.com/life/homes/opinion/2022/07/09/a-garden-worth-the-wait.html>).

In 2021, Silvia and her husband moved to Apsley to be closer to natural areas for hiking and canoeing. She is making her third garden focussing on naturalistic plantings of native species and adopting solutions to improve vegetable yields in the cooler climate and less fertile soils of the Canadian Shield. In 2022, Silvia retired from a gratifying 30+year career with the Ministry of Natural Resources and has recently started the Master Gardener courses at Dalhousie. Silvia continues to be inspired by reading about and touring other gardens, and listening to expert gardeners and naturalists. She is excited to join Master Gardeners and become a part of this community to be able to contribute to encouraging others to take up this highly rewarding hobby.



Silvia Strobl, MGIT



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Laura Rodger

A warm welcome to Laura who resides in Port Dover! GEMG is thrilled to add another new MGIT to our group.

Returning Master Gardener

Eva Kuehlem

Welcome back Eva, a former Brantford Master Gardener member who transferred back to our group this month.



Stratford and District Master Gardeners

Retirements

Gord Piggott
Jennie Girard

Gord Piggott is retiring from Master Gardeners after 25+ years to enable him to focus on his other work. Gord is highly respected and valued by all who have benefitted from his knowledge and experience.

Gord remembers with fondness Mary Yeoman who mentored him and encouraged him to complete his Master Gardener certification. Thank

goodness she was there to motivate him! Over the years, Gord has enjoyed many volunteer opportunities as a Master Gardener, from giving advice at booths, to speaking engagements at horticultural societies, volunteering with junior gardeners and supporting volunteers in community gardens.

When asked what makes a good Master Gardener Gord replied, "It's lots of fun but you really need to be a "people person" and enjoy answering questions. It helps if you are willing to share your knowledge with groups, that can be quite large at times."

Gord remembers a time when his presentation was videotaped, and he found that was more nerve wracking than speaking in front of a group because he knew people could replay it.

Rose Roi has known Gord for over 25 years. Here she shares some memories and her appreciation for his enthusiasm and skills.



I first met Gord through the Woodstock Horticultural Society where he spent three terms as president. He has spent at least 27 years as a Master Gardener, first with the Oxford group and then with the Stratford group. Gord is known as a person who is always willing to share his expertise when needed.

Gord comes by his love of horticulture having been raised on a farm in the Drumbo area where he still lives. He attended the University of Guelph where he also took the courses required to become a Master Gardener.

Gord's love and expertise is that of trees. He belonged to the Brantford Bonsai Society. He has a long list of clients for whom he prunes and cares for their trees. He has been restoring a heritage orchard in Baden.

Currently, Gord works for Thames River Melons where he manages the greenhouses and works in their markets on Saturdays. He was also a beekeeper for this farm.

Those who know Gord have all benefited from his vast knowledge.

Jennie Girard who joined the Stratford and Area Master Gardeners Group in May 2021 is leaving. While she was with us, she completed the courses for her certification concurrently.



Press Release



Haliburton County Master Gardeners

For Immediate Release – 20/11/22

A group of horticulturists has been giving advice to new and seasoned gardeners in the Highlands for 20 years.

Eileen Hughes, Winnie Kasepchuk and Pauline Plooard have been with the group since its inception. “It’s been a deeply satisfying experience for me,” said 89 year old Hughes. “I’ve divided hostas and rescued native lupines from the ditch for our plant sale, made presentations to our local horticultural society and in the very earliest days fundraised door to door.”

The organization develops resources and programmes specific to the challenging growing conditions of the Highlands region. For this work they were recognized by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) as “Enviro Heroes”.

At their year-end meeting on Nov. 17, Joan Duhaime from the HHLT presented them with a certificate and praised them for their many initiatives including their work to educate the public about the importance of native plants to the ecological integrity of the region.



*(Front row, L-R) Deb Barnhart, Pauline Plooard
(Second row, L-R) Joan Duhaime, Marilyn Whittaker, Carolyn Langdon,
Dinah Wilson, Merryn Camphausen
(Missing) Eileen Hughes, Winnie Kasepchuk, Lee Ann Hobson, Lori Anderson,
Alison Squire, Maureen Moore, Shelia Currie, Shelley Fellows, Rita Dadzis*



The two years of the pandemic did not slow the group down. With help from the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) they overhauled their website and it's packed with information for northern gardeners, an online garden questionnaire and an events calendar listing local initiatives and garden related webinars. There are lots of free downloads available including a directory of plants native to the region.

"The award winning work that we do today was built on the foundation that was laid over the last 20 years by many members with deep knowledge and hands in the dirt experience", said Carolyn Langdon, coordinator of the group.

One of their most requested programmes is the on-site property consultation. While they will give advice on any gardening issue, the big demand is for practical information on how to conserve or restore a shoreline or other area of a property that has little vegetation or has been overrun with invasive plants like goutweed or periwinkle. "In the last three years we've undertaken 50 site visits and inspired people to protect their land and water by naturalizing and planting more native plants to restore the broken food web, particularly along their shoreline." said Langdon.

A popular new initiative launched this year by the HCMG was the Heritage Apple Project which was undertaken in partnership with the University of Guelph. Heritage apple trees were genetically identified as were feral apple trees with a lineage dating back to the early European settlement of the Highlands. How delicious is that?

In the works for next year is a self-guided audio tour about the role of plants in ecosystem restoration along the Minden Riverwalk, a project in partnership with HCDC, the Township of Minden Hills, U-links and the business community.

For more information about Haliburton County Master Gardeners please peruse their website <https://www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca/> or look them up on Facebook.

For more information please contact Carolyn Langdon, Coordinator, Haliburton County Master Gardeners: coordinator@haliburtonmastergardener.ca

Tel. 705-935-0380



A Message from the President

Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

The Vice President (VP) position on the MGOI Board is vacant. Additionally, both the Director of Communications and Director of Operations positions are now vacant; these are immediate openings. The job description for Operations Director follows below, the VP job description is on the right, and the Communications Director job description is on the next page.

A MG who is interested in the Vice President position will be appointed to the Board, ideally with a few months of overlap prior to assuming the presidency.

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca.

Job Description – Director of Operations

The Director of Operations:

- Works with a team responsible for Policy/Procedures, Information Technologies, and Annual Reporting
- Requests and receives the Annual Review information from groups and prepares the MGOI Annual Report, including analysis of the data
- Provides approved interpretations of MGOI policies and procedures as contained in the Handbook, and amends it as necessary
- Reviews MGOI technologies and makes recommendations for an annual budget for technology or related resources to support MGOI (e.g., website fees, software, emails, virtual conference services)
- Supports the use of survey tools, as needed

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca and their Regional Director.

Board Vacancy – Vice President

I do not expect to continue my term past the end of 2024. I would like to find a VP to start as soon as possible so that they are well aware of how the Executive functions for a few years before they become President.

If MGs are interested in this position we like to appoint them to the Board as VP before they transition into the President's position.

Please see the VP job description below. Please feel free to contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca.

Job Description – Vice President

- Supports and works closely with the President to assist with his or her duties, especially regarding governance
- Monitors the progress of the organization's goals and objectives
- Reviews information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report in order to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern
- Assists the relevant Director to resolve potential areas of concern, and if necessary bring them to the attention of the Board of Directors
- Works with the Membership Director and others to fill vacant Board positions
- Assumes the duties of the President in his or her absence
- Succeeds the President



Job Description – Director of Communications

The Director oversees the Communications Committee which is responsible for managing internal communications:

- **Website** and subdomains – managed by Jim Cook, our webmaster.
- **Newsletter** – managed by Isabel Belanger, our editor.
- **MG membership database** – managed by Kelly Noel, former Director of Communications.
- **MGOI group email** – managed by Kelly Noel, former Director of Communications.
- **Handbook updates** – managed by Past President Claudette Sims with input from the board.
- **MGOI group facebook** – administered by Claudette Sims and Cathy Kavassalis.
- **MGOI twitter** – administered by Dale Odorizzi.

Currently the Director of Communications is directly responsible for these specific tasks:

- **Coordinators and Board Member contact lists** – manages updates and distribution to the website, newsletter, and internally.
- **Email Communication** – communicates board decisions to Coordinators, e.g. policy changes/clarifications/updates, events, surveys, and reminders in conjunction with Regional Directors.
- **info@mgoi.ca emails** – either responds directly or forwards the inquiry to the appropriate board member or MG group, in particular forwarding new member inquiries to the Membership Committee.

Master Gardener Group Websites / Links

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!



MGOI Coordinators' Handbook – Updated 2022



The updated Handbook is ready! The 2022 versions (.pdf and .docx) of the MGOI Handbook are now available on the MGOI website – member area / handbook & forms tab. We now have a version that includes the changes plus additions we made over the last three years: volunteer hours, mentoring, Temporary Reduced Hours Agreement (formerly called Reduced Contract), and Code of Conduct. It includes information about our insurance policy, logos, various MG forms, and invasive species.

Please have a good look and be familiar with all the sections. As well as a .pdf form, there is a .docx form to make copying sections needed for answering enquiries by the groups more easily possible.

We will not print copies for groups as it is better accessed on-line from the MGOI website – that version will always be up-to-date. If a group has a majority of members without good internet service please present your case to the board to have it printed. Regional Directors, please inform all your Coordinators of the Handbook update. It is available on the website now.

Karen Sciuk & Jim Cook



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Monthly Meeting: Talk on Invasive Species



We invited and were joined by members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) Horticultural Society and the NOTL Garden Club. It was a lovely opportunity in the Niagara horticultural community to gather and share information.

Details: At our Nov. 10 meeting, speaker Jodi Healy gave a very informative talk on Invasive Species. While the information was troubling, we were left with some productive takeaways: a sense that there are solutions out there, and some great resources that we can share with friends, family, associates, and when we are out talking to home gardeners. **Here are some links provided by Jodi:**

- **General info** (relevant to Ontario and Canada): [Ontario Invasive Plant Council](#) and the [Invasive Species Centre](#)
- **Solutions and management:** [Best Management Practices](#)
- **Native plants** (to substitute for commercially available, often popular, invasive plants such as periwinkle): [Grow Me Instead](#)
- **Where to report** invasive species sightings: [EDDMapS](#) and [iNaturalist](#)
- **Effective regulation, verifiable industry-wide Code of Conduct, and Public Education:** [Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation \(CCIPR\)](#)



Our Nov. 10 speaker, Jodi Healy, is an instructor at University of Guelph and Mohawk College, and worked at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington for 10 years.

Name: 'Hands On' at Niagara Parks Greenhouses

Details: We had an engrossing morning on Oct. 25 working with canna lilies. The big plants had been taken out of Niagara Parks gardens for the season. Our job was to cut off the greenery, break apart the rhizomes and plant them in pots for winter storage in the greenhouse. Thanks to host and instructor Sara Wiens, a supervisor at Niagara Parks, and Niagara MG Barbara Johnston for organizing it all.



Outside work: Niagara MGs first removed the leafy bits from the canna lily plants. From left: Eva Webber, Kendy Steeves, Jennifer Qusen, Barbara Johnston and Kit Thompson



Inside work: Organizing and planting canna rhizomes for winter storage. From left: Betty Moulton, Lois Johnson, Yvonne Causer and Carol Tuck-Riggs

Name: Weeding the Beds at St. Giles

Details: Niagara MGs got into the weeds at St. Giles Church (our new meeting venue in St. Catharines) on Oct. 22. Helping out were Bev Campeau, Barbara Johnston, Carol Tucks-Riggs and Anna Csiszar (St Giles secretary).





Niagara MGs put their gloves on and got down to work at St. Giles Church in October. left: Barbara Johnston; right: Anna Csiszar



Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Collaboration: Toronto Master Gardeners / Toronto Nature Stewards / Toronto Botanical Garden – Celebrating a Great Start!

Details: Toronto Master Gardeners, Toronto Nature Stewards and Toronto Botanical Garden collaborated on a last-minute advice clinic at an author talk on Wednesday, November 16 that was a great success. The author talk, *Imaginative Design Ideas for Toronto's Ravines* by Alissa North, was about student projects on ravine renewal. The Advice Clinic was a collaboration between TMGs and TNSs.

We cut some buckthorn (male and female) and used it to talk about how invasives that you can't buy in a nursery escape from the ravines to gardens, while invasives you can buy in nurseries escape from gardens into ravines. We talked about what TMGs and TNSs are doing about this while answering people's gardening questions. It was also a great way to collaborate with each other.

Finally, we took our buckthorn to the people rather than waiting for people to come to us. We walked around the room talking to guests about buckthorn and guests loved that we had brought "plants"! At the end of the night, Jenny Rhodenizer of the TBG announced that there would be a Toronto Master Gardener advice clinic at every author talk!



L to R, Toronto Master Gardeners Ruth Weins, Susan Lipchak, Catherine Berka (TNS), Dianne Azzarello, Laren Stadelman; Kathy Martin (photographer)



Halton Master Gardeners

Name: Hamilton Fall Garden & Mum Show

by Isabel Belanger

Details: The Fall Mum & Garden Show never fails to disappoint, and this year's show was out of this world! 'Mums in Space' ran from October 14-24 in the Gage Park greenhouse, and despite the new entry fee did not deter visitors, some of whom visited more than once. It's always a treat to see the mums, and it's always fascinating to see the intricacies of how they are used.

Over 200 varieties of mums and 75,000 blooms take centre stage. The plants are grown in the Gage Park Operational Greenhouse which is transformed in just 10 days to host the show.

This year's show followed the history of the USA / Canada exploration of space through the decades and featured the 13 different classifications of mums (<https://libguides.nybg.org/c.php?g=655086&p=4597561>).



NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is an independent agency of the U.S. government founded July 29, 1958 in Washington D.C.; NASA is responsible for the civil space program, aeronautics research, and space research.



The agency's official insignia, nicknamed the "meatball", was designed in 1959

Apollo's Lunar Roving Vehicle was driven on the moon by members of three American crews, Apollo 15 (1971), Apollo 16 (1972), and Apollo 17 (1972).



Moon Rover

Canada's most famous technological achievement in the field of robotics, Canadarm, supported U.S. space shuttle missions for 30 years (1981–2011).



Space Walk



<https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/canadarm/about.asp>



Kennedy Space Centre

The Kennedy Space Center is one of NASA's 10 field centers and has been NASA's primary launch center of human spaceflight.



And we have lift-off!



Welcome to the Milky Way!



L to R, the sun and planets – all made with mums



Earth with Moon



Detail of the sun



The James Webb Telescope, launched December 25, 2021, was designed primarily to conduct infrared astronomy. As the largest optical telescope in space, its high resolution and sensitivity allow it to view objects too old, distant, or faint for the Hubble Space Telescope.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Webb_Space_Telescope

Of particular interest was exploring the potential for food production on Mars. In January 2022 NASA offered \$1M for innovative ways to feed astronauts in outer space.

“In coordination with the Canadian Space Agency, NASA is calling on the public to help develop innovative and sustainable food production technologies or systems that require minimal resources and produce minimal waste. Dubbed the Deep Space Food Challenge, the competition calls on teams to design, build, and demonstrate prototypes of food production technologies that provide tangible nutritional products – or food. Over time, food loses its nutritional value. That means for a multi-year mission to Mars, bringing along pre-packaged food will not meet all the needs for maintaining astronaut health. Additionally, food insecurity is a significant, chronic problem on Earth in both urban and rural communities.” https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/spacetech/centennial_challenges/nasa-offers-1-million-for-innovative-systems-to-feed-tomorrows-astronauts.html



The red planet gets its name from the oxidized iron in the rocks.

The Martian atmosphere is too thin, cold and dry for plants to live. Farming would need to be done in pressurized, heated, moist environments such as greenhouses.



Greenhouse prototype



Artificial may be needed to supplement the naturally low light levels.

Stay tuned for next year’s show! Hamilton horticulturists have already started planning for Medieval Mums, next year’s event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Christmas Event – December

Details: GEMGs will be holding our first in-person get together at Marine Emery's home for our Christmas celebration! Sweet & savoury treats as well as our favourite beverages will be enjoyed by all. Thank you to Martine for offering to host our event.



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: YOTG (Year of the Garden) Speakers Series

Topic: Terrariums (via Zoom)

Date: December 14, 2022

Details: Presented by Kiki Danniger, Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners.

Registration: Please register by visiting:

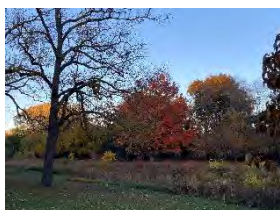
<https://www.gwmastergardeners.ca/year-of-the-garden-2022/>

Name: Day In the Garden (DITG)

Date: Sunday Feb. 26, 2023

Place: Victoria East Golf Club

Details: We had our last annual Day In the Garden in February 2020. We are looking forward to hosting this event once again! Details to follow in the new year. Pre-registration is required.



Toronto Master Gardeners

2023 Toronto Master Gardeners Virtual Technical Update – Presented in Collaboration with Master Gardeners Central Region



Name: Ecological Gardening Part 2: Digging Deeper into Our Changing Relationship with the Garden

Date & Time: Saturday, January 14, 2023, 10AM-2:30 PM

Tickets: \$30

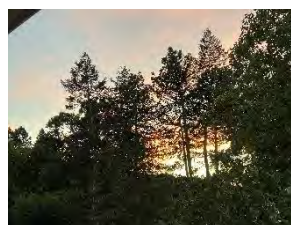
To Register:

<https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/technical-update-2023/>

CEUs for Master Gardeners: 6

Featured Speakers:

- Jennifer Grenz, PhD – *Applying an Indigenous Ecology to the garden*
- Benjamin Futa – *Ecological Horticulture*
- Karen Christensen-Dalsgaard, PhD – *Humans as Keystone Species in the Urban Ecosystem – A New Approach to Sustainability*



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Sunday 2023

Date: Feb. 26, 2023

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: St. Giles Church, 205 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines

Details: Niagara members are busy packaging seeds for our big **Seedy Sunday** event in February! There will be speakers, vendors, a seed-exchange table (and seeds for sale) and a family-activity table. Coffee and snacks will be available as well. Don't miss it! 😊



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: A Day for Gardeners 2023

Details: Save the Day!

PETERBOROUGH AND AREA MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT:

A DAY FOR GARDENERS 2023

We are thrilled to be back and hope you can join us!!

Saturday March 4, 2023

❖ Activity Haven, 9:30am to 4pm

❖ Three Seminars plus lunch

Cost: \$ 55 per person (\$50 early bird)

Registration begins early January: peterboroughmastergardeners.com



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Technical Update: Lavender Farm Festival

Date: July 8, 2023 (to be confirmed)

Details: We will be given a private tour of the Lavender Fields, and various workshops before the festival actually opens. Then we are welcome to spend as much time as we like at the Festival.

We are also looking into a tour of a Permaculture Farm in The County to visit after lunch.

More details to follow.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Looking way ahead 2023 Technical

Update: Biodiversity

Details: Our keynote speaker will be [Michael Runtz](#), one of Canada's most highly respected naturalists, nature photographers, and natural history authors. This event is being organized in collaboration with Lanark County Master Gardeners.

Date: Saturday September 9, 2023

Location: Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Dr., Ottawa, ON K1Y 0B7

Cost: TBD

Registration Information: TBA





Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR)

The next meeting will be held within the next few months – stay tuned. We are still struggling to bring the Nursery trade on board as many generalist nurseries do not want to lose the lucrative trade in invasive species.

The key focus of CCIPR remains effective regulation. Our 5 key objectives are:

- Effective pre- and post-border invasive species risk assessment;
- Bans on the sale and movement of high-risk invasive plant species;
- Labelling to identify and educate the public about lower-risk invasive plants;
- A verifiable industry-wide Code of Conduct; and
- Public education including alternatives to invasive plants.

This coalition is not about native vs non-native plants. A team of experts is needed to make the decision re: plants to regulate, prohibit or require warning tags at point of sale.

Since the last meeting Cathy Kavassalis has been busy reworking sections of the website that needed clarification and she's currently working on the original 24 page regulatory proposal. Cathy has contacted Anita Anand, the Member of Parliament for Oakville, and there was a positive reply about meeting with us.

Our current goal is to continue to build capacity, so if you can contact an organization and have them add their logo to our website, that would be great. If you can get 10 logos, that would be awesome! Now is the time to contact nurseries, landscape companies, environmental organizations, and politicians to ask for support.

Please continue to post or share information about invasive plants as well-we need everyone's voice.

Stay well everyone!

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Seeds Alert

Canadians are encouraged to connect with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) before sending seeds abroad. Canada's plant health regulator, the CFIA, plays an important role in making sure seeds from Canada meet internationally agreed upon regulations. Over the past year, the CFIA has seen an increasing number of notifications of non-compliance from foreign countries about seeds exported from Canada without proper phytosanitary (plant health) certification. Seeds can potentially be invasive in some countries or spread plant diseases or other pests. That's why it's important to check requirements with the CFIA. Not meeting requirements has consequences. For example, the destination country may destroy the seeds and issue Canada a notice of non-compliance. All seeds, including those in small packets for gardeners, must comply with the import requirements of the destination country.

Please share this information with the Canadian public to increase awareness of the important steps to take when shipping or exporting seeds to protect international plant resources, our economy and the environment. The CFIA has spokespeople available for interviews, people who are experts in plant health imports and exports. Our experts are also willing to write and submit a piece if that is of interest. Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Media Relations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Government of Canada: cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca
Tel: 613-773-6600

- Additional links/Background information: [Shipping and exporting seeds from Canada](#); [Plant health at the CFIA](#); [Chronicle 360](#); [plant health](#); [Canada's plant health hero challenge](#); [Join the plant health movement](#) (Chronicle 360)

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