



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

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

The Newsletter aims to be the voice for 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.

MGOI Board Members:

President:	Karen Sciuk, Waterloo Region
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 Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
 Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton newsletter@mgoi.ca
 Database/Supplies: Kelly Noel, Ottawa database@mgoi.ca, 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.**

April 2023

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary

Donna Slater



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left with Donna

5 Year Anniversary

Darlene Davis

Ginette Blake



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left with Darlene



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left with Ginette



Durham Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversary

Robynne Dunn

Member Profile

A big Congratulations to Robynne on receiving her 5 year pin! Robynne has been very active in not only DMG but on the MGOI executive as well. She is currently the Treasurer for DMG as well as the Regional Director, Central Region, for MGOI.

Recently added to her busy schedule with DMG she is working alongside another member to set up the Farmers' Market Committee. Robynne has also been very active with doing presentations for our group.

When not busy with Master Gardener work, Robynne is a member of the Sustainability Committee for the Town of Whitby.

Thank you Robynne for everything you do for DMG and MGOI! Looking forward to another 5 years!

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Lindsay Code



Member Profile

Another big congratulations to Lindsay for receiving her MG status! Lindsay just passed the Certification Exam! Way to go Lindsay!

Lindsay joined DMG in January 2021 and has been very active during the entire time. Lindsay is part of the DMGs events coordinator team. These three ladies send our group a Monday morning update and put a smile on our faces, an excellent way to start a week! Lindsay has also been very active doing presentations for DMG. Lindsay, again congratulations on becoming a MG! You are a valued member of our group!



New Master Gardener in Training

Kyla Paonessa



This has been a busy month at DMG – it must be spring is in the air! Please welcome Kyla, our newest member!

Kyla lives in Ajax and is a homemaker and avid gardener. She runs @mamaisinthegarden, a gardening social media account on Instagram that offers gardening tips and tricks. She is currently a proud brand ambassador for two amazing Canadian companies, Sproutbox and

West Coast Seeds.

She loves to collect and grow heirloom tomatoes from seed (over 40 varieties this season). Kyla is also interested in the hybridization of dahlias and will be growing out seeds collected from her dahlias last year in the hopes of finding a few unique blooms.

She has also adopted a piece of unused land from the city of Ajax and will be creating a pollinator garden of native perennials with the help of some neighbours.

Kyla has offered to volunteer with our DMG social media as well. Thank you! Kyla is looking into doing the self-study education option. We all look forward to working alongside you in DMG!



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

New Master Gardener in Training

Tong Zhao-Ansari

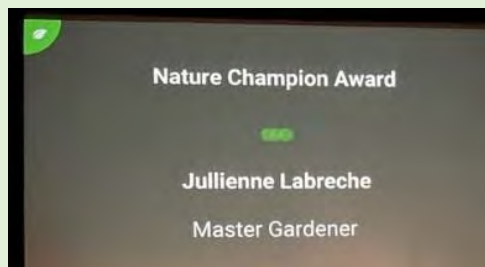
MGOC is pleased to welcome new MGIT Tong Zhao-Ansari. Tong is a community developer who has volunteered for several Ottawa festivals and served on the Board of four non-profit organizations.

Her special skills include: organizing and facilitating events and workshops; and managing social media and a website for her previous work. Welcome Tong!

Nature Champion Award – Ecology Ottawa

Julianne Labreche

MGOC is thrilled to announce that Julianne has won Ecology Ottawa's inaugural Nature Champion Award.



Julianne's nomination was supported by MGOC's full executive team. The information in the nomination

included: "As a volunteer with Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton, Friends of the Farm and the Ottawa Horticultural Society, Julianne often serves in leadership roles. She is the past coordinator of MGOC, the current president of the Ottawa Horticultural Society, and the editor of the MGOC's monthly newsletter, Trowel Talk. In 2018, as 'armchair mayor of Ottawa', she advocated for Ottawa to become a Bee City. She has made her garden a Monarch Waystation, inspiring neighbours around her to do likewise. She is an accomplished writer and public speaker, authoring many articles on the subject of ecological and wildlife-friendly gardening, and speaking to groups across Ontario on similar subjects."

Congratulations to Julianne Labreche!



*MG Julianne Labreche on the right. To her left are her husband Barry and MG Barbara Long.
Photo: MG Adair Heuchan*



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Member Profile

Silvia Strobl

Seeding into a New Community, by Silvia Strobl

In August 2021, my husband and I moved from Peterborough to the community of Apsley to be closer to natural areas for outdoor recreation. Apsley is located halfway between Peterborough and Bancroft and just east of Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park. In March of 2022, I retired. What would I do with my newfound time and how would I make new friends?

I started to attend informal monthly discussions of the Garden Meet-up recently organized by the Apsley Library's Programming & Outreach Coordinator (POC). In fall 2022, about a dozen attendees brought seeds harvested from their gardens and we packaged them for the Seed Library. This was a great opportunity to socialize, and I met several local gardeners. Reciprocal visits to two of their gardens soon followed.

November's meeting was held during the first winter snowstorm. Besides the library's POC there were 3 other gardeners. Discussions led to how we could have a structured monthly program. I offered to kick things off with a talk on invasive species and what gardeners could do to prevent and control this threat to surrounding natural areas.

The informal planning team met again in late January. I facilitated and tried to capture everyone's ideas of potential topics, speakers and events. For example, a natural topic of interest given that Apsley's population is 60% seniors was gardening in old age. Within a couple of months we put together an exciting and varied program for 2023. We planned a March Seedy Sunday, a June Garden tour, and a September woodland fungi walk. In November, we will have a talk by the Westlake MG team of Gary and Dianne on "Strategies for continuing to garden for the rest of your life"! In February, my talk on invasive species attracted 15 attendees despite another impending snowstorm. I was grateful for the support of 6 of my core fitness class buddies whom I hadn't realized were gardeners too!

To get some hands-on experience with Seedy Sunday events, I volunteered for the Peterborough event and joined organizer Jill Bishop's biweekly planning Zoom calls. Volunteering at the Seed Swap table as a MG was also good preparation as I had never attended an event before. Our Apsley Seedy Sunday organization team met a few more times and I kept everyone informed with weekly updates on confirmed vendors and other progress. Besides profiling the event in the local "Apsley Backroads" monthly magazine, we posted on social media, and the week before the big day I profiled one vendor each day on several local Facebook groups building on [#apsleyseedsunday](https://www.facebook.com/apsleyseedsunday).

The day before the event another snowstorm finally eased up so the team could set up at the library, including the swap table with the seeds that were packaged the previous fall. The next day, almost 100 people attended, including 6 vendors. Participants donated almost \$300 for seeds and refreshments. At the seed exchange table, I met many keen gardeners and answered lots of questions. I was particularly happy to chat again with one person who had attended the invasive species talk and wanted follow-up advice to remove a patch of periwinkle. It was also nice to see this post on FB: "Thanks to everyone who put this event on. Met nice people, got some seeds and learned a lot from your guest speakers. Excited for this year's growing season".

The lesson of this story? Have no fear if you need to move. You'll always find community among gardeners, but it helps to take the initiative!



Silvia with an interested customer at Apsley Seedy Sunday



MGOI Board Vacancies

Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

MGOI currently has three (3) board vacancies: Vice President (VP); Director of Communications; and Director of Operations. Both of the Director positions 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 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 Director of Membership 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 facebook group** – 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.

Messages from the MGOI Webmaster, Jim Cook



Advertising Technical Updates

Does your group have a technical update you'd like to advertise on the MGOI home page? We can link to your website.

Please forward information to Jim at webmaster@mgoi.ca. Thank you.



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 me of any changes to your links to keep them up-to-date.

My address is: webmaster@mgoi.ca.

Thanks!



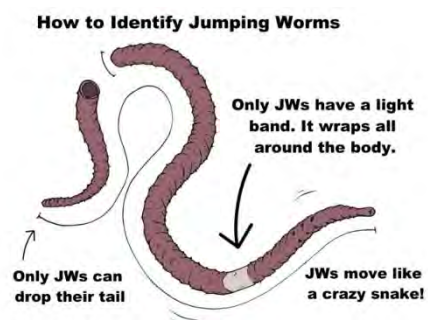
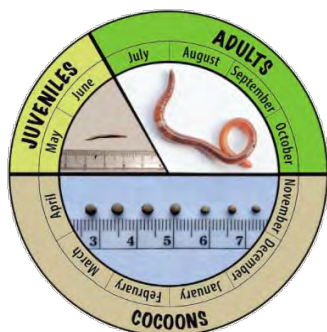
Reminder – Stopping the Spread of Invasive Jumping Worms in Ontario

by Halton MGs Claudette Sims & Cathy Kavassalis

The threat of Jumping Worms (JWs) remains. Here is last year's info piece crafted by Claudette and Cathy. A reminder that JWs will not be active at this time of year.

Become Familiar with the JW Life Cycle & ID

JWs die in winter and hatch from eggs in spring from cocoons the size of a poppy seed. They begin to hatch when soil temperatures reach 10°C/50°F and continue to hatch throughout the summer. From May to June, JWs are tiny. If you find a large worm in the spring, it won't be a JW. Plants, mulch, soil and compost sold in spring may contain JWs but not show any evidence of them. When they mature (July to October) they develop a **light band** (clitellum) near their head. The band is smooth (you can't feel it) and goes all around the worm. Other earthworms have a raised saddle-shaped band. Late summer is the best time to detect JWs and tell them apart from other earthworms. They are found near the top of the soil and often in large groups and **thrash wildly** from side to side when disturbed. If agitated, JWs can **drop their tail**. No other earthworms have these three features.



Master Gardeners need to be ready with information, strategies and resources to support home gardeners and horticultural societies. Although Jumping Worms (JWs) are a major threat, we need to focus on what can be done and not let fear or their presence overwhelm us. Let's do our part to limit their spread, support research, and encourage gardeners to enjoy their gardens. Have JW materials including a poster and ID guide printed out to share information at advice clinics and plant sales. Also include JW information as a public service message at the end of your garden presentations or on social media. (See resources at end of this article.)

Explain the Problem

As you know, JWs were confirmed in Windsor-Essex in 2014, and Dundas, Toronto and Wheatley in 2021. JWs cause much more damage and spread much more quickly than other earthworms; the only way they spread is through human activity. Purdue U has an excellent explanation of what they do:

<https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2023/Q1/gardeners-asked-to-be-vigilant-this-spring-for-invasive-jumping-worms.html>. "While worms have a reputation as a helpful species found in the soil ecosystem, invasive jumping worms do not live up to that standard. Jumping worms will consume all organic material from the top layer of soil, leaving behind a coffee ground-like waste with no nutrients for plants or seeds. Since jumping worms stay within the first few inches of topsoil, they are not creating channels for water and air the way earthworms do, and they disrupt water flow to plant roots". Robert Bruner, Purdue Extension's exotic forest pest specialist says that "So basically, they're just very nasty pests that ruin the quality of our soil, and the only thing that can really grow in soil like that are essentially invasive plants, or species that are meant to survive really harsh conditions."

They threaten our gardens and lawns, farms and forests, as well as bird and animal life. There are currently no controls or pesticides to stop JWs.



Focus on Prevention

People spread JWs without realizing it. JW egg cases (cocoons) can be in soil, mulch, plants, landscaping equipment and even in the treads of shoes and tires. One cocoon or worm is enough to infest a garden.

Editor's note: in April I sat in on a webinar hosted by the Canadian Wildlife Federation featuring pollinator specialist Heather Holms, speaking on *Native Predatory Wasps: Their Role as Pollinators and Beneficial Insects*. She mentioned that Jumping Worms were spreading throughout the Midwest through commercial mulch products (and not just soil). She talked about designing native gardens with a focus on prairie style plantings (Heather lives in Minnesota but was born and raised in Ontario just north of Lake Simcoe) and advised that plants should be spaced closely together much like a matrix style garden, thereby eliminating the need for mulch; plants grown closely together will support each other as they grow, shade out potential weeds, and keep the soil cooler.

What Gardeners Can Do to Stop the Spread

- **Bait:** Never use JWs for bait. Fish don't like them and they don't stay on the hook. Dispose of all unused bait in the garbage, never on natural lands.
- **Arrive Clean / Leave Clean:** Clean footwear before and after visiting any private or public garden, or natural area.
- **Ask Questions:** Ask nurseries, landscaping companies and soil, compost and mulch providers how they are controlling JWs. If they know nothing about JWs, then be concerned and offer to share information with them.
- **Inspect New Soil:** Check new mulch, compost, and soil for JWs.
- **New Plants:** Inspect the soil and roots before planting new plants in your garden. Be aware that in spring, worms will be tiny and impossible to identify. Choose bare-root plants or grow plants from seeds when possible. If you get a plant before July, you may want to keep the plant in its pot until JWs are more easily identified. **Quarantine** new plants by placing them in a container (e.g., sturdy plastic bag, pot, tub) that prevents worms from escaping or cocoons from washing away.
- **Safe Disposal:** Kill suspected JWs by freezing, leaving in a bag out in the sun, or soaking in vinegar or rubbing alcohol. Ensure they are dead before discarding in the garbage.
- **Infested Soil:** Soil can be placed in sealed plastic bags and left in the sun to solarize. Temperatures need to reach a minimum 40°C for at least 3 days, before being safe to reuse in the garden.
- **Support Research by Reporting JWs:** Encourage the public to use Ontario's *Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System* to report JWs: www.eddmaps.org/ontario/

Resources to support Master Gardeners and the Public can be found on our mgoi.ca website under "Resources": <https://mgoi.ca/resources/>

Read more:

<https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2023/Q1/gardeners-asked-to-be-vigilant-this-spring-for-invasive-jumping-worms.html> - very good explanation

<https://canadainvasives.ca/jumping-worms/>



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Updates for Grand Erie Master Gardeners (formerly Brantford Master Gardeners)

Details:

- The Grand Erie Master Gardeners met via zoom on April 6th and enjoyed a productive meeting. Community events and workshops were discussed. Members volunteered for the Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society, the Stoney Creek Garden Club, and the Bite of Brant events. Other volunteer opportunities were discussed and will be followed up.
- The plant sale committee has met twice: look for our poster to be distributed after April 21st as well as in the events area below – there will be over 2 dozen types of native plants and shrubs available for sale!
- The Grand Erie Master Gardeners enthusiastically agreed to add our group's support of the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR).
- Our in-person summer meeting in Normandale was discussed, including a unique historical native garden tour.
- Some continuing education was presented including a plant knowledge and membership quiz, how to trim forsythia and bridal wreath spirea, and the latest threat from an invasive species: the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*).



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Name: Peterborough Seedy Sunday

Details: On Sunday March 12th, Seedy Sunday returned to Peterborough in a brand-new location in Peterborough Square. PMGs were there to enjoy the day, answer a multitude of questions and share some knowledge with very avid gardeners. Our advice booth was very busy throughout the 4 hours, even though the St. Patrick's Day parade was happening!

We also had PMGs at the seed exchange table, helping gardeners make good choices for growing veggies and flowers.

Thanks to Sally Rye for organizing our team which included Sally, Gladys Fowler, Chris Freeburn, Sharleen Ward, Jennifer Guertin, Grant Murphy, and Margaret Higgins.

Jill Bishop, the Seedy Sunday organizer, was happy to hear that the PMGs would be donating \$250.00 to the cause.



Left to right, MGiT Grant Murphy, MG Gladys Fowler and MG Sally Rye



MG Beryl Harris, left with MG Emma Murphy



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Clinic Upgrade

Details: Over the past few months, a small team of MGs, led by Claire Leduc and Caroline Koehler, have worked to upgrade the look and feel of MGOC's presence at our seasonal advice clinics. All members of our group had the



opportunity to vote on a menu of items and the winning look was unveiled at our April meeting.

The Clinic Upgrade team did a fabulous job shopping for and even making some of the components, so we came in well under budget. Features of the new look include: a standard green tablecloth; white runner (sewn by Claire and printed by Caroline); conversation bubbles featuring questions and images to attract attention; a stand for key messages including a QR code that directs the public to our website; and new business cards that also include our website URL and QR code. We look forward to testing this new clinic look at our seasonal markets this coming summer.



Caroline Koehler (L) and Claire Leduc unveil the new look for MGOC advice clinics

Name: Ottawa Home & Garden Show, March 23-26

Details: The Ottawa Home & Garden Show returned again this year and Master Gardeners were present to offer gardening advice. Our coordinator Stephanie Sleeth helped us to secure an excellent location near the entrance that attracted lots of visitors with our offer of free advice.



MG Heather Clemenson (L) and MG Stephanie Sleeth, the coordinator of MGOC's participation at the Home & Garden Show. Photo by MG Marg Ryan

MGs Rebecca Last and Nancy McDonalds delivered talks from the Garden stage – one on dehydrating food and the other on culinary delights with herbs and edible flowers.

Some of our volunteers worked a bit longer than planned when the road past the show venue was temporarily shut down on March 23rd to provide secure access from the airport for President Biden's visit to our Nation's Capital. Nonetheless, our volunteers enjoyed their time working this very popular event.

Name: Growing Up Organic (GUO) at Dr. F.J. McDonald Catholic School

Details: As part of a new partnership with the local chapter of Canadian Organic Growers (COG), on Tuesday April 18th MG Rebecca Last assisted COG-GUO outreach worker Brett Weddle at three workshops to help children from kindergarten, grades 2-3, and grades 3-4 learn how to plan a garden and plant seeds. The children had a wonderful time, and each class was left with trays of seeds and a planting plan that will be implemented once the weather warms up. However, after spending nearly a full day with children under 10 years of age, Rebecca has a new appreciation for the job teachers do!



Brett Weddle, COG, leading the children in an exercise on how seeds grow. (Children's faces are blurred to protect their privacy). Photo by MG Rebecca Last

Name: Social Media Update

Details: MGOC continues to have a vibrant presence on social media. Our [Facebook page](#) has more than 13,200 members. Over the past month, it has seen 570 posts. Our new Instagram account has now gone live so you can check us out at [@mg_ottawa](#).



Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Grown in Grey

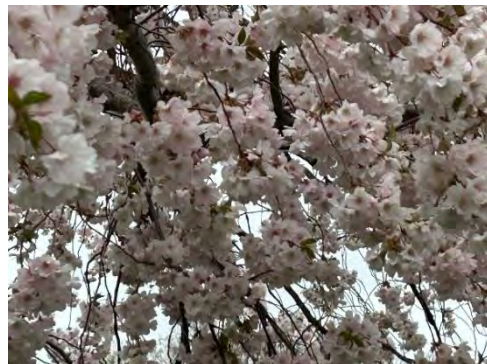
Details: After a long Covid-induced absence, “Grown in Grey” returned. The two-day agriculture-based educational event was held at the Desboro Community Centre on April 18th and 19th. And Grey County Master Gardeners were delighted to take part again. Armed with a large crate of fruit and vegetables and just 10 minutes per class, our volunteers, led by Rebecca Baker, put Grades 4 and 5 students through their “produce paces”, learning about what parts of the plants we actually eat – bulbs, flowers, stems, seeds, roots and leaves.

Our association with “Grown in Grey” goes back almost 25 years and it’s always a lot of fun, albeit a little hectic, as the students line up to spin the all-important “Wheel of Questions” (nine-year-old boys can really make that thing fly!). This year, 259 students gave the wheel a spin, answering questions like “Is a cucumber a fruit or a vegetable?” (fruit) or “What flower turns white when it gets old?” (dandelion).

We can hardly wait for next year!



Grey County Master Gardeners take on bus loads of students at the “Grown in Grey” event



Jennifer Deeks (l) and Tamra Salvador (r) prepare for the onslaught of students at this year’s “Grown in Grey”



UPCOMING EVENTS

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: 2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series

Details: Join Etobicoke Master Gardeners and the Humber Arboretum for the 2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshops. Most are virtual and a few are in-person. Registration for these workshops is through the Humber Arboretum at the following link:

<https://humber.ca/arboretum/learn/adult-programs/etobicoke-master-gardeners.html>

Dates & Topics:

- First-hand Look at Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives (in-person tour), May 6
- Pollinator Friendly Gardening (virtual), June 10
- Pruning (virtual), October 14
- Pruning (in-person workshop), October 21
- Indoor Plants (virtual), November 18



Etobicoke Master Gardeners
www.etobicokemastergardeners.ca

2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series

Saturdays 10:00 AM to Noon

Virtual Sessions via Zoom	In-Person at the Humber Arboretum
February 25: Plant Identification	February 4: Winterwood: Winter Tree Identification Tour
March 4: Growing Your Own Food	May 6: First-hand Look at Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives Tour
April 15: Native Plants	October 21: Pruning Workshop
April 29: Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives	
June 10: Pollinator Friendly Gardening	
October 14: Pruning	
November 18: Indoor Plants	

Free, but space is limited & registration is required:
[Humber.ca/arboretum/emg](https://humber.ca/arboretum/emg)

Name: Annual Spring Plant Sale



Etobicoke Master Gardeners' Annual SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 27
8:30 am-12:30 pm
6 Kingsway Crescent

Advice Clinic, Perennials, Shrubs, Herbs & Tomatoes & more!

Native plants for native pollinators

etobicokemastergardeners.ca

Date: Saturday, May 27

Time: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Place: 6 Kingsway Crescent, Etobicoke

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: London Middlesex Library Plant Exchange

Date: Saturdays in May

Details: Every year our local library hosts plant exchanges at various branches during the month of May.

Name: 2023 Bloomin' Tour

Date & Time: Sun., August 13th from 9am to 4pm

Details: After a successful first year, we are doing the Bloomin' Tour again. This year we have a mixture of gardens of Master Gardeners, past Master Gardeners and outstanding individual gardens on our tour.

Tickets: Tickets go on sale July 1st with the proceeds going to the Thames Talbot Land Trust.



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Bloomin' Tour

Join us as we Live the Garden Life for a tour of unique gardens

Sun, August 13th
9:00-4:00
\$15/person

Tickets go on sale July 1st available at <https://bit.ly/2023BloominTour>

Proceeds to:

Thames Talbot Land Trust

QR code: 

Northumberland Master Gardeners and Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Technical Update: Biodiversity, Native Plants at the Lilac Festival with Paul LaPorte



Biodiversity, Native Plants at The Lilac Festival

May 27, 2023
10 - 4pm
\$30 earlybird \$35 after May 5, 2023
Warkworth Masonic Hall
151 Northumberland County Rd 29
Warkworth Ontario

Join the Northumberland Master Gardeners & the Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners at the Warkworth Lilac Festival.

With special guest speaker Paul LaPorte, owner of Ephemeral Ark Nursery (specializing in native woodland species) and consultant on ecological gardening and design.

The presentation will be followed by a native plant sale, coffee and muffins will be provided on arrival and lunch and door prizes are included.



Date & Time: May 27th, 2023, 10am – 4pm EDT

Location: Warkworth Masonic Hall, 151 Northumberland County Rd. 29, Warkworth

Details: Join us at the Warkworth Lilac Festival as we partner to present a Technical Update. The choice of plants that we add to our gardens can have an impact on biodiversity, with native plants providing the greatest benefit. Featuring special guest speaker, Paul LaPorte, owner of Ephemeral Ark Nursery (specializing in native woodland species) and consultant on ecological gardening and design. He will be presenting on "Building Biodiversity with Native Plants". A native plant sale follows.

Cost: \$30 Early Bird. \$35 after May 5, 2023

Registration: Coffee and muffins will be provided on arrival. Door prizes and lunch are included.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/biodiversity-native-plants-the-lilac-trail-tickets-557024694857>

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Plant Sale

Date & Time: May 27, 2023, 12-4 pm

Location: Riverside Park, 709 Woolwich St., Guelph

Details: We are collaborating with Nature Guelph, Pollination Guelph and the Enabling Gardens to make this one of our biggest plant sales to date! See the poster below for details. More information is available at:

<https://natureguelph.ca/>.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: 2023 Native Plant Sale

Last Date for Orders: Sun. May 28, 2023



Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Through the Garden Gate: Riverdale

Date: Save the Date! June 10 and 11, 2023

Details: Toronto Master Gardeners partner with the Toronto Botanical Garden once again this year for the annual garden tour, *Through the Garden Gate*. This annual tour will highlight beautiful private gardens in the east-end Toronto



neighbourhood of Riverdale, known for its diverse community, abundant dining choices, quaint Victorian homes, and some pretty amazing gardeners!

This is a high-density urban neighbourhood that is also blessed with an abundance of parkland where one can escape the hustle and bustle of big-city living.

Riverdale Park is one of the largest green spaces in the city. Its steep hill has a spectacular view of the city and is a favourite location for sunset picnics. Withrow Park is a central hub and meeting place with a popular Saturday farmers market.





**SHAW
GUILD**

17th Annual

GARDEN TOUR

JUNE 24, 2023

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Tickets available at shawguild.ca:
 Early bird February 1 - March 31 = \$25.00*
 April 1 - June 23 = \$30.00*
 Garden Tour day = \$35.00 cash only at any garden
 *plus 10% Eventbrite fee

Date: Saturday, July 8th, 2023

Location: Prince Edward County Lavender

Cost and Registration Information: Coming this

Details: Our private tour of the Lavender fields will

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At the farm you will find many cultivars of lavender offering a myriad of colours, scents and tastes. Some of their cultivars are praised for their exceptional essential oil qualities, while others are best kept for culinary creations or crafts.

Shop the boutique, tour the fields of lavender and the knot garden in the summer, and marvel at our other flower beds.



<https://peclavender.com/prince-edward-county-lavender/>

MGOI Summer Workshop 2023

Kate Sault, Director of Education

The Spring Collection is over and now it is time to focus on the Summer Workshop which is happening in about 2 months. Nothing beats sitting in a classroom or walking the grounds of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture with your fellow Master Gardeners from all over Ontario along with your talented instructor. Whether you focus on features that separate the major genera of Conifers with Darrell, investigate the many uses of lawns with Kris, or experience building a raised garden planter with Randan you will have a fun filled 2 days.

Dates: July 15th and 16th 2023

Cost: \$275; there will be a \$60 rebate at the end of the 2 days.

Registration: We would like all registrations in by the beginning of June. The minimum number of participants required is 50 and the maximum number is 60. We have reserved some rooms at the residence and conference centre. A 2 bedroom suite is approximately \$250 for the 2 nights, July 14th and July 15th, but the **cut-off date for the MGOI promo is June 9th** so please don't wait – this is a fantastic price for the Niagara location in prime summer time.

Forms: All forms are on the MGOI website under webinars/workshops, and I have included them here as well. Your fee includes lunch and breaks for the 2 days catered by the Niagara Parks Food services.

<https://mgoi.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Registration-Form-for-Summer-Workshop-2023-2.doc>

<https://mgoi.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/General-Release-of-Liability-Form-2023-1.pdf>

<https://mgoi.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/NPC-Credit-Card-Authorization-1.pdf>

<https://mgoi.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Summer-Workshop-2023-Accommodation.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Yvonne Causer ycauser@hotmail.com
Kate Sault saultkate@gmail.com

Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Technical Update: Year of the Biodiverse Garden 2023, Eastern Region

Date: August 2023

Location: Greater Kingston Area

Registration Information: TBA

Details: Our Master Gardener group will showcase a series of garden tours in August 2023. Each group in the region will showcase something different from May – October.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton Lanark County Master Gardeners

Technical Update

Topic: Wild About Wildflowers

Date: Saturday September 9, 2023

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

Cost: to be determined

Registration Information: stay tuned...



Details: We are delighted that Michael Runtz has agreed to be our speaker at the Technical Update, coordinated with the Lanark County Master Gardeners.

The two-hour morning seminar is called **Wild About Wildflowers**. Michael's focus is on Ontario wildflowers, especially those found in Algonquin Park, one of his favorite places.

Michael Runtz is one of Canada's most highly respected naturalists. He is also a talented nature photographer and a natural history author. A Carleton University biology professor, he has been involved in publishing fourteen natural history books. As well, he is a dynamic communicator, entertaining audiences with his offbeat sense of humour, uncanny ability to captivate audiences with his wisdom of the natural world, and his adventure stories of trekking Ontario's wilderness.

This event promises to be a dynamic, entertaining morning. An informal field trip to observe local wildflowers in their natural habitats around Ottawa will follow.

Local Master Gardeners will be encouraged to photograph wildflowers. Photographs will later be used in our talks and in our newsletter, **Trowel Talk**.

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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Live the garden life Vivre la vie de jardin

Hello Spring!

Spring has arrived! It is a time of renewal, growth, and new beginnings. Celebrate the season by planting something new, taking a nature walk, spring cleaning, or planning a picnic in the garden. Enjoy the warmer, brighter days and all the beauty that spring has to offer! It's time to **Live the Garden Life!**



Amherstburg, Ontario

Official Report – Year of the Garden 2022

Download the Year of the Garden 2022 Report here. What made the Year of the Garden a success was the collective effort of various political parties and branches of the Garden Family coming together to unanimously recognize 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden. This celebration marked the Centennial of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association and also highlighted the significance of our garden culture and its impact on our quality of life and communities, celebrated across the country for the first time.

DOWNLOAD THE REPORT

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lMSikRnHlDgnyf9ajSJQ1zLq8lSNyuWQ/view>

Your Invitation to Canada's Garden Route

Canada's Garden Route is a fantastic resource that provides a comprehensive listing of Canadian gardens and garden experiences to visit throughout the country. We invite you to list your garden experience on Canada's garden map. If you're responsible for a public garden, a garden event, a garden-friendly municipality, or a Garden Centre that offers garden experiences, being on Canada's Garden Route is a great way to attract more visitors, both locals and tourists.

To get started, simply reach out to us at marketing@gardencouncil.ca and we'll be happy to guide you through the process of listing your garden experience on the map. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to showcase your garden experience and help promote Canada's rich garden culture. Contact us today and get listed on Canada's Garden Route!



New Website Coming Soon

Get ready to experience our new Gardens Canada / Live the Garden Life website launching soon! Our new website will feature an updated design, enhanced functionality, and a wealth of new resources and information to help you Live the Garden Life.



Plant Purple

Hello spring! It is time to start thinking about what plants to add to your garden this year. In collaboration with **Communities in Bloom**, we would like to remind everyone to plant purple, the colour theme of the year in 2023!

Purple is a colour that represents creativity, imagination and harmony. It is a colour that can soothe the mind and inspire the soul. It is also associated with passion, royalty and luxury. By planting purple flowers, shrubs and trees, we can infuse these qualities into our environment and create a sense of serenity and beauty.

Our partnership with Communities in Bloom is an excellent opportunity to bring together communities across the country to create beautiful and sustainable spaces that we can all enjoy.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, join us in planting purple, indoors or outdoors. Let's create a beautiful and harmonious environment that will inspire and uplift us all!

Start Planning – Garden Days 2023



Garden Days is back in 2023 from May 19th to June 18th. Start planning your garden-related activities on the date of your choice and align them with the national celebration of Canada's garden culture. It is also a great time to celebrate your community's Garden Heroes! Stay tuned for more information!

How will you celebrate National Garden Day on June 17th?

National Garden Day is just around the corner on June 17th, and this year's theme is **inclusion and reconciliation**. It's a time to celebrate our garden culture and reflect on how this culture has contributed to the development of our country and who we are. Let us know how you celebrate that in your garden, at your business, and in your community. **#NationalGardenDay**



Become a Live the Garden Life Partner or Sponsor!

The Year of the Garden 2022 was a success thanks to our partners and sponsors, and we're looking for your support once again. Contact Brent Gavin at Partnerships@gardencouncil.ca to learn more about associating your brand to Live the Garden Life and activities celebrating Canada's garden culture. Thank you to our previous supporters for making it all possible!

'Live the Garden Life'

Please remind your members, your volunteers and your followers to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and show us how you [#livethegardenlife](#) by tagging us on social media.

