



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside

# MGOI

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

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

President:	Karen Sciuk, Waterloo Region
Vice President:	Vacant
Corporate Secretary:	Lynda Bobinski, Thunder Bay
Treasurer:	Sheila Campbell, Algoma
Director of Communications:	Vacant
Directors of Education:	Kate Sault, Halton
Director of Events:	Rhonda Grein, Waterloo Region
Director of Membership:	Lois Johnson, Niagara
Director of Operations:	Diane Wheeler, Stratford
Director of Marketing & Partnerships:	Kathleen Gorsline, Lake Simcoe South
Director of Central Region:	Robynne Dunn, Durham
Director of East Region:	Anne Craig, Peterborough
Director of North Region:	Gail Cocker, Simcoe County
Director of South & West Region:	Janine Robertson, Guelph-Wellington

#### **Committee Members**

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

#### **In This Issue**

- Master Gardeners
  - Milestones
  - Toronto Master Gardeners – A Successful Garden Tour
  - Master Gardeners Out & About
  - Upcoming Events
  - CFIA Seeds Alert
  - Live the Garden Life 2023
- MGOI
  - Board Vacancies: Vice President; Communications Director
  - Messages from the Webmaster

#### **INSIDE MGOI**

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

**May 2023**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### Halton Master Gardeners

#### 5 Year Anniversary

Hariette Henry



*Hariette Henry, right, receives her 5-year pin from Coordinator Kate Sault*

#### New Master Gardener in Training

Hedia Balkhi



Welcome Hedia!



### Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

#### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Sharon Zadorozny

#### Sharon says:

I joined Master Gardeners after retiring from a 34 year career working in Agriculture. I wanted to expand my knowledge of gardening and apply that knowledge to my own garden. I've always enjoyed gardening and now I had more time to spend in the garden (or so I thought!).



*Sharon (right) receiving her certificate from Coordinator Danielle Gignac*

I am passionate about invasive species and working to remove them on my property and replace them with native trees in the old pastures. I am also trying to develop a low maintenance garden that is both beautiful and provides habitat for beneficial insects and other critters.

I have been impressed by the people I have met in the Master Gardener group. They have a great deal of knowledge and are always willing to share. Though I now have the title of Master Gardener I know that I have lots to learn and I look forward to that.



### Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

We are pleased to welcome former Cochrane MG group to our group. We hope to provide support and keep in touch via zoom meetings. We are also excited to welcome our three new members.

#### New Master Gardeners in Training

Riley Pihulak

Hedy Koski

Jack Van Gemeren





## Profiles



**Riley Pihulak** lives in the Dryden area and started gardening as soon as she could walk. In her teens her interest in plant sciences and houseplants led her to eventually work in the greenhouse and seed industry in Winnipeg. She challenged herself growing indeterminate

tomatoes indoors and cut flowers in her Aerogarden.

She moved back to Dryden in 2021 and purchased a home with 40 acres where she created her business *Root to Bloom Farm*. It is a cut flower and specialty veg farm. She planted 900 tulips last fall and 600 gladiolus corms this spring!

Riley enjoys speaking at workshops and has social media and marketing experience. She has one more course to go to complete her diploma from the University of Guelph. Welcome Riley!

**Hedy Koski** has over 50 years of gardening experience and her extensive knowledge includes seeding, vegetables, perennials, insect identification and control, composting, and soil improvement just to name a few! She grew up digging in the dirt at her mother's garden centre and flower shop near Red Rock. Her Mother, who was also an MG, passed on gardening advice to the community.



Hedy has worked at a local nursery for over 30 years and enjoys public speaking and doing presentations as well as demonstrations. For the past year, she has been sharing gardening advice through her column, "Let's Get Growing with Hedy" in the Walleye Magazine.

We are thrilled to have Hedy join our group and share her valuable knowledge. Welcome Hedy!

**Jack Van Gemenen** is a Regional Planner with the MNRF (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry). His area of special interest includes trees, shrubs and non-woody perennials. He has an Honors Degree in



Environmental Geography and has completed his Master Gardener studies from the University of Guelph. He has valuable volunteer experience and is passionate about learning, as he continues to take various courses. We are happy to welcome Jack to our group!



## Northumberland Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved Lori Groves

As the chair of the Garden Committee for Ed's House Northumberland Hospice Care Centre, Lori plays a very important role in our group. She acts as a liaison with the Ed's House staff and coordinates our Master Gardener volunteers to work with the Ed's House garden volunteers.

Most recently Lori has been assisting in developing a plan for a therapy garden to include in Ed's House Garden. Congratulations Lori!



## Lanark County Master Gardeners

### Member Transfer

Jordan Scott-Richer



*Jordan on our tour of a Haskap Orchard*

Jordan has transferred to our group from the Cochrane virtual group. Welcome aboard! We already have her hard at work at the advice clinics at the Almonte Farmers Market.



## London Middlesex Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Kim Nikkel

Jennie Girard

### Bio: Kim Nikkel

Kim joined our group in March 2021. From kiwis to apples, Kim grows fruits holistically in her garden just outside of London, Ontario. One of her favourite parts of gardening is watching the bees poke their heads into the masses of flowers that surround her fruit trees. She also enjoys native plants, perennial flowers and starting seeds. Kim is very involved with writing the newsletter content for our group.



*Kim Nikkel, left with Coordinator Sandra Elfman*

### Bio: Jennie Girard

Jennie joined the Stratford Master Gardener group in April 2021, and transferred to our group in October 2022. She is a life-long gardener, landscape designer and lecturer. Jennie is interested in the relationships between nature and well-being, how climate change is affecting the environment and pollinators, especially bumble bees. She has given very enthusiastic and informative presentations on bees. Jennie is our group captain for planning our volunteering activities.



*Jennie Girard, left with Coordinator Sandra Elfman*

### New Master Gardener in Training

Catherine McInerney

**Bio:** Catherine joined our group in April. She is very active with various volunteer groups in the community and is the President of the London Orchid Society.





Her favourite plants are obviously orchids, and she also enjoys perennials, ferns, and spring bulbs. Catherine is eager to increase her knowledge of the plant universe and to help others learn about plants.

Welcome Catherine to our group! Looking forward to working together!



## Simcoe County Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Joan Sundeen

We were delighted to present Joan with her Master Gardener certificate at the May meeting of Simcoe County Master Gardeners. Joan completed her required courses at the Guelph School of Horticulture and is an active member of our group.



*Joan, left receiving her Master Gardener certificate from Coordinator Gail Cocker*



## Stratford & Area Master Gardeners

### 20 Year Anniversary

Don Farwell

Jim Fitzgerald

Stratford and Area Master Gardeners have been very fortunate to benefit from the expertise and experience of two talented individuals who have given so much of themselves to promoting gardening. Needless to say, they have done everything from sharing tips and information to chairing meetings, speaking at events and hosting workshops – both have taken a turn as group Coordinator and both have served on the MGOI Board. Thanks guys for all you have done! Here are some comments from them both about the last twenty years:

### Don Farwell

#### Twenty Years as a Master Gardener – Past, Present and Future

I hate to admit it, but when I was young, I didn't like to garden. But I did like eating the peas, beans and apples from the garden. As a young homeowner, I grew the vegetables while my wife grew the flowers. I used to go to the garden festivals in Stratford, where I met Tom Ryan, who spent

most of his life in a wheelchair but was totally knowledgeable about many aspects of gardening. He influenced me to join the Master Gardener group. I also was approaching retirement and needed something to occupy my mind as well as my time. Little did I know!

Over the years, I've done all the standard things such as Seedy Sundays, technical updates, Gardening-101 classes, running seniors' workshops, speaking to community groups, and writing articles. We have organized speakers, worked plowing matches, garden shows, garlic festivals, cutting workshops, and plant sales.



Along with managing our own gardens, I work with the Horticulture Society on their gardens. Along the way, I have met and worked with many marvellous people.

Our MGs decided to plant 2,022 native trees and shrubs in 2022 - The Year of the Garden. We called it the ReLeaf Stratford project. We didn't realize how ambitious it was but with hard work and community support we did exceed our target. Originally, I thought our goal was all about improving habitat, but in the end I realized it was as much about the partnerships and relationships that we were able to form.

Moving forward, we are planning to work with the city, the conservation authority, and the community to increase pollinator pathways throughout the community.

Thank you, Master Gardeners for the opportunity to serve and to learn.

**Jim Fitzgerald**

### **Twenty years as a Master Gardener**



Wow, have things ever changed since I joined Master Gardeners 20 years ago! Then, our advice was what 2-4-D compound to spray on your Kentucky blue grass lawn, or how to kill all those nasty insects in your garden with Diazinon, or Sevin or some other toxic compound.

Don't like those leaf miners on your White Birch trees? Lather it with Cygon 2-E. Want some ground cover to survive under those Norway maples? How about some periwinkle or Baltic ivy! Or how about a lovely tall grass like Phragmites swaying in the wind in the winter.

Thank goodness in two decades we've come to our ecological senses and realized we are part of the ecology, and not the masters of it.

I'm glad to still be part of this evolution in gardening advice from Master Gardeners, and although we still have a long way to go to bring back those birds and butterflies to our gardens, I'm sticking with MGs until I'm pushing up daisies (native ones, or course.)



### **Mississauga Master Gardeners**

#### **5 Year Anniversary**

Catherine Fleming

We congratulate Catherine on receiving her 5 year pin with the MMGs. Catherine provides guest speakers at our monthly meetings and is a keen participant in our Seedy Saturdays.



#### **New Master Gardener in Training**

Jennifer Beale



Jennifer has a naturalized property filled mostly with native wildflowers, and a pond that's well loved by toads. As a

hobby gardener she's been sharing plants and advice with friends for more than 20 years. An award-winning networker and event producer, Jennifer runs a training company that helps business owners build better networks. She loves sunrise dog walks, gathering people together for dinners in her backyard garden, and witnessing the annual exodus from pond to land of thousands of tiny toadlets. We welcome Jennifer to the MMG group. Her enthusiasm and support for our Spring events has been a true delight!



## MGOI Board Vacancies

*Karen Sciuk, President MGOI*

MGOI currently has two (2) board vacancies: Vice President (VP); and Director of Communications. Communications Director is an immediate opening. The job description for the VP follows below and the Communications Director job description is on the right.

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at [president@mgoi.ca](mailto:president@mgoi.ca).

### Board Vacancy – Vice President

I do not expect to continue my term past the end of 2024 and would like to find a VP to start as soon as possible so that they will be well aware of how the Executive functions prior to becoming President.

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

Please see the VP job description below and feel free to contact me, Karen Sciuk at [president@mgoi.ca](mailto: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 Communications 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](mailto: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.





## Updated Information on Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. Proof of Insurance

by Lynda Bobinski, Corporate Secretary, MGOI

There have been some changes to our policy and the process for requesting proof of insurance for your regional events:

1. The insurance policy expiry date has been moved to January 1<sup>st</sup> starting in 2024. This will streamline your certificate requests to avoid having to wait to have them issued while the yearly policy is in the process of being renewed.
2. In response to regional MG Groups starting to see insurance certificate requests requiring higher limits, our policy now reflects this change by extending Commercial General Liability Coverage to a \$5,000,000 limit and a \$1,000,000 limit for Tenant's Legal Liability Coverage.
3. Coordinators are asked to use the Request for Proof of Insurance form when requesting proof of insurance coverage for the event or meeting venue you will be renting. Log-in to the MGOI website, go to the MGOI Organization tab, and scroll down until you see Insurance forms.
4. The first section on the form refers to the details of the Master Gardener Group requesting the insurance, and Section II refers to the details of the venue or organization with whom you need to provide proof of insurance. Make sure you fill in all the information on this form. It will be returned to you if not complete.
5. If you are renting a venue from your municipality or another organization, they may also require their form to be filled in by our insurance company. If this is the case, make sure you send in a blank copy of their form with your request.
6. To apply for coverage Email or FAX your completed form and blank municipality/ organization form to Jodi Nobel at Law Insurance Brokers Inc. **no later than three days** prior to your event to allow for processing. Details are on the form.

## 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](mailto: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://mgoi.ca/groups/>.

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](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca).

Thanks!





## Toronto Master Gardeners

by Judin Lavin, Toronto Master Gardeners

### A Successful Garden Tour – Step One Scouting: Finding Those Interesting Gardens

Toronto Master Gardeners have partnered with the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG) for many years in producing a successful annual garden tour, *Through the Garden Gate*. For the past few years, Toronto Master Gardeners Donna De Boehmler and Marjorie Lenz have led a dedicated team of TMG members in this collaborative endeavour which begins a year ahead of time with the scouting of potential gardens – looking for interest, variety and that “wow factor”.

How do our dedicated garden scouts do this? Basically, it begins with old-fashioned cold calling.

As Toronto Master Gardener Peter Cox describes it: “I consider being a “garden scout” an honour. Consider how proud we scouts feel recommending gardens that a few thousand visitors will view. Our scouting begins one year in advance of the actual *Through the Garden Gate* tour date. Garden scouts work in teams of three people. We scour a designated neighbourhood identifying gardens that have merit of being “tour worthy”. We meet with owners and gather information about their gardens. We take photographs, make partial plant lists, and discuss with our team members the merits of the gardens we are recommending.

We seek gardens that will appeal to a wide range of public tastes. Often it is not the front garden that captures the “scout’s” eye. It is what lies behind a fence, tall hedge, or down a passageway to the homeowner’s oasis. The best gardens are hidden like a treasure trove. It is the garden scout’s job to find these treasures.”

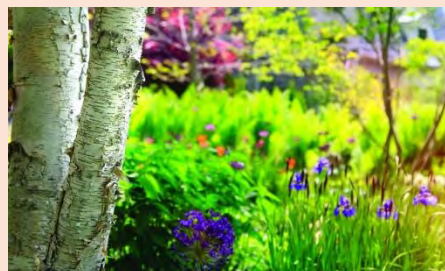
Long time Toronto Master Gardener Doryne Peace has been a scout since the inception of *Through the Garden Gate* in the 1990s, and has many stories to tell – more than we have room for here – “of amazing spaces, stunning ponds and waterways, very special plants and the kindness of many owners and gardeners who help make TTGG happen year after year. Oh – did I mention standing in a snow drift using a public telephone on our way to Florida, and finally contacting a Beach property at the end of December.

It was on my ‘must have’ list. She said YES!” Doryne says “we scouts view ourselves as representing both TMGs and the Toronto Botanical Garden. We are TBGs volunteer fundraising sales force, using our enthusiasm, expertise, and persistence to secure a ‘must have’ garden for the event.”

Scouting for this year’s garden tour in Riverdale was a complete pleasure for TMG Frankie Wright, who notes that “you discover new neighbourhoods, getting to know them intimately. Not only the topography, but you talk to people and you start to notice things: a postage stamp back yard which had been full of old rubble; a back garden with the remains of an old barn; a recreation of Muskoka in the middle of the city. Riverdale is a neighbourhood where people mostly do their own gardens that express their creativity and artistic vision. Most owners cannot believe their gardens are worthy of attention. Scouting is a fabulous way to get your hours in, as well as getting your fresh air and exercise”.

Sometimes, even the most wonderful garden can’t make it to the final round. But dedicated gardeners will prevail! As Peter Cox recalls: “I remember finding an unusual (eclectic) front garden on a 30 foot wide property in the Beaches. The front garden was whimsical and tastefully planned to scale. I knew that I was onto something good. I ventured down the driveway to find the owner in his well designed backyard garden. He used every inch of space vertically and layered. He used mirrors to provide diverse images of his garden hideaway. I was enthralled by his gardening prowess. However, there were too many exceptional gardens in the Beaches and his garden did not make the final cut. Surprisingly, when the *Through the Garden Gate* tour occurred the following year, he put out his own “welcome sign” at the end of his driveway. He had more than 300 visitors detour from our main event to see his inner sanctum. This was his opportunity to share his gardening passion with others. It was a win, win.”

For more details about the June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Riverdale tour please see ‘Upcoming Events’, below.



## Master Gardeners Out & About

### Projects & Events

#### Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

##### Name: St Andrew's Garden Fair

**Details:** St Andrew's Church has been a vibrant focal point in Picton for many years. We were delighted to be asked to their first ever Garden Fair on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Gardeners were also treated to the church's first Third Space Café, serving up a delicious lunch with a "pay what you can" price.

The Master Gardeners had an advice table and provided pruning advice, a demonstration of square foot gardening outside in the church's garden, and a container planting demonstration.

*Photos: Pam Piercey*



*MG Andie Wiens, right discussing pruning with a gardener*



*MG Ren Duinker making container pots*



*MG Susan Warrack, green apron, demonstrating square foot gardening*

#### Lanark County Master Gardeners

##### Name: Planting of Two Multi-Stemmed Serviceberry Trees

**Details:** Lanark County MGs Paul Pietsch and Dale Odorizzi finally planted 2 multi-stemmed serviceberry trees (*Amelanchier canadensis*) at the Round Garden for the Blind at the Lanark County Municipal site. This area is much visited by the residents of two local nursing homes and the county is working hard to make it become a pollinator paradise. The tree planting was originally planned to be a 2022 Year of the Garden project but was delayed.



*MG Dale Odorizzi, left with MG Paul Pietsch*





## Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

### Name: A Day for Gardeners

**Details:** PMGs 'A Day for Gardeners 2023' took place on April 29 at Peterborough's Activity Haven with 100 participants in attendance. 'A Day for Gardeners' is an opportunity for the PMGs to share their gardening knowledge with the public, enjoy some excellent food and socialize with gardeners ready to talk gardening after a long winter. It was deemed by the PMG and our registered guests to be a very successful, informative and enjoyable day!

The main event was a speakers' series including six presentations developed and presented by our own members. The PMGs and their presentations were as follows: Gary Westlake – *What Plants Eat: How Plants Get Their Nutrients*; Jennifer Guertin – *Supporting Pollinators*; Rachel Burrows – *Drought Resistant Plants*; Sue Flinders-Adams – *Successfully Propagating Butterflies: Butterfly Nectar and Larval Plants*; Sharleen Ward – *Native Plant Garden Design*; MJ Pilgrim - *The Dirt on Soap: Home Remedies, Herbicides and Pesticides*. All speakers received very positive feedback on their excellent presentations. Attendees were impressed by the speakers' knowledge of their topics and their excellent resource lists.

A day like this would never be complete without refreshments and no one was disappointed! MG Deb Fraser and her kitchen crew provided a veritable banquet which elicited innumerable rave reviews!

Draw prizes were included in the ticket price and MGs Anne Trudel-Inglis and Carol Anderson collected over 30 prizes to be won. This was very exciting and appreciated by all.

The PMGs also hosted an advice table which was well attended, as well as a used garden book sale.

The PMG thanks all our registrants and community supporters for helping us make this another successful 'Day for Gardeners'!



L-R, MGs Sue Flinders-Adams, Jennifer Guertin, MJ Pilgrim, Rachel Burrows, Sharleen Ward, Gary Westlake



L-R: the kitchen crew, MGs Sharleen Pratt, Deb Fraser, Cheryl Harrison, Chris Freeburn, Brenda Thompson, Marilyn Homewood, Chris Tewsley

### Name: World Migratory Bird Day

**Details:** Saturday May 13, 2023 was World Migratory Bird Day and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners participated in the Peterborough Public Library's (PPL) initiative to share Peterborough's new bird friendly certification

<https://www.birdfriendlypeterborough.ca/>. Alongside other community organizations, there was a celebration of the official launch of the library's window decal installation that will help keep birds safe.

MGs also shared ideas and projects for making one's garden and yard more bird friendly. MG Laura Gardner prepared a poster display that recommended the best plant choices that support birds.

Laura and MG Lois Scott answered gardening questions and provided information about the library pollinator





garden that the PMGs had worked on in partnership with the PPL in 2022.



MG Laura Gardner with her bird friendly poster

## Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

### Name: Gardening in a Changing Climate

**Details:** Stratford and Area Master Gardeners had a hugely successful ReLeaf Plant Sale on May 13, selling upwards of 600 native trees and shrubs. This was part of the group's ongoing effort to improve the city's dwindling tree canopy.

Elderberry (*Sambucus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier*) and bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*) were just a few of the pollinator friendly species sold to provide additional habitat for birds, animals and insects.



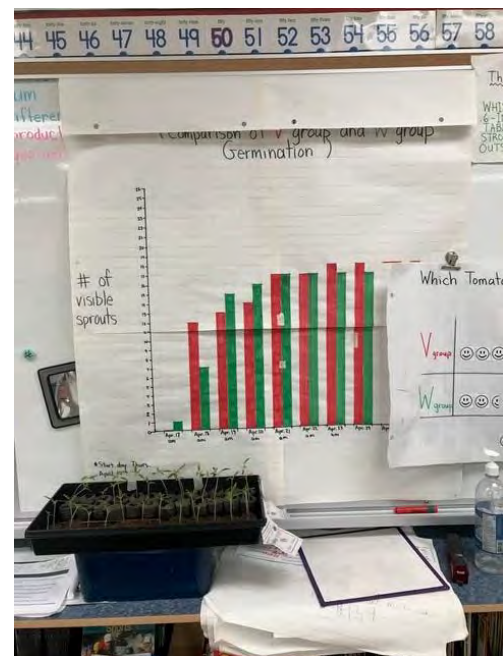
## Simcoe County Master Gardeners

**Name: The Tomatosphere Project** (a joint endeavour of NASA, the Canadian Space Agency, the University of Guelph, Heinz, and the Stokes Seed Company)

**Details:** Members of Simcoe County Master Gardeners have been working with three Midland school classes, grades K to 6, to test which 'Roma' tomato seeds have the best germination rate in preparation for a manned mission to Mars.

Each class received two packets of seeds. One packet had been exposed to outer space conditions on the International Space Station and the other packet contained regular seeds used as a control. The school group that SCMGs worked with was one of many school classes, community groups or home schoolers who planted over 12,000 seeds and then reported the results.

With a 74% germination rate in both seed groups, what conclusion would you draw about the effects of the space environment on seed germination? Want to find out more? Check out Let's Talk Science [letstalkscience.ca](http://letstalkscience.ca) to learn about the project or to order seeds for your group.



Classroom reporting on germination rates for the Tomatosphere project

## Niagara Master Gardeners

### Name: 'Hands On' at Niagara Parks' Greenhouses

**Details:** Niagara MGs have been working hard at the Niagara Parks' greenhouses on a number of volunteer days this spring, helping to plant up young seedlings that will eventually fill the Niagara Parks' extensive gardens.



*Niagara MGs planting up seedlings from seeding trays into larger planting trays, among other tasks*

### Name: Niagara Falls Library

**Details:** Niagara MG Betty Knight gave a talk entitled 'Dishing the Dirt' at the Niagara Falls library.



### Name: Monthly General Meet

**Details:** Miriam Richards, Professor of Biological Science at Brock University gave an interesting talk on native bees with an emphasis on carpenter bees. For more information on this important and interesting subject, here are some links:

<https://thebeeconservancy.org/>

<https://xerces.org/>



*Miriam Richards from Brock University speaking to our group about wild bees*





## Mississauga Master Gardeners

### Name: Earth Day, City of Mississauga

**Details:** Mother Nature gave us a lot of liquid sunshine for Earth Day on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> again this year! The brave souls who came out to plant trees at Willowvale Field were awesome, and laughter and smiles abounded even though everyone was soaked to the bone. The area was planted with native trees. You can watch the YouTube video at the following link to capture the spirit of the day!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvXcEICChs0&t=3s>



From left to right: Donna Hormozian, Jennifer Beale, Diana Westland and Ramona Christiansen

### Name: In the Zone

**Details:** Once again, MMGs worked with WWF (World Wildlife Fund) and Loblaws promoting Native plants. Loblaws provides about 15 to 20 different native varieties



Ramona Christiansen

(at certain locations across Ontario) which are grown by small farmers. On Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> MMGs spent a few hours educating and encouraging the shoppers about planting the different native plants in their gardens to promote a healthy, diverse and pollinator habitat.

## Grand Erie Master Gardeners

### Name: May Zoom Meeting

**Details:** Grand Erie Master Gardeners met via Zoom on May 4, 2023. It was a productive meeting, and our small group continues to work hard.

- We learned how supercharged plants could slow climate change (how genetically modified plants can help capture more CO<sub>2</sub>), learned how to transplant a perennial poppy and whether animal waste, raw meat and bones can be added to compost.
- Several members attended the Paris plant sale on May 13<sup>th</sup> and some of our members offered to help out at other garden club and horticultural society meetings, plant sales and libraries who requested the presence of a Master Gardener. These events will be taking place over the coming weeks.
- The Grand Erie Master Gardeners plant sale was launched. Volunteers have come forward to help at all three pick-up locations. Customers picking up orders at our St. Williams location have the chance to win an autographed copy of the Lorraine Johnson / Sheila Colla marvellous book, "A Garden for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee".
- One of our members has refreshed our facebook page and started an instagram page in order to increase our online presence and ability to volunteer online.
- Our summer MG get together was discussed and reservations will be finalized soon.





## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

### Name: CAFES Partnership Tree Canopy Engagement

**Details:** As part of an ongoing partnership between MGOC and [Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability \(CAFES\)](#), MGs Barbara Long and Candace Dressler attended a community engagement meeting hosted by [Synapcity](#) at the [Just Food](#) barn in Ottawa's east end on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The discussion centred on trees in the front and back yards of residential homes, and how the city could help to enhance Ottawa's tree canopy which has been greatly diminished recently both by the emerald ash borer and by extreme weather events.

Candace had loads of info on what FB questions are being asked about trees, especially the city's 'trees in trust' program. This was very valuable because MGOC FB members live all across the city and it gave a really good sense of what the residents of Ottawa want and need, and what the city is and is not providing right now.



*Barbara Long (pink fleece) in the discussion group at CAFES tree canopy discussion*

### Name: Sandy Hill EcoFair at Strathcona Park

**Details:** MGOC was pleased to be able to accommodate a last-minute request on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from the centrally located Sandy Hill community to offer advice at their EcoFair.

Ours was one of numerous community tables addressing diverse issues such as preventing birds from hitting windows, offering free and up-cycled items to university students, and understanding water quality in local rivers and streams. The MGOC advice table was busy with many appreciative visitors who had not encountered our services before.



*MG Belinda Boekhoven at the Sandy Hill EcoFair advice table*

### Name: Ottawa Farmers Market Advice Clinic

**Details:** MGOC will once again be offering regular advice clinics at the Ottawa Farmers Market. Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe stopped by to check out our new look at a market May 14.



*Claire McCaughey, MGOC Ottawa Market Coordinator (L) with Mayor Mark Sutcliffe and MGIT Tong Zhao-Ansari (R)*

### Name: Friends of the Farm Annual Plant Sale

**Details:** The annual Friends of the Farm plant sale on May 14<sup>th</sup> was greeted with enthusiasm by Ottawa gardeners. MGOC had an advice table, as well as selling our members' donated plants. All told MGOC raised over \$2,400.



*(L to R) Marg Ryan, Candace Dressler, Adair Heuchan and Amanda Carrigan are ready to sell plants, while Catherine Disley (R, peach fleece) prepares the MGOC advice table*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

**Name:** Annual Plant Sale & Look, Listen & Learn Educational Series

**Date:** Saturday, June 3, 2023

**Details:** Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners are looking forward to their annual plant sale at a new location this year. The Chairperson of the event, Sylvia Goodheart, will be hosting us at her greenhouse in advance to pot up the donated plants. We are also excited to present our Look, Listen & Learn Series with new topics. This series has always been very well received.



### 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:**

- Pollinator Friendly Gardening (virtual), June 10
- Pruning (virtual), October 14
- Pruning (in-person workshop), October 21
- Indoor Plants (virtual), November 18



### 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.

**Tickets:** More details, including tickets, are available on the Toronto Botanical Garden's website:

<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/event/through-the-garden-gate-riverdale/2023-06-10/>

## International Master Gardener Conference



*I'm going to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come ....*  
Come with me! by Tena Van Andel

**Details:** Yes, from June 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, Master Gardeners from all over the United States, Canada and South Korea will come together and revel in everything gardening – <https://imgc2023.com/>. There are over 50 sessions on topics such as the alchemy of compost, gardening Monet style, tons of info on pollinators and even a session by Rosebud on how Ontario MGs use Kahoot for continuing education. I haven't even begun to rave about the keynote speakers or the tours (although I didn't see anything about tornados to Oz).

Always inspiring are the David Gibby Search for Excellence Awards. You won't believe some of the work fellow MGs do – teaching vegetable gardening in prisons, researching the value of biochars, creating pollinator demonstration gardens, and so much more. Ontario MGs have won a few times in the past and again this year. Yup, MGOI has won second place in the presentations category for 'Kahoot for education!'. Pretty sure champagne after the ceremony will be involved. And this is the best part – all the interesting gardeners you will meet gathered to celebrate gardening at its best.



*So, come to Kansas City, Kansas City, here we come....*



## Niagara Master Gardeners

**Name:** Shaw Garden Tour

**Date:** June 24, 2023

**Details:** Niagara MGs have some open spots for volunteers for the Shaw Garden Tour in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Interested MGOI members can contact Carol Tuck-Riggs at: [tuckriggs01@outlook.com](mailto:tuckriggs01@outlook.com)

**Duties Include:** A plant-naming session 3 weeks before the garden-tour day (approximately 2 hours), plus 3.5 hours (morning OR afternoon) on the garden-tour day. Volunteers receive a free pass to see the other gardens in their free time that day.





## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

### Technical Update

#### Topic: Eastern Regional Technical Update – Prince Edward County

**Date:** Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Location:** Prince Edward County Lavender, 732 Closson Rd., Hillier, ON

**Cost and Registration Information:** Coming this spring. Tickets will be available on Eventbrite.

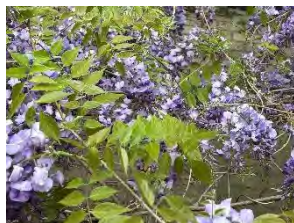
**Details:** Private tour of the Lavender fields will take place on the day the famous Lavender Festival begins. TU participants will be admitted to the site before the public and have a private tour of the fields and farm with the new owner, Rolande Leblanc. There's lots to see and explore.

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*

### Important Summer Workshop Information

The time is running out to **register** for the Summer Workshop.

**There must be a minimum of 50 people in order for the workshop to run, and we need your registration and payment by **Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**.**

**NOTE: If we do not have enough members committed by this date we will need to consider cancellation.**

**Topics:** 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, Cost & Details:** The Summer Workshop will take place July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2023. The cost is \$275. There will be a \$60 rebate to MG and MGiT participants at the end of the 2 days. All forms and full information are available on the MGOI website under webinars/workshops. Links to the form are also included below. Your fee includes lunch and breaks for the 2 days catered by the Niagara Parks Food services.

**Accommodation:** We have reserved some rooms at the residence and conference centre. A 2 bedroom suite is approx. \$250 for the 2 nights, July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>, but **the cut-off date for the MGOI promo is **Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**** so please don't wait – this is a fantastic price for the Niagara location in prime summer time. Use the following link to [book rooms](#).

If you have any questions, please contact:

Yvonne Causer [ycauser@hotmail.com](mailto:ycauser@hotmail.com)

or Kate Sault [saultkate@gmail.com](mailto:saultkate@gmail.com)

### Forms

[Registration Form for Summer Workshop 2023](#)

[General Release of Liability Form 2023](#)

[NPC-Credit Card Authorization](#)

[Summer Workshop 2023 Accommodation](#)



## London Middlesex Master Gardeners

**Name:** 2023 Bloomin' Tour

**Date & Time:** Sun., August 13<sup>th</sup> 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 including Master Gardeners, past Master Gardeners and outstanding individual gardens on our tour.

**Tickets:** Tickets go on sale July 1<sup>st</sup> with the proceeds going to the Thames Talbot Land Trust.



## 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 MG 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](mailto: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)

#### Follow:

[Facebook;](#)

[Twitter;](#)

[YouTube;](#)

[LinkedIn;](#)

[Instagram;](#)

[Email subscription](#)







Let's #LivetheGardenLife

français

## Live the Garden Life

Live the Garden Life, a legacy of the Year of the Garden 2022, is a three-year public campaign developed by Gardens Canada to celebrate Canada's Garden Culture.

Canadians of all ages, and in all parts of the country at home and in their community, visit gardens, and are positively affected by the many benefits gardens provide. This is your invitation to Live the Garden Life and Make a Difference!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the much-anticipated Gardens Canada / Live the Garden Life website! Get ready to immerse yourself with enhanced functionality and an updated design. Our website also features a wide range of new resources and information to help you live your best garden life. There are many ways for everyone to Live the Garden Life and Make a Difference. Check out our new website and let us know what you think!

**VISIT THE NEW WEBSITE!**

## Garden Days 2023



Join in on the celebration of Canada's garden culture during Garden Days, happening from May 19<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by **Scotts Canada**! Take advantage of this opportunity to plan and enjoy garden-related activities of your choice!

Every week, you have an opportunity to participate in the Garden Days Contest and will have a chance to **WIN** a Scotts Canada gift set valued at over \$150!

Mark your calendars and get ready to immerse yourself in the beauty of nature!

## GARDEN DAYS

### National Garden Day - June 17th

National Garden Day is approaching on June 17<sup>th</sup>. This year's focus is on **inclusion and reconciliation**. This is the perfect time to celebrate our garden culture and its impact on our country's development and identity. Share with us how you plan to celebrate this day, whether it's in your garden, business or community! #NationalGardenDay

### International Garden Tourism Conference – November 1 to 4

From November 1 to 4, 2023, in Victoria, BC we will also be hosting the International Garden Tourism Conference: [www.gardentourism.org](http://www.gardentourism.org)

### Garden Hall of Fame

Explore the Garden Hall of Fame section on our website to learn more about Canada's Garden Moments and the individuals who have made significant contributions to it. Be the first to find out who the first Garden Hall of Famers are by tuning in on National Garden Day, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for this exciting announcement!

### Garden Heroes

Register your Garden Hero for 2023! Help us celebrate the inspiring individuals who are improving our garden culture and communities. If you know someone who deserves recognition for their contributions to your garden community, make them your Garden Hero and register them so all of Canada can celebrate them!

#### GARDEN HEROES

### Be a Live the Garden Life Ambassador

If you are a gardener / gardening communicator, join your colleagues across Canada and become a Live the Garden Life Garden Ambassador. **GARDEN AMBASSADOR**





## Thank you to our Sponsors

We are delighted to announce that our esteemed founding sponsors of the Year of the Garden, Proven Winners and Scotts Canada, have returned to support the Live the Garden Life Program! If any of you are interested in becoming a sponsor or promotional partner for Live the Garden Life and would like to associate your brand with the celebration of Canada's garden culture, contact Brent Gavin at [partnerships@gardencouncil.ca](mailto:partnerships@gardencouncil.ca) to learn more about this exciting opportunity. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our previous supporters for helping make it all possible.



## Plant Purple

In collaboration with [Communities in Bloom](#), we would like to remind everyone to embrace the colour theme of the year in 2023 by planting purple in their gardens. From lavenders to coneflowers, eggplants to redbuds, and from coast to coast, let's **Live the Garden Life** and plant purple! The colour purple is a pollinator favourite. Support our pollinators by planting native species such as asters, vervain, and beebalm.

## Let's stay connected!

We'd love to stay in touch with you beyond this newsletter! Be sure to follow us on our social media platforms for more updates and to engage with our growing community.

