



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of
Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the June 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 28 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. *Inside MGOI* features member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as webinars/conferences – anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome! Contributions to future editions of *Inside MGOI* may be sent at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Isabel Belanger, newsletter@mgoi.ca.

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Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Vacant

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INSIDE MGOI

June 2024

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Durham Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary

Gini Sage MT

by Norine Blythe

Congratulations Gini on 20 years. We are so thankful to have you as one of our members. You are a huge asset to DMG. I asked Gini to tell us a bit about herself.



Please give a brief description of your working career:

I retired from General Motors engineering. The last half of my career was spent in the Alternative Fuels Program, including LPG (liquefied petroleum gas), compressed natural gas and fuel cell vehicles, in vehicle design and systems integration, codes, standards and regulations development, and test and validation. I am currently a part time research consultant in Alternative Fuels.

During the summers at university, I worked for the Department of Entomology in fruit research.

What made you interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

I enjoyed gardening, and was pursuing an ODH+ (Ontario Diploma in Horticulture +) program Diploma in Landscape Design from the University of Guelph when I learned about the Master Gardener program. This was long before online learning, and the courses were run as correspondence classes. I liked the idea of volunteering in the community.

Where did you take your education – Guelph, Dalhousie, self-study?

Self-study. I had already passed the entrance exam as pre-qualification for the ODH+ program at the University of Guelph before I joined Master Gardeners, which the University and MGOI deemed the same as the self-study exam. The “+” was a special program at the time. Because my Bachelor of Science is in Forestry, they reviewed my transcripts and exempted me from the 2 additional courses.

Are you on any other gardening related committees/groups?

I volunteer at WindReach Farm in a variety of roles including horticulture.

What committees did you sit on for both DMG & MGOI?

- a) Present: Events Committee
- b) Past: Treasurer, Events Committee, programming, sign-up coordinator, mentor.

When I joined Durham Master Gardeners, we only had 4 members, so we all pretty much did everything without a lot of formalized roles.

Further education/courses gardening related:

Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from Michigan State University, Diploma in Landscape Design from the University of Guelph. Numerous MG workshops and lecture series over the years.

What are some of your loves of gardening?

Currently, my primary focus in my own garden is growing food and herbs, as well as the incorporation of native plants throughout my garden. I also enjoy helping people with design solutions for their gardens.



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Sam McColl



Lanark County Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary

Paul Pietsch
Victor Wark
Gerda Franssen

New Master Gardener in Training

Brian Hunt



Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary

Judy Brisson

15 Year Anniversary

Sean James

5 Year Anniversary

Kiki Alwan

New Master Gardener in Training

Marcus Kotyk



Simcoe County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Katie Goulbourne

Katie was recognized for her Master Gardener certification at the May 21st meeting of the Simcoe County Master Gardeners. Katie has recently made a foray into the world of commercial cut flower growers and has been sharing her learnings with the Group. She is our resident expert on dahlias and other cut flowers and can pull together a gorgeous bouquet as required! Congratulations Katie!



*Katie Goulbourne (l) with Coordinator
Gail Cocker*



Tri-County Master Gardeners

Retirement

Chris Harwood

We bid farewell to Chris who is retiring from the TCMGs after serving as an active member since 2018. Chris most recently served as our faithful correspondent to the MGOI newsletter.

Membership Changes

Lorraine Kuepfer

Susan McLennan

Rose Roi

We regret that **Lorraine** has made the decision to resign as our Coordinator and to leave the Master Gardener organization. She contributed to the group in many ways.

Susan joined Master Gardeners in 2011 and graduated from the Dalhousie program in 2013. Until the pandemic, she carpooled with Rose Roi and Gord Piggott from Woodstock to the Stratford Master Gardener meetings.

Susan will be joining the Atlantic Master Gardeners based in Truro and participating in the summer hands-on projects offered at Dalhousie. Susan and her husband have purchased a 2.2 acre wooded property near Pictou, Nova Scotia. She will be taking many of her favourite plants with her. We wish her well in her new gardening adventures.

We thank Chris, Lorraine, and Susan very much for sharing their time and knowledge with the TCMG group.

We are pleased that **Rose** is rejoining us at this time (on a reduced contract).



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

35 + Year Anniversary

Beryl Harris

Beryl was featured in the January 2023 issue of *Inside MGOI* as PMGs Garden Hero of the Year for the Year of the Garden 2022. Here again are some of the highlights of her 35+ years of service.

Beryl is a founding member of the Peterborough Area Master Gardeners joining in September 1988, and at 90 years young is the last surviving member of the original 22. With Hazel Wilson, she started the Spring Garden Show in Peterborough. Over time it became known as the Peterborough Garden Show and was recognized as one of the very best in Ontario. Over the years, she's logged more than 500 volunteer hours annually, giving presentations, running garden clinics, participating in garden tours, helping with gardening in retirement residences, and working many plant sales.

She has represented Peterborough at the provincial MGOI level and travelled to help write the MGs mandate. She's spoken at Canada Blooms and staffed the MG booth there and at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. An active member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, she has been presented with their highest award for service – the Silver Medal – given for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture.

For almost 20 years Beryl wrote a newsy letter called "Gardening with Beryl" and worked as a Loblaws garden consultant. Known locally as the "Flower Lady" (perhaps because of her very flowery hats as much as her garden knowledge), she is frequently stopped on the street to answer gardening questions. We are blessed with her breadth of knowledge and experience! Congratulations!



Emma Murphy (l) with Beryl Harris holding her 35+ year pin



Halton Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary

Lynn Courtney

Lynn had been gardening for decades when she happened to see a reference to Master Gardeners in a gardening column that she followed in the local newspaper. The writer was an MG and often mentioned the program. She also had a friend who had just completed the training and who spoke highly of it.



From there she went online, found the Halton Region Master Gardeners site and after contacting Patty King, the co-ordinator at the time, she enrolled in the courses at UGuelph and unbelievably 10 years have passed.

Lynn has always enjoyed sharing her gardening knowledge with others. She has managed the MG Clinics at the Dundas Farmers' Market for several years, and attended many home visits in the community offering advice to local homeowners. She has been a member of the Program Committee for Halton MGs and was Co-ordinator for New Memberships for over seven years. She also very much enjoyed opening up her garden to the public for the GARDEN JOURNEYS OPEN DAYS special event held in Hamilton from August 10-20, 2023.

Congratulations Lynn on 10 years of service to the community and to the Halton MG group!



1000 Islands Master Gardeners

MG Recipient of the Rotary Club of Kingston 2024 Paul Harris Fellow

Joyce Hostyn

The Rotary Club of Kingston 2024 **Paul Harris Fellow** is the highest honour a club can bestow on an individual.



The club recognizes individuals who have made significant volunteer contributions to Rotary and/or their community, recognizing “service above self” that an individual has offered to their community, their nation or to the world. Joyce was joined by fellow 1000 Island MGs at an awards dinner and celebration. **Congratulations Joyce!**



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Donna Hormozian



Congratulations to MMG Donna Hormozian for completing her courses and meeting the volunteer requirements to achieve Master Gardener Status.

Welcome aboard Donna!

Diana Westland (l) with Donna Hormozian



Toronto Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Gabrielle Bonneau
Diane Bickers
Alexandra Rodney
Sid Sigua
Krista Elvey
Laren Stadelman

At the June meeting of the Toronto Master Gardeners – preceded by a members’ plant swap and sale and a fantastic scavenger hunt in the Toronto Botanical Garden – we celebrated our newly graduated Master Gardeners in Training.



From left to right: Gabrielle Bonneau, Diane Bickers, Alexandra Rodney, Sid Sigua and Krista Elvey. Laren Stadelman could not attend the event and she was missed. Photo: Pat de Valence

Anniversary Milestones – Long serving Toronto MGs honoured at the Toronto Master Gardeners’ May 2024 meeting

At our May meeting, the Toronto Master Gardeners recognized our long service members who received their badges, starting with Anna Leggatt who has a remarkable 35 years of service. We appreciate their years of service and look forward to more years working together!

35 Year Anniversary

Anna Leggatt

20 Year Anniversaries

Barbara Anderson
Ellen Eyman

15 Year Anniversaries

Josée Couture
Cathy Kozma
Alan Malcolmson
Doryne Peace
Sylvia Sarkus

10 Year Anniversaries

Judith Lavin
Alexis Yanaky



5 Year Anniversaries

Ann Elliott
Desré Kramer
Kathy Martin
Gail Pahwa
Morty Shapiro
Frankie Wright

2024 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

The Toronto Master Gardeners are proud to announce that six Toronto Master Gardeners will be awarded the 2024 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards on June 28, 2024 at the Toronto Reference Library at 7 pm. The very deserving recipients of this award are:

- Judy Clark
- Maureen Hulbert
- Susan Lipchak
- Lesli Musicar
- Dawn Scott
- Sheila Smith



Niagara Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Danielle Ferri

New member profile

by Danielle Ferri

My interest in gardening didn't really start with gardening. It started with food. I love to eat, but I'm a very picky eater. I was the kind of kid that would be stuck at the table for hours in a stalemate with a vegetable that my parents demanded be eaten. So, of course, the first time I tried the superior taste of a garden grown tomato, a seed was planted. Similar experiences with strawberries and arugula only served to cement my interest in growing vegetables.

After reading books like "The Dorito Effect" by Canadian author Mark Schatzker I learned that not only do local, well grown vegetables taste better, they taste better because they are richer in nutrients!

The childhood version of me with the hatred for bland vegetables was vindicated, and my adult interest in growing as many tasty, interesting vegetables as I can validated. There is a whole world of interesting, tasty produce that can't be found in the grocery store.

My interest didn't stop with vegetables, however. Always striving to be eco friendly, last year my husband and I grew the flowers for our wedding. With some help from our moms and a couple of friends we were successful.

I truly think vegetables do better when they are grown alongside flowers. And so with a passion for growing both vegetables and flowers I found my way to the Master Gardeners.

I know I still have lots to learn, and I look forward to learning from you all in Master Gardeners!



Danielle Ferri and her husband grew all the flowers in their wedding last year.





MGOI Board Vacancies

We



Need

You!!

A Message from Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

Roles

Every MG needs to consider the possibility of taking on a future role on the MGOI Board, or a position on an organizing Committee such as the communications team. The public MGOI Facebook group always welcomes more MGs to take a turn as a moderator. A great learning opportunity! The position of Director of Communications has been vacant for three years, and in that absence the rest of the Board has stepped up to fill the gaps as best they could.

By the end of 2024 we will also need a new Webmaster, and new candidates to fill the roles of President, as well as the Directors of Education, Events, and Marketing & Partnerships.

According to ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit and Charitable Corporations) guidelines (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/rules-not-profit-and-charitable-corporations>) our four year terms on the Board are up! Turnover is always important to keep ideas fresh. Without the dedication of new volunteers in these diverse roles, we will not be experiencing another inspiring conference like the one we just enjoyed.

Bring your fresh ideas and make a difference! We need you!

The VP position transitions into the President's position; the job description follows below. All Board positions are now posted on the MGOI site at <https://mgoi.ca/>. Members' login is on the far right (contact your coordinator if you need the password); scroll down to Board Vacancies and you will see all the Job Descriptions.

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at: 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 and 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



Webmaster Wanted / MGOI Webinars / MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group

Wanted - Webmaster

Jim Cook, our webmaster is retiring at the end of 2024. We need a new webmaster! Jim is willing to provide support to ease the transition into the job. An individual (or group) with Wordpress knowledge will transition well.

The candidate will be highly motivated and skilled. If you have a passion for web development and are excited about the opportunity to manage and improve MGOIs online presence, we encourage you to apply.

Job Summary

The MGOI Webmaster will manage everything related to the MGOI website to ensure it is running smoothly and effectively. The position works closely with MGOI Board members. The Webmaster:

- monitors performance – functionality, speed and design – and analyzes data to identify opportunities for improvement
- stays up-to-date with the latest web development technologies and trends
- provides technical support and creates content as needed
- manages website hosting, domain registration, and other technical aspects of website management
- creates and maintains website backups and disaster recovery plans
- performs other duties as required

Access to Past MGOI Webinars

All MGOI Webinars have been recorded, and the link is on the MGOI website, <https://mgoi.ca/>; members' login is on the far right. If you don't have a password your Coordinator will be able to provide it. Once you're in the members' section, scroll down to the bottom and click on workshops/webinars.

The MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1329062317277822/>.

This is a private group: 'A discussion page for registered members of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc., Canada; this includes current active MGs and MGITs. To join, you must be an active member of the Master Gardeners of Ontario and belong to a local MG group.' You must also answer 2 questions that you would know the answers to.

The group is:

Private - Only members can see who's in the group and what they post. **Visible** - Anyone can find this group.

History - Group created on January 3, 2020. Name last changed on October 12, 2023.

See more - May include flagged content. Admins may allow some posts and comments to be visible in the group even if they're flagged by Facebook's systems. [Learn more](#)



Master Gardeners Out & About Projects & Events

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Canadian Tire Garden Centre - Providing Gardening Advice

Details: Despite the cool weather, enthusiastic gardeners are anxious to start planting. Over the weekend of May 25th & 26th the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were on hand at the Canadian Tire Garden Centre on Arthur Street, providing gardening advice. MGs Carole McCollum and Andrea Steinhäusser, and MGITs Hedy Koski, Laura Jones, and Jack Van Gemeren attended the event. They had a wonderful time helping customers select plants and answering gardening questions. Canadian Tire greatly appreciated our assistance, and we look forward to partnering with them in the future.



Jack Van Gemeren at the Canada Tire Garden Centre

Name: Creating Beautiful Gardens Presentation

Details: MGs Lynda Lahteenmaa & Lynda Bobinski presented "Creating Beautiful Gardens" to the Catholic Woman's League of St Agnes Church in Thunder Bay again on June 3rd (see May's Newsletter for their May presentation). The hour-long presentation was well received with over 30 ladies in attendance. The goal was to highlight the criteria that the Thunder Bay Art Gallery Garden Tour committee uses to select the gardens each year. Lynda Lahteenmaa is very involved with this committee. Beautiful gardens from previous tours were also shown. Lynda Bobinski's garden has been on the tour several times in the past.

They explained the role of the MG on the garden tour and the "MG Pick". This is a perennial, tree or shrub that the MG selects as their favourite in the garden. They research the selected plant and provide written information to each guest. A sign is placed at the chosen plant so the guests can find it easily.

A sneak peak of the gardens which will be showcased in the upcoming July tour were also presented.



Lynda Bobinski, left with Lynda Lahteenmaa

Name: Bertha Shaw School, South Porcupine Pollinator Garden

Details: On May 29th Catherine Cribbs was thrilled to work with 40 kindergarten and Grade 1 students at Bertha Shaw School in South Porcupine. Along with 2 aids, they were shown how to care for the pollinator garden that was created last spring. She arranged for 1 child to look after each perennial that they hoped to keep and protect from the weeder. The system worked well. Catherine enjoys teaching the children and sharing her knowledge with the next generation.



MG Catherine Cribbs with the children

Name: Look, Listen & Learn Presentations

Details: In conjunction with our annual plant sale on June 8th, we also held our Look, Listen & Learn gardening presentations. This year our theme was 'Native Gardening'. MGs Lynda Bobinski and Carole McCollum held an interesting seminar on 'Biodiversity in the Garden'.



This topic was well received, and they ran out of time with all the questions.



Lynda Bobinski, left with Carole McCollum

Many people were also interested in attending Rosemary McNabb's presentation on 'Growing Milkweed & Monarchs'.

Rosemary brought the cages she uses for her Monarch chrysalises and Theresa Love created origami Monarchs for all the participants.



Rosemary McNabb – Raising Monarchs

Name: Plant Sale June 8th

Details: The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners embraced the 'plant orange' theme at their annual plant sale. Last year, we changed to an indoor venue at the West Thunder Community Centre. The turnout has been tremendous as weather is not a factor. Master Gardeners donated hundreds of hardy perennials for sun and shade, houseplants, poppy seeds, as well as a wide assortment of veggies that had been patiently started from seed. The event is a great opportunity to work together, potting up plants in advance as well as sharing our knowledge. As always, this is a very successful fundraiser for our group.



Plants & People



Plants for the Sale



Sylvia Goodheart, left with Hedy Koski

And finally, Sylvia Goodheart and Hedy Koski had a fun and informative presentation on 'Vermiculture', with an active 3 tier worm condo!

We were thrilled to have 22 participants register for the event. It was a wonderful day of learning and meeting new fellow gardeners.



Group Shot - Plant Sale 2024



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Membership Event and Plant Sale

Details: The weather was grand, lots of people came looking for plants and, despite our very small number of members, we had a great day on Saturday, May 25th. This year we changed our venue and had a membership drive at the same time as our annual plant sale.

What we did discover was that we are all getting older and not as strong as we used to be. Setting up the tables was very challenging – so we'll be re-thinking our layout for next year.



L to R, June Crocco, Kim Beaugrand, Margot Rivers



Kim Beaugrand, left with Sam McColl

Our newest member, Sam McColl brought beautiful dahlias and was on hand with much advice for the many gardeners who were interested in them.

Our host, St Andrew's Church in the very centre of Picton, proved to be an ideal location and we'll definitely be back next year!

Many thanks for all the hard work to Andie Wiens, Kim Beaugrand, Sam McColl, June Crocco, Margot Rivers and Susan Warrack. And a special thank you to Eveline for entertaining all of us!



Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Spring Tour of Burnt Lands Alvar

Details: Lanark County Master Gardeners went back to the Burnt Lands Alvar on June 3rd to see all the plants that flower in the springtime. We were well rewarded with sights of yellow lady slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum*), hairy penstemon (*Penstemon hirsutus*), and wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) that was just coming into view.



Wood Lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*)



Aquatic Larva of Newt

It was disappointing to see the water filled tracks caused by all-terrain vehicles but they did add one bonus—hundreds of tadpoles and the terrestrial larva of one newt.

Our tour guide was extremely knowledgeable about everything in the Alvar and indicated that he enjoyed our group as everyone was so interested in all the plants.





Group photo. Front, l-r, Dale Odorizzi, Victor Wark, Gerda Franssen, David Hinks. Back row, l-r, Brian Hunt, Tim Deslippe.
The rest of the group had scooted off at photo time.

Name: Presentation at Port Hope United Church

Details: On April 30th Victor Freiberg of the Northumberland Master Gardeners presented at the Port Hope United Church.

His topic was spring gardening preparation, and he had the opportunity to answer many excellent questions from engaged community members.



Victor, left was joined by NMG members Claire Blahnik, middle and Kathleen Bazkur, right

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Technical Update with Sean James

Details: On May 25th the Northumberland Master Gardeners hosted a technical update with Sean James. Sean presented to a large group of attendees brought together by the Northumberland Master Gardeners and the Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners in Warkworth, during the annual Lilac Festival. Sean's engaging and entertaining presentation spotlighted a deep library of interesting plants (both native and cultivars) and design techniques that support biodiversity and form layers of plant communities in our gardens. Sean took many questions from the audience, and brought levity and enthusiasm to everything he said.

Name: Advice Clinic, Warkworth Lilac Festival

Details: On May 25th and 26th NMGs hosted an Advice Clinic on the Millenium Lilac Trail during the Warkworth Lilac Festival. The festival occurs yearly and features a host of beautiful lilacs including many rare and unusual ones.



Sean with Northumberland Master Gardeners (from left) Judy Kaufmann, Stacy Hannah and Kat Kinch



MG Kathleen Bazkur running the advice clinic at the Warkworth Lilac Festival on May 26th
Photo: Kat Kinch



Tri-County Master Gardeners

Name: Native Perennial Plant Sale

Details: Tri-County Master Gardeners held a native perennial plant sale on June 1st at The Local Community Food Centre in Stratford. We had beautiful weather and a wonderful turnout.

Customers were lining up well before the start time of 9AM. We were pleased to see customers from all three counties in our district: Huron, Oxford and Perth. Many of the customers had attended our spring pollinator garden workshops in the weeks preceding the sale. On offer were 23 varieties of native perennial plants from our supplier, Verbinnen's Nursery.

Most plants were sold out by 10:30AM. Master Gardeners were on hand to offer advice and to help customers with plant selection. We were delighted to see the growing interest and enthusiasm for native plants happening in our area.



TCMGs preparing for the native plant sale



TCMGs setting up the plant sale at The Local

Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Plant Sale – Guelph Legion, May 25th

Details: Despite (or because of) the weather, our annual plant sale was our best yet!



Photo: Judy Brisson



Our plant sale coordinator extraordinaire Donna Kahn discussing our awesome selection of plants! (foreground/pink orange jacket)

Photo: Danielle Gignac



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: June Update

Details: The Grand Erie Master Gardeners continue to meet monthly via zoom, and most of our members also meet regularly for the Gardening for Nature committee and the Gardening for Food committee. MG Kevin Kavanagh very generously donated all his speaker fees from the MGOI conference to the Grand Erie Master Gardeners. This is a huge help in allowing our small group to continue our educational efforts. On Thursday June 13th, Kevin Kavanagh gave a Gardening for Nature talk in Scotland ON and also donated this honorarium to our group. MGIT Marilyn Park wrote a very amusing article on the perils of poison ivy.



Name: Native Plant Sale, Saturday June 22nd

Details: MGIT Kim Hutten hosted our native plant sale that included well over 30 species, all available for a great price. Many other members helped, including MG Lynne Goulet-Smith, MGIT Liz Hopkins, MG Nancy Lee-Colibaba and more. Other members including MGIT Carolyn Bennett, MGs Anne Saunders and Lynne Goulet-Smith and MGIT Laura Rodger helped by donating and potting up plants, and Halton MG Isabel Belanger kindly donated native plants as well. Pollinator garden signs, grow bags, individual plant markers, native plant seeds and book marks were available for sale.

Following our plant sale, the next big event for our group will be the “Honey, I Shrank the Lawn” workshop on Sunday July 14, 2024. Please see **Upcoming Events** for more details.

Our Gardening for Food committee has been working hard on creating fact sheets and FAQs for our website on growing food. A big thank you to MGIT Kim Hutten for managing our website so ably. MGIT Laura Rodger continues to manage the Grand Erie Master Gardener Facebook and Instagram pages. Check out our website: Granderiemg.org.

Many of our members also volunteer by responding and donating time to help individual gardeners and garden groups with education and answering their questions, including assistance with the Butterfly Garden at the Scotland Optimist Park and Silver Lake Park owned by the Port Dover Lions Club.



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Name: Immaculate Conception Public School Learning Garden

Details: One of our members, Anne Trudel-Inglis, is working with the students at the school to develop a learning garden. It is currently in the fundraising and development stages.

Name: Herb Growing Pop-up Workshop at Griffin’s Greenhouse

Details: A new concept for the group, this pop-up workshop on June 1st served as both an educational event

and a fundraiser. The attendees participated in a hands-on planting activity and took their herb planter home with them. It was a great opportunity for participants to learn more about the herbs they were planting, how they can grow them, use them and enjoy them.



MG Rachel Burrows (red apron) at the Herb Workshop

Name: Peterborough Regional Farmers Market

Details: The PMGs have been hosting a table at the Farmers’ Market in downtown Peterborough on Wednesdays throughout May and will carry on through June. It is a fun way to continue to spread the word about our group amongst the community, interact with local farmers and growers, and answer gardening questions!

Name: Greenup Ecology Park Plant Sale

Details: Ecology Park is a local native plant nursery run by Peterborough Greenup. The MGs had a busy time at the nursery opening day on May 18th. MGs Emma Murphy, Chris Tewsley, Rachel Burrows, Sylvia Green, Silvia Strobl, and Jennifer Guertin answered hundreds of questions and helped people choose native plants.

We set up displays about jumping worms and invasive species, discussed best gardening practices and encouraged everyone to plant more natives. The team brought home lots of plants for their own gardens!



Ecology Park Opening



1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Global News Story – Joyce Hostyn

Details: Over the past few months, Kingston City staff have worked closely with the 1000 Islands Master Gardeners on action plans to deliver progressive changes to City of Kingston Yard By-Law and policies. The association has expressed an interest in the development of naturalized gardens on private property, and progressive changes in established by-laws.

City staff intend to promote the existing resources and materials offered by the 1000 Islands Master Gardeners and author and community advocate Lorraine Johnson to educate the public on prohibited plants and naturalized gardens. They will also seek out additional opportunities with organizations such as the Rotary Club and the Kingston Horticultural Society.

Here is the Global Newsclip featuring MG Joyce Hostyn touring a de-lawned front garden and talking about a naturalized front garden with native plantings to promote biodiversity.



<https://globalnews.ca/video/10559338/new-kingston-by-law-will-allow-homeowners-to-naturalize-front-lawns>



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Georgetown Horticultural Society Plant Sale

Details: Our own Mississauga MG Susan Quirk attended the Georgetown Horticultural Society's Plant Sale on May 10th. She offered expert advice on questions people had with their plants, vegetables and gardens.



Thanks Susan for representing the Mississauga Master Gardeners!

Name: Presentation to GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Global Biopharma Company and Haleon Consumer Health Company

Details: *How to Have a Garden in Any Space, Including Up!* was the topic for Mississauga MG Martha Kantorczyk's May 14th and 15th presentations to GlaxoSmithKline and their sister company Haleon's Mississauga offices. Increasingly, urban dwellers are living in apartments and condos, so utilizing every possible horizontal as well as vertical space for container gardening is essential. Balcony gardening has its own challenges as well, such as wind and reflected heat.

These lunch and learn sessions focused on best practices for growing your own vegetables in pots or plots, as well as tips and techniques garnered from Martha's 40+ yrs. of veg growing experience.



Martha Kantorczyk

Thanks Martha for representing the Mississauga Master Gardeners!



Name: Mississauga MG Plant Sale

by Ramona Christiansen

Details: Our annual Plant Sale was held at the Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga on May 25th. The over 100 year old MacEwan Barn always provides a beautiful setting to host our fabulous selection of plants grown by our own members or divided from our gardens.



Pricing the plants: Left to right; Maureen Neglia, Diana Westland, Emma Chow, Martha Kantorczyk, and Ramona Christiansen (taking the photo)

We also receive plants from special donors living in Mississauga who have and grow some prized plants. We are always grateful for their donations to our plant sale.

Despite the rain that day, we had a great turnout of enthusiastic customers wanting to plant something unique in their gardens or wanting to support us.

Our team of volunteers worked tirelessly pricing, transporting, watering the plants and setting up the barn at Riverwood the day before and of course, the day of the plant sale. It is always wonderful to give advice to eager gardeners who, like us, have a love for plants.



Day of the Plant Sale. Left to right: Emma Chow, Diana Westland, MJ Kucerak (MG Emeritus), Susan Quirk, Karolina Marques, Maureen Neglia and Ramona Christiansen

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Through the Garden Gate 2024

Details: Once again this year, many Toronto Master Gardeners played a major role in “Through the Garden Gate”, the Toronto Botanical Garden’s annual tour, from scouting the gardens to providing advice and answering a wide range of questions during the two-day tour itself.

This year the tour took place in the west-end neighbourhood of Swansea, and featured some amazing and inspirational gardens, including two gardens belonging to TMGs Brigitte Richter and Ginnie Venslovaitis. Brigitte’s garden was described as “a wonderful study on how introducing native plants to an urban garden creates biodiversity that attracts birds, insects and pollinators of all kinds”. Ginnie’s space features a challenging steep hillside, and was described as “a welcoming garden for birds, bees, butterflies – and native plant enthusiasts. The owner grows many trees and perennials from seed, putting them into containers tucked into nooks and crannies.”

The Toronto Master Gardeners are proud of our strong partnership with the TBG in this annual tour. Photos of some of the beautiful gardens of Swansea are available for viewing on the Toronto Botanical Garden’s website: <https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/event/through-the-garden-gate-swanea/>



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Shaw Guild Garden Tour

Details: The Shaw Guild Garden Tour took place on June 15 this year. The self-guided tour featured lovely gardens in some beautiful locations in the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The event is organized by the Shaw Theatre Guild with substantial input from Niagara Master Gardeners in identifying notable plants ahead of the event and answering questions on the day of. The great weather helped make it an interesting, fun and successful tour day! The Garden Guild Tour is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Shaw Festival.





The gardens of Greystone Manor, above, that overlooks the mighty Niagara River were among those on the tour.

Name: BBQ

Details: At the last meeting before summer break, Niagara MGs got together on the night of the summer solstice to share some potluck goodies and gardening stories at the home of MG member Bob Martin, whose gardens hold lots of lovely, healthy and interesting specimens.



Niagara MGs gathered for a barbecue at the home of MG member Bob Martin

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Lansdowne Market

Details: Farmers' Markets are favourite MGO activities. Here's the crew at Lansdowne Market in Ottawa, located near the fashionable Glebe neighbourhood.

Claire is a garden and design coach and has a unique passion for Ikebana. She exhibits her creations annually at the Museum of Nature and the Embassy of Japan here in Ottawa.



From left to right MGs Claire McCaughey, Terry Mueller and Sylvie Lapointe are ready to give advice to clients

UPCOMING EVENTS

1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Volunteer Opportunities

Description: Volunteer opportunities continue to include: presenters for Ask a MG on Thursdays @ 1:00 p.m. via Zoom; sessions are 30 minutes.

Details and Contact Information: Please visit our website for topics, details and contact information: <https://1000islandsmastergardeners.ca/upcoming-events/>

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Workshop: "Honey, I Shrank the Lawn"

workshop Date: Sunday July 14, 2024

Details:



A.M.: The morning will feature the fun of learning to reduce turf and creating a new garden or expanding the one you already have.

P.M.: The afternoon will feature managing established gardens - dealing with invasive and aggressive plants and building more natural diversity.

Location: The afternoon session takes place in the gardens of the historic Van Norman-Guiler home in the Village of Normandale. Details will be announced on our website at granderiemg.org.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Oak Wilt Disease

Reminder – Do Not Prune oak trees (*Quercus* spp.) until November: winter pruning should be the new norm.



Calling anyone who deals with oak trees including nurseries, garden centers, homeowners, [Master Gardeners] and tree professionals!

*Let this be your friendly reminder: you should hold off on pruning your oaks until November to protect trees from oak wilt disease. The pathogen that causes oak wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) is now present in the Ontario environment; this is a reminder that prevention is your best form of defense against oak wilt. All ages and sizes of oak trees are susceptible to oak wilt.*

<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminder-no-pruning-oaks-from-now-until-november/#more-6673>

Oak Wilt, or *Bretziella fagacearum*, is a fungal disease that can kill oak trees within one year. Red oaks are particularly susceptible. The Ontario government advises ‘you should not prune or wound oaks between April and November, when the sap beetles that spread the disease are active’.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt#:~:text=Oak%20wilt%20is%20an%20introduced,Falls%20area%20of%20Southern%20Ontario.>

This disease can cause serious damage to Canada's oak tree population. Pathways by which oak wilt can spread include:

- via **root grafting**, where the fungus travels through the interconnected roots of infected and healthy trees growing in close proximity;
- via **insects**, such as sap and bark beetles that carry spores of the fungus from an infected tree to a healthy one; and
- human-assisted spread through the **movement** of things such as firewood and **pruning** during high-risk periods.

How You Can Help: As a leading voice in the field of tree and plant health, the CFIA would like Master Gardeners to share this message with the public, our clients, and staff.



Oak wilt disease in an oak tree.
Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak_wilt_diagnosing_and_preventing



CFIA – Spotted Lanternfly

Also check for spotted lanternfly (SLF). Canada is preparing for the potential arrival of the SLF, present in the United States and getting closer to the Canadian border. The spotted lanternfly would be devastating for Canada's wine, fruit, nursery and forest industries.



early stage nymph

For more information, please visit Canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly. The **Spotted Lanternfly Timeline is:**

- Sep to Nov – egg laying;
- Oct to Jun – egg mass;
- May to Jul – early stage nymph;
- Jul to Sep – late stage nymph;
- Jul to Dec – adult.



The city of Philadelphia has excellent information including identification on their website:



<https://www.phila.gov/2020-10-13-stop-the-spotted-lanternfly-identify-and-destroy-their-eggs/>

CFIA Digital Toolkit

[International Day of Plant Health](#) was on May 12th, and the CFIA needs help and expertise to engage Canadians on how we can successfully keep Canada's natural landscape, bountiful plants, and beautiful gardens healthy and protected against the threat of invasive species. The CFIA has developed a user-friendly [digital toolkit](#) full of outreach materials in English and French, including posters, social media messaging and images, and more! Please use these, and share with your customers, clients and friends. This toolkit includes extensive material on invasive species.

Feel free to bug us if you have any questions or would like to discuss opportunities to work together!

Maria Kubacki, Manager / Gestionnaire
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Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
343-542-3856
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The CFIA is also encouraging you to share their International Day of Plant Health social media content that was posted on all their channels on May 12:

[Facebook \(@CFIACanada\)](#)

[Instagram \(@cfia_canada\)](#)

[X.com \(@InspectionCan\)](#)

[LinkedIn \(@canadian-food-inspection-agency\)](#)



CFIA Seeds Alert

Canadians are urged 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. There have been 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. Not meeting requirements has consequences such as the destination country destroying the seeds and issuing 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. CFIA 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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