



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to the 1st edition of the revamped Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. This Newsletter aims to focus on you, the Master Gardeners, while providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board and Committee members, and Directors. We intend to publish monthly and want to feature member milestones, new group projects, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and activities of our groups and their members. Pictures are welcome too. The purpose is to help pull us together – remind us that we are part of a province-wide team of people who love gardens and gardening and want to share the joy and their knowledge!

Contributions to future editions of 'Inside MGOI' may be sent at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Isabel Belanger, newsletter@mgoi.ca.

MGOI Board Members:

President:	Claudette Sims, Halton vacant
Vice President:	Connie Hunter, Toronto
Corporate Secretary:	Connie Hunter, Toronto
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Director of Central Region:	vacant
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Director of North Region:	vacant
Director of South & West Region:	vacant

Committee Members

Recording Secretary/Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke newsletter@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
Facebook: Linda Hugli, Sudbury
Canada Blooms Advice Clinic Manager: Christine Spence, Etobicoke

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INSIDE MGOI

**Newsletter of
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc
January, 2016**

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

MILESTONES

In Memorium

Philip Stuart

Philip Stuart was a founding member of the Mississauga Master Gardeners in 1994. He was an incredibly knowledgeable gardener whose energy and enthusiasm inspired and impressed us all. He remained an active gardener until he lost his mobility in 2014, and even then continued to advise and instruct. Philip passed away on January 3rd 2016, following a brief illness, at the age of 98. Had he lived until March he would have served 22 years as a Master Gardener. He will be greatly missed.

Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

30 years:

Lee Boltwood
Fran Dennett
Polly McCall
Joan McNab

15 years:

Stephanie Sleeth

5 years:

Helena Dlab

Master Gardener Certification Achieved:

Ann Price

New MGITs:

Esther Bryan
Kira Burger
Louise Lussier-Keating
Claire McCaughey
Laura Moses
Heather Purdy
Marion Runstedler

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

New Members:

Barbara Nytko (M.G.I.T.) - Joined May 23, 2015
Beverly Trought (M.G.I.T.) - Joined September 23, 2015
Linda Gordon - Joined January 13, 2016

Member Transfers:

Catherine Johnson - Transferred to Durham, December 2015

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Certification Achieved:

Valerie Gillespie - August 2015

Lanark County Master Gardeners

20 Years:

Renai Rennick

Conference 2016 News:

Come Grow With Us 2016, April 8th -10th, Huntsville, Ontario – a plenitude of thought provoking speakers, hordes of hilarity and the opportunity to make friends from all over North America. Please register asap because we are starting to finalize session numbers, delicious menus, schwag bags and extra curricular activities. The public is most welcome.

www.conference.mgoi.ca.

The MGOI **Rewards and Recognition** Committee is planning an exciting ceremony for the presentation of the Awards of Excellence Friday evening. The judges are completing their feedback on the projects. Wow!!!! They are super impressed!! Be there to cheer!!!!

Note from the Conference Registrar:

All registrations are acknowledged immediately – online registrations on the day they are sent, and mailed in

registrations as soon as I receive them. If you mailed in a registration form and have not heard from me, then please contact me at conferenceregistrar@mgoi.ca .

If you did not register a companion, but now wish to bring someone with you, then contact me at that email and I will arrange to add your companion and invoice you through PayPal.

If you did not sign up for one of the pre-conference workshops and now wish that you had, again contact me at that email and we can make the necessary change. You can find the description of all workshops on our website <http://mgoi.ca> and click on the conference link.

If you have not yet registered for the conference, what are you waiting for? Join the fun!!



Two conference deadlines:

February 1st - deadline for entering a team of three in the Reach for the Treetops Trivia Tournament at the Conference -- fun, educational and prizes to be won! Contact Maureen Hulbert at maureen@downtoearthtoronto.com .

February 28th - deadline for entering the Pollinator Inn contest. Simply submit your team name and the name of your Inn to Josée at josee@joseecouture.net

A Moment for Membership

Pam Love, Director of membership, MGOI

Master Gardener membership is shrinking in many groups. To keep our groups healthy, we all need to pitch in from time to time and help with attracting new members. Some people are shy and others just don't know how to get a membership conversation going.

'Lucky Durham group gets to help Pam Love pilot new ideas.'

We gave a shrub talk to the Oshawa Garden Club on Monday that has over 130 members, or should I say potential new Master Gardeners. We came up with a table top "Master Gardener Apply Now" conversation starter sign. The top of the sign let people know we are looking for both passionate gardeners and volunteers, covered how we give back to our community in the middle, how we learn and grow on the right, and the rewards we harvest on the left. We finished it off with a sprinkle of pictures.



Recruitment Table for New Master Gardeners

We couldn't get everything we wanted on the sign so we made up a supplementary sheet as a hand out, added our community partners, and included "how to get in touch with us". This sheet and the new member kits were in front of the sign.

We also stood out in front of the table by the sign so we could talk to people and answer any questions they had. In addition, we added two slides at the front of the presentation to give a brief overview of what the Master Gardeners are about, that we are looking for new members, and that we would be back by the sign afterwards to talk to them. We also added a couple of slides to entice these garden enthusiasts to come to our conference in April. Slides and samples of handouts are available on the "Coordinators Corner" tab on the member area of mgoi.ca.

You can tell from the picture how much fun I am having talking to a Garden Club member.



Pam Love with a Member of the Oshawa Garden Club

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Canada Blooms

Date: March 11th - 20th

Details: Sign-up for the Advice Clinics begins at the end of January. Watch for emails from your Coordinator and the MG-list for details as shifts book up very fast. Why not gather a gang of gardeners and enjoy a road trip, volunteering and the show!

8th MGOI Summer Workshop at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture

Date: July 16th / 17th, 2016

Details: Three topics are offered this year:

1. IPM - Using The Tools to Beat Key Ontario Pests, using Phenology and Organic Pest Control
2. Conifer Identification, Plant Communication Part II, and Tree Risk Assessment
3. The Tiny Garden - Big Thinking for Small Spaces



MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Treasurer/Corporate Secretary:

This is a board position.

Timeframe: 2 years plus 6 month transition period, working with the current Treasurer and Corporate Secretary.

Starts April 1, 2016 – term ends with the AGM in 2018.

Description: The Treasurer is responsible for general financial oversight and works with the Board executive and directors. Main responsibilities include banking, book-keeping, bill payment, financial planning and budgeting, financial reporting to the Board, advising on fund-raising.

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

For additional information or to apply, please contact recruiting@mgoi.ca

Conference Ambassadors:

Timeframe: April 8 - 10

Description: Meet and greet our speakers, make them feel like honoured guests at the conference (they are!), facilitate a well-run breakout session. If you can't remember which speaker/breakout you've signed up for check your confirmation email. Go to www.conference.mgoi.ca for descriptions and speaker profiles.

Be the hostess with the mostess!

Be the host with the most!

Contact conferencinfo@mgoi.ca if you can help.

There are other volunteer opportunities listed on our website on the members side under MGOI Admin Volunteer Opportunities– maybe one of them fits your interests and skills . Check it out. Many hands make lighter work for all!!

Editor's Note: Ideally, we would always like to have news from every group. At your next meeting, consider offering to be the newsletter liaison for your group – be the one who sends news of your group to the editor. Be part of the newsletter team!

