



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the July edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter. As we slowly but surely come out of lockdown we hope that June has found you safe and well.

Our focus is on you, Master Gardeners! This is your vehicle for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 30 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome!

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

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INSIDE MGOI

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

July 2020

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Master Gardeners of Ottawa – Carleton

New Master Gardener in Training

Carolyn Mann

MGOC welcomes Carolyn Mann, highly qualified with a Master of Science (MSc) in soil science. Becoming an MGIT isn't so easy during a pandemic but with some social distancing and in the backyard of a Master Gardener, the interview took place safely and comfortably.

Member Transfers

Odette McIntyre

Odette has recently moved to Ottawa, transferring her membership from Toronto Master Gardeners to MGOC.

We welcome her and look forward to sharing our skills together!



Stratford Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Koleen Garland

Angela William

The Stratford Master Gardeners are delighted to welcome two new MGITs to the group. We know that in spite of the pandemic, nature doesn't slow down and gardeners remain active and inquisitive.

Koleen Garland joins us from Ripley which is in Bruce County. She was a successful sheep farmer (organic) for 25 years and has been a director of both the Ontario and the Bruce County Federations of Agriculture. She also ran a B&B establishment. Today, she has not slowed down a lot, growing perennials, fruit and veg, a kitchen garden, and maintaining an interest in field crops such as soybeans.

Angela William lives in Stratford and followed her father's footsteps into vegetable gardening. She is expanding her gardens bit by bit and enjoys posting plant photos on Instagram (@canadianplantlady). Angela is well into her Horticultural studies through the University of Guelph.



Durham Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Robynne Dunn

Norine Blythe

Congratulations!

Member Profile

Welcome to our new Co-coordinator Anne Van De Velde.

Anne joined our group two years ago and right from the start became an active member, getting involved in group events, activities, attending the Coordinators' Conference and becoming our social media champion.

Anne's recent project is co-leading the group's Feed the Need initiative with the City of Oshawa, growing food instead of flowers in the City Hall flower beds.

Thanks for stepping up Anne!



Master Gardeners Out & About: *Projects & Events*

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Ren Duinker's Garden Visit

Details: One of the biggest thrills for a Master Gardener is being invited into someone's garden. On July 6, 2020 I was invited to Cathy Pogue's (MG Emeritus) garden and took a lovely drive through the Canadian Shield up to Tamworth. I decided to take the back roads, just to slow down a bit and see what was growing along the side of the road. The ancient rocks pushed their foreheads towards me all along the route, almost as if they were reaching out to have a look at me.

I arrived at Cathy's to see her with a big smile standing on her deck in front of her beautiful home. Of course we practised social distancing so our first hurdle was standing there in front of one another resisting the urge to give each other a hug! We had a lovely summer lunch – again with social distancing, an elegant table setting with Cathy at one end, me at the other – reminded me of the upper class 'luncheons' from Downton Abbey.

After lunch, we got down to business – the main event: the garden tour.

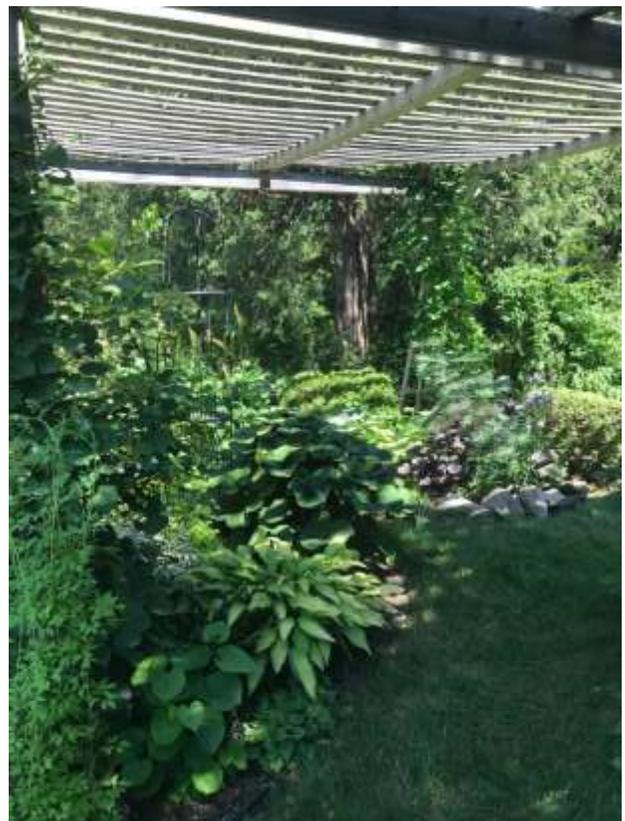
Cathy is one of those gardeners who seek out the unusual. Being a novice, as we walked through her magnificent garden, I would remark on one plant or another – it was *never* the plant I thought it was: like this *Telekia speciosa*, which I thought was a ligularia.



Like all real gardeners, Cathy spoke of the plants in her garden with such affection.

She so obviously knew each plant intimately. I was enchanted.

The garden has been built from nothing. Cathy's keen eye and flair for design was evident everywhere. A magnificent shade garden had been created with an arbour and we lingered there as I had a quick lesson (one of many for me that day) in plant identification.



As we wandered through Cathy's incredible garden, I was struck by the serenity all around me. Cathy's calm voice, answering my endless questions, the coolness under the arbour (where a wisteria draped itself along the top – Kentucky Wisteria, *Wisteria macrostachya* 'Blue Moon') and the hushed presence of the Hostas contrasting with the softer foliage of various ferns and the coloured foliage of heucheras and pulmonarias.





As I said, I am a neophyte – there were so many plants I'd never heard of in Cathy's garden. It was a very enlightening experience for me. This Canna Lily 'Pretoria' caught my eye with its unusual leaves. Such a statement, I was in awe.

There was no end to Cathy's magic.



Perhaps you can understand my thinking this beauty was a Jackmanii – in fact, it's a *Clematis x durandii*.



As we strolled through the garden heading back to the house, Cathy pointed out a tree, one of her favourites, a Tri-coloured Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Roseomarginata'). Another new one for me, although I expect it is familiar to MGs in warmer zones, i.e. Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara.



And who knew there was a perennial climbing sweet pea vine (*Lathyrus latifolius*) – most of you no doubt!



As is always the case with gardeners, having admired a plant in the garden, I went home with a piece of *Ipomopsis rubra*!

Many, many thanks to Cathy Pogue for a wonderful day.



Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: Monthly Meetings

Details: BMGs continue to hold our monthly meetings via Zoom and have decided to hold meetings in July and August to keep our members engaged throughout the summer.

One of our members, Anne Saunders, recommends watching a movie called '**The Biggest Little Farm**'. Click the link to watch the trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfDTM4JxHI8>

Name: Brantford Master Gardeners Educational Videos

Details: BMGs are also posting educational videos on our BMG [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. These videos include such topics as fertilizing, pruning, deadheading, container planting, etc.



Durham Master Gardeners

Name: Durham Master Gardeners Go Virtual

Details: DMGs have worked hard over the last 10 years on outreach to our community partners. These partnerships have been a win win in terms of creating new opportunities to educate our community, as well as a source of new members. As alternatives to face to face events during Covid-19 shutdown, we have had requests to take part in virtual talks organized by some of our partners such as Centennial College and the towns of Pickering, Ajax, and Whitby. They looked after the logistics for the talks, which gave us some experience.

For example:

The Town of Whitby in partnership with the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee celebrated Pollinator Week by offering a free virtual seminar: "Creating Naturalized Gardens" led by Durham Master Gardeners.



These experiences have led us to try talks and advice clinics on our own, using Facebook live and Eventbrite. Last month we even held our monthly meeting via Zoom with guest speaker Michael Erdman from the Greater Toronto Bulb Society. We are still on a learning curve and are planning small training sessions so more members will have an opportunity to get more comfortable with the technology. This is another example of how we grow.

Name: Adopt a Garden Project

Details: DMGs *Adopt a Garden Project* at Oshawa City Hall was featured on CTV News this month! Our joint venture with the Oshawa Garden Club is to grow produce for Feed the Need in Durham. Anne Van De Velde, our new Co-coordinator, and Helen Van der Byl shared the lead on the project for our group.

Through the program, nine of the annual garden beds on the north side of City Hall have been converted from flower gardens to vegetable garden projects. Our members have been involved in planning, planting, maintaining and harvesting the fresh produce for donation to Feed the Need in Durham.

"We can't think of a more worthy project for our volunteers. We designed the beds to produce as many pounds of food as possible, as well as engage and educate passersby on the vegetables and annuals we combined to create the beds. We hope to inspire the community to think about growing food in their own home gardens, be it a balcony or raised bed, that they would be willing to donate to their local food bank" said Anne and Helen.

Cabbage, peas, beans, and kale look great. Also, we're doing some succession planting after our friends the squirrels ate all our squash and zucchini plants. We planted more onions, beets, and beans, and are trying our luck with zucchini and squash seeds rather than plants to see if that works.

On July 10th, 82 lbs of food were delivered to Feed the Need in Durham. Our first harvest from Oshawa City Hall Giving Gardens! Here is a link to the CTV [video](#).





Karen Durnin checks for pests



Anne Van De Velde with our first harvest for Feed the Need in Durham



Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: Interesting Websites

Details: Here again are the BMGs listings of interesting websites published in previous issues of *Inside MGOI*. Fellow MGs can continue to learn, find something interesting to do or watch! Hope everyone enjoys these!

Bringing Nature Home-Catskill Nature Nursery

<https://www.facebook.com/266259994940/posts/10158103043124941/?sfnsn=mo>

The Growing Season

<https://growingseasoncanada.com/>

RBG At Home

<https://www.rbg.ca/athome>

Garden Making Magazine-Virtual Tour of Famous Gardens and Interesting Sites

https://gardenmaking.com/enjoy-a-virtual-tour-of-famous-gardens/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter+Apr+17+2020

Bird Song Opera

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMXD4h5w8D8>

Terra Greenhouses Workshops

<https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=18a1d58804&e=8ca039d1a6>

<https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=e2b3c88cd9&e=8ca039d1a6>



Upcoming Events

Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: BMG Open Garden Tour

Date: August 23rd, 2020

Details: Brantford Master Gardeners will be having our Open Garden Tour on Sunday, August 23rd. We will be following COVID-19 protocols such as having 10 people in the gardens at a time, providing masks and following social distancing rules.

2020 Coordinators' Conference SAVE THE DATE – October 17th, 2020

Details: This year's conference will proceed virtually.

Name: MGOI Website

Details: If you would like your Master Gardener event posted on the MGOI website under the **News & Events** tab, please send details to our webmaster Jim Cook at webmaster@mgoi.ca.

Images need to be in .jpeg or .png format.



Upcoming Events on Hold

N.B. These upcoming events are currently on hold.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa - Carleton ON HOLD! Lectures – 2020 Series Lineup

Stratford Master Gardeners

POSTPONED!! Technical Update

Information:

We asked you to save the date of October 17th, 2020 for our Technical Update, *Gardening for the Planet: Creating Biodiverse Habitats in Our Gardens*.

As a result of COVID-19 we felt that we should postpone the event rather than leave people uncertain as to whether it would go ahead.

We will re-schedule as soon as the situation becomes clearer. We hope to see you there!

Name: 2020 Atlantic Master Gardener Conference – Cancelled until Summer 2021

Topic: Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada

Location: Truro, NS on July 8th & 9th, 2020

Keynote Speaker: Julie Moir Messervy, award winning landscape designer from Vermont and author of *Landscaping Ideas that Work* and other books, has indicated that she is willing to come next year. Registrants will have their money refunded ASAP.

Halton Master Gardeners

Postponed!

Technical Update:

Topic: Refugia: the future of gardening

Date: Saturday, October 24th, 2020

Location: Waterdown, ON

Speakers:

- Dr. Christina Davy, Research Scientist with the Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Catherine Kavassalis, Halton Region Master Gardener
 - Paul Gellatly, Director of Horticulture, Toronto Botanical Garden
 - Claudette Sims, President MGOI
 - Other special guests TBA
-



Special Summer Feature – the Gardens of Ontario Master Gardeners

Calling all MGs and MGITs!

We would like to feature a photo of YOUR garden in the August issue. Please send a photo to newsletter@mgoi.ca. Include your name, group and a caption or paragraph telling us what we are seeing.

Lynne Goulet-Smith, Brantford Master Gardeners

Heuchera americana 'Marvelous Marbles' & *Galium odoratum* (Sweet Woodruff)



Hemerocallis 'Stella de Oro' (Daylily)



Barbra Stock, Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

In Praise of the *Clivia*

Ten years ago a local gardener donated a *Clivia* to the PECMGs plant sale. I knew nothing about this plant at the time but did some research and bought it myself. Since then this one plant has produced many babies! They have travelled... Toronto, Ottawa. Babies have come back. Nearly every year our plant sale has had at least 1 for sale, sometimes 5 or 6. Over the years that one plant has not only raised money for our group but has given untold pleasure to many. Master Gardeners have many ways to give back to their communities; this is one.



For those who do not know this plant, it is an excellent house plant, long lived, disease free, requiring little care, poor light, and can go outside in summer. *Clivia* has dark green strappy leaves; the flowers are orange and long lasting.



Fran Dennett, Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Fran has been a member of MGOC since January 1986. Here is a before and after photo of her garden.



The before photo was taken in 1977.

This photo is her garden this year.



Here is what she says about her garden:

“Forty plus years ago our garden was a pasture. We planted trees, spread mushroom compost (directly from the mushroom grower), joined the Gloucester Horticultural Society for information and received plants, propagated my own perennials, and tended a vegetable garden. Today we enjoy a shadier, private mature garden with space for the grandchildren to run and to sit and enjoy the fruits of our labour.”

Penka Matanska, Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

A member of MGOC since February 2019, this is what she writes about her garden:

“My favorite things are roses, dianthus and delphiniums. My grandmother used to grow these in her country house and now I am proud to be able to do the same in my city garden. It brings so many happy memories!”

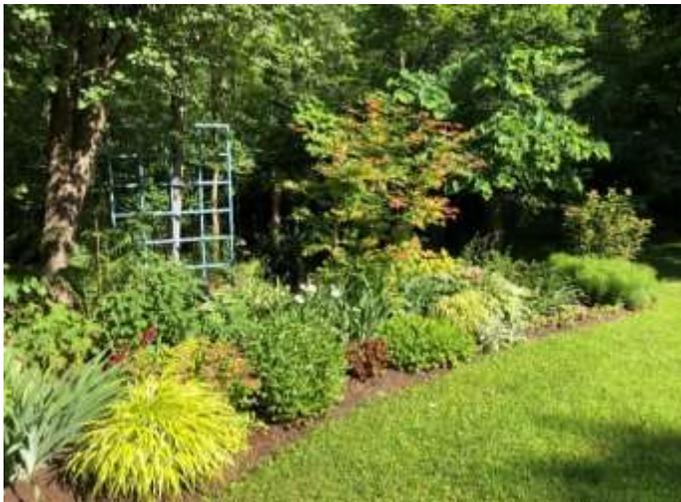


Heather Clemenson, Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

A member since September 2017, this is how she describes her garden:

“We have an acre of property in Greely with many perennial and shrub beds as well as two small vegetable gardens. There are many trees on our property and an area of woodland at the back. As a result, we are blessed with an abundance of birds and wildlife.

In this time of COVID-19 the garden has provided my husband and me with a great deal of pleasure. We enjoy the peacefulness, the birds and the wildlife as well as the satisfaction of seeing the fruits of our labour.”



Isabel Belanger, Halton Master Gardeners

This is a new garden for me in Hamilton, and I’m working to create a pollinator garden. It is now certified as part of the Hamilton Pollinator Paradise Project whose mission is to create pollinator corridors in Hamilton:

<https://www.hamiltonpollinatorparadise.org/>.

Although I brought some plants from my old garden I needed more, and it is not always easy to find native plants. In terms of plant provenance, plants / seeds should come from within about a 100 km radius. I managed to order some plants over the internet, including this *Verbena hastata*, from a native plant nursery 134 km north east of where I live.



Another obstacle in creating native pollinator habitat is plant lust. I saw this large yellow plant growing in the children’s butterfly garden in Gage Park and had to have it. I finally identified it as *Rudbeckia maxima*. It is native to North America: Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and South Carolina. I managed

to find and order it from a plant nursery in Ottawa.

Liz Sangster, Stratford Master Gardeners

The two photos (page 11) illustrate how my garden is moving towards becoming a garden for pollinators, native species, and wildlife. Our lawn is planted mainly in white clover and dandelions that are left to flower in the spring for the bees. The front bed is also planted with pollinators in mind with echinacea, ironweed, achillea, and others. The shade beds are primarily planted with native plants.



Marty Scwende, Stratford Master Gardeners



There are 40-60 mature trees. When the leaves or trees fall they lie in the meadow as habitat and shelter for wildlife.

Nancy Burnett, Stratford Master Gardeners

Black Swallowtail Chrysalis

On July 14th I was deadheading some lamb's ears and failed to observe this little guy until I was about to put him into the weed pail.

I regret that I disrupted it in-situ. To make amends, I set up a large jar with cheese cloth on top and some strips of paper towel for climbing out. I will watch and wait.



I assisted in rejuvenating our Jr. Garden site in Elmira (Woolwich gardeners) by adding 6 raised beds. All the lumber and soil (6 yards) was donated for free locally. This will enhance next year's program as the garden will be easy to maintain and the kids can start gardening earlier due to the quicker warming of the beds. The kids are going to love it! We had a lot of fun doing it.

