



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to May's edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. With a focus on you, the Master Gardeners, this is your vehicle for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 31 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features 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 our members. And pictures – please feel free to submit pictures!

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
Vice President:	vacant
Corporate Secretary:	Connie Hunter, Toronto
Treasurer:	Connie Hunter, Toronto
Director of Communications:	Kelly Noel, Ottawa-Carleton
Director of Education:	June Streadwick, Niagara
Director of Events:	Tena van Anel, Toronto
Director of Membership:	Pam Love, Durham Region
Director of Operations:	Suzanne Zacharczyk, Etobicoke
Director of Relationship & Partnerships:	Vacant
Director of Revenue Development:	vacant
Director of Central Region:	Katherine Mathewson, Durham
Director of East Region:	Sue Flinders-Adams, Peterborough
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
MG Advice Clinic Manager for Canada Blooms: Christine Spence, Etobicoke
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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INSIDE MGOI

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

May 2016

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Cochrane District Master Gardeners

New Members:

Laura Gélinas (joined March 2016)

Julie Perreault (joined May 2016)

Mississauga Master Gardeners

15 years:

Susan Quirk

Stratford Master Gardeners

15 years:

Rose Roi

5 years:

Susan McLennan

Achieved Master Gardener Status:

Anu MacIntosh-Murray

Leslye Glover

New Member:

Shelley Bender

Grey County Master Gardeners: Celebrating Our 20th Anniversary



Founding members (left bottom) Ursula Karalus, Diana Lenk, (top left) Margaret McDonald, Diane Everest



Founding Members Paul Statia and Verna Beckenhauer

Projects

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Project Name: Community Gardens in Picton

Details: PEC Master Gardeners are working with several groups in the community to make this project a reality. We are in the next stage, beginning to gather materials for the actual construction of the gardens. We are finally building the Garden!

Construction was the weekend of May 7th & 8th, and a planting weekend is planned for May 28th & 29th. We were very happy to have partnered with FOOD NOT BOMBS who held their monthly Sunday brunch in Delhi Park on Sunday, May 8 to feed the work crew. Thanks!

MG's were on hand to answer any gardening questions.



Raised beds will be built and offered to the public as allotments. The public is invited to sign up for an allotment garden. Sizes available are 4' x 10' and 4' x 4'.

Project Name: Macaulay Heritage Gardens

Details: The grounds and gardens at Macaulay Heritage Park are a reconstruction representative of mid-nineteenth century landscaping. A group of PEC MGs make regular visits to the heritage gardens to maintain and improve the gardens.

We had our first meeting on April 28th to plan the projects we will do this year. First and foremost is the

revitalization of the main bed in front of the house; then we will rebuild the fences around the vegetable garden.



Linda Melady, Virginia Mitchell, Marianne Malachowski and Ren Duinker

Project Name: Wild Parsnip in Prince Edward County

Wild parsnip continues to be a problem across the province and many cities have begun to control it by mowing and spraying. Prince Edward County is also infected and PEC Master Gardeners are actively involved with educating the public and working with the county to develop a strategy to eradicate it. MGs are committed to the protection of the public and we have centered our approach on education. This will be a long battle and it will take years of mowing and spraying to gain control of this dangerous weed.

PEC MGs have created a Wild Parsnip Identification sheet that we are distributing throughout the area to help the public familiarize themselves with it. Any groups interested in this issue are invited to contact Linda Melady, Chair of the Wild Parsnip Project Committee at thebigislandgarden@gmail.com for further information.

Toronto Master Gardeners: Ontario Volunteer Service Awards



A wonderful night was spent at the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

Tena van Anandel (second from the left) and Merle Burston (second from the right) were recognized by the Toronto Master Gardeners for their ongoing contributions to our group. Also receiving awards but unable to attend (after the date was changed, argh): Jane Beck, Charmiene Montgomery, Margaret Nevett and Catherine Peer. To the far left is the incoming Executive Coordinator, Maureen Hulbert, and to the far right is the outgoing Executive Coordinator, Veronica Callinan.

Master Gardeners Out & About

Peterborough Master Gardeners

Name: 2016 Peterborough Garden Show

Date: April 8-10, 2016



Both passionate, non-profit groups of volunteers, the PMG and PHS hold the garden show to welcome spring, inspire (and educate) interested gardeners, and raise money for the local community in three key areas:

- Scholarships to students studying horticultural-related studies
- Supporting Master Gardeners in Training
- Grants to community gardens

This year's Garden Show attendance was more than 6,000 people, up from last year. The Peterborough show is getting a bit of a reputation for being a "gardener's show", with lots of plants, advice, and great speakers.



Winning Flower Display Entry



Pat Freistatter Announces the Next Speaker

Details: On two fine sunny April days, the [Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners](#) (PMG) and [Peterborough Horticultural Society](#) (PHS) co-hosted the 17th annual Peterborough Garden Show.



Peterborough Master Gardeners in Action

This year's event included over 130 vendors and exhibitors, speakers, Little Green Thumbs Children's Garden, and the Little Garden Market.



Kids' Creation'



View of One of the Garden Show Areas

"I think it's nice to be able to get out before spring really starts and be able to feel that spring is coming," said Darlene Didone, a Peterborough resident. Darlene's hands were full when she left the show Saturday.

We had bus trip visitors from all over the province, including North Bay, Orillia, Bracebridge, Scarborough, and Barry's Bay. Speakers included Joe and Hazel Cook, Carson Arthur, Jeff Mason, Kerry Hackett, Dianne and Gary Westlake, Tara Nola, Joan Greenway, and Dawn Golloher. Please follow us at our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/ThePeterboroughGardenShow>

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners Event: Presentation to the Prince Edward County Horticultural Society

Details: Virginia Mitchell gave a presentation about the heritage aspect of the Macaulay Gardens, and encouraged the Horticultural Society members to visit the museum grounds to see for themselves, possibly while we are working, so that they can ask questions and even volunteer.



Virginia Mitchell

Photo by: Bert Jenkins

Event: Container Gardening Seminar

Date: Tuesday, May 17th, 2016

Details: Master Gardeners Kathy MacPherson and Sandy Goranson held a very successful container gardening seminar at Lockyer's. All the participants created a container of their own and we all had a great time! Master Gardeners Julia Lamoca and Ren Duinker were also on hand to give assistance to the participants.

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!

Sitting Bull

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mississauga Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Date: May 28th 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Details: The Mississauga MGs will have their annual Spring Sale in partnership with the Riverwood Conservancy and in conjunction with the City of Mississauga's Earth Market. The Earth Market will feature free workshops, art classes, documentaries, and music in addition to the MMG Plant Sale.

Location: The Riverwood Conservancy, 4300 Riverwood Park Lane, Mississauga

Prince Edward County MG Annual Plant Sale

Date: May 28th, 2016 - 8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Metro parking lot on Main St., Picton

Details: Perennials, annuals, Native Plants, herbs, local roses and much more, all at reasonable prices.



Etobicoke Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Date: May 28, 2016 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: 8 & 10 Bethnal Ave., Etobicoke; 10 blocks south of Bloor, east off of Prince Edward Drive

Details: For sale will be a variety of plants including perennials, vegetables, annuals, herbs, etc. available for good prices

Stratford Master Gardeners

Date: May 28th, June 4th, July 3rd.

Details: Stratford Master Gardeners are holding Advice Clinics at the Stratford Horticultural Society Plant Sale on May 28th, St. Mary's Garden Fair on June 4th, and the Stratford Garden Tour on July 3rd.

Location: Stratford area.

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners' Spring Plant Sale

Date: Saturday, May 28th from 9am to 12 noon.

Location: R.J. Hilton Centre, 384 College Ave. E.

Details: Locally grown hardy perennials, shrubs, and trees will be available. Cash or cheques only. Rain or Shine.



Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners Technical Update

Kingston Home Gardeners Conference – Garden Bones: Trees and Shrubs

Date: Saturday October 15, 2016 from 9am to 3pm

Location: Christ Church Parish Hall, 990 Sydenham Rd., Kingston

Cost: Early Bird - \$30; After Sept 1 - \$40

Registration Information:

www.rideau1000islandsmastergardeners.com

Or contact eanngay@cogeco.ca or 613-389-0109.

Details: Presentations to be given by 3 experts in the field:

- 1) **Bruce Bostock** on The A to Z of Trees From Selection to Demise and Everything in Between
- 2) **Steve Poole** on Shrubs for all Seasons and the Small Garden
- 3) **John Madden** on Tree Care & Pruning

Included in the day there will be 4 mini presentations by our own Master Gardeners, a silent auction, a gourmet lunch, and the option to take a tree walking tour through the historic Cataraqui Cemetery.



Come and enjoy a day in historic Kingston!

10th Annual Coordinators' Conference Coordinators – mark your calendars now!

The 2016 Coordinators Conference will be held at the Landscape Ontario facilities in Milton on



October 15th, 2016. Groups will be invited to send up to 3 members – usually the coordinator, the co-coordinator and a potential coordinator! The **Annual General Meeting of MGOI** will be held on this day also. The members of MGOI are the groups – each group has one vote. This vote is usually carried by the coordinator, but any member of a group is eligible to be that group’s voting representative at the AGM.

2017 International Master Gardeners Conference

Master Gardeners can get the latest newsletter on the 2017 International Master Gardeners Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon in July 2017 at:

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/home-page/>

M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop - 2016

Dates: July 16th & 17th

Location: The beautiful Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

Details: Registrations are still being accepted; the deadline date is June 1st. If you are considering attending the Summer Workshop, it is recommended that you register now to be assured of getting into the sessions that you would like to attend. At the completion of the workshop, M.G.O.I. will reimburse each Master Gardener and Master Gardener in Training \$50 to help offset some of your expenses in attending. In addition, you will earn 12 CEUs, more than your annual

requirement! You may select two of the three programs being offered:

IPM – Using the Tools to Beat Key Ontario Pests: Phenology, Entomology, Organics.

This session will be taught by Jason Leavens, B.Ed., B.Sc. (Agr.), Assistant Superintendent of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture.

Ever since the cosmetic pesticide ban came into effect in Ontario, we have been learning new methods of controlling unwanted pests and diseases in our gardens. Attend this program and you will learn the latest ways to treat these, using phenology, entomology and organics. Come and join Jason in the continuing conversation of how these aid in predicting, monitoring and controlling pests and diseases in the garden. This is only one of three interesting topics offered at this year’s workshop.

The other two are:

- **Tree Assessment (Structure Review, Hazard Review and Risks Assessment)**
- **The Tiny Garden – Big Thinking for Small Spaces**

Information on the workshop can be found on the M.G.O.I. website, www.mgoi.ca, or you may contact June Streadwick at streadwick@sympatico.ca or 905-934-6137 for more details.

A further word about the MGOI Summer Workshop

“The food was unanimously delicious, as was the wine and the gracious staff. You can be assured we will make this dinner an annual event!” – comment from a happy attendee and diner at last year’s Benchmark Dinner, the 4 ½ Star restaurant operated by Niagara College. Benchmark’s menu offers gourmet meals and Niagara wines: <http://ncbenchmark.ca/>. The restaurant is located just steps from the accommodation at the college campus. If you would like to join us for dinner Saturday night, July 16th, please contact Yvonne at ycauser@hotmail.com, and I will add your name to our group reservation as it’s best to reserve early since the restaurant is quite popular. A fun evening - everyone is welcome!

Accommodation

A block of rooms has been set aside for Master Gardeners for the workshop weekend for \$99.95 per night (plus taxes); this includes continental breakfast, free parking and high-speed internet. To reserve, please call direct [905-641-4435](tel:905-641-4435) and inform the agent you are making a reservation under “Master Gardeners of Ontario”. If you prefer, you may contact either me, Yvonne Causer at ycauser@hotmail.com, June Streadwick at streadwick@sympatico.ca, or Kit Thompson at 329kitt@gmail.com, for further information or help getting registered. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Yvonne!



The Benefits of 'Stepping Up' within MGOI

The future of Master Gardeners depends on people stepping up to take a position of responsibility. If you love being a Master Gardener, you need a strong organization to allow you and your group to thrive and grow. Without that, Master Gardeners will fail. – Claudette Sims

5 Good Reasons to Step Up

1. When you take on a leadership role at the local or Board level, you develop a better understanding and appreciation of the overall organization.
2. You become part of innovative action to meet your organization's needs.
3. You get to work with a really cool team of people who all want to make a difference.
4. As part of a team, you have support from present and past directors, coordinators and members.
5. Volunteering is not just about helping others. By volunteering, you become a better person; you learn about yourself and about others.



President
Claudette Sims

"I've really enjoyed being able to share my skills and knowledge to help others. I'm very proud when someone I've helped or encouraged improves his/her skills or knowledge level or succeeds at something."
The benefits...
"I've learned and continue to learn lots of new things, especially about technology, social media, and creativity. Working on a Board of Directors has pushed the limits of my skills the most – I've had to problem solve more diverse issues, refine my communication skills (especially listening), weigh pros and cons, make decisions, deal with difficult people and situations. The new insights I've gained can be applied to my own life. Working hard as a volunteer has improved my character – I'm more sympathetic, patient, thoughtful – I think so, anyways." – Claudette Sims

Hear from MGOI members involved with Membership about WHY volunteering matters, WHY they do it, and HOW they have benefitted ...



Director - Membership
Pam Love

Why stepping up matters ...
"The people on the MGOI Board are just people like you and me. MGOI is you and me. We are ordinary gardener people who want to help our organization continue to be successful. The MGOI Annual Report and the Awards of Excellence show the important role our organization plays in educating the people of Ontario about horticulture. Sharing the load by volunteering for roles within our group and Board means we can continue to help others."
Why I have stepped up ...
"I have stepped up for a variety of reasons. Perhaps a person I respect asked me, seeing abilities in me I didn't see in myself. Sometimes it's to do a project that is exciting. Other times I volunteer because no one else wants to; I have the time and ability to take on a short-term role."
The benefits ...
"The people I've met have shown me new ways of doing things – I have gained ideas I can share with my group or the Board to make things better. That makes me feel good." – Pam Love

Recruitment
For positions such as directors, secretary, committees
Wyoma Fauconnier



Group Liaison
Wyoma Fauconnier & Regional Directors

"Stepping up is important to MGOI and individual groups as we all have had different experiences in life and therefore have unique expertise to offer to the growth of our MGOI family."
Why I have stepped up ...
"It is important that people from the different groups have a face/name they can go to for help. So far in my assisting role in Membership, I have acted as a sounding board to Pam Love on advice she has offered groups in difficulty. I was part of helping a new satellite group get started and determining the sponsor group's responsibility in supporting the new group. Most of my role has been to support those in leadership roles."
The benefits ...
"I have had the pleasure of being on the MGOI Board and now appreciate how hard they work to keep this organization compliant with government rules and regulations. The Board is always planning for our future growth as an organization. As a former Zone Director, I was proud to bring news to my group on what was happening at our leadership level. I have grown as a person and gardener through my contact with a very diverse group of people. That is growth I would never have experienced were it not for 'stepping up.'" – Wyoma Fauconnier

Corporate Secretary-Treasurer
Train now, start November

Vice-President
Vacant

Will you put yourself here?

Regional Director – North
Vacant

Regional Director – South-West
Vacant

Regional Director – Central
Katherine Mathewson



"I have recently become the Central Region Director. Although I have yet to undertake many of the activities this position involves, I'm looking forward to the challenges. Volunteering for Master Gardeners in whatever way we can is vitally important since it is through volunteers that we exist. Our organization enriches the lives of so many people by promoting gardening and the love of nature."
The benefits ...
"I am learning new skills and being challenged in the most positive ways since volunteering for the Master Gardeners. I find myself becoming more deeply involved with the organization the longer I'm a member. I love meeting interesting, knowledgeable and committed gardeners. I am excited with the prospect of meeting more wonderful people from all over Ontario as I go forward. I can't think of a better way to contribute to our society."
– Katherine Mathewson



Growth and Retention
Dale Odinson, Ingrid Jensen, Kelly Rupert

"This is a volunteer organization. If people don't volunteer, things don't get done. There is no 'somebody else' to do it."
Why I have stepped up ...
"I enjoy being a Master Gardener. I do not like to complain without doing something about it, besides I'm retired, so I do have more time. My group (Lake) is small and our members have limited computer skills. If we want something done involving a computer like our website, Twitter or Facebook, I usually do it."
The benefits ...
"I have met interesting people. I have learned new skills. I feel proud when I look at successes I have participated in." – Dale Odinson



"The strength of an organization like ours comes from the commitment of its members. At the provincial level, our new functional structure means committee work is very important. We all need to think about participating more actively in the organization so that the work is shared."
Why I have stepped up ...
"Seeing the efforts others were making to start a new MG group in Cochrane made me realize I could help too. I saw that 'organizational growth' is actually personal. It's about relationships and working together to make something more. I want to help other groups overcome challenges and grow."
The benefits ...
"I have gained confidence as a mentor, as a coordinator and as a kid in my community. I've found that people want to connect and partner with our group. Master Gardeners can be about community growth."
– Holly Rupert

Regional Director – East
Sue Finders-Adams



Why I have stepped up ...
"At the Coordinator's Conference in October, I was asked if I would consider the position of Director. It would be a new challenge for me and an opportunity to connect with the other groups and Master Gardeners in our new area. As one of the new regional directors, I have enjoyed the small and conversations that I've had with the group coordinators. Pam Love and the membership committee have been very helpful in making connections with the groups in my area."
The benefits ...
"I've had many interesting experiences and conversations which have helped me to develop skills for the future. I've attended one board meeting and eagerly anticipate the chance to participate in decision-making around future events, programmes and policies. I love gardening! There is great satisfaction in being in a position to promote the Master Gardener of Ontario." – Sue Finders-Adams



Volunteer Recognition & Awards
Pam Love with other MGOI
Anja Lawrence - Awards Committee

Why stepping up matters ...
"If we don't, who will? Volunteer organizations depend on people to step up. Usually this is a small number or core group. Eventually others end up feeling excluded because they have only had a passive role in the group and they end up dropping out. Only by participating can we make a stronger group, a more cohesive group and one that can grow with the times. I decided, if not me, then who?"
The benefits ...
"I feel that I belong, that I add value to the group and that the group values me." – Anja Lawrence

Pam Love, Awards Chair, Director of Membership, MGOI & Holly Rupert

What would help you to step up in your group?
Tell us at: membership@mgoi.ca



MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

From EVENTS DIRECTOR Tena van Andel

Timeframe: immediate - to plan and organize the Coordinators' Conference in October 2016.

It is this time of year that we begin to plant the Coordinators' Conference in October. This year the conference is on October 15th. With the reorganization, the Director of Events now may share all the fun of organizing this event and she delightedly offers you an opportunity to become part of the Events Team. Volunteers are welcome from all MG groups. Drum roll, please, there is a travel subsidy available! And, of course, you get Administrative MG volunteer hours for every second spent.

3 Volunteers needed

1. Coordinators' Conference Manager
 - with much input and help from Directors and MGs, plan, organize and host the Coordinators' Conference
 - about 20 hours of fun (that's less than one hour a week!)
2. Registrar
 - invite, prod, check in and document who's coming and who's not
 - maybe 10-15 hours of fun
3. Social Convener
 - order and set out all the snacks and food for the gig
 - plan a couple of fun things — trivia game, door prizes, post tour

All responsibilities of these three positions have been well documented. There's no reinventing the proverbial wheel, although you are always welcome to give it your own personal spin.

Contact Tena van Andel if you are willing to step up – or to get more details

casey.vanandel@sympatico.ca

MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Treasurer/Corporate Secretary:

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.

