



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to our July 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 |
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| Treasurer: | Connie Hunter, Toronto |
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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

In This Issue

- Master Gardeners
 - Milestones
 - Master Gardeners Out & About
 - Projects
 - Quiz
 - Upcoming Events
 - Canada 150 Tulip
 - Feature Gardens
- MGOI
 - President's Corner – Advice to Grow On
 - Letter to the editor
 - Volunteer Opportunities

INSIDE MGOI

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

July 2016

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Stratford Master Gardeners In Memoriam

Raymond J. Wilhelm, 93, of Stratford passed away in late May. Raymond was one of Stratford's charter MGs - from 1986. He was a dedicated advisor for 22 years, until his retirement at 85, in 2008.

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

New Members:

Linda Gordon – January 2016

Domenico Monteleone – February 2016

Patti Wibe – June 2016

Elizabeth J. Murphy – July 2016

Master Gardeners Out & About

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Pot Luck Luncheon



Date: June 28, 2016

Details: It was a day of mixed weather when the PECMGs gathered in the

beautiful garden of Steve Storms for our annual pot luck luncheon. When the rain came tipping down I could see a look on the faces of many of the MGs that said to me, "Gaud I hope it's raining in my garden"... to MGs rain is a good thing! The sun came back and we had a lovely day. Many of us went home with a few new ideas for our own gardens. Many thanks to Steve and Bonnie for hosting.



Back row: Steve Storms, Cathy Pogue, Bonnie Storms, Julia Lamoca, Doug Thompson, Linda Melady, Maxine Thompson, Virginia Mitchell, Sandy Goranson, Kathleen Bazkur-O'Connell, Barbra Stock Front row: Sue Uddenberg, Alice Lumley, Joyce Young, Marlene Phillips

Name: Gardening Advice Clinics

Date: throughout the weekends of May & June

Location: Smylie's Independent Grocers, Trenton, Ontario

Details: For many years the Quinte-Tweed group has worked with their local grocery store's garden centre giving out advice. We were pleased to have been invited to continue this worthwhile endeavour. Every weekend throughout the spring a pair of MGs from the PEC group travelled to Trenton and spent several hours giving advice to the public on plant selection, care of plants, and answering any gardening questions.



Name: Macaulay House Heritage Gardens

Date: throughout the spring, summer and fall

Location: Picton, Ontario

Details: The PECMGs always appreciate partnering with other groups in the county, and our work in the gardens at Macaulay House is a very good example of this cooperation. We have worked with Friends of Macaulay for many years and are grateful for their financial support. We also work with Macaulay volunteers in the gardens.

Macaulay is a favourite site for wedding photographs and the MGs work very hard to keep the gardens looking their best throughout the summer.



Here Jane Corey, a Macaulay volunteer, works in the vegetable garden with MG Virginia Mitchell.

Projects

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Prince Edward County Community Gardens

Details: Once again MGs are partnering with many groups in the county to make the Community Gardens a reality. We are very pleased with all that has been accomplished so far this year.

There has been a severe lack of rain this season in PEC, and the MGs held an advice clinic at the community gardens to discuss best gardening practices. Straw, when placed over garden beds, can hold moisture in the soil and help with drought. MG Linda Melady arranged to have straw bales delivered to the Community Gardens. Thanks to local farmer Doug



Thompson, pictured here, for supplying them. Photo courtesy of Susanne Lerner, PEC Community Gardens Volunteer Coordinator.

Punny Quiz

Courtesy of Nancy Dattrino, Etobicoke Master Gardeners

These questions are puns of the answers. Can you guess the answers?

1. Russia's eye?
2. King's closed mine?
3. Shrub of pulchritude?
4. Canine forest?
5. Sarcastic citrus?



King's Closed Mine

(if you are stumped, please see page 6)

President's Corner – Advice to Grow On!

A Master Gardener Coordinator recently asked: *A number of our Master Gardener members work at local nurseries. Can they claim their advice hours for advice given while they are working?*

Answer: Master Gardeners should not claim any advice hours while they are working in a paid position. By definition, a [volunteer](#) is “a person who does work without getting paid to do it.” Our [Coordinators' Handbook](#) clearly states: “Not Acceptable Activities include - activities for which you receive a personal fee.”

This is the case for all volunteer organisations, not just ours. Consider this excerpt on who is eligible to receive an [Ontario Volunteer Service Award](#):

Youth and adult volunteers who have:

- not received payment for their volunteer work
- not performed the services as part of their regular business or professional duties.

Do you have a question or a comment? I'd love to hear from you: newsletter@mgoi.ca

Claudette Sims, President, Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI)

Letter to the Editor

Dale Odorizzi, Master Gardener, Lanark County Master Gardeners

Dear MGOI Newsletter Editor,

I very much enjoyed the article entitled 'Supporting our Groups' in last month's Newsletter. I think that all groups, whether healthy or in trouble, can learn something from that article. I would like to share one other activity that our group has thoroughly embraced.

Fun Projects

Early in the year our group does a fun project that typically becomes a big part of the Educational Component of our meeting. Some years our project is truly about fun. For example, a few years ago we created an "A to Z Bouquet". At our February meeting, each of us drew a Scrabble tile and then had to grow a plant that started with the letter—for example, if you drew an 'S' you could grow a Snapdragon. We were flexible, and you could use either the botanical name or the common name. At our September meeting, we assembled a bouquet created with our plants.

Last year, it was Plant Families. Each of us selected a Plant Family, then researched and presented on that family. For example: what plants are in the family, what are common characteristics within the family, what insects and diseases specifically attack that family. At each meeting throughout the year one of our members presented their family. Some just talked for a few minutes, while others went the whole way and included charts and pictures. The best ones were those that ended with a quiz: members of the plant family were circulated, and people were asked to

identify the plants. I did the Rose family (Rosaceae) in January; my quiz was on a bunch of twigs that people complained mightily about.

This year, we are each challenged to try a propagation method that we have never done before.

Unlike other groups, we hold meetings throughout the summer, and because we are a small group, we hold our meetings at one another's houses. This means we get a chance to visit their gardens. We also like to go for a day long garden tour somewhere within 1-2 hours from us, and stop for lunch - whether brown bag or at a restaurant. At our lunch stop, we each identify something that we learned from the garden we had just visited. It is a fun way to interact with each other in our group, and to learn about different plants.

Our fun projects help our members with presentation skills and learning, and provide a way for us all to interact with and learn more about one another.

Editor's Reply

Thank you Dale for your delightful letter. I am glad that you found the article to be useful and worthwhile. Your hands-on 'fun projects' certainly focus on meaningful learning experiences for members of your group, and will not soon be forgotten. They are lessons for everyone, teaching transferable skills invaluable for all Master Gardeners who work with and teach the public at large.

It would be fun to participate in some of these 'learning' activities!

Isabel Belanger



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto

Dates: Friday, August 19th to Monday, September 5th.

Details: The Master Gardener Advice Clinic will be staffed with volunteers from Mississauga, Halton, Etobicoke, Lake Simcoe South, and Toronto groups. Going to the CNE? Drop by and say hello. Or volunteer for a 3 hour shift.

For more information, contact diane.o.rogers@gmail.com

Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum

Details: Will present the 2016/2017 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series in collaboration with each other. All sessions run from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. To register for the free community events, please e-mail arboretum@humber.ca or call 416-657-5009.

Name: Pollinator/Bird Friendly Gardening

Date: September 10, 2016

Name: Pruning

Date: November 5, 2016

Name: Soil Health: The Natural Approach

Date: January 14, 2017

Name: Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

Date: March 11, 2017

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 Ann Gay 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 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 - 2016

Coordinators – mark your calendars now!

Date: October 15, 2016

Details: The conference will be held at the Landscape Ontario facilities in Milton. Groups are invited to send up to 3 members: the coordinator, the co-coordinator, and a potential coordinator!

The Coordinators' Conference Team is ready to go.

Please welcome and thank valiant volunteers:

- Kathleen Lang, Lanark County MG, Coordinator Conference Manager
- Anja Lowrance, Simcoe County MG, Registrar
- Shirley Novak, Halton MG, Social Convener

Stay tuned for updates in the coming months.....

2017 International Master Gardeners Conference

Details: 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/>

Fall Organic Master Gardener Courses

Details: Interested in learning even more about gardening? Check out the Organic Master Gardener course starting this fall in Guelph, Ottawa and Toronto. Gaia College, the course licensor, recently had their Continuing Education Credits reassessed, and this course has been pre-approved with MGOI for 24 CECs. Visit <http://www.cog.ca/our-services/OMG/> for more details and to register. There is an early registration discount. Any questions about the course can be directed to Julia Dupuis at julia@cog.ca



A New Tulip for Canada

by Roberta Brignell, Grey County Master Gardeners

The people of the Netherlands have never forgotten Canada – these tulips are special!!!

The Dutch have bred a tulip just for Canada to celebrate our 150th birthday!

“The tulip represents gratitude and the long-standing friendship between Canada and the Netherlands. Blooming in the colours of Canada’s flag, 'Canada 150' tulips will bring both pride and joy to gardens and communities from coast to coast to coast,” said His Excellency Cees Kole, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in a news release. More than 200,000 of the 'Canada 150' tulips will bloom across the National Capital Region this spring. Next year 300,000 will be showcased in the National Capital Commission’s (NCC’s) flower beds, with thousands more expected to be planted in community and private gardens across Canada.

‘The first tulip beds in the Nation’s Capital were planted in 1945, when the Netherlands sent 100,000 tulip bulbs as a postwar gift of gratitude for the role that Canadian soldiers had played in the liberation of the Netherlands.’



Following the German Occupation of the Netherlands in WWII, the Dutch royal family took refuge in Ottawa.

<http://www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca/celebrate/tulips-capital/news/2016-05-09/official-tulip-canadas-150th-anniversary-unveiled>

MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Director of Events

Timeframe: 2 years, October 2016 – October 2018 (potential to stay on until October 2022)

Description: Immediate opening for this rewarding Board position. The Director of Events has the privilege of providing vision and guidance for any event that welcomes MG volunteers from all over Ontario. Detailed procedures and timelines are available. Teams for both Canada Blooms and the Coordinators’ Conference are already in place, so year 1 would be a very leisurely acclimatization to the role. Have more questions? I would be delighted to answer any questions at casey.vanandel@sympatico.ca.

Be warned, you’ll have to be prepared for some gushing about how much fun and how being the Director of Events changed my life. It could change yours too!

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.

Punny Answers

from page 3

1. Siberian Iris 2. Solomon's Seal 3. Beauty Bush 4. Dogwood 5. Mock Orange



Summer Feature – MG Gardens 2016

Is there an area of your garden that particularly pleases you? Is there a colour combination, a variation in textures, a spectacular blossom, something that worked really well? **Send a picture for the August issue** - include a caption that says what the picture is about and why it is special to you!



I love the use of tropical plants in garden urns, and I particularly loved the colour combinations in this one on my front porch 2 years ago.

Dyann Sheppard, Etobicoke Master Gardeners



Lush green (periwinkle, hostas and ferns) with the bleeding heart and Solomon Seal in bloom and the blue forget-me-nots in full splendor.

Diane McClymont Peace, Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton



This picture is of my low maintenance dog Brutus in my garden in Oshawa. Brutus is getting in touch with his soft side as my last peony touches his cheek. I love the different colours of hosta leaves surrounding Brutus. He can hide under the leaves of the

tall hosta on the back left early in the summer, and as the beauty berry grows on the back right he peeks out from under the purple berries and yellow foliage in the fall.

Pam Love, Oshawa Master Gardeners



This is one of my urns this year. They have just exploded in both size and bloom. Whether it is heat or Myke I'm not sure.

Nancy Datrino, Etobicoke Master Gardeners



This picture shows one of my favourite “filler” plants – the blue *Catananche caerulea*. I do not often see it in other gardens. It is easily grown from seed and is perennial here in Ottawa. It also seeds itself, but sparingly, and the narrow greyish leaves of the tiny seedlings are easy to recognize and do not mind being moved. It starts blooming here near the end of June and blooms into August. One of its common names is Cupid’s Dart because the ancient Greeks used this plant in love potions. It is pictured here with daylilies (from the top) ‘All American Chief’, ‘Blossom Music’ and a red-eyed seedling (grown from a seed collected from ‘Stella de Oro’), and *Leucanthemum X superbum* ‘Banana Cream’.

Kelly Noel, Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton



The Boardwalk: A wooden boardwalk connects all aspects of the outdoors from the garden, to the flagstone patio, to the garden shed.
Suzanne Zacharczyk, Etobicoke Master Gardeners



Perennials in full bloom on July 22nd in the front garden. My gardens were started in October 2012 – so in this photo the garden is in its 4th summer.
Mary Ann Van Berlo, Maitland - Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton



A Collage of Beautiful Summer Flowers Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton