Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Welcome to our August 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.

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August 2016

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners
In Memoriam

PEC MGs are very sad to report that Kathy MacPherson passed away on August 9th, 2016. Kathy joined the group in 2004 and brought her sunny personality, grace and support to all of us. As Linda Melady said, 'The gardens of Prince Edward County have just lost their most beautiful flower'. She shall be dearly missed by us all.

There will be "a celebration of life" for Kathy MacPherson on Saturday, October 15th, 2016 from 2-5 pm at the Lakeside Pavilion at Lake on the Mountain in Prince Edward County. Please contact Susan Wallis susanwallis@kos.net for more details.

Kathy MacPherson (right) at the PEC annual plant sale back in May

Master Gardeners Out & About

Durham Master Gardeners

Name: Whitby in Bloom Garden Tour
Date: July 16, 2016
Details: The Durham College Centre for Food and Gardens was part of the Whitby in Bloom garden tour on Saturday July 16th. This was the first time the College has been included in the tour. Over 150 people toured the gardens and the Centre for Food.

Durham Master Gardeners Tour Guides Group 'Shot'. L - R: Pam Love, Ingrid Janssen, Melissa Meisinger, Sherry Dodson, Tracey Smyth

"Whitby in Bloom was so pleased that you were there. You guys made all the difference. Reports have come back to us saying the tours were awesome." *Kathy Allam, Whitby in Bloom organizer.*

"It was amazing, people were so excited and supportive of our field to fork programs / project. A special thank you to Durham Master Gardeners for supplying more tour guides and plant experts." *Susan Todd, Dean, School of Science and Engineering Technology*

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: National Honey Bee Day
Date: The third Saturday of August each year.
Details: The Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton buzzed with excitement after receiving an invitation to attend Queen Bee Day at Canada's Agriculture and Food Museum, affectionately known in Ottawa circles simply as 'The Farm'.

Held on Saturday, August 20th, it was the first time for this event, intended to celebrate the wonderful world of bees. Surrounded by beekeepers, vendors selling bee products and exhibits about bees, our Master Gardeners provided an interactive demonstration with a focus on mason bees – solitary bees so different from bumblebees and honey bees.
Children were taught how to build simple mason bee houses and 'bee baths' using recycled materials. Adults were shown commercial mason bee homes, encouraged to build homemade ones with untreated cedar, and told about plants to attract pollinators to the garden.

KID-FRIENDLY DEMO: MG Faith Schmidt builds a Mason bee house by re-using a plastic water bottle and paper straws

MGs Julianne Labreche and Faith Schmidt discuss plans with one of the organizers of the event

National Honey Bee Day is an annual event, scheduled for the third Saturday of August each year.

Let's Go to the Ex!

Name: Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), Toronto
Dates: August 19th to September 5th

Details: Master Gardeners are hosting advice clinics for the entire duration of the CNE in Toronto. Now that the summer is drawing to an end ☹, volunteers get to hear (and see) first hand this year's garden issues / problems and sometimes successes – and yes, to provide advice and guidance around troubleshooting solutions.

Advice clinics at the Ex have been organized by the Mississauga Master Gardeners, and are running from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily (4:00 p.m. on the final day).

Come visit the Master Gardeners at the Ex!

MGs Josée Couture, Toronto, Terri Briggs, Lake Simcoe South, & Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke shared a 3-hour shift at the Ex on Aug 23rd

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Extreme Drought
Details: Like many areas in Southern Ontario, Prince Edward County is suffering a severe drought this summer - some say the worst in 75 years. The Quinte Conservation Authority has declared an unprecedented Level 3 Low Water condition for the first time.
Master Gardeners Linda Melady and Ren Duinker took a drive to see the effects for themselves. Everywhere they went there were parched lawns, wilting crops, and failing corn and soybeans. Gardens in town fared better than those in rural areas as those gardeners are relying on wells which are at risk of running dry. We can only hope for better weather next year, especially for the sake of the farmers.

Failing Corn Crop, Demorestville

Wilting Sunflowers, Waupoos

Parched lawn, Consecon.
Silver Poplar tree dropping its leaves prematurely.

Stressed Sumac

Projects

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Community Gardens

Details: The Community Gardens in Picton have been a wonderful addition to the county. Many people have planted and are beginning to harvest. A new sign has been put up, and a one thousand gallon water tank installed.

Prince Edward County MGs also have planted several beds for the local food bank.

Thousand Gallon Water Tank

'Fresh for All' garden beds for the local food bank

President's Corner – Advice to Grow On!

At a garden tour in July a member asked me: "Why do I have to pay dues to volunteer? That doesn't make sense. They should pay me for volunteering!"

I actually wondered the same thing when I first joined Master Gardeners! It's true that when Master Gardeners first started in Ontario, there were no dues because the government supported us financially, and we got lots of perks too – they actually paid for the required horticultural courses!

With the change in government in 1995, funding was cut off. We were forced to incorporate and to charge member dues because, in reality, volunteer organisations cannot function without funds of some kind to cover operating costs. Rotary Club and Lion's Club both require volunteers to pay dues. Volunteers at the Art Gallery of Hamilton and the Auxiliary of the Royal Botanical Gardens are required to buy a membership in order to volunteer.

While volunteering is about giving back, I truly believe I get much more than I give. Since joining Master Gardeners, my gardening knowledge has increased significantly and I've made such great friends. My public speaking skills have improved, I've learned to problem solve and to keep up with technology. I've gone to superb local tech updates, two wonderful Canadian conferences and one International MG Conference. Because of Master Gardeners I'm a regular on a CBC radio online chat partnering with Ed Lawrence. I've appeared on cable TV, have started a garden blog and opened a Twitter account! For me, at $35 per year, volunteering for Master Gardeners of Ontario has expanded my world – and is likely one of the best bargains around!

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)

Community Foundations of Canada Funding: Canada's 150th Sesquicentennial Projects for 2017

Details: A broad range of projects will be eligible for funding support from The Community Fund for Canada 150, part of the Community Foundations of Canada – projects such as:

- ENCOURAGE participation in community activities and events to mark Canada's 150th birthday, the anniversary of Confederation
- INSPIRE a deeper understanding about the people, places and events that shape our country and our communities
- BUILD vibrant and healthy communities with the broadest possible engagement of all Canadians …..
- (http://communityfoundations.ca/cfc150/about-the-fund/)

Contact your local Community Foundation for details of how your Master Gardener Group can apply for funding for a project for 2017 celebrations.

Submitted by Grey County Master Gardeners

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

Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum
Details: Will present the 2016/2017 Eco-Gardening 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 Workshop
Date: September 10, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Location: Humber Arboretum Centre for Urban Ecology
Details: Join the Etobicoke Master Gardeners (EMG) at the Humber Arboretum for this important workshop on how to attract and support native wildlife in your own yard. You'll learn about pollinators and their importance in our backyard ecology, get tips on how to identify some common birds in Ontario, and find out which plants and other features can turn your garden into a haven for the birds and the bees (and other pollinators).

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 weeks…….

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 courses starting this fall in Guelph, Ottawa and Toronto. Gaia College, the course licenser, 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

Feature Gardens 2016 - Ontario Master Gardeners

A Special Summer Addition

You may remember Etobicoke Master Gardener Suzanne Zacharczyk's relaxing 'coffee spot' from last month, where she relaxes with a cup of coffee before starting her day.

The Backyard Alcove, used as an outdoor potting area & tool shed. Wooden background walls are the reclaimed walls from a sauna.

Suzanne Zacharczyk, Etobicoke Master Gardeners

The Boardwalk: This wooden boardwalk connects all aspects of the outdoors from the garden, to the flagstone patio (picture above), to the garden shed (picture on the right).

Hostas

Marianne Malachowski

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Carriage Garden at the Front Door

Marianne Malachowski

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

A scree bed beside the front walkway features succulents and alpines in Mary Ann Van Berlo's garden in Maitland, ON. This bed is extremely drought tolerant.

Mary Ann Van Berlo, Maitland - Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

A Shade Garden

Diane McClymont Peace, Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

Never Alone Rose

Diane McClymont Peace, Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

Waterlilies

Diane McClymont Peace, Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

High maintenance dog Darcy stops to smell the *Ratibida pinnata.*

Isabel Belanger

Etobicoke Master Gardeners