



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to the May edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. 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 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:	Terri Briggs, Lake Simcoe South
Treasurer:	Cathy Thompson, Niagara
Director of Communications:	Kelly Noel, Ottawa-Carleton
Director of Education:	June Streadwick, Niagara
Director of Events:	vacant
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:	Kathleen Gorsline, Interim Director
Co-Director of South & West Region:	Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Co-Director of South & West Region:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener

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

In This Issue

- Master Gardeners
 - Milestones
 - Master Gardeners Out & About: Projects & Events
 - Upcoming Events
 - Volunteer Opportunity
- MGOI
 - Good News to Grow On....Funds Distributed!
 - The President's Corner – Advice to Grow On!
 - Volunteer Opportunity

INSIDE MGOI

Newsletter of the

Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

May 2017

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Lanark County Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary

David Hinks



David transferred to Lanark County from the Master Gardeners of Ottawa - Carleton in January 2017. He has worked tirelessly in Lanark County in the Community Garden Program, leading the charge to get more fresh vegetables into the Lanark County Food Banks.



Master Gardeners of Niagara

New Members – Welcome

Leigh-Anne Legault

Iqbal Mauthoor

Of Interest: Both new members have extensive gardening experience in the community and personally. Their participation is greatly appreciated.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Laura Henderson

Marion Runstedler

Member Profiles – Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

The following Ottawa - Carleton MGs were nominated for, and will receive, a 2017 Ontario Volunteer Service Award.

Edythe Falconer

Kelly Noel

Mary Ann Van Berlo



Kitchener Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Ed de Vries

Heather Kelly

Kathy Pearson

Kimberley Silva

Good News to Grow On....Funds Distributed!

Early this year, local groups were encouraged to submit a project for a share of the \$4,000 Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) was providing. Eighteen groups – Durham, Etobicoke, Grey County, Guelph-Wellington, Haliburton County, Halton Region, Kitchener, Lanark, Lindsay & District, Norfolk County, Northumberland, Ottawa-Carleton, Peterborough and Area, Prince Edward County, Rideau 1000 Islands, Simcoe County, Sudbury and Toronto – all rose to the challenge and received a cheque in late March for \$222.25 each.

A wide range of interesting projects was submitted, including conservation, advice clinics, equipment purchases, projects encouraging young gardeners,

support for the Highway of Heroes, and gardens for First Nation communities. Prince Edward County requested funds for an organization that is helping First Nations in the North establish gardens to grow their own food, and challenged other groups to support the project. Guelph-Wellington and Toronto accepted the challenge, and this project will be receiving \$666.75 in financial assistance.

I look forward to checking the newsletter for group reports and photos of how their projects are developing.

Cathy Thompson, Treasurer, MGOI



President's Corner – Advice to Grow On!

Question

"Does an article that I write for my Horticultural Society count towards my 20 volunteer advice hours?" In the MGOI Handbook it says that "activities undertaken for another volunteer organization" do not count. I'm confused!"

Answer

I've always considered writing articles a great way for Master Gardeners to support their local Horticultural Society. How could this not count as volunteer advice hours just because they are for another volunteer organization? And what are these activities that don't count?

I had to defer to our policy guru Kelly Noel about this one as I was confused too. The answer is in the details. The time writing an article for your Horticultural Society DOES count as volunteer hours, IF it's about gardening.

It does NOT count if you are writing about other Horticultural Society activities such as shows, photo contests and judging.

The key point is that Master Gardener volunteer advice time usually has an instructional component to do with gardening built into it. Here are some other examples of volunteer activities undertaken for another organization:

- Serving as secretary for the Horticultural Society would not count as MG admin time as it is volunteer work done for another organization even though they do not REQUIRE or report volunteer hours.
- Tending a community garden for your Horticultural Society is gardening, but it does NOT count because it lacks the instructional component.

But instructing others in how to tend a garden DOES count.

Thanks for asking that great question!

*Claudette Sims, President
MGOI*

Master Gardeners Out & About: Projects & Events

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Come Grow With Us



Name: New Website!

Details: I have long been aware of the generosity and openness of gardeners. It's like pulling into your driveway when you spot the plant potted up and left by your back gate. You smile because you realize your neighbour has dropped off a piece of the plant you'd told her you were admiring in her garden.

It was the same when we began redesigning and updating our website over the winter. The first step was to look at other MG websites for inspiration. I settled on Halton Region MGs site and got in touch with their webmaster, the amazing **David Oldacre**. David exemplifies everything about gardeners and gardening that I admire. He flung open the doors of his website and even let me peek behind the curtains, answering innumerable questions with a grace and patience that never failed to warm my heart. Furthermore, when I asked about graphics, he put me in touch with **Claudette Sims** and **Patty King**. Equally open and helpful, they sent copies of the graphics I'd asked about, allowing me to use them freely. I love being an MG and working with such incredible people!

Thank you to everyone in the Halton group for all your kind and generous help. It's a work in progress as we learn how to do all the tricks and tips we learned from David. We hope it reflects The County and our group. Come visit us at:

<https://pecmastergardeners.com/>

Ren Duinker, PEC MG

Name: Advice Clinics at Smylie's Independent Grocers, Trenton, ON



MGiT Susan Warrack bundled up in the pouring rain at Smylie's in Trenton, ON

Dates:

Weekends throughout May and June

Details:

When we merged with Quinte-Tweed MGs we inherited their long-standing relationship with the garden centre at Smylie's in Trenton.

We are very grateful for

the support and generous donation we receive from Smylie's, and we work hard to earn it.



Before - the Design Plan



And After - the tulips in beautiful bloom on Saturday, May 13th

Master Gardeners of Niagara

Name: Niagara Hospice - Raised Bed Building and Instruction

Details: Master Gardeners of Niagara will be building and helping the kitchen staff set up two raised vegetable garden beds for their kitchen.

Other: Volunteering in the Community

Details: May and June are very busy months for Niagara. We volunteer at advice clinics at Rice Road Greenhouses and Gardens, Country Basket Nursery, St. Catharines Public Library, and Start Me Up Niagara.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Faith Schmidt's Tulip Tribute for Canada's 150th Birthday

Details: Here we have the before and after design plans for Faith's tulip tribute.

Name: Rain Barrel Sale

Details: The Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton held a rain barrel sale on a cold, wet (with even some flurries) April 30th.



Here Amanda, Carol & Faith are ready for customers



And Tom proves 2 rain barrels will fit into a Mini Cooper!

Other - Prince Edward County
Name: Lake Ontario Water Levels

Details: 'Lake Ontario's water levels are at their highest ever — breaking a record that had stood since 1952...'. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Hamilton Spectator, May 26, 2017)



Sidewalk and street closed, top, & Park bench submerged in water

PEC MGs report that it's still rainy and they've had some flooding in the area, but rain or shine are making themselves available to all the eager gardeners emerging from winter's isolation and looking for that

one great plant for their garden. Streets and sidewalks near the bay are closed off, and you can see a park bench on the waterfront trail completely submerged in water. Scary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Shaw Guild Garden Tour for the Public

Date: June 10th, 2017, 10 am – 4 pm

Details: Master Gardeners of Niagara have been involved for years in guiding the public through the wonderful gardens on display each year in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Queenston. Many wonderful gardens are open for viewing. Tickets are available at www.shawfest.com, or call 1-800-511-7429 or 905-468-2172, or visit <http://www.shawfest.com/beyond-the-stage/all/#shaw-garden-tour>.



Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum

Name: Urban Gardening: Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series – Bird Friendly Gardens

Date: Saturday, June 24th

Details: Hosted at the Centre for Urban Ecology, Humber Arboretum.

To register please visit humberarb.eventbrite.ca



M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop – 2017

Dates: July 8th & 9th

Details: The Niagara Parks School of Horticulture is receiving registrations daily, and the response to this year's summer workshop is exciting. There are only 13 spots left. We are expecting that every space will be filled. There are three topics, from which two are chosen:

- Creating Gardens – A Designer's Approach
- The Carolinian Zone – Understanding A Unique Habitat
- Urban Agriculture

Details on these three topics can be found on the M.G.O.I. website under "Program Outline".

All the information required for registration can be downloaded from the M.G.O.I. website, www.mgoi.ca, login MG, password "member". If you experience difficulty in obtaining the information, please contact June Streadwick at streadwick@sympatico.ca, 905-934-6137, or Yvonne Causer at ycauser@hotmail.com, 289-969-6587, and either one of us will send you all you need to register. The cost this year is \$260, a slight increase from the previous years, as there is now paid parking at the Botanical Gardens. You will receive a parking pass, the cost of which is included in the fee. **Again this year, M.G.O.I. will subsidize each Master Gardener and Master Gardener in Training with \$50, to help offset some of the cost involved in attending.**

Arrangements have been made at the Niagara College Conference and Residence Centre for the weekend, with a block of rooms reserved for Master Gardeners. These rooms will be \$109.95 a night, plus tax, and include a light breakfast, free parking, and internet access. The deadline for reservations is June 7th, and any rooms not booked by this date will no longer be available at the discounted rate. To make a reservation call direct: 905-641-4435, Ext. 2009, website www.stayrcc.com/notl. Be sure to inform the agent that you are reserving a room under "Master Gardeners of Ontario", Booking Code 5813.

Save the Date

Name: Coordinators' Conference

Date: Saturday, October 14th, 2017

Location: Landscape Ontario, Milton ON

Technical Updates: Ottawa - Carleton & Lanark County

Topic: The Resilient Gardener

Date: October 21st, 2017

Location: Ottawa

Details: This Technical Update is hosted jointly by the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton and Lanark County Master Gardeners.

Richters Herbs

Location: 357 Highway 47, Goodwood, ON L0C 1A0 (north of Toronto to the end of the 404, then east to Goodwood); Tel. 1.905.640.6677 Fax. 1.905.640.6641

Details: Richters Herbs is offering seminars at their greenhouse location this winter and throughout the year. For more information visit:

<https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=Events/events.html>.

They also offer free on-line seminars at

<https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=events/events2016.html>.

The 2017 Richters catalogue is available and is filled with culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs and seeds.



Volunteer Opportunities

Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. MGOI)

Position: 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!

Cochrane District Master Gardeners (CDMG)

Position: Co-host for Online Webinar

- Co-hosting a live internet webinar via Google Hangouts

Timeframe: Once, on a date of your choosing.

Description: If you have "Google Hangouts" on your internet device (home computer, iPad, Smartphone, etc.) and would like to co-host a live webinar to discuss your favourite gardening subject, this volunteering opportunity is perfect for you.

The Cochrane District Master Gardeners host a monthly YouTube Webinar (live and interactive) for the public. The hosts of the webinar connect via Google Hangout while the CDMG Coordinator displays a slideshow and link to a live chatroom, where the public can ask questions. You won't have to show your face online so don't worry about looking your best. What we need is your gardening expertise and a passion for the subject matter. You can broadcast from anywhere, as long as it is relatively quiet.

Information and photos, included in the Webinar, would be sent to the CDMG coordinator one week before the live show allowing her time to put the presentation together. Demonstration videos may also be included in the presentation as long as there is no audio; the hosts would provide the explanation for the video. A Google Hangout test would be done a couple of days before the event to work out any technical issues.

Total Volunteer Hours: Expect to earn one and a half volunteer hours to the public for the webinar, plus administration time for the Google Hangout test plus your own preparation time.

For more information please contact the CDMG Coordinator, Pamela Dallaire, at pameladallaire@hotmail.com or via phone at 705-262-1506.

