



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside MGOI

Welcome to the June 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](mailto: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](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca)  
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto: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
  - Employment Opportunities
  - Volunteer Opportunity
- MGOI
  - Canada's National Flower Contest
  - The President's Corner: Calling All MG Photographers
  - Volunteer Opportunity

#### **INSIDE MGOI**

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

**June 2017**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke**

## Milestones

### Toronto Master Gardeners

It was an exciting June meeting for Toronto Master Gardeners. Graduates and milestones a plenty to celebrate! Special guests included Claudette Sims (President, MGOI), Katherine Mathewson (our Regional representative), and Harry Jongerden (Executive Director, Toronto Botanical Garden). Lots of great food, drink and conversation!

#### 25 Year Anniversary

Joan Beattie

#### 20 Year Anniversary

Jane McCulloch  
Nancy Croil  
Ida Harding



Left to Right: Jane McCulloch, Nancy Croil, Ida Harding

#### 15 Year Anniversary

Nicole Leaper  
Irene Hume

#### 10 Year Anniversary

Anne Chetwynd  
Ursula Nocon  
Connie Hunter  
Janet Ahier  
Rena Naraine  
Pat Cappelli  
Alessandra Leopardi

#### 5 Year Anniversary

Mary LeQuoc	Patty McKnight
Petra Connelly	Adrienne Hanbidge
Brigitte Richter	Joan Bostock
Jacqueline Tilford	Laurie Manoim

**Congratulations to our milestone recipients!**

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Doreen Hilliard	Steve Chepurny
Ruth Naylor	Rosalie Porter
Joyce Tan	Peter Boterman
Donna DeBoehmler	Laura Hitchcock



Back Row L to R: Doreen Hilliard, Ruth Naylor, Joyce Tan, Donna DeBoehmler, Steve Chepurny  
Front Row L to R: Rosalie Porter, Peter Boterman, Laura Hitchcock

**Congratulations to our new TMG Graduates!**



### Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

#### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Esther Bryan



### Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

#### 15 Year Anniversary

Sylvia Goodheart - Thunder Bay MGs celebrate Sylvia's 15 years of membership and service to the Master Gardeners!



### London Master Gardeners

#### New Master Gardener in Training

Noreen Spruyt

## Canada's National Flower Contest Update

by Maureen Hulbert, Coordinator, Toronto

### Vote for Canada's National Flower!



As this edition of *Inside MGOI* goes to press, there are only a few days until the National Flower Contest closes (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017). Public enthusiasm for this project has been very encouraging; over 6,000 Canadians have voted so far. The purpose of this project, from the beginning, was to promote the work of Master Gardeners in Ontario and across Canada, and to give Canadians something horticultural to talk about in Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> year. I think we have succeeded!

Things started a bit slowly back in March at Canada Blooms. We used paper ballots, although we did have an online survey set up since the beginning. The online address is a series of numbers after a backwards slash – the kind of address that is hard to remember and hard to say. We promoted the contest on Facebook, and eventually put a link up on the MGOI website, which made it much easier to say “Go to [www.mgoi.ca](http://www.mgoi.ca) and follow the links to vote!”

Claudette Sims, President of MGOI, talked up the contest on the CBC gardening phone-in live chat on Mondays, and did an interview with CBC as well. Various online blogs mentioned us, as well as the Toronto Star. But were we reaching outside Ontario? We didn't know for sure. Then Linda Hugli, Sudbury Master Gardeners, put me in touch with a contact at CBC Sudbury who does the morning radio show there. That interview led to another morning show interview at CBC News Network, and a series of rush-hour radio spots across Canada. Jackpot!

I spoke to CBC hosts in Toronto, Edmonton, Kelowna, Saskatchewan, Yellowknife and Whitehorse. We covered Winnipeg with a former Toronto MG who moved there and spread the word. And we reached parts of the east coast – Newfoundland and Nova Scotia at least – at the beginning of the contest. I would love to say we reached every province and territory, but anyway we have done our best.

Thank you to all the groups who held informal polls at local advice clinics and sent in the results to us. We have kept track of every single vote in an Excel spreadsheet, and added the results to the online poll results. Every vote counts!

#### **Next Step**

The next step is to try to make the winner of the contest the Official National Flower of Canada. We have been in touch with an MP who is helping us draft a formal petition to be presented to Parliament once the winner is known. The online petition must garner 500 signatures in 120 days once it is posted online, in order to be considered by the federal government. As we have 750+ Master Gardeners in Ontario that should be an achievable goal. We will send out the link as soon as it is ready.

What a legacy for the Master Gardeners of Ontario if we can say that we made this happen!

## President's Corner

### Calling all Master Gardener Master Photographers!

Have you seen the new links on our [Gardeners' Resources](#) page on the MGOI website? Not only are they 'must have' information for gardeners, but they are excellent resources for Master Gardeners as well. The resources are now organized under tabbed headings and include information geared specifically for Ontario.

Just as I was working on this page I received an email from the [Canadian Wildlife Federation](#), asking if we could include some CWF links on our resource page. I was of course delighted to include many of the links, and also very interested in their [Native Plant Encyclopedia](#). It includes a searchable database which lists information such as zone, wildlife benefits and growing conditions.

The CWF is asking for help to improve their encyclopedia by filling in some photography blanks. Many Master Gardeners are also talented photographers and I hope that you will consider sharing your photos to improve this excellent resource. Your submissions will be recognized and you will get photo credit and the satisfaction of helping a wonderful gardening partner.

These photos of [Aquilegia canadensis](#) will give you an idea of what they are looking for – leaves, flowers, close ups, how the plant looks in a garden. Check the encyclopedia and then check your photo library to see if you can make any contributions.



Photo: Jim Robertson



Send photos to [outreachkanata@cwf-fcf.org](mailto:outreachkanata@cwf-fcf.org) and say that you're a Master Gardener of Ontario. They'll also want to know who took the photo and the location of the plant. Your photo will appear with your name and you will be recognized as a Master Gardener too! This is just another way that Master Gardeners can make a difference in our mission to inspire and motivate gardeners!

*Thanks to Sean James, Linda Hugli, Cathy Kavassalis and Patty King for sharing their favourite links for our new Gardeners' Resources page. Kudos to our amazing webmaster Jim Cook (AKA Yoda) who makes it all happen so easily! Thanks to Sherry Wu, the CWF summer intern who contacted me about the photos for the encyclopedia.*

*Claudette Sims, President MGOI*

# Master Gardeners Out & About: Projects & Events

## Peterborough Master Gardeners

### Name: 2017 Peterborough Garden Show – Another Outstanding Show!

**Details:** Despite the rather annoying snowfall on the Thursday night before the show opened, we had another wonderful Peterborough Garden Show! Jointly run by the Peterborough Master Gardeners and Peterborough Horticultural Society, this year we had around 6,000 visitors, including four bus tour groups.



*Waiting in line to get into the Garden Show!*

The use of advance and e-tickets was a huge success, and our Canada 150 theme was very impressive, with red and white rosettes suspended from the lobby ceiling, clusters of red balloons and a landscaped "island" complete with canoe, Muskoka chairs and an imitation bonfire!

This year the show received the Canadian Garden Council's award for "Garden Event of the Year" and one of 150 Garden Destinations in Canada!



As always, we had our wonderful Children's Garden, more than 100 vendors, a Greenhouse Container Garden Competition (with 7 participating local greenhouses), and incredible speakers such as Paul Zammit, Stephen Biggs, Darren Heimbecker (Whistling Gardens), Cathy Dueck, and our very own local MGs Cathy Hooper and Sue Flinders-Adams.



*Speaker Paul Zammit with former Peterborough MG Coordinator Dianne Westlake*



*Hosta and daylily expert Dawn Golloher from Gardens Plus greets visitors*



*Master Gardener Emma Murphy in her Mad Hatter Gardener Outfit*

## Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

### Name: Abbeyfield House, A Non-Profit Retirement Residence

**Details:** Amanda Carrigan, Monique Gatner, and Faith Schmidt have been working with Abbeyfield House to improve their gardens. One Sunday was a weeding and general clean-up day, followed two weeks later by planting and mulching. Several shrubs were planted to help add screening between the house and the road, and beside a shared driveway. As well, numerous annuals and perennials were added – donated by several of the MGs.



Abbeyfield House

### Name: Broadview Community Garden Project

**Details:** Esther Bryan and Kira Burger provided initial consultation on this endeavor between Ottawa University and the Ottawa Mission. They will be available for ongoing support for pest/weed problems, etc.

### Name: Good News to Grow On – Woodroffe Avenue Public School, Ottawa

**Details:** Tom Marcantonio led a group of volunteers from Woodroffe Avenue Public School in building and planting raised beds to establish a school garden. Monies received from *Good News to Grow On* supported this project.



Woodroffe Avenue Public School

## Name: National Defense Environment Awareness Day

**Details:** Members of the Master Gardeners of Ottawa - Carleton manned an advice table at this annual event held at National Defense Headquarters, Ottawa.



Catherine Disley, Nancy McDonald and Claire Leduc are sitting in front of an impressive display of medals

## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

### Name: Celebrating Mentors

**Date:** May 30, 2017

**Details:** The Master Gardener Mentoring Program is truly a vital part of our organization; the purpose is to provide a friendly atmosphere for Master Gardeners in Training (MGiTs) as they work their way through course work and become familiar with the Master Gardeners. An MGIT chooses a fully established and knowledgeable mentor from the group and both work together.

Ren Duinker tells her story:

I was lucky to have **Barbra Stock** as my mentor. Barb has been a Master Gardener for almost thirty years, has been a Coordinator, and has served on the Board of Directors. Her vast knowledge of Master Gardeners and the ins and outs of the program and policies helped me find my way. It goes without saying that Barb is a walking garden encyclopedia and as we worked through the courses she was always there for me. I could call Barb if I got tangled up, and she would make everything clear and understandable for me. Often, when I was writing an essay, I would call Barb – sometimes several times a day – and she would patiently listen to my question (even if I'd asked the same question last week!) and explain it all again.

Her kindness, patience and fortitude with my fumbling was indeed heroic. So once I had completed my course work, I decided to thank Barb and we went out for a very English luncheon. Of course, for me, the best part of the mentoring program is that I made a new friend!



Left to right: Ren Duinker, the One and Only Barbra Stock, & Linda Melady

**Name: Annual Plant Sale**

**Date:** May 27, 2017

**Details:** The very wet spring had us all wondering if we would ever get out to the garden to begin potting up plants for our sale. Fortunately there were a few days of sunshine and we pulled off another fantastic sale. This is our main fund raiser and it's *All Hands on Deck!* We had a beautiful day and met some enthusiastic gardeners – and we even put a few shekels in our teapot.



Annual Plant Sale

**Name: County Garden Show**

**Date:** June 17, 2017

**Details:** The County Garden Show is eagerly awaited by almost everyone here in the county. There's something for everyone, and PEC Master Gardeners were on hand giving container planting demonstrations this year; others were on hand answering questions, covering everything from Aphids to Zebrina.



Virginia Mitchell, left, & Marianne Malachowski are shown here creating planters to celebrate Canada's 150th



Linda Melady answers a question from a fellow gardener who dropped by our table

**Sudbury Master Gardeners**

**Name: Pollinator Hotel Work "Bee"**

**Details:** In order to promote an understanding of pollinators and their importance in the garden, Sudbury MGs constructed a pollinator hotel at their recent meeting. The hotel was used as a door prize at their information session at the Sudbury Gardening Festival.



Left to right: Dan Tobodo, Cathy Carr, Linda Hachez, Dave Kechnie, Shelby Woolnough and Wendy Gauthier  
Photo supplied by Linda Hugli

## Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

### Name: Teaching at the Thunder Bay Botanical Conservatory

**Details:** Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners hosted two free public sessions led by Holly Rupert and Hazel Baxter:

1. composting basics, planning a vegetable garden and soil amendment on May 28<sup>th</sup>
2. planting a vegetable garden - raised beds and straw bales on June 11<sup>th</sup>

The public education sessions were held at the demonstration garden at the Thunder Bay Centennial Botanical Conservatory in conjunction with the Friends of the Thunder Bay Conservatory.



*MGs Aili Dampier and Linda Sharp planting herbs, most valued for their aroma and flavour. Perfect plants for horticultural therapy!*

### Name: Look Listen & Learn - June 3, 2017

**Details:** Thunder Bay & District MGs hosted their annual outdoor learning event in conjunction with our Plant Sale this spring. Our focus this year was on effective use of water in the garden: drip irrigation, rain barrels, and DIY rain chains. We also presented on growing vegetables in containers.



*Mary Thillman, MGiT, describes the value of capturing water in rain barrels; MG Ralph Bullough listens in as Mary does her first solo public presentation. Well done!*



*MG Kim Vernon helping volunteers plant flowering annuals*

### Name: Creating a Sensory Garden at Hogarth Riverview Manor (HRM) Long Term Care Facility

**Details:** Lynda Lahteenmaa led a team of volunteers, and Master Gardeners were on hand creating a therapeutic sensory garden filled with colours, textures, scent and movement for elderly residents of HRM Long Term Care Facility this month in Thunder Bay.



*MGs Eloise Rodger, Lynda Lahteenmaa, & Kim Vernon planted SunPatiens Compact Red and Compact White to commemorate Canada's 150th birthday*

## TBMG (cont'd)

### Name: Technical Update Review

**Details:** A public presentation session on native bees and their habitat by horticulturist and researcher Heather Holm was held at Confederation College, Thunder Bay in May 2017. This was an excellent opportunity for attendees to learn more about the lifecycle, foraging habits and host plants of our native bees and butterflies in northwestern Ontario.

Heather Holm's 2017 award winning publication *Bees: An Identification and Plant Forage Guide* (ISBN 9780991356355) was well received by our gardening community and autographed by Heather for our technical session participants.

### Name: Garlic Mustard Pull

**Details:** A Garlic Mustard Pull is taking place on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Thunder Bay MGs are encouraging people to participate, joining Eco-Superior, Thunder Bay Field Naturalists and EDDR to pull Garlic Mustard plants along M<sup>c</sup>Vicar Creek, Thunder Bay.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year working at the site, and with the continued effort we may be able to eradicate the plant in this location. More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersThunderBay/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop – One Day Special

**Dates:** July 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>

**Details:** We are able to offer a "one day only" special for the M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop to be held at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. Two of the three sessions are already full, but there are a few spaces left in "Urban Agriculture" on either Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. This course, being taught by Kris Mahoney, PhD, an instructor with the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, will cover the overlooked contribution of weeds to supplementing the food we harvest and will also cover the topics of soil quality, composting and the environment.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, the cost would be \$130 which will cover breaks, lunch and parking. In addition, all Master Gardeners will earn 6 CEUs for attending.

Please contact Yvonne Causer, 289-969-6587, [ycauser@hotmail.com](mailto:ycauser@hotmail.com) or June Streadwick, 905-934-6137, [streadwick@sympatico.ca](mailto:streadwick@sympatico.ca) for registration information.

### Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

**Name: Thunder Bay Art Gallery Garden Tour**

**Date:** Sunday, July 23, 2017

**Details:** Six private Thunder Bay gardens and two public gardens, Centennial Botanical Conservatory and Garden of

Hope, are generously opened to the public for the day during the annual Art Gallery fundraiser.

Two local Master Gardeners will be at each location providing advice to the community and highlighting the features of our 2017 garden exhibits.

### Name: Advice Tables - Murillo Fair & Hymers Fall Fair

**Dates:** August 19-20, 2017 & September 3-4, 2017

**Details:** Thunder Bay & District MGs will be hosting advice tables at Murillo Fair, hosted by Oliver Agricultural Society on August 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, and Hymers Fall Fair on Labour Day weekend, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum

**Name: Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series – Pruning**

**Date:** Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

Join the Etobicoke Master Gardeners at the Humber Arboretum for free gardening workshops!

Saturdays, 10 am - Noon

Urban Gardening (May 6, 2017)  
Bird Friendly Gardens (June 24, 2017)  
Pruning (Sept. 23, 2017)  
Soil Health (Nov. 18, 2017)  
How to Garden Smart, Not Hard! (Jan. 20, 2018)  
Growing Your Own Food & Micro Gardening (March 31, 2018)

At the Centre for Urban Ecology  
Humber Arboretum  
205 Humber College Blvd, Toronto  
416-475-5099  
arboretum@humber.ca  
humberarboretum.on.ca

Register at [humberarb.eventbrite.ca](http://humberarb.eventbrite.ca)

Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series

Etobicoke Master Gardeners  
[www.etobicoke.org/mastergardeners.ca](http://www.etobicoke.org/mastergardeners.ca)

HUMBER ARBORETUM  
A PARTNER OF THE URBAN ECOLOGY

To register please visit [humberarb.eventbrite.ca](http://humberarb.eventbrite.ca)



## Save the Date

**Name:** Coordinators' Conference

**Date:** Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Location:** Landscape Ontario, Milton ON

---

## London Middlesex Master Gardeners

### Technical Update:

**Topic:** We're Going Native

**Date:** October 15, 2017, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

**Location:** London Civic Garden Complex  
625 Springbank Drive, London ON

**Cost:** Early Bird registration by Sept 15<sup>th</sup> - \$50 (After Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> - \$60)

**Registration Information:** register online through our website: [www.londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com](http://www.londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com)



## Ottawa-Carleton & Lanark County Master Gardeners

### Technical Update (TU):

**Topic:** The Resilient Gardener

**Date:** October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**Location:** Ottawa

**Details:** This TU 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.



## Employment Opportunities

### Call for Instructors and Course Developers for Online Horticulture Program

*University of Guelph, Open Learning and Educational Support*

Open Learning and Educational Support (OpenEd) is recruiting instructors and course developers who can support the redevelopment of, and teach several courses in, the Horticulturist, Creating Landscapes, and Growing Plants for Profit certificate programs. We are seeking candidates with combined expertise in their respective field and a demonstrated commitment to teaching, learning, and student success. Please visit the website [www.guelphhort.com/opportunities](http://www.guelphhort.com/opportunities) for full descriptions of these opportunities.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:pameladallaire@hotmail.com) or via phone at 705-262-1506.

