



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside MGOI

Welcome to the February 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, Prince Edward Cty
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, Lake Simcoe South
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
  - Are MGs Still Relevant?
  - Master Gardeners Out & About
  - Upcoming Events
- MGOI
  - A Moment for Membership
  - Update: Master Gardener Quest for a National Flower

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

**February 2018**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke**

## Milestones

### Durham Master Gardeners

#### Ontario Volunteer Service Award Nomination

Gini Sage was nominated by the Durham Master Gardeners (DMG) for the 10 year Ontario Service Award. Gini has been a very engaged member of our group since 2004. She consistently exceeds the volunteer goals by actively participating in the events the group delivers to educate members of their community on horticulture. Gini also volunteers her time to



*Tracey Smyth, co-coordinator, Gini Sage, OSA nominee, Ingrid Janssen, co-coordinator*

research and develop a wide variety of horticultural talks for our group to give in our community, on topics such as Starting Plants from Seed, Creating Naturalized Gardens, Native Plants and Invasive Species, Introduction to Vegetable Gardening, and Hydrangeas. She also helped develop our award winning Balcony Gardening and other workshops. Gini supports our group by holding positions such as program chair, which involved the organization of educational day, treasurer, mentor and most recently event coordinator. DMG is grateful to Gini for her ongoing dedication and contribution to our group.



### Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners

#### 15 Year Anniversary

Donna McMaster  
Barbara Peat  
Jeannie Nicolaou

#### 10 Year Anniversary

Terri Briggs

#### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Nancy Gillespie  
Pam Stierhof  
Alida Dubray  
June Crocco

#### New Master Gardeners in Training

Ingrid van Vliet  
Marina Dimitriadis  
Donna Parrish



### Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

#### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Pat Freistatter



*Pat Freistatter (right) receives her MGOI certificate from coordinator Joan Harding*

#### 5 Year Anniversary

Calvin Stillman



*Calvin Stillman receives his 5 year pin*

## Peterborough Cont'd

### New Master Gardener in Training

Vince Picchiello



*Vince Picchiello with his new member badge*



## Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

### 25 Year Anniversary

Larry Aldebert

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Heather Van Benthem

Kay Verdone

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Ben Cullen - joined September 2017

Barb McKechnie - joined September 2017

Elizabeth Steggles - joined September 2017

Samantha Halloran - joined October 2017

## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Alex Stenning

Carol Wilson



## Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved (December 2017)

Don Richardson

### Member Profiles:

**Name:** Astrid Muschalla – starting 2018 as the new coordinator for Rideau 1000 Islands MGs.

**Of Interest:** A Master Gardener since 2009, Astrid is also a community activist and volunteer land steward on Wolfe Island, promoting biodiversity, conserving indigenous plants in the home landscape and public areas. She uses a holistic approach, promoting a conscious way of living through regenerative and organic practices. She also sits on the board for the Canadian Society for Organic Urban Land Care (SOUL).



Astrid was formerly a member of the Etobicoke Master Gardeners.

## A Moment for Membership

by Pam Love, Director of Membership

### The Reciprocal Gift of Learning

In January, Durham Master Gardeners (DMG) participated in the University of Ontario Institute for Technology (UOIT) Faculty of Education 2018 Environmental Education Conference. We were there as learners, vendors and presenters.

The key note speaker was Catherine O'Brien, Associate Professor, Education, Cape Breton University who spoke on "Sustainable Happiness and Wellbeing". She has been studying sustainable happiness and child and youth friendly planning for sustainable communities for over 20 years. Professor O'Brien defined sustainable happiness as *"the pursuit of happiness that does not exploit other people, the environment, or future generations. Bringing sustainability and happiness together within the concept of sustainable happiness holds significant possibilities for individual, community, and global well-being."*

Professor O'Brien started off by having us think of an experience we had in nature that made us feel happy, and share it with a partner. That was the easy part for me. More challenging and thought provoking was her final question: How does what we are teaching and how we are teaching it encourage the learners to be choice makers?.

The most interesting thing I learned was about how children are learning in living schools, like Green School in Bali ([https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_hardy\\_jimmy\\_green\\_school\\_dream](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_hardy_jimmy_green_school_dream)) and Living School in Byron, Australia (<http://living.school/>).

We have schools in Ontario, such as Dunbarton High School in Pickering, that are incorporating the living school ideas. As an example, the principal and some students demonstrated how they hooked up a bicycle to a blender, and by peddling made smoothies for us.



Cori Whittington (DMG and retired teacher)

Master Gardeners and the Sustainable Happiness theme. We planted a seed that day about something we already knew - gardening makes you happy!

*If you've never  
experienced the joy of  
accomplishing more  
than you can imagine,  
plant a garden!  
~ Robert Brault*

Copyright © Doug Harrington (Fractalarts.com)  
<http://www.pinterest.com/dougharrington/>



## Are Master Gardeners Still Relevant?

*by Ren Duinker, Master Gardener  
Prince Edward County Master Gardeners*

We are all out there answering questions and giving advice, but I sometimes wonder about our role in the digital age. So often the first thing we do when a question is posed is to look on our favourite gardening site on the internet and confirm our thoughts. Of course this is something anyone with a computer, tablet, or smart phone can do.

I was talking with a fellow MG the other day and we were discussing this very question. Are MGs really necessary these days? What service do we offer that can't be found anywhere else? I'm sure I'm not the first MG to consider this issue.

There are factual questions with right or wrong answers; there are also the kinds of questions that only experience can really speak to. Gardening is an art – and a science. For me, the importance of our role lies somewhere in between.

When I became an MG everyone assured me I wasn't expected to know everything. What I was expected to have was a love of gardening, a basis of common sense and a desire to share my love of gardening with others. All that comes together whenever we interact with another gardener. Walking around someone else's garden is always an experience that opens the mind – and the heart. To be invited into someone's garden and to see what they are creating is a privilege and an opportunity to create a connection which broadens the knowledge of both gardeners.

Even more important, gardens connect us with nature.

This simple act of walking around in another person's garden, or talking with someone at a garden show brings everything we do as MGs together into an intimate conversation - a conversation that is personal and specific to the area.



Sitting alone looking at a computer screen will never be able to replace the interaction between two gardeners. As we walk around looking, listening and talking, we also introduce the need we all have to connect with another person.

The staggering lack of interaction between people as they go about their lives glued to their mobile phones saddens most of us who are older. We fondly remember our childhoods when “things were simpler” and the art of conversation was still part of our daily lives. As MGs this is certainly something we can add to this modern digital age we live in - to reach out to gardeners on a personal level and listen and talk.

So simple and yet, so important.

## Update: Master Gardener Quest for a National Flower

Government says “Thanks, but no thanks” to New National Flower



*Cornus canadensis*  
Photo courtesy of Todd Boland  
Photographer

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Department of Canadian Heritage responded to the National Flower Petition presented to Parliament on December 4, 2017.

*“When the Government of Canada wishes to create an official symbol, one of the factors considered is if the symbol is, as much as possible, representative of all of Canada. Over time, a number of symbols from Canada’s natural environment have been formally established through various mechanisms such as proclamations,*

*orders in council, and acts.*

*Although Canada does not have a national floral symbol, the maple tree was officially recognized as Canada's arboreal emblem in 1996. Additionally, the maple leaf has been associated with Canada since the 1700s and is widely used as a symbol for the country. Thank you for taking the time to share your views and interest in the national symbols of Canada.”*

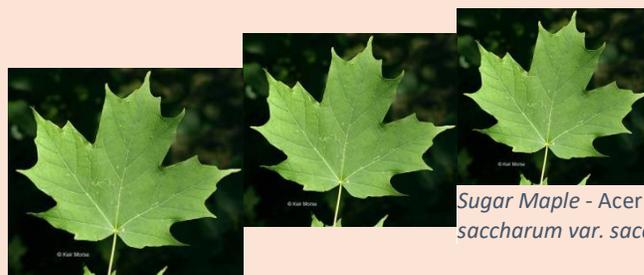
While we all thought we had spent a great deal of time and energy deciding on a national symbol that was, in fact, representative of all of Canada, the government appears to disagree. It looks like they are just not in the mood for new symbols these days – see the Non-National Bird the Gray Jay.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grey\\_jay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grey_jay)

At this time, I am not sure if there is anything else that can be done to keep pushing this forward. Thank you to everyone who took the time to spread the word, vote online, write emails to Parliament, and otherwise help raise the profile of Master Gardeners, and gardening in general, across Canada this past year.

*Maureen Hulbert, Toronto Master Gardeners*



*Sugar Maple - Acer saccharum var. saccharum*

Maple picture courtesy of: <http://wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/image/lib/imgdetails.php?imgid=14514>

# Master Gardeners Out & About: Projects & Events

## Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

**Name:** NEW Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners Website Update!

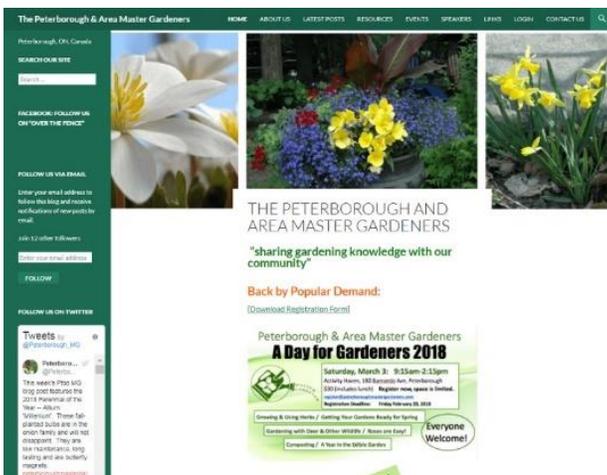
<https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/>

**Details:** MG Mary Jane Pilgrim has created a new and improved Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners web page. On it you can learn all about the group, our events, resources, great gardening links, and speakers.

Together with a newly created Website Committee, we are posting a new blog post every week (sign up on the page to receive notifications) and tweeting to our heart's content to share great gardening information with everyone!

Follow us [@Peterborough\\_MG](https://twitter.com/Peterborough_MG)

Our two latest blog posts are about dealing with road salt in our gardens and learning all about the Perennial of the Year – check them out!



## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

**Name:** Presentation to the Trenton Horticultural Society and Garden Club

**Date:** Thursday, February 15, 2018

**Details:** Alex Wiens and Cathy Thompson spoke to a group of 40 people at the Trenton Horticultural Society and Garden Club about the path to becoming a Master Gardener. They answered many questions on topics from permaculture to nomenclature.



Alex Wiens

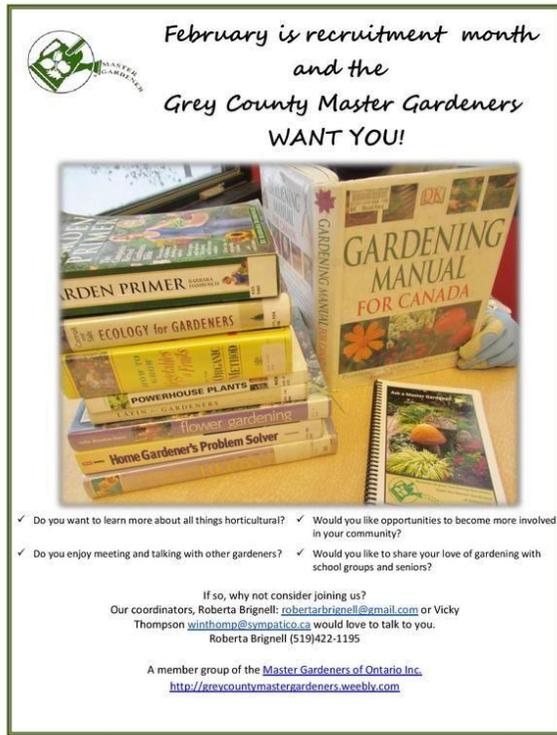
## Name: Prince Edward County Master Gardeners Membership Drive

**Details:** Prince Edward County Master Gardeners are planning a Wine and Cheese Membership Night to coincide with the launch of our Children's Garden Award (please see Events, below).

We will be using our 'Good News to Grow On' grant money to promote membership and improve our community visibility.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Grey County Master Gardeners



February is recruitment month  
and the  
Grey County Master Gardeners  
WANT YOU!

**GARDENING MANUAL FOR CANADA**

Do you want to learn more about all things horticultural?  
Do you enjoy meeting and talking with other gardeners?  
Would you like opportunities to become more involved in your community?  
Would you like to share your love of gardening with school groups and seniors?

If so, why not consider joining us?  
Our coordinators, Roberta Brignell: [robertarbrignell@gmail.com](mailto:robertarbrignell@gmail.com) or Vicky Thompson [winthomp@sympatico.ca](mailto:winthomp@sympatico.ca) would love to talk to you.  
Roberta Brignell (519)422-1195

A member group of the [Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.](http://www.mastergardeners.org)  
<http://greycountymastergardeners.weebly.com>

### Stratford Master Gardeners

**Name:** Stratford Garden Festival

**Date:** March 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Details:** Meet & chat gardening with Stratford & Area MGs in their new booth at the 4-day show. For more information, please visit:

<http://lungontario.ca/you-can-help/events/find-local-event/stratford-garden-festival/>

### London Middlesex Master Gardeners

**Name:** Seedy Saturday In London Ontario

**Date:** March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018



**Details:** Come to Learn and Shop! This event is known for its reputation of inspiring a passion for gardening each Spring! Great vendors and educational exhibits, talks through the day, and a seed swap to get you growing for the season!

### Peterborough Master Gardeners

**Name:** A Day for Gardeners

**Date:** March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, 9:15-2:15

**Location:** Activity Haven, 180 Barnardo Ave., Peterborough

**Cost:** \$30. (includes lunch)



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners  
**A Day for Gardeners 2018**

Saturday, March 3: 9:15am-2:15pm  
Activity Haven, 180 Barnardo Ave, Peterborough  
\$30 (includes lunch) Register now, space is limited.  
[register@peterboroughmastergardeners.com](mailto:register@peterboroughmastergardeners.com)  
Registration Deadline: Friday February 23, 2018

Growing & Using Herbs / Getting Your Gardens Ready for Spring  
Gardening with Deer & Other Wildlife / Roses are Easy!  
Composting / A Year in the Edible Garden

Everyone Welcome!

### Northumberland County Master Gardeners

**Name:** Annual Speakers Series

**Dates:** March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Details:** We extend a special invitation to all MGs who would like to attend our annual Speakers Series. A not to be missed weekly event, this year on Wednesdays in March. This is an excellent opportunity to start thinking about your garden plans for the upcoming growing season!



NORTHUMBERLAND  
MASTER GARDENERS PRESENTS  
**March INTO THE Garden Speakers Series**

March 7, 2018 - Vikki Whitney  
What's New For 2018

March 14, 2018 - Jim Lounsbury  
Little Known Garden Gems

March 21, 2018 - Ken Brown  
Vertical Space Saving Vegetable Gardening

March 28, 2018 - Paul Zammit  
Lessons From My Garden Travels

New Location:  
Concert Hall at Victoria Hall  
55 King St. W. Cobourg

Four Wednesdays  
March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018  
7:30 pm

Ticket agents:  
Cobourg Print & Wallpaper  
34 King St. W. Cobourg

Holton Flowers  
62 Walton St., Port Hope

\$40 for all four evenings (cash or cheque)  
Single evening \$15 if available

### Canada Blooms

**Dates:** March 9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Location:** Enercare Centre, CNE, Toronto

**Details:** Ontario MGs will host Advice Clinics and One-on-One Advice Clinics at Canada's largest garden show. More details can be found at:

<http://canadablooms.com/>

## Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum

**Name:** Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series – Growing Your Own Food & Microgardening

**Date:** Saturday, March 31, 2018, 10 a.m. – noon

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

To register please visit:

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



**Name:** Backyard Living Expo

**Dates:** April 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Place:** The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd, Mississauga, ON L4V 1E8

**Details:** EMGs will host Advice Clinics and a Children's Garden. More details are at:

<http://www.thebackyardlivingexpo.com/>

## Peterborough Master Gardeners

**Name:** The 2018 (and 18<sup>th</sup> Incredible) Peterborough Garden Show

*"The Garden Show for Gardeners"*

**Dates:** Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

(5 pm to 9 pm)

Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

(10 am to 5 pm);

Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

(10 am – 4 pm)

**Location:** The Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Ontario

**Details:** The Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners are thinking spring! **ADMISSION:** Daily - \$8 Advance, \$9 Online, \$10 @ the Door

Weekend Pass - \$14 Advance, \$15 @ the Door & Online Click [HERE](#) for advance tickets

Speakers include Dianne & Gary Westlake, Jillian Bishop, Ken Brown, Dan Cooper, Kathryn Pimmett, Garry Edwards, Sean James, and Gladys Fowler.



For more info email [info@peterboroughgardenshow.com](mailto:info@peterboroughgardenshow.com) or check out our new redesigned Garden Show [webpage](#) or on [Facebook!](#)

We get lots of bus tours and have a bus coordinator so



grab a bunch of gardening friends and come and visit!

## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

**Name:** Children's Garden Award

**Deadline for Entry:** April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018



**Details:** Working with the PEC Horticultural Society, we have now officially launched our Children's Garden Award which will be presented annually. We will be using the award to seek new members and promote Master Gardeners. The award is open to all children between the ages of 8 and 12 who live in

Prince Edward County.

## Norfolk County Master Gardeners

**Event:** Life Underground – interaction between plants and beneficial fungi

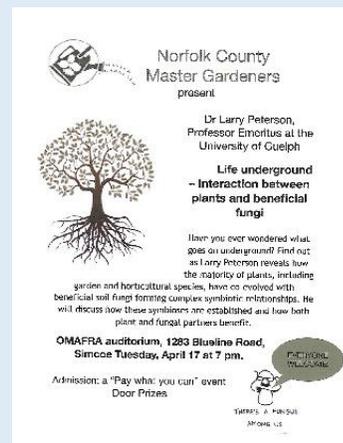
**Date:** Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

**Location:** OMAFRA Auditorium, 1283 Blueline Road, Simcoe

**Cost:** Pay what you can

**Details:** Dr. Larry Peterson,

Professor Emeritus, U. of Guelph, reveals how plants have co-evolved with beneficial soil fungi to form complex symbiotic relationships, how these symbioses are established, and how both plant and fungal partners benefit.



## Brantford Master Gardeners

### Event: Gardens on Parade

**Date:** Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine

**Details:** Brantford Master Gardeners and Brant Animal Aid Foundation present 'Gardens on Parade' – six private gardens to delight and inspire.

**Tickets:** \$10.00: available at Nicols Florist Greenhouse and Garden Centre, 846 Colbourne St. E., Brantford; The Bookworm, 331 Brant Ave., Brantford; and at Walters Greenhouse and Garden Centre, 363 Governors Rd. E., Paris ON

For more information call Anne @ 519-442-3458 or Dorothy @ 519-753-9063.

## COORDINATORS – MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

### 2018 Coordinators' Conference

**Date:** October 13, 2018

**Location:** Landscape Ontario, Milton ON

### Richters Herbs

**Details:** Richters Herbs offers seminars at their greenhouse location throughout the year. For more information visit:

[https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=./events/event\\_s.html&cart\\_id=2154123.16186](https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=./events/event_s.html&cart_id=2154123.16186). They also offer free on-line seminars at:

[https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=events/events\\_2016.html](https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=events/events_2016.html). The 2018 Richters catalogue, filled with culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs and seeds, is available.

