# Inside MGOI

*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

Welcome to the November 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 and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and happenings 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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**INSIDE MGOI**
**Newsletter of the**
**Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.**

**November 2019**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke**

# Milestones

## Mississauga Master Gardeners

### Member Profile
Jeanne McRight

The Mississauga Master Gardeners would like to acknowledge Jeanne McRight for her efforts and determination in using her Master Gardener skills to promote the 'Blooming Boulevards' in Mississauga. She was nominated for the Mississauga's Ward One Award of Excellence for Environmental Stewardship. Congratulations Jeanne!

*Left to Right: Coordinator Michelle Wilson & Jeanne McRight*

## Simcoe County Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved
Gail Cocker

Gail has been an active member of our group and executive even while she was taking her courses.

She started out as Treasurer (a job which she still does) and earlier this year she also became our Co-coordinator!

*Gail Cocker, left receiving her MG certificate from Coordinator Linda Peacock*

Gail has been a big help in keeping us focused on our recruitment goal this year. Congratulations Gail!

### Member Profiles
Our Membership Co-ordinator Joan Nieman-Agapas has been busy. Here she is with our newest members: Susie Cosack, Christine March, and Jim Maddin.

*Left to right: Jim Maddin, Joan Nieman-Agapas, Susie Cosack, Christine March*

Susie joined us in September. She scored so high on her entrance exam that we knew she would be an asset to the group (of course her bubbly personality was enough to sell us anyway). I am sure she will teach us a thing or two as we grow together. Welcome Susie!

Christine transferred into our group this year from Toronto MGs. She is such a friendly and knowledgeable addition to our group! She has already volunteered by answering questions at a local Farmers' Market, she writes for our website, and she is now our social convenor. We are so fortunate that she moved a little further north. Welcome Christine!

Jim is our newest member. He just signed papers at our October meeting and will be starting his courses shortly. He has a sister who is an MG out west so this gardening gene must run in the family. Jim has just moved and has a new garden so has lots of experimenting to do next season – we can't wait to hear about his gardening adventures. Welcome Jim!

## Guelph & Wellington County Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Donna Kahn
Barb McKechnie

Donna not only received her MG certificate but she is also now the new Coordinator of Guelph –Wellington MGs.

Barb received her Certificate on the same night. She has now finished her Horticultural Diploma.

*Donna Kahn, right with Inger Knudsen, Coordinator*

*Barb McKechnie, right with Inger Knudsen, Coordinator*

## Toronto Master Gardeners

### Ontario Volunteer Service Awards 2019

What a celebration!

Six Toronto MGs joined a packed room at The Chelsea Hotel in October to celebrate their 15 years of volunteer service. It was a diverse group of volunteers from across Ontario, and they shared the night with youth groups, historical society members, hospice workers and Girl Guide leaders just to name a few.

The Toronto MGs who were honored with an Ontario lapel pin and certificate of recognition were: Elizabeth Stewart, Georgie Kennedy, Ellen Eyman, Barbara Anderson, Nicole Leaper and Murray Duncan. We asked our 15 year recipients what volunteering meant to them. Here's what one of them had to say:

*Volunteering as a Master Gardener has meant connecting with others. I've been able to share my passion for growing plants and my knowledge about good garden practices with so many lovely people over the years, and, of course, I have learned from them.*

I've heard it said that we should 'work for a cause, not the applause'. Well on that October night in Toronto there was over an hour of applause and it kinda restored my faith in humanity.

*Four of the TMGs at the Awards ceremony*

## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton (MGOC)

**New Master Gardeners in Training**
Myra Gendron
Lucie Tremblay

**Master Gardener Status Achieved**
Heather Clemenson
Claire Leduc

**Member Profile: Tribute to a Pioneer**
Gillian has been an MG with MGOC for nearly thirty years. Not only has she been a dedicated volunteer but she has also been a pioneer, teacher and mentor, sharing her wealth of knowledge about native plants with fellow MGs, gardening groups, and the public.

In October, Gillian was honoured for her work during a successful Technical Update organized jointly by the MGs of Lanark County and Ottawa-Carleton. The tribute that day was fitting, given that this day long event focused on Ontario native plants and invasive plant species.

*Gillian Boyd (left) accepts an award for her pioneer work with native plant species from Julianne Labreche, Coordinator*

Many of Gillian's skills were acquired through her years of volunteer work, including the creation of local butterfly gardens, organic demonstration gardens, low-maintenance and drought-resistant gardens.

In her own words, her informal environmental garden at home "reflects my interest in soils, plant behaviour, xeriscaping and gardening to attract birds, butterflies and other beneficial wildlife".

In many ways, Gillian's pioneering work has been an inspiration to many MGs as we seek to acquire the skills needed to learn more about native plants and pollinator plant species.

Gillian Boyd is an MG ahead of her time, and we are so grateful for her many contributions to the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton.

**Ontario Service Awards**
On October 17, 2019 five MGs from MGOC were honoured by the Ontario government for their long-standing service as volunteers, including their help to green the City of Ottawa and its surrounding region.

Congratulations to these hard-working and dedicated volunteers!

*Four MGs from Ottawa-Carleton accept their Ontario Service Award pins. From left to right are:*
*Nancy McDonald, Judith Cox, Diane McClymont Peace & Julianne Labreche.*
*Missing from this photo is Janet Carkner.*

## Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

**Master Gardener Status Achieved**
Teresa Roseboom
Welcome back to Rideau 1000 Islands MGs!

**New Master Gardeners in Training**
Tracey Filson
Collette McKinnon
Ruthie Cummings
Welcome!

## Durham Master Gardeners

**Master Gardener Status Achieved**
Judy Rivers
Judy wrote the certification exam in May and passed with flying colours! Congratulations!
Another of our new members, Amanda Steinberg, also passed the exam and will achieve MG status when she completes 2 years of membership.

**New Master Gardeners in Training**
Nancy Novak
Colleen Burns
Ryan Van Gerven
Joshua Van Kemp
Welcome to our new members!

**Member Profile – Granted Emerita Status**
Elaine Davidson

**Of Interest**
Elaine has been gardening for over 60 years. Her first plants were Nasturtiums grown for the flowers and used by her mother in salads to add flavour. Since that time she has maintained a keen interest in using the herbs and flowers grown in her garden for cooking, and taken many courses along the way to help improve her herbal knowledge.

Elaine's garden, while small, is a mixture of flowers, vegetables and herbs all grown alongside one another. Elaine is a member of five regular garden clubs including Durham Master Gardeners and over seven specialty garden clubs, serving on the Boards of several of them.

*Tracey Smyth, DMG Coordinator, right, presenting Elaine Davidson with her Emerita status*

**Ontario Volunteer Service Award 2019**
Sherry Dodson

On Tuesday Nov. 27th Sherry received her 5 year Ontario Volunteer Service Award pin and certificate at the Scarborough Convention Centre ceremony. Sherry joined Durham MGs in 2011 and completed her certification through Guelph. Sherry loves learning so much she continued on at Guelph to complete the Horticulturist Certificate and became certified as a horticultural therapist. She is now studying flower farming.
Congratulations Sherry!

## Master Gardeners Out & About:
## *Projects & Events*

### Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

**Name: Multi-Year Wildscaping Campaign**
**Details:** Rideau 1000 Islands MGs have started a multi-year Wildscaping campaign to help homeowners convert their monoculture lawns into different wildscapes – see the many flavours of wildscaping here on our website. We held a Soil Regeneration Seminar and an introduction to ecological plant-driven design which was followed up with the Wildscaping Workshop on Planting Design, depicted here.

This was led by the New Perennialist, Tony Spencer, exploring the new fundamentals of naturalistic planting design based on the work of Piet Oudolf, Roy Diblik, and Cassian Schmidt. To set things up, our member MG Joyce Hostyn made a presentation to Kingston City Council in which she urged a change in the bylaws so that homeowners would be supported in substituting lawns for wildscapes – without the fear of being fined.

### Muskoka Master Gardeners

**Name: Annual General Meeting (AGM)**
**Details:** On November 11th we held our AGM and then enjoyed a very tasty potluck meal. In review:
This Fall we held a Veseys Fundraiser Event and were pleased with the results:
https://www.veseys.com/fundraising.

Several of us wrote short articles for the Muskoka Seniors Magazine in 2019.

We had a fun and interesting evening discussing all of our 2019 activities and then starting to plan all we are hoping to do / achieve in 2020.

### Guelph & Wellington County Master Gardeners

**Name: Meetings & Preparations for 2020**
**Details:** G&W MGs have held two meetings this fall. We held the last one in the Guelph Herbarium where Carole Ann Lacroix led a tour.

We are busy preparing for the new season's events. The Day in the Garden (DITG) Technical Update will take place in February and our plant sale in May.

**Name: Roots and Shoots Garden**
**Details:** G&W MGs are planting the last perennials in the Roots and Shoots garden at the Guelph Arboretum.

### Brantford Master Gardeners

**Name: BMG Christmas Party**
**Date:** December 5th, 2019 at 7:00 pm
**Details:** The BMGs and their significant others will be getting together to celebrate the holidays and get into the Christmas / holiday spirit with a Christmas dinner and holiday festivities.

## Grey County Master Gardeners

**Name: Annual Plant Sale**

**Details:** Our annual plant sale at the Heritage Place Shopping Centre is our main fundraising event of the year. This year it was held on Saturday, September 14th, a cold, windy day. Members and supporters of our group were busy in the weeks before the big day, digging perennials, shrubs and bulbs, ensuring we had a wide variety of plants for sale.

*A windblown Andrée Levie-Warrilow helps an equally windblown customer*

*Closing Time!*

**Name: Bruce Grey Forest Festival**

**Details:** The Bruce Grey Forest Festival is held annually in the month of October. The Festival's mission is "cultivating an understanding of and appreciation for our forest resources and the natural environment in which we live." Hundreds of grade 7 students attend the 3 day event, held this year on October 1, 2 & 3. It features over 30 hands-on activity stations throughout the forest in a local conservation area.

We are in charge of the "Forest Feast" station, educating the students in what edible resources are present in the forest. In the main the students are keenly interested in our forests and keep us busy with their questions.

*MG Brad Dewys demonstrates how to tap maple trees (no trees were hurt in this demonstration)*

*MGiT Gary Kenny (left) is stumped by a question*

**Name: Annual Gardening Seminar**

**Details:** Approximately 50 people from communities in Grey and Bruce counties, as well as a few MGs, attended our annual gardening seminar "So You Think YOU'VE Got a Problem?" at Harmony Centre in Owen Sound on October 26th. Speaker Sean James started the day by addressing the challenge of designing a small space. After a break Sean went on to explore creative and sustainable approaches to other difficult sites. Our main lesson from Sean was that with the right plants and techniques our problems aren't as serious as we think they are.

*Sean James presenting to an interested audience*

*Coffee & conversation during the break*

*Lots of questions for Sean*

## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

**Name: Seniors Fair**

**Details:** The Seniors Fair in PEC, held this year on October 24th, is a much anticipated event and always well attended. We enjoy the crowds of people who drop by our booth, either with a question or just to say hello.

*MGs Marianne Malachowski, left & Virginia Mitchell (Photo credit: Kim Beaugrand)*

*MGs Marianne Malachowski, left & Cathy Thompson, standing*

**Name: 2019 Children's Garden Award Presentations**

**Details:** On Saturday November 2nd it was all about the kids! We gathered at our local library to celebrate the amazing gardens these children created.

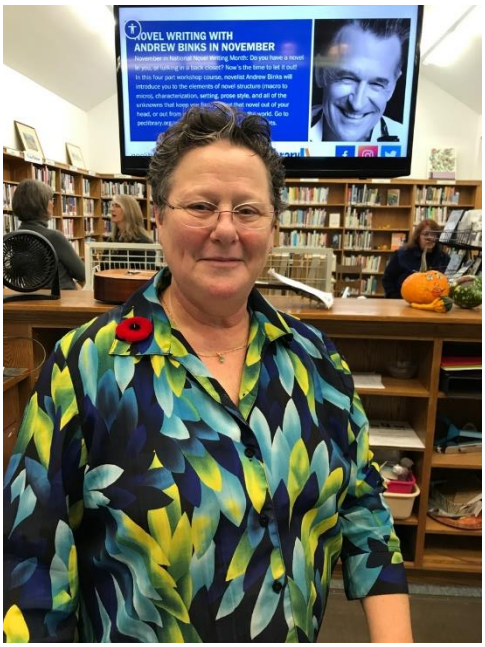
This is the second annual Children's Garden Awards and we were so impressed with the gardens and the enthusiasm of these young gardeners. Getting kids outside and helping them realize their own power to not only create a garden but in many cases to grow their own food has been a wonderful experience for us all.

We have many plans for next year and look forward to meeting a whole new crop of future Master Gardeners!

*Future Master Gardeners*

We want to thank all our friends at the Picton Public Library who not only act as a central hub for information throughout the season, but they host our event and showcase the trophy during the year.

Their smiling faces and dedication add a huge amount to this project.




*Kate Konkin, Picton Library*
*Photo: Ren Duinker*

*They even have one of those Tower Gardens right in the library!*

## Durham Master Gardeners

**Name: Parkwood Estate – Tennis Garden Rejuvenation Project**

**Details:** The Durham Master Gardeners, the Oshawa Garden Club and Durham College have partnered on a five-year project to restore the Tennis Garden of the historic estate, built by Sam Mclaughlin, founder of General Motors (GM) Canada. Research revealed that the original landscape architects of the Tennis Garden, H.B. and L.A. Dunington-Grubb, were the founders of Sheridan Nurseries. Their style mimicked the gardens of Gertrude Jekyll: large, full, colour-palleted drifts of perennials. Our dedicated volunteers came out every Wednesday, and as a result we completed almost twice as much as planned in our first year!

*Volunteers from Durham Master Gardeners & the Oshawa Garden Club hard at work on the North Tennis Garden*

*Parkwood Estate North Tennis Garden ready for planting*

Plants pulled out were repotted and set aside for the Parkwood Plant Sale held on September 21 – an overwhelming success! People were lined up at 7am and we sold out of all plants by 9:30am! All proceeds raised went towards purchasing bulbs and perennials for the north border. Planting took place in October and we can't wait to see it next spring!

*Durham Master Gardeners at the Plant Sale Left to right - Kelly Mitchell, Pam Love, Ingrid Janssen, Tracey Smyth, Anne Van de Velde, Robynne Dunn and Judy Rivers*

*The Parkwood Plant Sale*

**Name: Cannabis, Mysteries Unveiled – Panel Discussion**

**Details:** The panel discussion hosted by DMG on September 26th brought in over 100 attendees. The four speakers were all very informative. Topics covered included identification of male and female plants, how to grow Cannabis, problems with insects and disease, and some of the legal issues surrounding its use and cultivation.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

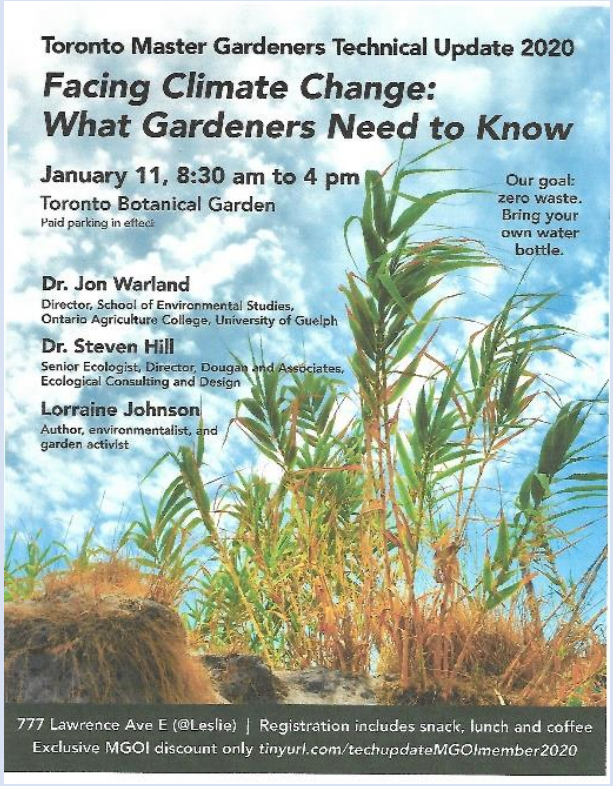
### Toronto Master Gardeners

**Technical Update**

**Name: Facing Climate Change – What Gardeners Need to Know**
**Date:** Saturday January 11th, 2020 from 8:30am – 4:00pm
**Location:** Toronto Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. (at Leslie). Paid parking is in effect.
**Details:** Join

- Dr. John Warland, Director, School of Environmental Studies, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph
- Dr. Steven Hill, Senior Ecologist, Director, Dougan and Associates, Ecological Consulting and Design
- Lorraine Johnson, Author, Environmentalist, and Garden Activist

**Registration:** Cost is $50. and includes snack, lunch, and coffee. The goal is zero (0) waste – please bring your own water bottle.
Further details are available at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/toronto-master-gardeners-technical-update-2020-tickets-75609902253?discount=MGOImember




### Guelph & Wellington County Master Gardeners

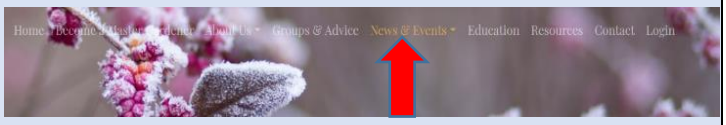
**Name: Day in the Garden (DITG) – Community Technical Update**
**Date: February 23rd, 2020**
**Details:** This annual event will be held at the Victoria Park East Golf Cub, 1096 Victoria Road, Guelph ON.

### MGOI Summer Workshop 2020

**Date:** July 25th & 26th, 2020
**Details:** The three sessions are still to be confirmed; there will be more information to follow in the next few weeks. The summer workshop is increasing in popularity and spaces fill up very quickly, so save the date and register early when registration forms become available in January.

### Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

**Name: MGOI Website**
**Details:** If you would like your Master Gardener event posted on the MGOI website under the **News & Events** tab, please send details to our webmaster Jim Cook at webmaster@mgoi.ca.
Images need to be in .jpeg or .png format.

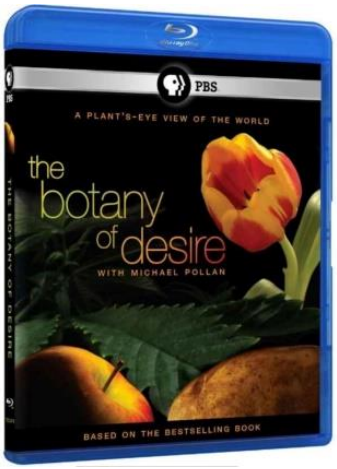


## Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners

## Brantford Master Gardeners

**Name: BMG Movie Night - The Botany of Desire**
**Date:** Thursday November 28th, 2019 at 7:00pm
**Details:** The Brantford MG Group hopes that all MGs will get a chance to watch this highly interesting movie!

Michael Pollan, a professor of journalism and student of food presents the history of four plants, each of which found a way to make itself essential to humans, thus ensuring their widespread propagation: apples for sweetness; tulips for beauty; marijuana for pleasure; and potatoes for sustenance. Each has a story of discovery and adaptation; each has a symbiotic relationship with human civilization. The film tells these stories and examines these relationships.

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## 2020 Shaw Festival Garden Tour

The Shaw Festival Garden Tour will take place on June 13th, 2020. Master Gardeners may be interested in "making a day of it in Niagara-on-the-Lake" by considering attending the lunch-time play, taking in a backstage tour, and just enjoying the main street.

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