



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Happy New Year!

Welcome to year five of the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter as we enter the second decade of the 21st century. And welcome to the January edition of the 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 30 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. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome!

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
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Co-Director of South & West Region:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener

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Recording Secretary/Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton newsletter@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
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MG Advice Clinic Manager for Canada Blooms: Christine Spence, Etobicoke
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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INSIDE MGOI

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

January 2020

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton (MGOC)

15 Year Anniversary

Rebecca Last

New MGiT

Bette Belanger

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Nancy Fowler

Agnieszka Maleszewska-Keough

Member Profile

Rebecca Last

Lasting Influence

Rebecca Last is well named, it turns out, because she has had a lasting influence as a gardener.



MG Rebecca Last underneath the grapes

Rebecca is a well-known popular garden speaker in the Ottawa region – prepared, well organized, at ease and confident. She is highly in demand within the speaking circuit of local horticultural clubs and societies.

She is also active within MGOC, willing to volunteer for many different tasks ranging from taking minutes to member profiles to helping with fundraisers. She also makes delicious jams every year that fortunately for MGOC she is happy to share.

Rebecca is proud to show off her own garden too, a glorious show in summer packed with edible plants and planted for wildlife as well, including a small pond and waterfall.

Once again, Rebecca will be trekking to Toronto soon to present at Canada Blooms. This year she will be speaking about wildlife in the garden, including strategies for including food, shelter, and water as well as practices to encourage birds and beneficial insects to find a home there. It's an important topic given ongoing concern for dwindling species of wild songbirds and pollinators.

Rebecca will also share with her Canada Blooms audience ways to certify the garden as wildlife habitat or a monarch butterfly waystation, encouraging them to consider ways to join the growing army of citizen scientists who are helping us to better understand how people are changing the natural world.

In March, Rebecca will be celebrating fifteen years as a MG with MGOC. We value her wisdom, her generosity of spirit and her willingness to share her plant knowledge with others.

She is among the first – never last – in sharing her many skills. MGOC is grateful for her many contributions.



Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary

Meg Graham



Meg Graham, left with Coordinator Donna Kahn

5 Year Anniversary

Joanne Garnett



Joanne Garnett, left with Coordinator Donna Kahn

10 Year Anniversary

Kat Granger



Kat Granger, left with Coordinator Donna Kahn

G-W Coordinator Donna Kahn presented each of the MGs above with their respective pins and a pink Cyclamen.

New Master Gardener in Training

Cris Calley Jones

Welcome Cris, Guelph – Wellington's new member who will hopefully spend many years with us!



Northumberland Master Gardeners

In Memorium

Shirley Embree

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our good friend and Master Gardener, Shirley Embree, on November 30, 2019. Shirley was a founding member of Northumberland Master Gardeners.



From left to right: MGS Judy Harris, Shirley Embree, & Helen Lackey

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Tanya Crowell



Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

30 Year Anniversary



Congratulations to three Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners who have received 30 Year Pins from MGOI for volunteering with our group! We are proud of Susan, Ralph & Aili who were three of the first fourteen Master Gardeners in Training: the beginning of the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners. Their ongoing commitment is still evident. After all these years they are all still active in our group offering knowledgeable gardening advice in our district.

15 Year Anniversary

Congratulations to Gwen Third who has received her 15 year pin – another commendable achievement!

New Master Gardeners in Training

Jan Adams
Rosemary McNabb
Andrea Steinhäusser

We are also pleased to welcome three Master Gardeners in Training who are in the midst of studying to attain their Master Gardener designation. Our members look forward to supporting you in this journey!



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Susan Warrack



Our newest Master Gardener, Susan Warrack

Member Profile

Susan Warrack

There's one in every group. The person who always steps forward to lend a hand or help someone else. The person you can count on, the one who is friendly and kind to everyone.

In The County we are lucky to have Susan Warrack. She works tirelessly for Master Gardeners, keeps us in touch with 'Tree The County', is involved with 'Neighbourwoods' tree inventory in Bloomfield, works with PEC Field Naturalists and the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, and is a member of the Macaulay Heritage Gardens crew.

Susan's smiling face and good nature makes The County what it is. She is a wonderful person and we were so happy to celebrate her certification as a Master Gardener.

Photos and text: Ren Duinker

Retirement

Steve Storms

Steve joined Master Gardeners in 2004 and brought his kindness, friendly personality and vast gardening



knowledge to our community for the next fifteen years.

He worked for the town of Belleville and designed many of their gardens. For those of you who drive by Belleville on Highway

401, you no doubt will be familiar with the planting of the Canadian flag on a hill. Steve assisted with that design and supervised the planting of 30,000 begonias. The town is more beautiful thanks to his efforts.

After retiring from full-time employment, he dedicated his time to personal interests. Steve is one of those rare combinations of woodworker, artist and all-round technical genius.

Steve was always there; he would pull into the plant sale with his truck AND trailer packed with plants from his beautiful garden. He volunteered and connected with other gardeners at the Smylie's nursery, Seedy Saturday and numerous other MG events. He'll be a very hard act to follow.

Steve has one of the most spectacular gardens in the area and he introduced me to more plants than I'll ever remember. Being invited for a cold beer in his garden was a treat and a tradition I will continue as long as the back gate is open.

Thanks for everything Steve!



The Changing Face of Prince Edward County

Over the last few years Prince Edward County has undergone a huge transformation. People have discovered The County and they are moving here, opening businesses and making a life. These dynamic young people have all recently joined our MG group and we are thrilled with the enthusiasm and talent they have brought with them. The future is looking very bright.



Sarah McParland



Marc de Leon



Michael Rose McCall



Katie Middleton

(All photos courtesy of Ren Duinker)



Profiles – New Directors

By Pam Love, Director of Membership

Introducing Pamela Dallaire, Director of Operations, MGOI



Pam has taken on the role of Director of Operations effective January 1, 2020.

Pam joined Master Gardeners in 2015 when she started the new Cochrane District MG group, a satellite of Thunder Bay. Because of the large geographical area her group covers, Pam uses her energy and ability to investigate and apply collaborative technologies to connect people and facilitate learning.

Pam is passionate about growing vegetables, roses, and hardy perennials in her zone 3 garden as well as being involved with creating the Milkweed Corridor between Timmins and Smooth Rock Falls.

Welcome Pam! Thank you for stepping up to the Board.

Introducing Dr. Carol Tuck-Riggs, Treasurer, MGOI

Carol has taken on the role of Treasurer effective immediately.

Carol joined Master Gardeners of Niagara in 2018 and brings a wealth of accounting credentials and related experience to the role. What she likes best about being a Master Gardener is meeting interesting people, having lots of opportunities to learn and helping to push an environmental focus.

Carol has helped organize the Shaw Garden Tour, Herb Greenhouse Day, and children's activity tables at the Niagara Seedy Saturday.

Welcome Carol! Thank you for stepping up to the board.



The President's Corner

Claudette Sims, President, Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI)

What does MGOI do for Members?

That was the question that London-Middlesex Master Gardeners asked me to address when they invited me to their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January. This wasn't easy for me to answer. Apart from being an awkward acronym, I struggle to understand just who or what "MGOI" is, and I'm the President! I can easily rattle off any number of benefits – pins, badges, newsletter, green watering can logo clothing! But the 1.5 hour drive to London gave me lots of time to address this question differently.

So I started by saying: "What does MGOI do for members? Well, it sends their President to bring greetings to you in person!" That brought the laughter I'd hoped for but wasn't really intended as an answer.

M-G-O-I stands for "Master Gardeners of Ontario, Incorporated". As such it's a corporation – a group of people comprised of about 700 Master Gardeners, about 12 of whom form a Board of Directors, and all of whom belong to one of about 30 local groups. So I've always felt that all "Master Gardeners of Ontario" are "MGOI." It's this dynamic assembly which allows me to actually BE a Master Gardener, so my answer became a personal one.

What does MGOI do for me?

MGOI brings me PRIDE – I'm so proud to have earned the credentials to call myself a Master Gardener. It facilitates lifelong LEARNING with tools such as the Reference Manual for Ontario Master Gardeners, Niagara Summer Workshops, and the MGOI Facebook group. It brings me SATISFACTION – to know that I'm helping the gardening public choose sustainable gardening practices. It gives me OPPORTUNITIES that I would not otherwise have had – speaking at local libraries, appearing on Cable TV and being asked by CBC radio to sit in for Ed Lawrence in July 2019 – scary but exciting! It INSPIRES me with its many dynamic, talented and creative volunteers. It gives me FRIENDS!

Have you ever wondered why Master Gardeners are such awesome people? Research shows that gardeners have enhanced compassion, are happier and are more environmentally aware. So I'm surrounded by amazing, passionate gardeners who want to make a difference in the world. It makes me a BETTER PERSON – working with others, striving to solve problems, and learning new skills all push me to be better. So it's not really about badges, pins and good liability insurance for me – nice to have, but not what makes me stay as a Master Gardener. It's about all the intangibles that enrich my life.

What does MGOI do for you?



*Left: Incoming London-Middlesex MG Coordinator Nancy Abra
Right: Past Coordinator Rosemarie Szalich*



Master Gardeners Out & About: Projects & Events

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Potluck Social

Details: Northumberland MGs gathered for a Festive Potluck Dinner and Social Evening during their regular December meeting time.



Name: Winter Container Workshop

Details: On November 30th, 2019 Northumberland MGs presented a demonstration and workshop; several community participants went home with winter arrangements that they created.



MG Shelly Fredericks

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Christmas Luncheon

Details: We're all grateful at this time of year: grateful for family and friends, grateful for any number of blessings in our lives. In The County, we got together on December 14th, 2019 to celebrate friendships and another great year for the PEC MGs.

As coordinator I think of myself as head cheerleader, and Saturday was a day to cheer! Our members work hard throughout the year giving advice, growing plants for our plant sale, attending garden shows, putting on demonstrations and clinics, and giving freely of their valuable time to offer advice to people in our communities. Thank you to each and every one of you and may your gardens bloom this spring to make your hearts soar.



Back row: Cathy Thompson, Sandy Goranson, Marianne Malachowski, Alice Lumley, Virginia Mitchell, Michael McCall, Margo Rivers

Front Row: Joyce Young, Barbra Stock, Susan Warrack.

Missing: Alex Wiens, Carol Wilson, Gail Walker, Karen Starczynowski, Kim Beaugrand, Maxine Thompson, Steve Storms

Photo: Ren Duinker



Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Guelph Organic Conference

Details: The Guelph Organic Conference was held from January 23rd – 26th and G-W MGs had a table at the event. Thanks to everyone who came by to say hello.



Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Forests

Details: Grey County MGs, serving Grey and Bruce Counties, have helped to foster an appreciation for the important resource of our forests by manning a Forest Feast station since 2010 (as mentioned in the previous Newsletter). Approximately 30 feast stations are scattered throughout the park to teach about resource management, wildlife conservation, employment opportunities and a host of other issues. The annual Grey Bruce Forest Festival is held in October for students in grade 7 to learn about the many ways forests are important to our community.



Grade 7 Students

Name: Australian Wildfires

Details: With the devastating news of the wildfires in Australia this last month, the Grey Bruce Forest Festival will serve as an excellent tool to continue to teach our youth about the importance of our forests and the resilience our forests can have.



This newsfeed from one of Australia's burnt out areas shows re-growth already

Halton Master Gardeners

Name: EcoHouse Hamilton Seed Planting

Details: Three Halton MGs intrepidly faced the blustery winter weather on January 18th to participate in a seed starting exercise at EcoHouse, the restored 1850's residence on the former Glen Manor estate in Hamilton.



L to R: HMGs Kathleen Livingston, Janet Hughes-Mackey, Isabel Belanger

All the seeds are native and especially attractive to pollinators – *Ceanothus americanus* (New Jersey Tea), *Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp Milk Weed), *Anaphalis margaritacea* (Pearly Everlasting), etc. Plants will be sold to fundraise at their May plant sale.

Plastic containers are used to germinate the seeds. Holes are punched into the bottom of the container using a heat gun, and slits are cut into the top for ventilation. Potting soil is added to the container and seeds are sown, then the container is placed outside where it is exposed to the vagaries of winter weather, hence meeting every possible requirement for stratification / germination (wet, cold, freezing, thawing, etc.) while providing a protected environment.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

Technical Update

Name: A Day in the Garden (DITG)

Theme: Trees: Branching Out in the Garden

Date: Sunday, February 23rd, 2020 from 8:45am – 2:30pm

Location: Victoria Park East Golf Club, 1096 Victoria Rd. S., Guelph ON.

Details: DITG includes lunch, prizes, demonstrations, and 3 speakers (6 CE Units):

- Jeff McMann – *If Trees Could Talk*
- Ryan Munroe – *Selecting & Planting Trees*
- Kevin Kavanagh – *Outstanding Tree Species*

Cost: \$55, \$60 at the door

Registration Information: Register online by Feb. 15th at:

<https://www.gwmastergardeners.ca/> for the Early Bird Draw

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners'
TREES:
Branching Out in the Garden

\$55 (\$60 @ door) lunch, prizes, demonstrations, 3 speakers (6 CE Units):

- ♦ *If Trees Could Talk* Jeff McMann (ISA Certified Arborist, Landscape Design)
- ♦ *Selecting and Planting Trees* Ryan Munroe (Vineland Research Technician)
- ♦ *Outstanding Tree Species* Kevin Kavanagh (MSc., South Coast Gardens)

MC: Ben Cullen

Early Bird Draw
Register online by Feb. 15th
gwmastergardeners.ca
Questions? mgguelph@hotmail.com

A Day in the Garden
Sunday Feb. 23, 2020
8:45 am – 2:30 pm
Victoria Park East Golf Club
1096 Victoria Rd. S. Guelph, ON.

Name: Gardening Skills

Topic: From Seed to Table

Details: G-W Master Gardeners will present a Gardening course in March 2020. The course is modelled on a very successful course developed by the London Master Gardener group – *From Seed to Table*.

London MGs have been very generous in sharing their ideas and course material. We appreciate it!

Save the Date

Name: 2020 Atlantic Master Gardener Conference

Topic: Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada

Dates: July 9th & 10th, 2020

Keynote Speaker: Julie Moir Messervy, award winning landscape designer from Vermont, and author of *Landscape Ideas that Work* and other books.

Julie Moir Messervy and internationally renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma, in collaboration with landscape architects from the City of Toronto's Parks and Recreation department, designed the Toronto Music Garden. One of her books, *The Toronto Music Garden: Inspired by Bach*, was about this garden.

More details coming in February.

2020 Atlantic Master Gardeners Association Conference

Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada

Keynote Speaker
Julie Moir Messervy

Thursday, 9th July 2020
Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture (Truro, Nova Scotia)

Program coming soon

MGOI Summer Workshop 2020

Dates: July 25th & 26th, 2020

Details: The 12th annual MGOI Summer Workshop will be held at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. The Workshop will feature three highly educational topics of interest to Master Gardeners and Master Gardeners in Training, and specifically designed to enhance our horticultural knowledge. The three topics for this year are:

- Soil Health – Understanding, Maintaining and Sustaining – Darrell Bley
- Attracting Bees and Other Pollinators to the Garden – Chris Murphy
- What's Bugging My Trees and Shrubs? – Kris Mahoney



Workshops begin at 8:30 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, although it is recommended that you come early to enjoy a light snack and reconnect with everyone before getting started. The cost for the two days is \$260 which covers great lunches on both days, morning breaks and parking.

The spaces for the workshop are limited to 60 so if you are planning to attend, please send in your registration as soon as possible to be assured of a space.

Details of the sessions as well as registration information are available on the MGOI website, www.mgoi.ca, or from June Streadwick, streadwick@sympatico.ca, Yvonne Causer, ycauser@hotmail.com, or Kate Sault, saultkate@gmail.com. Should you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We will be happy to help you.

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

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.

