

# Master Gardeners of Ontario

What's Growing On  
MAGAZINE GROWING ON



Serving Ontario for over 25 Years

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Winter, 2013

[www.mgoi.ca](http://www.mgoi.ca)



## A Message from the Board

Jane Beck, President

Master Gardeners is an inclusive group, and this year, happily for the 1st time in a long time almost every MG group has representation on the Board with a Zone Director. Only Zone 7 remains unrepresented; there are many new Zone Directors in 2013. Zone 4 welcomes Anna Peterson; Zone 5,



Jane Beck

Claudette Sims; Zone 6, Suzanne Zacharczyk; Zone 9 Pam Love and Janice Hardy; and in Zone 10 Connie Hunter shares the role with Tena van Anandel; and, in Zone 11, Kevin van Anandel is the new Zone Director. So, for every Master Gardener in the province, take your ideas and inspiration to your coordinators and to your Zone Director. We need your input, we need your skills. There are many projects and initiatives to move forward with. This note is about what is happening – expect a review of what needs to happen in the not too distant future.

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## Out of the Past and Into the Future

Edythe Falconer – Ottawa Carleton

When I needed historical background for a water conservation presentation I decided to research pre-Columbian times in what is now South-west USA. Holidaying there we had been intrigued by the many artifacts from ancient civilizations.



Maze

Particularly exciting was discovering that sophisticated agricultural and forestry practices existed in the Americas long before Columbus arrived. Now they are becoming fully appreciated via new research tools in anthropology, archeology and the wealth of relevant literature that is pouring forth.

These well-developed civilizations declined rapidly in the first decades of post-Columbian times due to many factors - in particular, smallpox and other European diseases for which they had no immunity. Their achievements and their histories disappeared with them – until now.

Over the centuries many pre-Columbian societies had evolved methods uniquely suited to their specific environments. This worked as long as there were no prolonged periods of bad weather or until the interruptions of war and the depredations of more powerful forces.

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*What's Growing On is the newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. It is published 4 times per year in January, April, July, and October.*

*Board Message from page 1*

Linda Hugli has been keeping the MGOI website up to date and has included the structural flowchart for Master Gardeners across Ontario. The purpose of the flowchart is to help groups recognize just how many groups there are, how every group connects to a Zone and how each Master Gardener connects to the MGOI Board (all Master Gardeners as well). The structure provides that 'picture' of our organization.

PlantWatch, a National organization now has an Ontario Coordinator, Cauleen Viscoff, a Master Gardener with the Peterborough group. Cauleen was selected for the role from submissions from across the province. Congratulations Cauleen and thank you to the selection committee for all the interviews and decision-making. Please visit the PlantWatch website and consider being an observer for this worthwhile project.

New member kits are being developed by the Membership and Promotion committee, Pam Love and Kevin van Anandel. These kits will be available to groups in early 2013. In addition, this committee needs members skilled in social media. If you are a Master Gardener using social media and see the opportunities for the MG organization to embrace social media, please contact Pam and Kevin. They would love to hear from you.

The year-end report for Coordinators has been slightly modified; Janice Hardy, Claudette Sims and Kelly Noel have worked on this for 2012 reporting and will be making further changes to reflect your input for the annual reporting for the coming year, 2013. This way all groups will have plenty of advance notice in terms of what needs to be reported and why.

Canada Blooms planning is in full gear; this year the work has been divvied up. Supporting Tena van

Anandel is a Speaker Committee, Claudette Sims and Donna Parker and an Advice Clinic Manager, Suzanne Zacharczyk. This is a good example of sharing responsibilities across Zones.

Our Treasurer, Wendy Fletcher has completed a six-month review of MGOI financials with a balance sheet, a profit and loss statement and a budget vs. actuals for the 6 months to October 31st, 2012. Those reports have been made available to all Zone Directors.

The 1st National Conference is a huge undertaking. Tena van Anandel has committees managing many aspects of the event, but as we all know, Tena holds the rudder. James Lee and Bob Worthy have chaired the Resource Development/revenue aspects of the conference requesting sponsorships and funds to make the event a success. They are doing an amazing job particularly in these economic times. The Program committee has created a superb educational and entertaining program for all of us to learn from. Linda Hugli has placed the conference front and centre on the MGOI website.

James Lee has kept us in touch with our honorary MGs and has liaised with our provincial partners to create a robust and inclusive event.

Kelly Noel has kept pace with all the registrations for the conference, Connie Hunter has liaised with Deerhurst with regard to rooms booked and Wendy Fletcher has incorporated the Conference financials into the MGOI budget.

Submissions have been arriving for the Awards of Excellence and it will be quite a competition. Most of all, this is a showcase of the projects from across the province and every project is to be congratulated.

## MGOI Board of Directors

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 Landscape Ontario Rep: Denis Flanagan – landscapeontariorep@mgoi.ca

*Out of the Past from page 1*

Present day societies haven't been notably successful in harvesting knowledge of recent, let alone distant, past. Collectively we've often worked against natural law and have often suffered the consequences in nation after nation - although not everyone has suffered equally and some not at all. The droughts on the plains of North America in the 1930's is a case in point.

In my backyard many of my practices were practiced on a larger scale in successful pre- and post-Columbian agriculture. These include trenching, basin gardens, raised beds, cultivating many varieties of plants, soil-building organically, mulching, composting, water management, recycling organic materials and much more.

## Plantwatch

Cauleen Viscoff, Peterborough



### *What is PlantWatch?*

As the new Coordinator for PlantWatch Ontario and a Master Gardener in Peterborough, I would like to introduce you to an exciting opportunity.

Become a PlantWatch volunteer and act as the 'eyes of science' by observing the flowering time of one or more regional indicator plants. (Information on the species is on the website listed at the end of this article.)

As a 'citizen scientist' with PlantWatch, you will report the calendar dates when your chosen plants start to bloom and reach mid-bloom. You may also track when certain trees leaf out. We'll post the dates received from all PlantWatch observers on Internet maps.

Because plants flower in response to warmth, their flowering dates help track the results of a warm or cold winter and spring. It also helps us learn more about changes in climate. Did you know that plants have been flowering earlier in recent decades in western Canada? We can also use your plant observations to provide farmers with advice about good times to plant their crops, when to fertilize and to control pests. Foresters can use the information to

correctly time seed-collection trips, or to manage insects. In the field of human health, pollen warnings can help those with allergies prepare in advance.

The most useful plants for spring phenology studies (how plants are influenced by season and climate) are perennial, easy-to-identify, broadly distributed, naturally occurring species with a short bloom period. These key 'indicator' plants tend to flower as they accumulate heat, which means that after warmer winters and springs they flower earlier than average.

There are 38 species tracked through the PlantWatch program, which is divided into regional growth environments. Two species (lilac and dandelion) are plants introduced to North America when settlers arrived from Europe. The others are native (or wild) plant species, which were here long before the settlers came.

### *PlantWatch History*

The Alberta Wildflower Survey began in 1987 and in 1995, was renamed 'Alberta PlantWatch'. The program expanded rapidly and in 2001, Environment Canada, Nature Canada, and Elizabeth Beaubien (U. Of Alberta) partnered to develop a national PlantWatch program.

Recently, PlantWatch partnered with the Master Gardeners of Ontario with The David Suzuki Foundation indicating a sincere interest in getting involved with our program. PlantWatch is transitioning the role of Environment Canada with respect to website maintenance, application development and database management to a group at the University of Ottawa Geography Department that is constructing a Laboratory for Integrated Environmental and Policy Change (LIEPC). A lot of great things are happening!

Most provinces and territories now have volunteer coordinators but bear with us while we make the necessary changes to take PlantWatch to a whole new level.

### *Why Should We Watch Plants?*

Tracking the bloom times of designated plants is a good indicator of changes in our climate and offers essential information to facilitate work on solving the many challenges facing our forests, prairies, wetlands and tundra.

A network of volunteer 'citizen scientists' across Canada allows PlantWatch to expand its capacity

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## Events

February 2, 9:30 to 11:00 am – Mississauga Master Gardeners presents 'Get Ready to Grow' at The Riverwood Conservancy. Topics include propagation of different types of summer blooming bulbs and tubers, such as dahlias, begonias and crocosmia: starting plants from seed and caring for them until they are ready for your garden. Details at [www.mgmississauga.mgoi.ca](http://www.mgmississauga.mgoi.ca)

February 4 – March 25 – An Introduction to Gardening presented by Peterborough and Area at Sadleir House, Peterborough. Cost is \$36.00 for 6 sessions or \$8.00 for individual sessions. For details go to <http://peterboroughgardens.ca/courses>

February 9, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – LSSMG Technical Update – 'Plant, Grow, Eat' at the Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, Aurora. Cost \$40.00 includes lunch. Contact Cindy: [lss.mgoi@gmail.com](mailto:lss.mgoi@gmail.com) or 905.201.6356

February 9, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Thunder Bay Technical Update – A Winter Day of Gardening at Confederation College, Lecture Theatre. Topics include Trees 'Essential to our Survival and Culture' and 'Ornamentals, Shrubs and Roses'. Tickets: \$20.00 includes a box lunch. For more information contact: Ralph Bullough [ralph@tbaytel.net](mailto:ralph@tbaytel.net) or 807.767.2331 or Linda Rintamaki [linrin@tbaytel.net](mailto:linrin@tbaytel.net) or 807.345.1103

February 24, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Guelph and Wellington County present their 'Annual Day in the Garden' at Victoria East Golf Club – Wake up your gardening spirit with speakers, full lunch, door prizes, demos and vendors. For more details, or to preregister, send an email to [mgguelph@hotmail.com](mailto:mgguelph@hotmail.com)

Lanark County Master Gardeners and Algonquin College Perth Campus present a series of Garden Seminars this winter. Sign up for one of: Vegetables and Herbs February 28; Basics of Gardening for Beginners March 7; Landscape Design March 14; Growing Great Containers March 21; Gardening for Beginners – The Science of Gardening March 29; Pruning April 4. For more information contact Dale Odorizzi at [odorizzi@storm.ca](mailto:odorizzi@storm.ca)

Visit the Master Gardeners booth at one of the best garden shows – the Stratford Garden Festival at the Rotary Complex, February 28 to March 3rd <http://www.stratfordgardenfestival.com/>

March 9th – 10:00 a.m. until 3.30 p.m., 6th Annual Seedy Saturday presented by London Middlesex and Seeds of Diversity at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre, 656 Elizabeth Street, London. Come and enjoy expert speakers, demonstrations, vendors, presentations and a help desk. The cost is \$5.

March 19 and 21 – London Middlesex – 'From Seed to

Your Table', an eight-week course for beginning gardeners. Cost is \$100.00. Contact Dorothy for more information and registration at [dtmcgee@rogers.com](mailto:dtmcgee@rogers.com)

April 5 - 7 Canadian Master Gardener Conference at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario [www.mgoinationalconference.ca](http://www.mgoinationalconference.ca)

April 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Port Dover. Norfolk County presents 'Spring Spectacular: Gardening with Magnolias, Rhododendrons, and Azaleas' with guest speaker Kevin Kavanagh of South Coast Gardens. Free admission. For information contact [norfolkmg@yahoo.com](mailto:norfolkmg@yahoo.com)

MGOI 6th Annual Summer Workshop

Once again, M.G.O.I. will be organizing the 6th Annual Summer Workshop at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. It will be held on Saturday, July 13th and Sunday, July 14th, and Master Gardeners will be able to choose two of three topics being offered. The topics are in the process of being confirmed, but promise to be of great interest, as they will include design, propagation including grafting and invasive species control. More complete details will be available in January and will be posted on the MG List. The cost for the weekend will be \$250, which includes a gourmet lunch on each day, and all breaks. For further information contact June Streadwick at [streadwick@sympatico.ca](mailto:streadwick@sympatico.ca).

October 5 in Kingston – Technical Update presented by Rideau 1000 Islands MG's – 'Edible Gardens'. Speakers include: Sean James of Fern Ridge Landscaping and Eco Consulting; Allison Shannon of Sunharvest Greenhouse and Garden Centre and Kemp Stewart of Hillier Creek Estates. For more information contact Donald Large at 613 544 5141 or [dlarge13@cogeco.ca](mailto:dlarge13@cogeco.ca)

## Milestones

### New MGITs

Haliburton – Carolyn Langdon

Halton – Sandy Gillian, Elisabeth Richards

London Middlesex – Helder de Freitas

Niagara – Chris Clark, Barb Johnston, Carol Taylor and Kit Thompson

Norfolk – Carolyn Hooper

Ottawa Carleton – Anne Price

Thunder Bay – Janet McKay, Harry Omelchuk

Toronto – Vicky Bondy, Mary Jane Braide, Alexandra Cafarelli, Philip Chloe, Nancy Durocher, Connie Hitzeroth, Elaine Johnson, Liza Ordubegian, Suzanne Perry, Lucia Saja, Bandana Sandhu, Dorothy Smyth, Jane Springer, Stefan Weber,

Jocelyn Williams, Diana Wright

**Passed certification exam**

London Middlesex – Curtis Peterson

**New MGs**

Durham – Sherry Dodson, Karen Durnin

Halton – Jane Leonard

London Middlesex – Julie Dorssers, Tony Rudd

Niagara – Pat Bowman, Ruth Moffatt

**5 Years**

Halton – Doris Calder, Patty King

London Middlesex – Catherine Bruce

LSSMG – Terri Briggs

Mississauga – Martha Kantorczyk

Norfolk – Jackie Cave .

**10 Years**

London Middlesex – Nancy Abra and Donna Slater

LSSMG – Naomi Berman, Donna McMaster, Jeannie Nicolaou, Barbara Peat

Norfolk –Mary Dillon, Anne Faulkner, Debra Featherstone, Dottie Smith

Ottawa-Carleton – Kelly Noel, Mary Reid

Peterborough – Don Nicholson

Thunder Bay – Sylvia Goodheart

**Retired**

Halton – Joyce Killin, Marjorie Latimer

Resigned

Toronto – Jack Cameron, Toni Vella

Norfolk –Debra Featherstone, Suzi Hartwick, Dottie Smith,

**Emeritus**

Peterborough – Laura Stockdale

Toronto - Carol Bairstow, Dan Cooper, Linda Fischer, Sara Katz, Alice Wikaruk

**Transfers**

Niagara welcomes Yvonne Causer and John Maclean who transferred from Toronto

Norfolk welcomes Jim Mabee, from the former Oxford

**Memoriam**

Gaston Tessier

The Ottawa-Carleton group is sad to announce the passing of Gaston Tessier on October 20, 2012 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Gaston was a 16-year member of our group and also a member/volunteer with the Ontario Horticultural Association and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Along with his friendship, we all will miss his horticultural knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.



**Toronto Master Gardeners Celebrate 25th Anniversary**

Formed in the fall of 1987, Toronto Master Gardeners is now 25 years young! Throughout 2013 TMG will be celebrating this milestone, featuring ‘25th Anniversary Moments’ at TMG monthly meetings, filled with interesting facts from the group’s history and quizzes. Other special activities will culminate in a gala celebration at the Toronto Botanical Garden on Tuesday, June 4th.

**MGs in Action:**

*Norfolk County*

The October 16, 2012 presentation ‘Drama in the Fall Garden’ with Paul Zammit was a great success with close to 100 in attendance in the beautiful showroom at Eising Greenhouses and Garden Centre. Thank you to Claudette Sims who was on hand to present service awards to Jackie Cave – 5 years; Mary Dillon, Anne Faulkner, Debra Featherstone, Dottie Smith – 10 years.

*London Middlesex*

By Nancy Abra

London held a ‘fall event’ seminar at the Stoney Creek YMCA community centre with proceeds of this event going to Growing Chefs Ontario.



*Donna Slater, Coordinator and Andrew Fleet, Growing Chefs Ontario*

Although there are many jobs around our yard and garden to prepare for the upcoming winter season there are also things to plant. Representatives of Vanhof and Blokker Ltd., horticultural specialists and commercial bulb growers and distributors gave a presentation on planting bulbs, growing conditions and suggestions of various varieties for a wonderful spring floral display.

Some gardeners are also concerned with keeping a certain strain of plant, being heritage or just a good producer and maintaining that true genetic trait. Frances Thorn of ‘Seeds of Diversity’ presented ways to do that as well as the proper way to save the seeds from our garden.

(previously published in the Londoner).

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## The Survey Says?

We had one vote for *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Alice' from Mary Ann Gillhuly of Kitchener and two for *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Pinky Winky'. Here is what Joan Nieman-Agapas had to say about it, "I purchased & planted this hydrangea in Sept 2007 (I checked my notes). It lives on the west side of my deck, but is in part shade due to the neighbour's 10' cedar hedge. Every spring I cut it back to nubbins - it is a stick with small green buds sticking out. Once the weather becomes reliably warm, the grow starts to push & at flowering it stands 5 - 6' tall. The flowers come out white & very gradually darken to a pink, burgundy, rust combination. The fact that it continually changes colour is one of the reasons I love this plant. Add to that, no bugs seem to bother it. It gets a top dressing of compost once each fall & that's it for TLC. How easy is that!"



*Pinky Winky*

*MGs in Action continued from page 5*

### *Inspiration Leads to Action.*

Heather Grassie, President of the Omeme and District Horticultural Society

Master Gardener, Joanne Windrem of Omeme ON has been a wonderful asset to the Omeme and District Horticultural Society and surrounding community with her dedication to a number of special projects over the last three years.



*Joanne Windrem*

*Ontario Horticultural Association and  
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.*



**Working  
Together**



Here is the [latest issue OHA's newsletter the Trillium.](#)

2011 marked the 10th Anniversary of the City of Kawartha Lakes participation in the Communities in Bloom Projects. To mark this milestone, all the participating towns and villages were each presented with \$2000.00 in the spring to be used for a beautification project. As a leader of the Omeme Horticultural Garden Committee, Joanne knew immediately what to do with this special grant money. Plans were quickly drawn up to establish a Memorial Garden behind the Legion Hall to honour two young soldiers from the Omeme area who were killed in action in Afghanistan in December of 2008.

By the first of July, the garden site was cleared and the heavy 9-foot limestone slab was erected as a monument. The bronze plaque was installed for the unveiling ceremony in September. Five striking black wrought iron panels featuring maple leaves provided a dramatic backdrop for the monument, the iron wood tree, the shrubs, the perennials and the red geraniums. Many residents and visitors pause to rest on the two refurbished benches and reflect at this special garden located behind the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 497 to honour Cpl. Mark McLaren MMV (age 23) and Pte. Michael Freeman (age 28).

In January 2012, Joanne initiated another landscaping project to enhance the beautiful stone village entrance signs. Now attractive new gardens at base of the signs at the east and west end of the village bid everyone "Welcome to Omeme".

Before the snow flew this fall Joanne had already submitted another proposal planned for two more village gardens to be renovated in 2013. When the budget is approved, and the weather permits, the restoration work can begin.

When you are driving through the Village of Omeme and notice gardeners out working in vibrant lime green t-shirts, you will have found some members of "Joanne's team of volunteers". We thank Joanne for organizing the new shirts as well as ordering the attractive new metal signs which will be placed in the 7 village garden beds. Even though Joanne would be the first to acknowledge the work of all the volunteers who were a part of these projects, it is well known that a good team is always inspired by a dynamic leader.

This community has truly benefitted from the inspired leadership, hard work and enthusiasm of Master Gardener Joanne Windrem. We are proud to share these accomplishments with other Master Gardeners.

## You Can Help With Flooding

editors

Chris Denich of Aquafor Beech gave an informative address on urban runoff problems, at the recent Toronto Technical Update. With natural ground cover 40% of precipitation is lost through evapotranspiration, 50% goes to infiltration into the soil, while 10% goes to runoff. In a built up city with many impervious surfaces, 30% goes to evapotranspiration; only 15% infiltrates, while a whopping 55% goes to runoff. With ever increasing urbanization, rapid runoff from major storms has increased so dramatically that municipalities are struggling with the extent and cost of storm damage. Chris suggested that the best way to deal with the problem is to intercept the rainwater before it gets to the storm sewers by: disconnecting downspouts and installing rain barrels or cisterns and soak away pits, installing dry swales and rain gardens, and replacing hard surfaces with permeable pavement. These measures use the water for our gardens and recharges the aquifer instead of throwing it down the drain with all the problems that causes. If you would like to find out how to do some of these check out:



*Chris Denich*

[www.sustainabletechnologies.ca](http://www.sustainabletechnologies.ca)

## 2013 Canadian Master Gardener Conference

Come Grow With Us, first ever Canadian Master Gardener Conference takes place April 5th - 7th at Deerpark Resort in Huntsville, Ontario. Check out the website [www.mgointernationalconference.ca](http://www.mgointernationalconference.ca) for a list of exciting speakers, breakout sessions and registration information. Some sessions are close to full. Register now.



Check out the conference message board for car pooling, long lost MGs and proposed potential revelry.

### *PlantWatch from page 2*

to monitor changes over a broad geographic area, efficiently track trends, and respond rapidly to ecosystem changes.

Volunteers contribute their specialized local knowledge, enhancing the understanding of ecosystem processes, complementing the efforts of professional scientists at a low cost.

From this data, communities gain sound information on local ecosystem, changes which can be readily compared with historic trends and current needs. The general public, educational institutions, policy-makers, and the scientific and agricultural communities mutually benefit from the results.

### *Why Should You as a Master Gardener Join PlantWatch*

The Master Gardeners of Ontario (MGOI) will take on a leading role in the partnership with PlantWatch along with a coordinator (me!). There are 37 active MG groups in the province and we hope to have volunteers from each. If every one of those 37 groups designated a 'PlantWatch Champion', we could have 37 teams of dedicated experts. What an impact we could have!

MGOI supports education and outreach programs which makes PlantWatch fit nicely into our Master Gardener Strategic Plan.

You will be able to use your PlantWatch volunteer hours although it has not been determined exactly how that will work as yet.

So please join us. Talk to your MG group, your family, children, grandchildren, teachers and neighbours – get them involved in helping scientists discover how, and why, our natural environment is changing.

Imagine being able to make a difference while learning more about our country's botanical diversity and helping scientists track the effects of global warming and climate change in Canada.

Please contact me and join our Ontario team – let's make a difference together.

[plantwatchontario@gmail.com](mailto:plantwatchontario@gmail.com)

(705) 745-0895 [www.plantwatch.ca](http://www.plantwatch.ca)

## Toronto's Best Practices Committee

Elizabeth Stewart, Toronto

For many of the 25 years the Toronto Master Gardeners have been providing horticultural advice to the public, the soundness of that advice was checked by a few Master Gardeners who anonymously and randomly reviewed the paper records of the telephone inquiries.

In 2012, the increasing volume of inquiries; advice clinics, workshops and presentations; new Gardening Guides; and the development of a new Ask a Master Gardener web page prompted the Executive Committee to implement a more consistent and transparent quality control process. The mandate of the Best Practices Committee (BPC) is to ensure that the MG content disseminated to the public in all those formats provides sound horticultural information based on credible and reliable sources.

Currently chaired by Tina Cesaroni, as BP Coordinator, the BPC is composed of 7 Master Gardeners with strong horticultural knowledge and experience. They are available as a technical resource to the TMG group on ongoing basis.

As new individual projects such as Gardening Guides or presentations arise, the BPC members review them. They also perform 7-day shifts overseeing and publishing the Q&A on the web page. (As of February 1, the phone line Q&As will be published there also.) The members provide their feedback comments to the BP Coordinator, who discusses any issues that require attention or revision with the original volunteer who drafted the Guide, presentation or answer. Then they work together to provide consistent and reliable information. Tina monitors the nature and volume of the work to ensure that the BPC is staffed appropriately.

Still in its early stages, there were a few challenges getting the BPC established, especially since the new website, with new technology and procedures, was being launched at the same time – in the height of the gardening season. Like other Master Gardeners, the BPC volunteers occasionally struggle to meet their obligations while balancing the demands of work and family life. Most of the BP review work tends to happen late at night and often Tina must modify the shift schedule to accommodate unforeseen events.

Initially a little suspect of this increased oversight, now the volunteers who answer questions and de-

velop MG content are grateful for this support and face the public with greater confidence. Certainly, the list of 'go to' reference books and websites under ongoing development by the BPC is seen as a very valuable resource. Members also enjoy and learn from the regular Question of the Month meeting feature presented by the BPC.

## Messing About in the Garden

Edythe Falconer, Ottawa Carleton

How I love messing about in my garden! In this insignificant little piece of land there's an infinite number of possibilities – some that I can visualize and others that I have yet to imagine. Then there are pleasant memories of possibilities already explored and enjoyed:

- Starting potatoes and pole beans indoors,
- Overwintering a sweetpotato vine so that I can do my own cuttings in the spring,
- Taking those cuttings, rooting them, potting them and transplanting them,
- Pre-planting potatoes directly into the ground in the fall,
- Pre-planting tomatoes in the fall using overripe items from the current year,
- Taking cuttings from almost anything, for example – elderberries, forsythia and weigela.
- Harvesting leaf mold at the base of a maple tree (83cm.D) taken down for safety reasons,
- Harvesting fine chips left behind after stump removals,
- Harvesting very old compost from an old triple composter to create new lasagna beds,
- Distributing wood from the maple tree –some for firewood, some to a local artist for carving, some for features in the garden,
- Figuring out how to “plant privacy” on top of the stump that could be taken down only so far because of small stones grown into the base,
- Using compost in mobile composters in several ways –depositing on site, sheet composting, direct amendments to various beds
- Finding ways to utilize shrub and tree prunings without purchasing a chipper-shredder.
- Depositing woodchips on a patch of ditch lilies long enough to kill most of them,

*If you would like to see what else Edythe has explored and enjoyed go to [mgoi.ca](http://mgoi.ca)*