



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the October edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter.

This Newsletter aims to be the voice for Master Gardeners! This is your venue for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 28 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. *Inside MGOI* features member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as webinars/conferences – 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.

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INSIDE MGOI

October 2024

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversaries

Rosemary McNabb
Andrea Steinhäusser

Congratulations to **Rosemary** on receiving her 5-year pin. Rosemary is a valued member of the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners as she is the Educational Coordinator and volunteers at many events.

Also, well done **Andrea** on receiving her 5- year pin. Andrea is the Coordinator and very involved with the group.



Andrea Steinhäusser, left presenting the 5yr pin to Rosemary McNabb, right (we both received 5 yr pins)

Golden Trowel Award

The Golden Trowel Award is a local group recognition and is awarded annually to a member of the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners' group. They are celebrated by their peers as an outstanding Master Gardener. They have participated in a variety of volunteer opportunities and have made a positive impact on the group and service to the community. They are always ready to volunteer and have taken a leadership and developmental role in several of our projects and activities.

It was an easy choice to select Lynda Lahtenmaa for the Golden Trowel Award this year. She is warm and welcoming and that's why the Membership Coordinator position suits her so well.

Linda is soft spoken and calm, which also served her well as the lead for the Horticultural Therapy Program at Hogarth Riverview Manor for many years. Her demeanour was very calming for the residents, and they were so grateful for the experience.

She has a wealth of gardening knowledge and loves to share the Latin names of numerous plants and trees. We are amazed at her memory!

Lynda is involved in so many activities outside of Master Gardeners yet finds the time to lead the Thunder Bay Art Gallery Garden Tour Committee for over 20 years. The success of the garden tour is a testament to her dedication.

Lynda is always willing to help out in the Master Gardener capacity and gave 3 gardening presentations to the public this year alone. She has been a Master Gardener for over 25 years, and we truly appreciate her commitment.

Congratulations Lynda!



Coordinator Andrea Steinhäusser, left with Lynda and her award



Lynda with her award and flowers



London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversary

Cathy Melo

Cathy received her 5 year pin at the October meeting. Cathy started in March of 2019 and has volunteered for many group events and activities, such as Gathering on the Green in London. She has been very actively involved in answering various gardening questions that come in from our Master Gardener email account from local and area community gardeners.

Congratulations Cathy!



Cathy, left with Coordinator Sandra Elfman

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Chris Boyes

Congratulations to Chris on completing his Master Gardener Certification!



Chris, left with Coordinator Sandra Elfman

Chris started with the LMMGs in January 2022 and has been actively involved in our Seedy Saturday events, London Environmental Network events, is a new father of Jake and has a baby girl on the way!



Durham Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Anita Mensink

Rabeeya Amjad

Congratulations to Anita and Rabeeya for completing their studies at Guelph University. We are so proud of you both! You are both valued members of DMG.

New Master Gardeners in Training

Nancy Lawrence

Andrew Valyear

Esther Coalter

It's been a great summer! WOW! DMG is fortunate to gain 3 wonderful people with loads of experience. Welcome Nancy, Andrew & Esther!

Let's begin with Nancy Lawrence:

Nancy is also known as the greenhouse grower and coordinator of volunteers at Parkwood Estate in Oshawa. She has also been a teacher of horticultural courses at Durham College.



She is the newsletter coordinator and member of Durham Quilters Guild. Her own training was at Humber College for Floriculture and Landscape Technician.

Her interests have been in growing annuals and perennials. She would like to learn more about shrubs and trees.

At Parkwood and at Durham College, Nancy has had lots of experience giving presentations and workshops for the public and her students.



Second Up!

Andrew lives in Oshawa and is a business owner. He is a Sterling Men's Team Leader and is involved in the Canpeaks 1300 tree planting project. He has had Afforestt Miyawaki training, and experience with herbaceous perennials gardening at Fiddlehead Nursery. Andrew was a tree planter and has travelled around the world while planting trees; he figures he has planted roughly 800,000 trees.



He is interested in growing food, using plants as pest deterrents, reforestation, Miyawaki Forests, rewilding, and creating habitat for animals.

Andrew has done public speaking and has had training in Comedy from Second City. He is interested in sharing more of his Miyawaki Forest project with DMG.

Third, but not last!

Esther lives in Mount Albert and is an Equine Assisted Therapist, Psych Consultant and Psychometrist. She is a volunteer in the front garden at John Knox Christian School and an Historical Garden Guide at William Lyon Mackenzie King Estate.



Esther is completing the Mitchell Hewson Horticultural Therapy Course. She has a Tourism Diploma for giving tours in English and French. Ask her about her work

with the Bytown Museum and Archives.

Her interests involve giving tours of historical gardens and gardening techniques. She aspires to become a judge for the Uxbridge Fall Fair one day and enjoys spreading well being and encouraging community health. Esther has been a guest lecturer and enjoys giving interactive presentations.



Mississauga Master Gardeners

New Member

Sheelagh Rowland

MMGs welcomed their newest member to the team, and we are excited to have Sheelagh's knowledge and diverse background.



A lovely bio by Sheelagh:

"My gardening roots go way back! I was born in Northern Ireland to a farm-raised mother and an English father from London. I was delighted recently to discover newspaper articles dating back to 1899 and 1900 that show my Irish great-grandmother and her young daughters winning ribbons at the local 'Industrial and Flower Show' for their floral entries – undoubtedly the genesis of my mother's own love of gardening began with them. My father, who just by being English, had the culture of gardening coursing through his veins. He was an early adopter of Rodale's (Organic Gardening) and was keen to grow every vegetable and fruit imaginable.

Although I grew up with my hands in the soil, my own explosion of interest took hold with my first postage-stamp-sized Toronto garden. I grew the most massive dahlias and brightest annuals that I could find – the neighbours were astounded! A larger patch in Oakville and the discovery of the local horticultural society was soon followed by becoming a Master Gardener (2004) with the Halton group; Landscape Design from Sheridan College; and a subsequent design business with a friend for many years. I volunteered with the Royal Botanical Garden's auxiliary for years, in the capacity of growing on from seed the annuals for their famous spring plant sale.

Frivolous but fun was achieving my diploma from the Canadian Institute of Floral Design in 2017. Carrying on with other outdoor interests are memberships with the South Peel Naturalist Club (birding is their main focus) and the Bruce Trail Conservancy.



Another inherited passion is hiking. The penultimate hike for me was last year's hike up to Annapurna Base Camp in the Nepalese Himalayas – how wonderfully exotic the flora and fauna are. In the winter, if you're looking for me, you'll find me (indoors) at the curling rink!"



Lanark County Master Gardeners

Lanark County Master Gardeners—Then and Now

by Dale Ordizzi, Lanark County Master Gardener

Lanark County Master Gardeners was established in October 1987. Every October, I think of how things have changed in the 22 years I have been with the group and how much more it has changed in the past 37 years. We are fortunate to have one of the founding members, Helen Halpenny, still with us. For me, Helen has been the main reason for my enthusiasm for Master Gardeners. Helen and I spent some time reminiscing about the early days.

OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs) was the driving force for establishing Master Gardeners in Ontario. We received some funding from them and at the start, courses (only two) were free. In Lanark we had only 10 members, all from Horticultural Societies across the County. All were excited about this new group and worked hard to spread gardening knowledge.

In the "olden days" we received big books that contained our course material, and we worked away, independently, to do the courses. No time limits. We mailed in assignments and waited patiently for the results to come back to us. That was still the process 22 years ago when I joined except we now had to do 3 courses. The courses were interesting and informative but sometimes the wait for results was worrying. Helen enjoyed them all and went on to complete her Horticulture Diploma. Even after OMAFRA support went away, these courses were quite inexpensive. For a brief period, MGOL introduced an Advanced Master Gardener certificate awarded after completion of 3 more courses. I took on that certification.

Now, as new members know, courses are all done online and at greater expense. They also have a time restriction for completion. There is more a sense of camaraderie with fellow students, but cost can often be a set back.

One of the big things I remember from the early days is the plants we used to recommend to folks who asked, "What is a good groundcover?" Answer, "Creeping Jenny or Bugleweed or (hate to think) Vinca". We recommended Burning Bush and Amur Maple and Norway Maple. In our early days, at our advice clinics many folks wanted to know about lawn care and the use of pesticides and herbicides.

I often shudder when driving around Lanark County at some of the now invasive plants happily growing and expanding and wonder how many came at our recommendations.

The pesticide legislation in Ontario made us all look at things differently. At advice clinics we dealt with angry folks who asked "Now, what can I do without Roundup?" or "I can just pop over the border to the US or Quebec and buy it there." Now, our group is firmly on the side of recommending native plants and removing invasive species, and we recommend alternative methods to removing invasive species.

We have all learned so much from founding members, Helen and her sister Margaret Inwood who was our long-term treasurer and had to resign a few years ago because of poor health. Both were and still are knowledgeable and enthusiastic Master Gardener members and both are excellent cooks who provided wonderful treats at our meetings and at our annual potlucks.



20-year MGs Margaret Inwood, left with sister Helen Halpenny



In 2007, we celebrated our 20th anniversary and invited all members, past and present to attend. We had a few of the original members come along and enjoyed all the “back in the good old days” memories.



Tri-County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Wendy McNaughton

Tri-County Master Gardeners were very pleased to welcome Stratford resident Wendy McNaughton, a new MGIT, at our September Zoom meeting. Wendy is a retired high school teacher who has done extensive volunteer work, including volunteering with organizations such as Friends of the Festival and the Canadian Federation of University Women, and participating in “hands on” local weed pulls. She teaches seniors’ fitness and is working on walking the Avon Trail. Her specific areas of interest as a Master Gardener in Training include fighting invasive species, supporting insect populations and maintaining biodiversity.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Laura Rodger

Laura has successfully completed the requirements to become a Master Gardener and is very happy to be a member of the Grand Erie Master



Gardeners. She particularly enjoys gardening for nature.



Peterborough Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Silvia Strobl

Congratulations Sylvia!



Silvia Strobl (left) & Marilyn Homewood (right)



MGOI Board Vacancies



A Message from Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

Vacancies

Every Master Gardener needs to consider taking on a future role on the MGOI Board, or a position on an organizing Committee. The public MGOI Facebook group always welcomes more MGs to take a turn as a moderator. A great learning opportunity!

Congratulations and thank you to those Master Gardeners who have stepped into the roles of Webmaster and Communications Director! However, by the end of 2024 we still need new candidates to fill the roles of Vice President (preliminary to filling the role of President) and President, as well as Directors of Marketing & Partnerships, and now Treasurer.

According to ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit and Charitable Corporations) guidelines (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/rules-not-profit-and-charitable-corporations>) our four year terms on the Board are up! Turnover is always important to keep ideas fresh. Without the dedication of new volunteers in these diverse roles, we will not be experiencing another inspiring conference like the one we enjoyed in April.

We



Need

You!!

Bring your fresh ideas and make a difference! We need you!

The VP position transitions into the President's position; the job description follows on the next page. The Treasurer position is described here. All Board positions are now posted on the MGOI site at <https://mgoi.ca/>. Members' login is on the far right (contact your coordinator if you need the password); scroll down to Board Vacancies and you will see all the Job Descriptions.

TREASURER

The treasurer oversees all aspects of financial management and works closely with the Executive to safeguard MGOI's finances.

- Oversees and presents budgets, accounts and financial statements to the Executive
 - Manages financial record-keeping
- Advises regarding the organization's fundraising strategy and ensures the use of funds complies with conditions set by funding bodies and relevant legislation
- Presents regular reports on the organization's financial position
- Prepares accounts for audit (financial review) and liaises with the auditor, as required
- Manages bank accounts and ensures everyone handling money keeps proper records and documentation



Board Vacancy – Vice President

I do not expect to continue my term past the end of 2024 and would like to find a VP to start as soon as possible so that they will be well aware of how the Executive functions prior to becoming President.

We like to appoint MGs interested in this position to the Board as VP before they transition into the President's position.

Please read the VP job description and feel free to contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca.

Job Description – Vice President

- Supports and works closely with the President to assist with his or her duties, especially regarding governance
- Monitors the progress of the organization's goals and objectives
- Reviews information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report in order to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern
- Assists the relevant Director to resolve potential areas of concern, and if necessary, bring them to the attention of the Board of Directors
- Works with the Director of Membership and others to fill vacant Board positions
- Assumes the duties of the President in his or her absence
- Succeeds the President

All interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at: president@mgoi.ca or karensциuk@gmail.com. Please also reach out if you have any questions or would like more information.

*Thank you.
Karen*





MGOI Webinars / MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group

Access to Past MGOI Webinars

All MGOI Webinars have been recorded, and the links are on the MGOI website: <https://mgoi.ca/>; members' login is on the far right. If you don't have a password your Coordinator will be able to provide it. Once you're in the members' section, scroll down to the bottom and click on workshops/webinars. You will be able to access links to the:

Summer 2021 Workshops Archive

Winter 21/22 Workshops Archive

Winter 2022 Webinar Archive

Spring 2023 Webinar Archive

Fall 2023 Webinar Archive

Spring 2024 Webinar Archive

The MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group

This is a private group: 'A discussion page for registered members of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc., Canada; this includes current active MGs and MGITs. To join, you must be an active member of the Master Gardeners of Ontario and belong to a local MG group.'

This group is:

Private - Only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

Visible - Anyone can find this group.

History - Group was created on January 3, 2020. Name was last changed on October 12, 2023.

See more - May include flagged content. Admins may allow some posts and comments to be visible in the group even if they're flagged by Facebook's systems. [Learn more](#)



Master Gardeners Out & About Projects & Events

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: MG Displays at the Ikebana Exhibit

Details: MG Claire McCaughey's stunning arrangements were on display at the Embassy of Japan's Sogetsu Ikebana exhibition, "Revealing Nature's Beauty", on September 28th & 29th.

Claire has been doing Ikebana, the Japanese art of floral design, for 17 years and became a teacher seven years ago. She says that "Ikebana involves slowing down to really notice what is beautiful about plants of all kinds." Lately she's been using native plants in her designs.



One of Claire's arrangements at the embassy

Name: Triptych of Fact Sheets

Details: The authors of three fact sheets made lively presentations at the September 26th MGOC meeting.

Celia Schatzky (with Nancy McDonald) provided timely information on "Garden Clean Up to Benefit Pollinators and Beneficial Insects" including leaving leaves intact.

Shelley Pelkey explored "Winter Threats" in Zone 5 such as how to shelter plants from sun and wind.

And Josie Pazidor's colourful presentation on "Fall Bulb Planting" prompted a spirited conversation on deterring animal raiders. The fact sheets are available at: <https://mgottawa.ca/>.

Name: Barrhaven Farmers' Market

Details: A celebration hosted by the Barrhaven BIA (Business Improvement Area) on September 8th attracted more than 40 vendors and organizations. The celebration included a bouncy castle and other free activities for children.

MGOC organizer, Rob Stuart, says the market attracts more vendors and people every year. "It continues to be a growing concern."



MGs (left to right) Sylvie Lapointe, Lesley Peace and Heather Clemenson at the Barrhaven Farmers' Market

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Horticultural Therapy Presentation at the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society

Written by Lynda Lahteenmaa

Details: Our interaction with nature is good for our physical, mental and spiritual well-being. This concept was the basis of creating a garden and horticultural program at Hogarth Riverview Manor, a home for the elderly with Dementia.

On September 19th, Master Gardeners Lynda Lahteenmaa and Aili Dampier provided an educational talk about this subject to the Thunder Bay Horticultural Society. Lynda presented a power point presentation about what Horticultural Therapy is, the elements that constitute a well-run program, how to create a sustainable safe outdoor space and the importance of having an enabling garden for individuals with Dementia and Alzheimer's disease.



Aili talked about the different horticultural activities that she facilitates for the senior population at the Nipigon Hospital & Long-Term Care facility. She showed examples of how she interacts with the residents and the many benefits it provides to each participant in enhancing their quality of life.



MGs Lynda Lahtenmaa, right and Aili Dampier

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Floral Showhouse Tour, Niagara Falls

Details: Niagara MGs spent a fun morning exploring exhibits at the Floral Showhouse in Niagara Falls at the beginning of October.

Some of the Niagara Parks' gardens have been planted with mythical creatures and giant bees as part of their Mosaiculture exhibit. The topiary-like structures are covered in thousands of plants, creating striking living sculptures.

Charles Hunter, Director of Horticulture, gave us a tour, offering some great stories about the many moving parts behind the scenes at Niagara Parks. For more information you can [visit their website](#).



The origins of Mosaiculture date back to the 16th and 17th centuries. The actual term was coined in the late 1860s in Lyon, France.



Tiny bees and giant ones are equally at home in the gardens surrounding the Floral Showhouse.

London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: October Meeting

Details: Members of the group met in a community library on October 9th. MG Beth Warner spoke on Seeds: Laws and Ethics.

Our members learned how seeds and plants are governed in Canada and how not to break the rules. A really fun quiz on binomial nomenclature (Latin) plant names followed.





Name: Fall Floral Arrangement Workshops

Details: Niagara Master Gardeners held workshops in October for Tabor Manor Long-Term care residents and at Niagara Hospice featuring floral arrangements using flowers, carved out vegetables and beautiful fall foliage.



From left, Kendy Steeves, coordinator for the workshops, Karen Epp and Niagara MG coordinator Susan Lusted assisted residents at Tabor Manor long-term care at the workshop. The residents potted up a Thanksgiving centrepiece using mums and autumn foliage.

Charles Hunter showed us around the Floral Showhouse and a bit behind the scenes. The greenhouses were built in 1946 and feature collections of orchids, succulents and other tropical plant species as well as displays that change with the seasons.



An arrangement outside the showhouse includes the humble but beautiful kale plant, a feature in many of the container gardens in the Niagara Parks displays.



From left, Kendy Steeves, Karen Epp and Michele Young helped out at the Niagara Hospice workshop in October



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Fall Plant Sale

Details: On Saturday October 5th, the MMGs held their Fall Plant Sale at the Port Credit Library in Mississauga. The weather was absolutely glorious! We had a wonderful selection of bulbs including daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and more.

Thanks to Susan Quirk for ordering some unique bulbs and to Diana Westland for spending the time packaging and labeling them. Thanks also to our members who spent their time potting up really healthy plants to sell, and also for volunteering their time to make it a successful day. It worked out to be a wonderful team building opportunity, and answering the public's questions is always a highlight.



Seated are, left to right, Susan Quirk and MJ Kucerak (retired MG)

Standing are, left to right, Diana Westland, Ramona Christiansen, Stuart Plummer, Sheelagh Rowland, Catherine Fleming and Donna Hormozian



Ramona Christiansen, left & Emma Chow

Waterloo Region Master Gardeners

Name: Fall Education Events

Details: Waterloo Region Master Gardeners have been busy with some fall education events. For the past few years, we have been working with a large local insurance provider holding "Lunch and Learn" workshops for their employees. These workshops are done twice with a break in the middle for lunch for the presenters, and are done in a hybrid format so all employees can attend. September's topic was 'Getting the Garden Ready for Winter'. We hope that our presentation raised awareness on protecting habitat for overwintering insects, birds and mammals.

We have been fortunate to establish a partnership with another local organization that offers workshops to the community. The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery has designed a series of events over the year that combine a hands-on project with a horticultural topic. September's workshop was again on getting the garden ready for winter and the activity was making a clay pumpkin. The gallery kindly invites our WRMGs presenters to make the crafts along with the participants – great fun!

An annual tradition for our group is to provide speakers for the annual Kitchener in Bloom recognition event held at City Hall. This year we provided a panel on three topics, then fielded questions and demonstrated preparing summer bulbs to be stored for winter.



Panelists Kathy Pearson, Mary Ann Gilhuly, and Marianne Weiler at Kitchener in Bloom



Finally, on October 2nd, our WRMGs attended an amazing in-person presentation by Doug Tallamy entitled “Bringing Nature Home.” This was a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear Doug’s talk on the challenges of protecting the environment. We’re quite a small group and, all in all, we’ve had a busy fall season.



University of Delaware Professor Dr. Doug Tallamy presenting

A delicious lunch was followed by a leisurely interpretive walk in nearby Backus Woods.

Backus Woods is an outstanding mature Carolinian forest where attendees saw a diversity of shade tolerant plants growing beneath a tree canopy of towering tulip trees, black gum trees, white, red and black oaks, sugar maples and many others.



Grand Erie MGs Info Table



Conditions under which different shade plants are thriving in their natural settings were highlighted, helping to inform gardeners on how to succeed with these shade tolerant species in their home landscapes.

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Third & Final Gardening for Nature Workshop

Details: The Grand Erie Master Gardeners ran their third and final Gardening for Nature Workshop on Sunday September 22nd. It was very successful with excellent attendance. The weather was perfect as the day started with two presentations in the beautiful Events Room at Birds Canada’s National Headquarters in Port Rowan.



The presentations by MG Kevin Kavanagh highlighted native plants that fuel the southward fall bird migration and focused on native plants that thrive in shade.



Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Forest Festival

Details: Once again, Grey County Master Gardeners took part in the three-day festival at Allan Park Conservation Area in Hanover, ON, from October 9-11. The festival is designed to educate young people about sustainable forest management and our personal responsibility to protect the natural environment.

Grade 7 students from across Grey and Bruce counties took part in the event, which included 32 hands-on, interactive stations. Ours called "Forest Feast" introduced the students to many edible plants we encounter in the woods, meadows and marshes, including bullrushes, staghorn sumac, white cedar and wild leeks.



MGIT Becky Bouwmeester shows Grade 7 students some of the edible plants from the forest

Students particularly liked taking turns drilling into a pine log (standing in for a sugar maple) and inserting the spile for tapping. Another favourite – capitalizing on the "ick factor" – was the goldenrod gall with its yummy larvae. Because we need a little protein in the forest.

It is always a fun event, even though this year it was a wet one. We were impressed by the engagement of many of the students and their knowledge of and commitment to the importance of sustainability.

Peterborough Master Gardeners

Name: The Dirt on Soap and Home Remedies

Details: Peterborough MG MJ Pilgrim presented a Technical Update on 'The Dirt on Soap and Home Remedies' on September 25th at the Peterborough Lions Centre, Peterborough Horticultural Society. The event was free and was well attended.

Name: Immaculate Conception School Garden

Details: PMG Anne Trudel-Inglis worked with a group of Grade 8 students called "The Naturalists" to design a garden for their school. The students dug up three dead stumps, added soil and worked it into the bed in preparation for the plants.

PMG donated \$250.00 to Immaculate Conception CES located in East City, Peterborough, to help pay for the new garden the students wanted to create. Anne worked with the students to design the garden according to their wishes, purchased the plants and spent an afternoon planting. Students then took turns over the summer to tend to the plants, ensuring they were well watered.



Students and Anne -- Anne Trudel-Inglis on the left with Grade 8 students who call themselves "the Naturalists"



Team working – Garden on planting day





Finished Garden - Yews, Arborvitae, Hostas, Cranesbills, Penstemons, Jacob's Ladders, Primroses (variety of colours)

- of those 325: 30 didn't take any plants, but had questions for the MGs (directed the tourists to consider contacting their local MGs if they had any more questions: Ohio, Halton, Toronto)
- 295 people took 395 plants (a few joyfully took a flat of 10)
- about 50 plants were available for sale at the TCMG plant sale in Stratford
- AND two people asked for more information about how they could join TCMG;
- WHOOSH!

Also in attendance at Froggy Fest was our very own MGIT Krystal Brideau who shared her "Huron County Backyard Ecosystem" table with the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund (JHETF) booth. Krystal had all the right books on display, and we referred a few folks to her table to find out more from her, too.

I was thrilled that the JHETF people agreed to hand out the remaining "Grow Me Instead" pamphlets that I received from the Invasive Species Centre a few weeks ago. Throughout the event, I was able to point a few people who were looking for milkweed seeds to the JHETF booth! What a wonderful day for our Ecosystem!

Tri-County Master Gardeners

Name: Goderich Froggy Fest 2024

by Michele Young, MGIT

Details: Yes, it was a hoppin' good time!



MG Leslye Glover, left and MGIT Michele Young with Froggy)

Goderich's Froggy Fest 2024, held on September 21st in The Square, fulfilled its mission of being a child-oriented, positive experience to inspire everyone with the joy of caring for our Earth.

The Tri-County Master Gardeners' booth, sponsored by Goderich Rotary Club and Huron Ridge Greenhouse, gave away young Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

plants to anyone who wanted to take them home and plant them!

Here's what the numbers (approximate) looked like:

- 450 plants started the day
- 325 contacts (might have been a mom, dad and child = 1)



MG Nancy Burnett, centre with plant handouts

MGIT Michele Young and MG Don Farwell at the MGs booth





MGiTs Carolyn Schmidt, left and Michele Young giving advice



MG Elizabeth Spedaliere (green badge) helping with plant selection

Name: Fall Plant Sale October 5th

Details: Tri-County Master Gardeners held a mini fall sale of native plants on October 5th. The plants were grown by or donated to Don Farwell and the sale was held in his driveway in Stratford. We charged a minimum amount to cover costs with the objective of getting the word out about the importance of native plants.

It was a cool but sunny day. Tri-County Master Gardeners enjoyed interacting with the Stratford residents who came out to the sale. Talking about native plants is just what our group loves to do!

We had native plant books on hand to show pictures and help customers with the best site for their plant purchases. Leftover plants were donated to local planting projects.



MG Leslye Glover, left giving plant advice to a purchaser



MG Don Farwell discussing native plants with a purchaser

UPCOMING EVENTS

1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Volunteer Opportunities

Description: Volunteer opportunities continue to include presenters for Ask A Master Gardener on Thursdays @ 1:00 p.m. via Zoom; sessions are 30 minutes.

Details and Contact Information: Please visit our website for topics, details and contact information: <https://1000islandsmastergardeners.ca/upcoming-events/>



Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Oak Wilt Disease

Reminder – Do Not Prune oak trees (*Quercus* spp.) until December: winter pruning when the tree is dormant needs to be the new norm.



Calling everyone who deals with oak trees including nurseries, garden centers, homeowners, [Master Gardeners], and tree professionals!

This is a friendly reminder to hold off on pruning your oaks until the end of November to protect trees from oak wilt disease.

The pathogen that causes oak wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) is now present in the Ontario environment; prevention is key to defend against oak wilt. All ages and sizes of oak trees are susceptible to oak wilt.

<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminder-no-pruning-oaks-from-now-until-november/#more-6673>

Oak Wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) is a fungal disease that can kill oak trees within one year. Red oaks are particularly susceptible. The Ontario government advises 'you should not prune or wound oaks between April 1 and November 30, when the sap beetles that spread the disease are active'. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt#:~:text=Oak%20wilt%20is%20an%20introduced,Falls%20area%20of%20Southern%20Ontario>.

This disease can cause serious damage to Canada's oak tree population. Pathways by which oak wilt can spread include:

- **root grafting**, where the fungus travels through the interconnected roots of infected and healthy trees growing in close proximity;
- **insects**, such as sap and bark beetles that carry spores of the fungus from an infected tree to a healthy one; and
- human-assisted spread through the **movement** of things such as firewood and **pruning** during high-risk periods.

How You Can Help: The CFIA would like Master Gardeners to share this message with the public and our members.

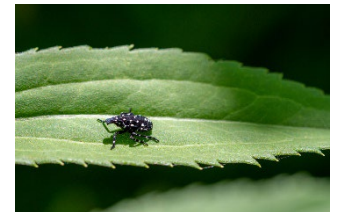


Oak wilt disease in an oak tree.
Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak_wilt_diagnosing_and_preventing



CFIA – Spotted Lanternfly

Also check for Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). Canada is preparing for the potential arrival of the SLF, present in the United States and getting closer to the Canadian border. The Spotted Lanternfly would be devastating for Canada's wine, fruit, nursery and forest industries.



early stage nymph

The city of Philadelphia has excellent information including identification on their website:



<https://www.phila.gov/2020-10-13-stop-the-spotted-lanternfly-identify-and-destroy-their-eggs/>

For more information, also visit [Canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly](https://www.canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly). The **Spotted Lanternfly Timeline is:**
Sep to Nov – egg laying;
Oct to Jun – egg mass;
May to Jul – early stage nymph;
Jul to Sep – late stage nymph;
Jul to Dec – adult.



CFIA Digital Toolkit

[International Day of Plant Health](#) was on May 12th, and the CFIA needs help and expertise to engage Canadians on how we can successfully keep Canada's natural landscape, bountiful plants, and beautiful gardens healthy and protected against the threat of invasive species. The CFIA has developed a user-friendly [digital toolkit](#) full of outreach materials in English and French, including posters, social media messaging and images, and more! Please use these and share freely. This toolkit includes extensive material on invasive species.

Feel free to bug us if you have any questions or would like to discuss opportunities to work together!

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CFIA Seeds Alert

Canadians are urged to connect with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) before sending seeds abroad.

As Canada's plant health regulator, the CFIA plays an important role in making sure seeds from Canada meet internationally agreed upon regulations. There have been notifications of non-compliance from foreign countries about seeds exported from Canada without proper phytosanitary (plant health) certification.

Seeds can potentially be invasive in some countries or spread plant diseases or other pests. Not meeting requirements has consequences such as the destination country destroying the seeds and issuing Canada a notice of non-compliance.

All seeds, including those in small packets for gardeners, must comply with the import requirements of the destination country.

Please share this information with the Canadian public to increase awareness of the important steps to take when shipping or exporting seeds to protect international plant resources, our economy and the environment.

The CFIA has spokespeople available for interviews, people who are experts in plant health imports and exports. CFIA experts are also willing to write and submit a piece if that is of interest. Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Media Relations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency /
Government of Canada: cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca
Tel: 613-773-6600

Additional Links & Background Information:

- [Shipping and exporting seeds from Canada](#)
- [Plant health at the CFIA](#)
- [Chronicle 360 plant health](#)
- [Canada's plant health hero challenge](#)
- [Join the plant health movement](#) (Chronicle 360)

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