



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of
Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the January 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

January 2025

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Georgian Bay Master Gardeners

In Memorium

Tracy Bosley



*Remembering Tracy
by Anne Brossart,
Coordinator GBMGs*

Tracy was the embodiment of the MGOI mission of “Motivating and Inspiring Gardeners in Ontario”. She had a thirst for horticultural knowledge and boundless energy in her life for sharing it.

Tracy became a certified Master Gardener (Simcoe County) in 2011 and was a long-time member of the Alliston Garden Club (OHA) from 1999 until her death on December 25th 2024. She was an amazingly creative floral designer and accredited judge of all things horticultural: certified by the Ontario Horticultural Association, the Royal Botanical Gardens’ Horticultural Judging School, the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies and the Canadian Rose Society. After qualifying as a Master Gardener, she carried on completing her University of Guelph Horticulture Certificate and honed her skills as a floral designer by completing the Toronto Botanical Garden’s Floral Design Certificate. She often stated that everything she knew about botany, she had learned at judging school.

When Tracy and her husband Vaughan retired and moved to Parry Sound in 2017, she became a Georgian Bay Master Gardener and joined the Parry Sound & District Horticultural Society and the OHA District 18 Board, but remained a member of the Alliston Garden Club and OHA District 16’s flower show committee. She organized and judged flower shows and conducted design workshops.

Just like a perennial is divided into two thriving plants, Tracy volunteered tirelessly in both communities and still found time for her annual spring roadside garbage ditch cleanup. Tracy will be sorely missed by the Georgian Bay Master Gardeners who will plant a Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*) in her memory. The Serviceberry’s relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of reciprocity, interconnectedness, and gratitude.

The tree distributes its wealth—its abundance of sweet, juicy berries—to meet the needs of its natural community. That is how Tracy lived her gardening life, sharing her knowledge, time and even her plants generously.



Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

35 Year Anniversary

Aili Dampier

by Andrea Steinhauser, Coordinator

We are thrilled to congratulate Aili on receiving her 35-year pin. What a great accomplishment!

Aili is one of the founding members of the Thunder Bay & District MG group. She lives in Nipigon which is roughly 120 km from Thunder Bay. Even though it is quite a distance, she has always been actively involved and rarely misses an in-person meeting or event.



Over the years, Aili has dedicated herself to working with seniors. She helped establish a horticultural therapy program at a long-term care facility in Thunder Bay for 5 years, and then started a horticultural therapy program at the long-term care facility in Nipigon for the past 10 years. She tries to meet weekly with residents and plans plant related activities to improve their social, physical and cognitive abilities. She has also been actively involved with her local Horticultural Society for over 30 years and is a qualified Horticultural judge.

As a group, we appreciate Aili sharing her knowledge as well as her willingness to participate in activities. She always has a smile and is welcoming. We celebrate her commitment and dedication.



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Peterborough MG Coordinating Committee Changes

Cheryl Harrison and Lois Scott are stepping down from their joint position as Co-Coordinator. Many thanks to Cheryl and Lois for their tremendous efforts (and teamwork!) in guiding our organization from 2021 through 2024, including the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cheryl's PMG Newsletters kept us all



Cheryl Harrison

connected, and they both managed to negotiate the new technology to have virtual meetings. The power duo of Cheryl and Lois worked amazingly well, and we are indebted to them for their longevity in this critical role.



Lois Scott

Anne Craig and MJ Pilgrim will be taking over as PMG Co-Coordinator as of January 2025.



Anne Craig

We are grateful for their willingness to step up and look forward to an exciting new year! A message from Anne: I am proud to be taking on the role of Coordinator in 2025. MJ Pilgrim will be joining me as Co-Coordinator. We have big shoes to fill and hope we can do justice to the role.



MJ Pilgrim



Chris Freeburn

Chris Freeburn is stepping down as Volunteer Chair. We wish to thank her for her service in her coordinating committee roles and the positive energy that she shares with the PMG.

MGiT Carol Ireland is stepping up as Events Chair. We wish her all the best as she takes on this new role!



Carol Ireland



Carol Anderson

Carol Anderson will be new to Peterborough's coordinating committee this year as well, as a member at large.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

39 Year Anniversaries

Nancy Lee-Colibaba
Len Cole

We are fortunate to have two very long-standing experienced GEMG members: congratulations both Nancy and Len who are celebrating 39 years as master gardeners in January 2025!

9 Year Anniversary

Lynne Goulet-Smith

Our talented hard-working co-ordinator, Lynne celebrates 9 years as a Master Gardener this February.



New Master Gardener in Training

Patrice Sutherland

Welcome to our latest MGiT!



London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

by Amy Turnbull, LMMG

5 Year Anniversary

Jon Aristone

Jon has been with London Middlesex Master Gardeners for 5 years. He is our in-house expert on Bonsai trees. Jon's collection is legendary, and he has shared his knowledge not only with our group but



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, right with Jon Aristone

with the London community on numerous occasions. He is very engaged with our group and participates in numerous events such as Seedy Saturday, our annual Garden Tour, and visiting community gardeners with questions. Congratulations Jon!

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Pat Girard

Patrick lives in Exeter and has a large perennial garden and many Carolinian tree species which surround the house and property. He likes to plant for birds and pollinators. As a member of the Friends of the Pinery Patrick enjoys many hours there with the informative classes.

He has always been interested in nature, having grown up in a rural environment. Patrick's goal is to learn more about plants, pollinators and their relationship with us.



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, right with Pat Girard

Master Gardener Emeritus

Louise Nadeau
Kim Pawley
Rosemarie Szalich
Linda Armstrong
Bob Worthy

Louise has been with Master Gardeners for 27 years, beginning with the Thunder Bay group and moving to the London-Middlesex Master Gardeners a few years ago. Since she joined our group she has been very engaged as a member of the executive and teaching and assisting with our Seeds to Table program. She was also involved on our Seedy Saturday committee and utilized her teaching background to help our trainees with the self-study certification process.

Louise is retiring with her family in Montréal. We would like to congratulate her on becoming an Emeritus with the Master Gardeners!

Kim joined the London-Middlesex Master Gardeners in 2009 and has worked with the group sharing her technology skills. She has assisted the executive with various projects such as volunteer hour tracking and sourcing out new laptop and projector equipment. Kim was very involved in our Seedy Saturdays over the years, helping with our audio requirements and ensuring our speakers were supported during engagements. She has also provided the group with educational presentations from the community. Congratulations Kim on your Emeritus status!



Rosemarie has been a member of the London-Middlesex Master Gardener group since 2008 and has held many positions within the executive team. She has been the Coordinator and has done many, many community presentations over the years. We have community groups who ask for her to come and provide a presentation. Her contributions over the years have been too many to mention as she has utilized her teaching skills to educate the community.

Rosemarie was one of the members to assist in putting together the award-winning Seeds to Table program which has been provided to the community since 2012. Congratulations Rosemarie!

Linda



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, right presenting Linda Armstrong with her Emeritus certificate

Bob has been with the Master Gardeners group for 20 years! He has held various positions within the organization including three plus years as a MGOI Director visiting the other 4 groups and sharing ideas with them and with MGOI. Bob is a chartered accountant and has assisted the London group with auditing of records each year and has provided support from a financial perspective numerous times. Bob has been very engaging with new members and more experienced members and has willingly shared his knowledge over the years. He could always be counted on to go out to the community to educate folks on gardening at events, plant exchanges, Seedy Saturday events, etc. Congratulations Bob!



Halton Region Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Olga Marranca
Pam MacDonald

by Hariette Henry

Olga discovered gardening at a young age in Stoney Creek while helping her mother tend a vegetable garden and a bed of prized roses. Since retirement, her interest in all things gardening has continued to grow and she plans to continue pursuing this rewarding pastime.



Olga (r) receives her MG certificate from Coordinator Kate Sault

The structured courses and guidance of other MGs have helped her to not only appreciate the beauty of plants but also to understand how they co-exist in a vibrant, interconnected community.

She became more aware of environmental issues when her husband joined FOTEK (Friends of The Eramosa Karst). This group was initially responsible for saving the Karst from urban development. Its mandate now is to support the conservation and enjoyment of the area's unique geological and ecological systems. The Karst is located in Stoney Creek.

While the planet is undergoing climate change, Olga's interest is in educating herself on how to influence the next generation to help protect plant species, habitats and ecosystems. Olga became a certified Master Gardener with the Halton group in March of 2024.

She is a busy member of our group working on our newsletter *Cross Pollination*, recording the minutes of our monthly meetings and by participating in presentations, farmers' markets and other activities.





Pam (r) receives her certificate from Coordinator Kate Sault

Pam got a head start when she purchased a home that came with a beautiful garden and copious notes on how to maintain it from the previous owner. The pandemic for Pam was a catalyst for educating herself and learning the skills and methods of science-based gardening.



Coordinator Danielle Gignac (r) presenting Margaret with her MG certificate

Pam co-ordinates and participates in our group's presentation requests, volunteers at clinics and other events and is a regular contributor to our newsletter *Cross Pollination*.

Pam's earliest memories of gardens date back to when her parents purchased their first home and took pleasure in planting trees and filling garden beds with beautiful shrubs, perennials and annuals.

She describes her first efforts in the garden as a "by guess or by golly" approach. Her reliance on instinct, guesswork and luck provided an outlet for creativity and experimentation. It was clearly an excellent way for Pam to learn as her garden today is a beautiful space that is a pleasure to spend time in.



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary

Susan Mason
Denise Jupp

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Margaret Boyd

New Master Gardener in Training

Pat Turner

Welcome Pat, and Congratulations to all!



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

25 Year Anniversary

Diane Pettet

20 Year Anniversaries

Marsha Gettas
Nancy Dattrino
Sandra Niemy

15 Year Anniversaries

Anne Grgic
Ray Bielaski

New Master Gardeners in Training

Madelaine Allen
Joanne Schwindt
Ani Kerametlian
Erez Sussman

Member Transfer

Vladimir Rasper

Vladimir has transferred from Toronto Master Gardeners. Welcome Vladimir!





Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Sylvie Lapointe
Barbara Sibbald

Profiles

Sylvie finds gardening keeps her creative juices flowing as she adds, subtracts and replants in her garden. She hopes one day to grow cut flowers.



Barbara has been gardening since 1985 in rural and urban settings. Her latest passion is her Japanese-informed bed in her backyard.



Transfer In

Gail Pahwa

MG Gail Pahwa has transferred from Toronto to Ottawa.

New Master Gardeners in Training

Liad Amir
Jacques Dufort
Benjamin Edwards
Karen McClure
Jennifer Rott

Class of 2025: Welcome to our five new Master Gardeners-in-training who joined our ranks on January 1st!



Board Vacancy: VP / MGOI Webinars / MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group

Board Vacancy – Vice President (VP)

MGOI is looking to find a VP as soon as possible, or potentially 2 VPs, to support our incoming President, Anne Craig, in her new role. The position:

- Supports and works closely with the President
- Monitors the progress of the organization’s goals and objectives
- Reviews information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern
- Assists Directors in resolving potential areas of concern, potentially bringing 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 her absence; succeeds the President

Access to Past MGOI Webinars

A reminder that 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.

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. To join, you must be an active member of the Master Gardeners of Ontario and belong to a local MG group.’



A President's Farewell

I would like to thank the many Master Gardeners who have worked with me on the MGOI Board and as assistants to the Board for the past eight years. Along the way I met some inspiring minds and was encouraged by the efforts of each and every one. At this moment in time, I would like to thank those who are retiring at the same time as I am.

We all owe a great deal of gratitude to Kelly Noel from the Ottawa-Carleton group who was an enthusiastic member of the Board from 2007 until 2019, mostly as Director of Communications. Kelly then continued to provide her services to us all as administrator of the membership data base, the provider of name badges and longevity pins, certification exams and the certificates, distribution of MGOI wear, help with the Annual Reports, support for the Newsletter Editor, Registrar of our April Conference, as well as a few other duties. That's an extensive list! Thankfully the MGOI Board has found a handful of volunteers, some on and off the board, to divide up these duties and carry on. The fact that we divided up the tasks into manageable chunks is an attestation to how much work it really is. Thank you, Kelly!

We now have a new Webmaster, Sabine Behnk, from the Waterloo Region group, who has taken over from Jim Cook, the spouse of one of the members of the Durham group. Although we paid Jim a token small monthly stipend as a non-MG, his work was mostly as a volunteer. Our website is an integral part of our communications network, and his dedication to our organization for over a decade is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Jim!

Two other board members who have also stepped down from their positions are Rhonda Grein and Kathleen Gorsline, both with tenures on the board slightly longer than mine. Rhonda, formerly the Southwest Region Co-Director with me for four years, and then Director of Events for the past four, also acted as Recording Secretary and Statistician for a few years. Similarly, Kathleen started out as North Region Director for six years, greatly enhancing the interconnections between the northern groups, and then as Director of Marketing & Partnerships for the past two. Thank you, Rhonda and Kathleen!

We also thank Sheila Campbell for her dedication as Treasurer for the past three challenging years. This role requires significant volunteer hours and we have finally realized that we need to form a robust Financial Committee to lend more consistent support. Over the past eight years of my time on the Board we cycled through three other dedicated Treasurers. It's a difficult job. Thank you, Sheila!

We have a wonderful new MGOI Board team, half continuing, half newly joined, and one transitioning to a new role as President. You will learn more about them all in the coming months.

With many thanks to all for a great experience.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Sciuk, Past President



Master Gardeners Out & About Projects & Events

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Community Seed Exchange Table at the Peterborough Public Library

Details: PMG Laura Gardner has an exciting program going on at the Peterborough Public Library (PPL) over the wintertime. It's a Community Seed Exchange table, a partnership between PPL and [Nogojwanong Mutual Aid](#). There you can pick up and leave seeds of all types. It is pretty empty right now because most people aren't growing anything. However, if you are into native perennials, you are probably getting ready to do some "winter sowing". Many native seeds need to be exposed to a period of cold-moist stratification – the conditions needed to break dormancy in the spring. If you're interested in learning about winter sowing, the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library has some [great videos](#).

Since December 20, Laura has been filling the Community Seed Exchange table with native plant seeds that were harvested in the fall from the Library Commons Garden as well as from other gardens in Peterborough.

If you have seeds you'd like to share, feel free to drop them off at the exchange table and take some new ones. If you don't have any native plant seeds to share, take some anyway and try your hand at winter sowing. Quantities are limited for some species. It's ideal to research the plants first for their adaptability to your garden environment. But please feel free to ask questions on this site. If you're only into annuals (e.g. vegetables, etc.), this is ok too and you can take and give those kinds of seeds later next year.

Here's a list of the [available native plant seeds](#) the library is distributing.



Name: Peterborough MG Christmas Potluck

Details: The PMG held their annual potluck and social this December. The food was spectacular, the game lots of fun and the 'God and Gardener' skit was hilarious. Thanks to all who helped put it together.



Playing virtual Jeopardy at the Christmas party, (left to right): Grant Murphy, Marjorie Vendrig, Gladys Fowler, Guest, MJ Pilgrim, Laura Gardner, Christine Freeburn



Left to right: Sylvia Strobl, Marjorie Vendrig, Gladys Fowler, Sally Rye, Beryl Harris, Anne Trudel-Inglis, MJ Pilgrim, Chris Freeburn, Mary-Kathleen Dunn




Left to right: Sara Garden, Marilyn Homewood, Rachel Burrows, Sharleen Pratt, Lois Scott, Jenn Guertin, Carol Anderson, Grant Murphy, Deb Fraser



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: 2025 AGM, Jan. 8th

Details: On a snowy night in January, we gathered in the cozy rooms of Growing Chefs to have our AGM. Growing Chefs is a London-based organization dedicated to educating youth on food literacy. After a meal, we heard from captains (membership, education, communications and volunteer services) on a review of the previous year and their vision for the upcoming year. Kate Sault, MGOI Education Director, swore in our new executive members.



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Etobicoke Master Gardeners Landscape Technician Scholarship of Excellence

Details: This scholarship launches this winter in partnership with Humber College, Faculty of Applied Science and Technology and will be awarded to the student achieving the highest score in Plant Studies 1. Or, if more than one student qualifies, to the one who also has the highest overall GPA in their first term. The value of the scholarship is \$1000 and will be awarded annually over the next five years.

Name: Worms About Town, Reinke Lab @ UToronto

Details: In April 2024 the Etobicoke Master Gardeners were introduced to this citizen-science initiative by Ed James (post doctoral fellow) and Jonathan Tersigni (graduate student) from the Reinke Lab at the University of Toronto.

This is the first Toronto-wide screen of microsporidia infection in nematodes and is intended to lead to a better understanding of nematodes in Toronto, the identification of new fungi species, and how species of fungi can infect other species of animals. Several EMG members participated in the late summer and early fall by collecting samples of well-rotted fruit. We look forward to continued participation and to learning more about the presence and health of nematodes in our area.

For more information see

<https://www.reinkelab.org/worms-about-town>




Name: Fall Plant Sale, September 14th, 2024

Details: This year's fall plant sale was quieter than last year's. We continued to offer a wide range of native plants as well as non-native plants, shrubs, trees and houseplants. As always there was lots of interaction with the public, and people said how much they appreciated the educational materials on display. A new debit and credit card payment option was introduced and may have had a positive impact on sales.

Name: Sponsored Talk: Todd Irvine, The Wonder of Trees, September 24th, 2024

Details: We sponsored certified arborist and founder of cityforest.ca Todd Irvine to lead a walk during the Long Branch Neighbours' Association Tree Festival. Todd has over 25 years of experience working with trees and educating people about their care. On the walk he shared with 40 participants the fascinating aspects of trees, including universal principles, general tree health, tips on how to assess their trees, and what to do to ensure their trees flourish.




Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) Control

Details: In the summer of 2024, MG Judy Wall and Lanark County Master Gardeners started working with the team at Lanark County Municipal Office. We had been getting many questions about the resurgence of Purple Loosestrife. Our contact at the Municipal Office asked that we spread the word that she would like to receive emails identifying the problem and where it was located.

Judy travelled to Hort Societies to talk about it and requested that we spread the word at advice clinics. We did, and we convinced the County to act. Our contact has put in a grant request for funding to have another release of the beetles that control Purple Loosestrife.

Lanark County Master Gardeners provided locations in the area that now again have substantial growth of Purple Loosestrife. We are very much looking forward to a successful outcome of this project.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

by Laura Rogier

Name: 2025 Workshops

Details: The Grand Erie Master Gardeners are busy preparing for another exciting year! For 2025, we have three (or more!) workshops planned, the first of which will take place on Sunday, April 27th at Ruthven Park National Historic Site in Haldimand County. See 'Upcoming Events',



L-R, MGIT Carolyn Bennett, MG Kevin Kavanagh and MG Laura Rodger

below, and watch our website and social media pages for announcements and details coming soon!

Carolyn Bennett, Kevin Kavanagh and Laura Rodger met in Ruthven to make preparations for the first GEMG workshop of the season.

Name: Waterford Seedy Saturday

Details: We will be attending the Waterford Seedy Saturday event in Norfolk County on Saturday February 8th (see 'Upcoming Events', below) and are looking forward to meeting members of the public there. A number of our group members will be meeting shortly to sort and prepare seed envelopes to give away for a donation at upcoming events.

Name: Meeting with the Brant County Horticulture Department

Details: MGIT Kim Hutten met with the Brant County Horticulture department to discuss helping them promote, design, and think about native plants and eco-friendly gardening. MGITs Carolyn Bennett, Liz Hopkins and Kim Hutten met on January 15th to discuss how the GEMGs can help Bee City and the David Suzuki Butterflyway Programs in Brant County.

Name: Winter Sowing

Details: MG Laura Rodger has winter sown containers with native plant seeds in her garden.



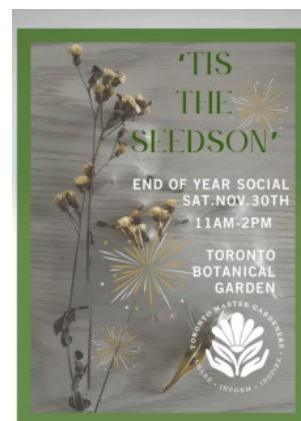
She has also created a reel with step-by-step instructions on how to winter sow that can be found on our Grand Erie Master Gardener Facebook and Instagram pages.



Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Toronto Master Gardeners – Holiday 2024 Social with a Seedy Theme

Details: This year's Toronto Master Gardeners' annual holiday social gathering – 'Tis the Seedson – was a lot of fun, and not only for the treats and shortbreads that fit the theme.



Back for the second year was a fantastic seed exchange with members swapping seeds from their native plants; we all went home with a winter sowing project in mind!



Native Seed Swap – photo credit Pat de Valence

There was a table where we donated and exchanged garden paraphernalia, and a fantastic seasonal container demo by Toronto MG and garden designer Alexis Yanaky, raffled off to a lucky Toronto MG.





*Alexis Yanaky's seasonal container demo –
photo credit Pat de Valence*

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carlton

Name: Social Event

Details: MGOC kicked off the holiday season in glamorous fashion on December 15th at MG Barbara Long's chic penthouse party room, graced with one of the better views of the Ottawa skyline. Nearly 50 members and guests indulged in a lavish spread of savory delights and decadent sweets, while enjoying a stunning slideshow by MGIT Mary Anne Ambroziak that captured the highlights of the year's activities. MG Penka Matanska provided the splendid floral arrangements several of us got to take home. Toiletries donations from participants were taken to the Parkdale Centre afterwards. It was the perfect celebration, setting the tone for a season filled with joy and festivity.

Name: Online Info Session: The Orchid

Details: Toronto Master Gardeners continue to partner with the Toronto Botanical Garden. On January 22nd MG Tena van Andel led a webinar entitled "The Orchid: Daunting Diva, Evocative Evolutionary or Humble Houseplant?".



The Orchid is now the world's MOST popular houseplant. Tena told fascinating stories and explored fun facts and tips on orchid care, including the best orchids to grow at home.



*MGs Claire Leduc, left &
Catherine Disley*

Tri-County Master Gardeners

Name: New Website

Details: Tri-County Master Gardeners have launched a new website as of January 2025. The project was spearheaded by our intrepid Elizabeth Spedaliere, who accepted the position of co-ordinator of our group in September 2024. Elizabeth had professional IT assistance from her daughter, Jules Hall, to design the new website to replace the old Stratford and Area Master Gardeners website. Elizabeth has been busy adding up-to-date content, with input from the group. Check out the website at <https://tricitycountymastergardeners.ca/>.



*MGs Odette McIntyre, left
& Belinda Boekhoven*



Fran Dennett, MG



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: January Meet

Details: The Niagara MG January meet featured a talk on healing plants by Melissa Schooley, owner of Apple Hill Apothecary in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She gave a run down of just a few of the many plants, and mushrooms as well, that can help cure what ails us or improve our general well-being. Images below from her slide show offer just a sampling of the many plants she spoke about.

You can find out more at the Apple Hill Apothecary website: applehillapothecary.com



Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) is a botanical astringent. Astringents shrink or tighten tissues in your body and used topically can relieve itching, burning and irritation. Leaves of **Raspberry** (*Rubus idaeus*) are highly nutritive and rich in antioxidants, and are used in traditional herbal medicine for the female reproductive system to relieve PMS and to help prepare women for childbirth by increasing blood flow to the uterus.



Astragalus (*Astragalus membranaceus*) is used in traditional Chinese medicine to treat decreased vitality/fatigue and as a deep immune tonic. It is used in herbal medicine for nausea associated with chemo and cancer-related fatigue.



Peppermint is used in herbal medicine to treat indigestion, IBS, flatulence and as a decongestant for colds/flu. Peppermint oil is used topically for headache, muscle aches and joint pain. **Lavender** is good topically and internally. Studies have shown lavender essential oil may be beneficial for insomnia, alopecia (hair loss), anxiety, stress, and postoperative pain. Lavender is also being studied for antibacterial and antiviral properties.



Arnica (*Arnica montana*) is used topically for a wide range of conditions, including bruises, sprains, muscle aches, wound healing, superficial phlebitis, joint pain, inflammation from insect bites, and swelling from broken bones. Recent studies say it may be helpful in the treatment of burns.

Name: Floral Arrangement Workshops

Details: Niagara Master Gardeners held workshops, hosted by MG Kendy Steeves, in December at Niagara Hospice. Dried flowers, grasses, evergreen foliage and birch logs were all featured.

Another workshop at Tabor Manor was cancelled, unfortunately due to a Covid outbreak. However the arrangements were made up anyway by Kendy and distributed to the patients to cheer them up.





Kendy with floral arrangements

Participants at the Niagara Hospice workshop put together some lovely arrangements with dried flowers and greenery inserted into hollowed out birch logs.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday

Date & Time:

Saturday, February 8th from 12-4 pm

Location:

Waterford District Highschool, 227 Main St. South, Waterford, ON N0E1Y0



Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Design for the Winter Garden

Date & Time: Wed. Feb. 12, 7-8:30PM

Location: Online

Tickets, Cost & More Information:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/online-design-for-the-winter-garden-tickets-1116763081439?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Name: Get the Jump on Spring

Date & Time: Sat. Feb. 22, 10AM-4PM

Location: Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave E, Toronto, ON

Tickets & More Information:

<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/event/get-the-jump-on-spring-2025/#:~:text=Toronto%20Botanical%20Garden's%20annual%20Horticultural,10%20a.m.%20to%204%20p.m>

Details: The TBGs popular annual event, *Get the Jump on Spring*, perfect for the winter-weary, will feature Toronto Master Gardeners providing demonstrations, presentations and garden chats.



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday, 2025

Date & Time: February 15th, 2025, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Meridian Community Centre, 100 Meridian Way, Fonthill

Details: Niagara members are busy packaging seeds for our big **Seedy Saturday** event. The event includes speakers, vendors and children's activities. Coffee and snacks will be available. Do not miss it!



The poster for Seedy Saturday 2025 features a central illustration of various seeds and seedlings. Text on the poster includes: 'Niagara Seedy Saturday SEED SALE & SWAP SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2025 Meridian Community Centre 100 Meridian Way, Fonthill Free admission & parking 10 am - 3 pm'. A yellow banner states 'HUNDREDS OF VARIETIES OF SEEDS FOR SALE! Please bring cleaned & dried non-hybrid seeds to swap'. A list of activities includes: 'More than a dozen vendors', 'Speaker Sean James', 'Children's Activities', 'Bulbs & tubers for sale: Canna Lilies, Peruvian Daffodils, Elephant Ears, Gladiolas & Dahlias', 'Free draw - \$50 Lee Valley e-Gift Card', and 'Ask a Master Gardener Clinic'. A green banner at the bottom says 'NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS APPRECIATED Please bring a bag for your purchases'.



Last Year's Event!

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Winter 2025 Winter Lecture Series

Date & Time of 1st Lecture: Tuesday, February 18, 7pm-9pm. Glass doors open at 6:40pm.

Location: Kingsway Lambton United Church, 85 The Kingsway, Toronto, Main Door. Street parking available.

Cost: donation/pwyc

Details: For a second year, EMG is sponsoring three winter gardening talks for the general public. Join our well travelled and experienced horticulturist Frank Kershaw for this timely and informative presentation Gardening on the Edge, our first talk in the series.

Gardening on the Edge – Adapting You & Your Garden to Climate Warming: Plant Selection, Techniques for Longevity & Native Fauna Support



- Record breaking temperatures, unprecedented rainfall, storm events, extended growing seasons and shortened winters have led to revisions in plant hardiness zones.
- Carolinian flora, unique for its beauty, rarity and attraction to native pollinators is extending well beyond its southern Ontario base.

Want to teeter on the edge?

Join our presenter, Frank Kershaw, who will share his more than 50 years of gardening experience with unusual plants in difficult times. Frank will provide insight, success stories and techniques to ensure longevity of the many trees, shrubs, vines and perennials that are making inroads during this time of change. He will share his extensive knowledge to help you and your garden adapt to climate warming, as well as selecting plants, applying techniques for longevity, and supporting native fauna.

Two more lectures follow.

Date: March 18th features The Wonder of Trees with Todd Irvine.

Date: April 15th features The Arts and Crafts Garden with Frank Kershaw.



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE!!

Name: A DAY IN THE GARDEN

Date: Feb. 23rd, 2025

Location: Victoria East Golf Club, 1096 Victoria Road S. Guelph, Ontario

Cost: \$75.00 includes speakers, coffee/tea, buffet lunch, demos, vendors and door prizes!!

Details: No price increase! An incredible value. CEUs for attendance. Featuring Robert Pavlis (MG) and Sean James (MG) as Emcee. Please see poster for more info!



Robert Pavlis is a highly knowledgeable speaker, educator and myth buster with over 40 years of gardening experience. He is the award-winning author of several books - including 'Soil Science For Gardeners'

- Coffee, Snacks, Lunch
- Vendors, door prizes
- Demonstrations
- \$75/tickets

CEUs for MGs



Arlene Hazzan Green is the co-owner of The Backyard Urban Farm Company, an edible landscaping company that designs, builds, plants and maintains urban, native, and pollinator flower gardens.

NEW - insightful panel discussion with industry experts

Sunday, Feb 23rd, 2025

9 am - 3:30 pm

Victoria Park East Golf Club

1096 Victoria Rd S, Guelph

Buy **TICKETS** on Eventbrite or gwmastergardeners.ca

NEW THIS YEAR!! a panel discussion centred on horticultural therapy, sensory gardening and the immense value that working our hands in the soil brings us.

For easy ticket purchases go to:

<https://www.gwmastergardeners.ca/>. There is a link to Eventbrite.

Looking forward to seeing you!

vancouver | master
gardeners

Vancouver Master Gardeners



Name: Spring Seminar 2025: Grow Different

Date: March 9th, 2025

Details: Get ready to think outside the box. Our speakers will inspire you with practical advice to improve the resiliency of your garden and transform where we live and beyond.

Here is our line up!

- **Succession Planting: Creating a Multi-Season Garden** – Fergus Garrett
- **Ecological Gardening: Supporting the Biodiversity that Works for You** – Elizabeth Elle
- **Urban Forestry in the 21st Century: Innovating for Resilient Green Spaces** - Egan Davis
- **Urban Gardens of the Future** – Saba Farmand
- **Edible Gardens, the Way Nature Intended** – In Layers – Chris Chung

To Register: [Click Here](#)

Date & Location: Sunday March 9th, 2025, 9am to 3pm, Michael J Fox Theatre, Burnaby B.C.

Event Activities - Gardening Vendors, Sea Soil Sale, & Door Prizes!

Regular Tickets: \$65 / Recordings Only: \$35 for one month of viewing – so if you are away you can still see our speakers!

Join us for a great day!



Durham Master Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday March 23rd, 2025

**Name: The Making of a Mini-Forest:
A film by Angelina Lee, narrated by Hannah Lewis,
author of Mini-Forest Revolution**

Date & Time: Sunday, March 23rd at 2:00PM

Location: Regent Theatre, 50 King St E, Oshawa, ON

Details: Little Forests Durham, Durham Master Gardeners and Green Communities Canada are very excited to be hosting this documentary film. Stay tuned for ticket sales' details. You can also follow <https://tickets.regenttheatre.ca> for ticket availability.

Any questions or inquiries please contact us at

littleforestsduham.ca or

email littleforestsduham@gmail.com.

More details to come!

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE!

Name: A Day for Gardeners

Date: Saturday, April 26th 2025

Details: Stay tuned for Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners' annual event, *A Day for Gardeners*.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Workshop 1, 2025

Date: Sunday, April 27th 2025

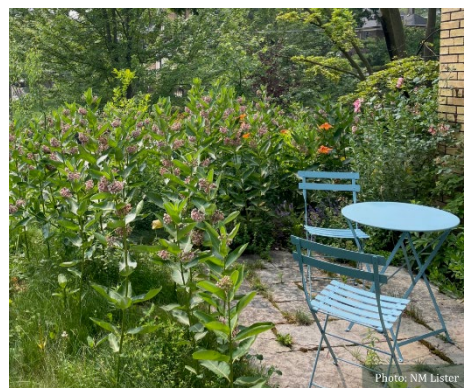
Details: This is our 1st workshop of 2025. It will take place at Ruthven Park National Historic Site in Haldimand County.

Toronto Master Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE – UPCOMING EVENT

**Toronto Master Gardeners Technical Update –
November 8, 2025**

Details: The Toronto Master Gardeners (TMG) will hold its first in-person technical update in 5 years following the pandemic. Taking place Saturday, November 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden, the event will be open to TMGs, other Master Gardeners (MGs) and interested members of the public. More details will follow in the MGOI Newsletter, and on the Toronto Master Gardeners website and social media.



Changing Cities, One Garden at a Time

Technical Update

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Toronto Botanical Garden



Toronto
Master
Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE



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/>

Name: Technical Update

Topic: Biodiverse Garden Tour 2025 – Transitioning to Turf-Free Yards

Date: TBD

Location: Kingston and Area

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Oak Wilt Disease

Reminder – Do Not Prune oak trees (*Quercus* spp.) from April 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.

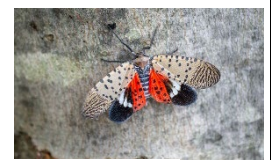


Oak wilt disease in an oak tree.
Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak_wilt_diagnosing_and_preventing



CFIA – Spotted Lanternfly

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



SLF – CFIA





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, visit [Canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly](https://canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly).

The **SLF Timeline is:**

Sep to Nov – egg laying

Oct to Jun – egg mass

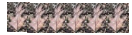
May to Jul – early stage nymph

Jul to Sep – late stage nymph

Jul to Dec – adult

Here is a link to the CFIA's 1 page infographic:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/insects/spotted-lanternfly/infographic>



CFIA Digital Toolkit

The CFIA is looking for 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!

Maria Kubacki, Manager / Gestionnaire

Marketing and partnerships / Marketing et partenariats

Communications and Public Affairs Branch / Direction

générale des communications et affaires publiques

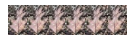
Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Agence canadienne

d'inspection des aliments

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

343-542-3856

Maria.kubacki@inspection.gc.ca



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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