



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of
Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the February 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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Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Cathy Kavassalis, Halton
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INSIDE MGOI

February 2025

Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

In Memoriam

by Andrea Steinhäusser, Coordinator



We are sad to announce the passing of Eloise Rodger, Master Gardener Emeritus, on December 30, 2024. She originally joined in 1998 and completed her studies with the University of Guelph in 2001. She became

involved by coordinating speakers and presentations for the monthly meetings and was the coordinator from 2012-2014.

Eloise's passion was peonies, and she had over 80 varieties in her garden which she loved to share. She will be deeply missed by the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners.



Halton Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Krista Elvey
Pat Kerr

A warm welcome is extended to our new MGITs!

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Trish Moraghan

by: *Hariette Henry*

Trish began her gardening journey as a teenager acquiring popular house plants such as Spider Plant, *Chlorophytum comosum*, Wandering Dude, *Tradescantia zebrina* and Baby's Tears, *Soleirolia soleirolii*.

She was a frequent shopper at the well-known nursery - Plant World - in Etobicoke, that sadly closed its doors in September 2019. Trish and her mother hosted a plant party where friends had the opportunity to purchase and learn about house plants.



Trish (r) receives her certificate from Coordinator Kate Sault

Years later when Trish and her husband bought a home, her interest turned to outside gardening and she learned more about perennials, shrubs and trees. This was accomplished through trial and error and from a growing list of gardening books. They enjoyed spending time in the yard and working on projects such as building new gardens, stone pathways, decks and an arbor.

With a busy career in teaching Trish's time was limited and she wasn't able to fully commit herself to gardening until she retired. She happened to be listening to Ed Lawrence one day on the radio as he was interviewing a master gardener. This sparked her interest and she began researching what MGs do and what it would be like to become one. For Trish, joining the Halton group has been a great decision as she has learned a lot, and the camaraderie and the sharing of knowledge within the group has been a very positive and rewarding experience.

Trish currently lives on a two-acre property in Kilbride, a small community located on the Escarpment in north Burlington. I asked her to describe her garden and what she liked most about it. She explained that the terrain is somewhat rocky and the backyard can be very windy which makes it challenging for some plants to grow. The property includes a pond and a small streambed which attracts a variety of frogs and toads and a wide assortment of insects. To manage these conditions, throughout the past fifteen years Trish and her husband have amended the soil and used some of the rocks to create features that provide shelter for small mammals, amphibians, insects and plants. They have enjoyed creating new pathways through open areas and sections of woodland gardens that grow under Sugar Maples.



Trish and her husband have experimented with various species of shrubs and perennials with a concerted effort to add more native plants to their property.



Durham Master Gardeners

by Norine Blyth

15 Year Anniversary

Isia Yeo



Congratulations Isia on 15 years and counting with DMG. Isia is a wealth of gardening knowledge. I asked her to provide a little background on her love of gardening, where it started, and also about being a Master Gardener.

“My love of plants started at the young age of 5, with our family Greenhouse and Market Garden business. I enjoyed helping customers choose plants for their gardens, but it was always more fun when they returned and shared how well they had grown.

Children always took a free plant home. They didn't just choose a plant to take home. They had to choose a plant and then pot it up in its own pot first. This was also a favorite activity for the school tours. I enjoyed helping with these activities and watching how excited children were when they planted their own plant or worked on the seed art project. Master Gardeners gives me the opportunity to experience these joys again.

One of the best things about gardening is sitting back and appreciating your efforts. I especially enjoy working with Herbs, Spring bulbs and Native Ferns. Sensory Gardens and Night Gardens are my happy place.

I enjoy sharing what I know, but more importantly I love learning and hearing how other people experience their gardens.” Isia, we at DMG are so fortunate to have you as a member. Thank you!

New Master Gardeners in Training

Art Vanden Enden

Karen Schmidt

Auryn Braini

Art is currently the chair of Landscape Ontario's Garden Centre Sector Group. He is retired from Sheridan Nurseries where he served as the vice president of garden centre operations. Before joining Sheridan's, he spent 25 years with Weall and Cullen Nurseries. Prior to his career Art worked alongside his family at their greenhouse business in Durham Region growing tomatoes.



Art has taken retirement very seriously and is also teaching at Loyalist College in Belleville, as well as being a board member for Communities in Bloom. Happy to have you with us Art! I know I will be very interested to hear more about your experiences.



Karen is one of those gems of a human being that survived teaching. Karen, we are certainly pleased you are bringing your teaching and presenting skills to DMG.

Karen has a background in environmental sciences and is looking forward to working with our audiences in the areas of naturalizing spaces, creating pollinator friendly environments and improving soil with compost and remediation techniques.





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

Karen has a vast wealth of volunteer experiences including working with WindReach Farm and the Whitby Ajax Garden Project. My favorite of her volunteer experiences is that she is a cat cuddler at Toe Beans Cat Cafe. Sign me up! Welcome Karen!

Auryn (pronounced like Orange, without the g) is our newest member, this week. Auryn is a ball of beautiful, warm energy. She is coming to us from the Property Management industry and is already working through the Plant ID course at Guelph. You Go!



Auryn's special interests include native gardening, pollinator gardening, perennial vegetable gardening, season extension techniques, edible landscaping, herbal medicine and shade gardening.



Board Vacancy – Vice President (VP)

MGOI is looking to find a VP as soon as possible, or potentially 2 VPs, to support our 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.'



Message from the President – Anne Craig



Hello Master Gardeners

In January, I took on the role of President of MGOI. I know I have big shoes to fill. Last fall, Karen Sciuk (out-going President) sent a letter to all Master Gardeners explaining the challenges facing our organization. Many people responded to that call. For the first time in several years, we will have almost a full board, with members from across the province (we are still searching for a VP). The updated board is committed to working on your behalf and ensuring that the organization is strong going into the future.

In the upcoming months, I will tell you more about the board's plans. There will be opportunities for all members to contribute their ideas.

I also want to introduce you to your board over the next couple of issues, starting with Director of Marketing, Treasurer, Director of Partnerships, and Director East Region. Here they are!

Director of Marketing – Elizabeth Stewart

Toronto Master Gardeners

My first gardening memory - Hoeing weeds in our large Saskatchewan vegetable garden in the blazing heat!

My favourite gardening tool - My trusty hori-hori knife.

My current favourite plant - *Helleborus* spp. Remember the Wallis Simpson saying, "You can never be too rich or too thin"? My version is "You can never have too many Hellebores".

My gardening nemesis - Critters! In my downtown Toronto garden, my veggie beds are besieged by skunks, raccoons, the occasional rabbit and several feral cats.



Treasurer – Susie Cosack

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

My first gardening memory - When I married a farmer and decided for the first time to grow a vegetable garden, I had no idea how many 4-legged creatures out in the country would also enjoy eating from my garden patch it prompted us to get some dogs to help chase the critters away!



My favourite gardening tool - My secateurs. They are always in my pocket.

My current favourite plant - I am really loving spring ephemerals lately.

My gardening nemesis - Dealing with goutweed planted by the neighbours years ago.

Director of Partnerships – Sean Patchett

Muskoka Master Gardeners



My first gardening memory - My first memory involving plants and nature would have to be of the ravine by my elementary school growing up. Every day I would walk through it, going to and from school. I knew every tree and stone in that little patch of forest.

My favourite gardening tool - It really depends on the job....I have a lightweight stainless steel spade that is easily my most used tool, aside from my Felco pruners.

My current favourite plant - Outdoors, my current favourite plant is the tall Serviceberry Tree in front of my house. Indoors, I must confess that I am a sucker for Orchids of all kinds.

My gardening nemesis - Periwinkle, Goutweed, Lamium, and Buckthorns.

East Region Director – Rebecca Last

Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

My first gardening memory - My Mum gave me some radish seeds and my very own container to plant them in.

My favourite gardening tool - Does a bucket count as a tool? The best gardening advice I ever got was, “Always bring a bucket with you into the garden.”

My current favourite plant - Hard to pick just one! However, sometime in the late 1990s, the squirrels planted an acorn in my front yard. By the time I discovered this little oak whip, it had taken firm root and would not budge. A quarter century later, this lovely oak tree is the centrepiece of my front garden, and I LOVE it!

My gardening nemesis - I can't pick just one. Passing cars that throw their trash on my hell strip, neighbour who has everything made of plastic, jumping worms, other invasives...



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Halton Master Gardeners

Name: Hamilton Seedy Saturday

Details: Hamilton's 14th annual Seedy Saturday took place February 1st this year – it's held the first Saturday in February and is organized by Green Venture Hamilton.



View of the floor. Photo Credit Jacklin Cunningham, Green Venture



MG Guiliana Cassimiri, Executive Director of Green Venture and her team are instrumental in organizing the event, a celebration of gardening in all its glory. Seed and other vendors from all over Ontario descend upon the Hamilton Central Library

to bring a bit of spring cheer to the depths of winter – especially after the unexpected hit of snow that Hamilton got the day before. There are also information booths and workshops.

In the afternoon MGs Allyn Walsh, Pam MacDonald, and Trish Moraghan went off to do a presentation on Native Plants in Gardens, Containers, & Bouquets while MGs Lynn Courtney and Isabel Belanger manned the Advice / Information table.



l - r, Allyn, Coordinator Kate Sault, Pam, Trish

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Social Event

Details: MGOC celebrated Rebecca Last's tenure as Coordinator in true style at the Barley Mow Pub on January 25. The event featured a delightful brunch,



MG Rebecca Last with the cake



MG Julianne Labreche

a hilarious speech by MG Julianne Labreche, heartfelt gifts of appreciation, and, of course, a delicious cake.

Among the attendees were many cherished Master Gardeners, including Kelly Noel, whose company we were happy to enjoy again. Laughter and good times flowed freely throughout the event.

A special thank you to all those who helped organize this memorable gathering, particularly MG

Sylvie Lapointe, whose meticulous attention to detail made everything run smoothly, as well as Julianne Labreche and Celia Shatsky for their invaluable assistance in bringing everything together.



Happy MGs including Kelly Noël, 2nd from the right



While Rebecca has passed the torch at MGOC, she continues her exceptional gardening journey as MGO's Eastern Region Director. She also remains a valued contributor as the bimonthly author of MGO's *Opportunities* newsletter. Here's to all the amazing things still to come from Rebecca!



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Garden and Homestead Market Seedy Saturday

Details: The Grand Erie Master Gardeners have been busy this month. MG Laura Rodger together with MGITs Liz Hopkins, Kimberly Hutten and Erin Casey attended the Garden and Homestead Market Seedy Saturday in Waterford on February 8th. It was a very successful event with many vendors and speakers and was very well-attended by the public.



Photo shows MG Kim Hutten, left and MGIT Liz Hopkins behind our table at the Waterford event



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Westmount Public School – Miyawaki Tiny Forest

Details: Over the past few years, PMG Carol Anderson has been working with Westmount Public School in Peterborough to plant a tiny forest.



This project is part of a national initiative with the Canadian Geographic Society and in partnership with Peterborough GreenUP.



Name: PMG Speaking Engagements

Details: In February, Peterborough MGIT Thom Luloff provided an enlightening presentation on *Creating a Bird Friendly Garden* to the Lakefield and District Horticultural Society. Thom covered the essential elements that make a garden a welcoming haven for birds, from providing ample food sources and nesting materials to offering suitable shelter and water features.

He talked about the fascinating behaviours and preferences of common bird species, providing insights into their dietary needs, nesting habits, and seasonal migrations.



Attendees left with lots of knowledge about tailoring their garden design and maintenance practices to meet the specific needs of birds throughout the year.



Etobicoke Master Gardeners with Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Advice Clinic & Children's Garden, Home & Backyard Show, Mississauga

Details: Etobicoke and Mississauga Master Gardeners opened the gardening year once again by collaborating on a booth at the Home and Backyard Show at the International Centre, Mississauga from Jan 31st to Feb 2nd, 2025. Visitors of all ages attended the Children's Garden,



Deciding to make a "Grass Head" and learn about growing a healthy plant with MG Jim Graham, EMG

enjoying a range of hands-on learning activities designed to explore seed starting, what it takes to grow a healthy plant, attracting birds to the garden and small scale vermiculture. The popularity of the hands-on activities to create a Grass Head and Pine Cone Bird feeder was amazing. As always, the Advice Clinic fielded many gardening questions - from fruit tree pruning to dog pee resistant grass seed and more - and our Good Bugs/Bad Bugs activity was a great way to have conversations with visitors and answer questions about attracting pollinators and managing insect pests in the garden. Many thanks to the MG volunteers from both groups who were kept very busy throughout the weekend.



L-R, Madalaine Allan (EMG), Ramona Christensen (MMG), Suzanne Zacharczyk (EMG), and Jim Graham (EMG) with "Bruce, the Moose" at the booth

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Presentation to Credit Valley Horticultural Society

Details: Mississauga MG Diana Westland presented the topic *The Versatile Clematis* to the Credit Valley Horticultural Society on January 8th. She discussed the many varieties of Clematis as well as the best varieties that grow well in our location. Along with pruning techniques and answering many questions from enthusiastic members, Diana recommended they ask their local nursery to bring in a particular variety that members coveted.

MMGs also had an advice table where questions were answered about what to do with your amaryllis bulb after it flowered, what to use on diseased boxwood shrubs and how to keep critters from eating all your tulips. It was a great crowd and a nice way to start 2025!



Diana Westland presenting to the Credit Valley Horticultural Society

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Land Acknowledgement

Details: For the past year, our group has started our meetings with a Land Acknowledgement statement, done by a different member each time. Some of our members write their own statements while others use one from local organizations.



Name: Little Forests Kingston

Details: To avoid snowy roads in the winter months, Lanark holds our monthly meetings via Zoom. For our February meeting we had a speaker from Little Forests Kingston talk to us about creating a Little Forest. At the meeting, we learned that the speaker, Joyce Hostyn is also a member of 1000 Islands Master Gardeners.

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Our Mentorship Program for Master Gardeners in Training

Details: The Toronto Master Gardeners (TMG) currently have 28 Master Gardeners in Training (MGiTs) at various stages of the MGIT Program. How do we support and track the progress of this large group? We have a variety of strategies, but Mentors are a particularly effective not-so-secret weapon!

At the TMG each new MGIT is linked with a Mentor. Mentors are TMGs who volunteer to provide support to a MGIT throughout their apprenticeship period (2-3 years). Mentors provide a consistent personal connection to the TMG organization – a friendly face at meetings and events, someone to explain how things work, answer questions, cheer on a MGITs first presentation, or partner at an Advice Clinic. An annual survey of our MGIT graduates indicates that MGITs benefit from a minimum of monthly contact with their Mentor. This tends to be more frequent early on and may fluctuate based on the needs of the MGIT over time.

Any TMG can volunteer to be a Mentor. They may be newly minted Master Gardeners themselves or sage, experienced TMGs with years under their belts.

Mentors are unified in the desire to aid in the success of a colleague, share their experience and model the values of the TMG. Some Mentors even take on more than one MGIT!

Mentors are supported by the TMG Recruitment, Training and Mentorship team. We believe Mentors integrate new members into our organization more quickly and help to sustain their volunteer commitment long-term.

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday

Details: The Niagara MGs hosted a Seedy Saturday seed-exchange event on Feb. 15th in Fonthill. The weather was a bit blustery, but didn't stop a few hundred eager seed buyers and gardening enthusiasts from coming! It might have been cold and snowy outside, but inside there was lots of talk about seed planting and the season ahead.



The seed-sale tables were very busy. They were organized and manned by hard-working MGs (including Linda Wade, centre, blue jacket).



Above, Bob Reeves of Root Rescue, a regular vendor at the event, says he enjoys talking to people about the science behind soil health and the importance of mycorrhizal fungi to encourage healthy plant roots and vigorous microbial life underground.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation (NPCF) table offered information on their work supporting conservation in the Niagara watershed, such as improving water quality, restoring wetland and wildlife habitat, and providing environmental research and education.





Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation (NPCF) table

Name: Floral arrangement workshop

Niagara Master Gardeners held a workshop in February at Niagara Hospice. The workshop featured ferns, carnations and baby’s breath, all arranged in teacups as a Valentines’ Day-themed activity.



MGs Kendy Steeves and Yvonne Causer, at right, hosted a Valentines’ Day-themed activity at Hospice Niagara



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: February 12th Meeting

Details: Our February meeting has remained online even after the pandemic to accommodate members who drive from afar in winter weather. This month, we were fortunate to have Sara Mai Chitty as our guest speaker to kick off our second year of our climate change adaptation theme.

Sara Mai Chitty is an educator, and climate advocate. She is a member of Alderville First Nation.

Sara Mai's work focuses on integrating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into educational frameworks. She played a pivotal role in developing the "Connecting for Climate Change Action" course at Western University, which is where one of our members met her.

This course combines Western and Indigenous sciences to educate and motivate action on climate change. Her contributions to climate education highlight the importance of diverse knowledge systems in addressing global challenges.

During her presentation to our group, Sara Mai inspired and empowered us to take action against climate change through gardening.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Advice Clinics: Seedy Events in March

Details: Lanark County Master Gardeners will hold an Advice Clinic at each of the three local Seedy events in March.

1. Seedy Sunday Perth

- **Date & Time:** March 2, 2025, 10-3
- **Place:** Perth Civitan Club

2. Seedy Saturday Smiths Falls

- **Date & Time:** March 8, 2025, 10-3
- **Place:** Smiths Falls Civitan Club

3. Seedy Saturday Almonte

- **Date & Time:** March 16, 2025, 10-3
- **Place:** Almonte Civitan Club





MGiTs Jordan Scott-Richer, left and Tim Deslippe at Almonte Seedy Saturday, March 16th 2024



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!

Master Gardeners Association of Alberta

Name: Symposium

Date & Time: Sunday, March 16th, 2025, 9:00am to 3:15pm MST via Zoom

Details: Presenters include:

- Myrna Pearman: Naturescaping
- Gerard Fournier: Planting with Native Trees and Shrubs
- Robert Pavlis, Guelph Master Gardeners: Gardening and Climate Change

Tickets: Members - \$35; Non-members - \$45; ticket and general information, and the ticket link are available at:

<https://mgaab.org/event/mgaa-symposium-2/>



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Winter 2025 Winter Lecture Series

Name: Lecture 2 – The Wonder of Trees: Choice, Care and Stewardship

Date & Time: Tuesday, March 18th, 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. The 2nd talk of the series features The Wonder of Trees with Todd Irvine.

Looking to add some trees to your property but not sure where or how to do so? Wondering how to prune or how to assess the general health of your trees? How to add colour and shade?

Join our presenter, Todd Irvine, MFC, MA, and ISA Certified Arborist, Principal at City Forest, who will discuss the many wonders of trees.



How to assess general health, simple rules of pruning, criteria for selection of species and more will be covered in this engaging evening of tree talk. Bring your questions to Todd and prepare to leave with a deepened appreciation for our leafy neighbours.

One more lecture follows.

Date: April 15th

Name: The Arts and Crafts Garden with Frank Kershaw at the same place and time.



Name: 2025 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series with the Humber Arboretum

Next Workshop: Choosing Your Champion: Picking Plants for a Healthy Garden

Date: April 12, 2025

Time & Place: In-person workshops are at the Humber Arboretum and run from 10:00 a.m. until approximately 12:30 p.m., offering an indoor presentation followed by an outdoor walk.

Virtual workshops in February and November take place over Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to noon (90-minute workshop plus 30 minutes for questions).

Details: EMG provides a series of virtual and in person gardening workshops in cooperation with Humber Arboretum between February and November. All are free and take place on Saturdays.

More Information and Sign-up: For details please see the attached flyer or go to

<https://humber.ca/arboretum/learn/adult-programs/etobicoke-master-gardeners.html>.



Etobicoke Master Gardeners
www.etobicokemastergardeners.ca

HUMBER ARBORETUM

2025 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series
Free Saturday Sessions

In-Person at the Humber Arboretum*
Indoor presentation followed by a walk
10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

- April 12: Choose Your Champion: Picking Plants for a Healthy Garden
- May 10: Making the Cut: Pruning
- June 7: Get Familiar with Flora: Plant Identification
- September 20: Exploring Trees and Shrubs
- October 4: Supporting Biodiversity: The Power of Wetlands and Ravines

Virtual Sessions via Zoom
10:00 AM to Noon

- February 22: Creating Your Balcony Oasis: Tips and Tricks for Balcony Gardening
- November 15: Nurturing Indoor Greenery: A Guide to Growing Indoor Plants

Free, but space is limited and registration is required:
[Humber.ca/arboretum/emg](https://humber.ca/arboretum/emg)

*At the back of Humber Polytechnic North Campus, 205 Humber College Blvd, Toronto, M9W 5L7

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Brant County Library Talks: “From Dirt to Delicious”

Date & Time: March 19th from 6:30 to 8pm

Location: St. George Branch, County of Brant Public Library, 78 Main St. N., St. George, ON

Details: Several of our members will be presenting at the Brant County Library Talks. Join MGITs Kim Hutten and Liz Hopkins at the St. George Branch as we discuss “From Dirt to Delicious” – all there is to know about vegetable gardening!



Name: Brant County Library Talks: “Honey I Shrunk the Lawn!”

Date & Time: March 26th from 6:30-8pm

Details: Join MG Kevin Kavanagh and MGIT Kim Hutten at the Burford Library for “Honey I Shrunk the Lawn!” and learn how to reduce turf and replace it with native gardens.

For both events go to the events page on our website for more information on how to register:

<https://granderiemg.org/events>

Name: Workshop: “Stuck in the Mud? Embracing Native Plants in Gardens with Clay Soil”

Date & Time: Sunday, April 27th, 2025; 11am – 4pm

Location: Ruthven National Historical Site at 243 Haldimand County Hwy 54, Cayuga, ON

Details: We have finalized the details of our first workshop of the year. Join us for an informative and hands-on Gardening Workshop where you’ll learn how to successfully grow native plants in clay soil. MG Kevin Kavanagh will speak on the topic of gardening with native plants in clay soils. A complimentary lunch will be provided by a local cafe with Canadian-sourced food. The lunch will be followed by a Guided Walk in the Woods to explore local native plants in their natural Carolinian Forest Habitat. End the day with a Tour of the Historic Mansion on-site.

Cost: \$55 per person

Registration: Registration is now open! Please see the link on our events page at <https://granderiemg.org/events> to register. Seats are limited to ensure all registrants have an enjoyable learning experience.



Durham Master Gardeners

Name: The Making of a Mini-Forest

Details: Little Forests Durham, Durham Master Gardeners and Green Communities Canada are very excited to be hosting this documentary film, the Canadian premiere of a film by Angelina Lee and narrated by Hannah Lewis, the author of Mini-Forest Revolution.

CEUs: The film is eligible for 2 CEUs

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

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

Cost: \$10.00

Tickets:

https://tickets.regenttheatre.ca/orderticketsarea.asp?p=1543&a=140&src=default&_ga=GA1.1.1639904263.1739024996&gl=

Any questions or inquiries please contact us at

littleforestsduham.ca or

email littleforestsduham@gmail.com.



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: A Day for Gardeners

Date & Time: Saturday, April 26th, 2025; 9:30am – 3pm (approximate)

Cost: \$60. early bird, \$75 after April 1

Location: Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St., Peterborough

Details: You will have a choice of 3 seminars with a plenary session at the end. Please see the poster for topics and further details. All seminars are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners. Lunch is included, and there will be door prizes.

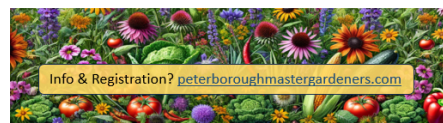


Saturday April 26, 2025

Westdale United Church
1509 Sherbrooke St, Peterborough, ON
9:30am to 3pm (estimate)



Four Seminars, lunch & door prizes Cost: \$60 early bird \$75 after Apr 1 Come join us for a fun day of learning, lunch and friendship!	All seminars are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners	
	Session 1:	◆ Composting & Soil OR ◆ Beyond Bee Hotels: Creating Habitat for Beneficial Insects
	Session 2:	◆ Trees & Shrubs for Small Urban Spaces OR ◆ Shade Gardens
	Session 3:	◆ Vegetable Edible Gardens OR ◆ Harvesting Rainwater: One Gardener's Experience
Plenary: Friends, Enemies and Frenemies: A Wildlife Guide for Gardeners		



Join us for a fun filled day of learning, lunch and friendship!



Toronto Master Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE: THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE The Toronto Botanical Garden's Annual Tour Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8, 2025

Details: One of the highlights in the Toronto Master Gardeners' year is the premier garden tour, *Through the Garden Gate*, sponsored by the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG). In partnership with TBG, the Toronto Master Gardeners scout possible gardens more than a year in advance. For each day of this 2-day event, we staff every garden with one or more Master Gardeners, to help guide visitors through the garden, safeguard the garden on behalf of the homeowner, and answer any questions from visitors about plant material or design elements in the garden. Many thanks to the Etobicoke Master Gardeners who helped us with this staffing at last year's tour in Swansea, in southwest Toronto.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8 in the Hogg's Hollow neighbourhood at Yonge Street & York Mills Road. It's worth the trip!

Check out the event description on TBG's website. In the lead photo from last year's tour in Swansea, on the left, is TMG Nicole Leaper, in one of the gardens.

<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/through-the-garden-gate/>



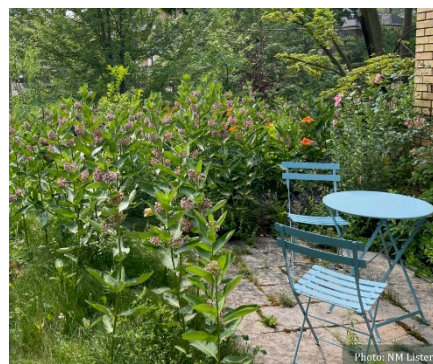
Photo: TTGG Swansea 2024 – TMG Nicole Leaper (green apron); courtesy Toronto Botanical Garden

SAVE THE DATE – UPCOMING EVENT

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, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Toronto Botanical Garden



SAVE THE DATE



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.

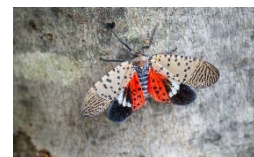


Oak wilt disease in an oak tree.
Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak_wilt_diagnosing_and_preventing



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.

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

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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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