



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

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

This Newsletter aims to be the voice for Master Gardeners—a 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.

MGOI Board Members:

President:	Anne Craig, Peterborough
Past President:	Karen Sciuk, Waterloo Region
Vice President:	Vacant
Corporate Secretary:	Lynda Bobinski, Thunder Bay
Treasurer:	Susie Cosack, Simcoe
Director of Communications:	Ruth Treloar, Haliburton County
Director of Education:	Kate Sault, Halton
Director of Events:	Isia Yeo, Durham
Director of Membership:	Lois Johnson, Niagara
Director of Operations:	Dianne Wheler, Tri-County
Director of Marketing:	Elizabeth Stewart, Toronto
Director of Partnerships:	Sean Patchett, Muskoka
Director of Central Region:	Linda Gordon, Etobicoke
Director of East Region:	Rebecca Last-Guenette, Ottawa-Carleton
Director of North Region:	Gail Cocker, Simcoe County
Director of South & West Region:	Lynne Goulet-Smith, Grand Erie
Advisor to the Board:	Rhonda Grein, Waterloo Region

Committee Members:

Webmaster: Sabine Behnk, Waterloo sabine.behnk@icloud.com
 Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton newsletter@mgoi.ca
 Membership Database, Exams & Certificates: MJ Pilgrim, Peterborough database@mgoi.ca
 Badges & Pins: Lois Johnson, Niagara supplies@mgoi.ca
 MGOI Wear: Lynn Goulet-Smith, Grand Erie
 Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
 Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Cathy Kavassalis, Halton
 Manager, MG Participation in the CNE & RWF: Kate Sault, Halton

In This Issue

Master Gardeners

- Milestones
- Dogbane: from Misunderstood to Valued Native
- Master Gardeners Out & About
- Upcoming Events
- CFIA: Oak Wilt Disease & Spotted Lantern Fly; Digital Toolkit; Seeds Alert

◦ **MGOI**

- Board Vacancy: VP

INSIDE MGOI

August 2025

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Member Profile

Judy Wall

Of Interest

For our August Meeting we met at the home of Lanark County Master Gardener, Judy Wall, a 23-year veteran of Lanark County Master Gardeners. Judy recently closed her garden centre, a place that had always expressed her creative nature with her beautiful gardens and the courses she gave in stained glass window hangings and Hyper-Tufa containers. She moved to a new property that had not had any "gardening love".

Her first endeavor was to cut down 30 trees that were dead or dying and in danger of hitting her house or her neighbours' houses. Left with many stumps in her yard, she took the innovative approach of building raised garden beds over her stumps around the yard. Her property soil is heavy, compacted clay so the raised beds provided a great starting point for her vegetable and flower gardens.

Judy always enjoys innovation. She recently cut down some Buckthorn bushes that bordered on her woods and her lawn. To avoid hitting the stumps with her lawn mower, she painted the tops of the stumps with bright yellow paint. A positive outcome from this was that the buckthorn stumps did not produce any suckers. She is unclear if this is a permanent fix but so far, so good.

Last year, Judy experimented with growing Sweet Potatoes. She planted some directly in the ground, some in her raised beds and some in Grow Bags. The Sweet Potatoes in Grow Bags outperformed the others significantly.



Judy loves to experiment with different plants. One interesting result was the Red Pod Asparagus Bean. These beans love the heat and can grow up to a metre long. They are a mild bean, without the annoying string. They retain their magenta colour when cooked, and when cooked have the flavour of asparagus, mushroom and beans. Excellent in a stir fry!

The primary attraction of our visit was the mushrooms Judy was experimenting with after attending a demonstration on growing mushrooms a year ago. To grow them you need living tree branches with a 7.5 cm diameter. You apply an inoculant and keep the logs moist. The logs remain



Judy holding a branch with mushrooms beginning to sprout

outside all year round. In up to two years, little mushrooms should start to appear. Once they start growing, the logs can keep producing mushrooms for up to eight years. Judy had a Shiitake mushroom grow first but a chipmunk enjoyed it. She now has Lion's Mane (*Hericium erinaceus*) showing up.

We followed our garden tour with our August meeting, welcoming the air conditioning in her house.



Durham Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Karla Warkentin



Welcome Karla!

Karla lives in Goodwood and is retired from a career in accounting. She has been volunteering in various capacities for 30 years and has become passionate about gardening in the last 10. Her gardening interests include fruit and vegetable gardening, roses, native plants, companion planting and organic gardening. Her skills include writing, public speaking, social media, technical skills and accounting. Karla's skills and enthusiasm will be put to good use!



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Ontario Volunteer Service Award Recipients

Rebecca Last
Kelly Noel
Josie Pazdzior
Adair Heuchan
Claire McCaughey

MGOC was proud to have five MGs honoured as recipients of the Ontario Volunteer Service Award 2025: Rebecca Last and Kelly Noel for 20 years of service; Josie Pazdzior for 15 years of service; and Adair Heuchan and Claire McCaughey for 5 years of service.

Local MPPs Stephen Blais, John Fraser, Chandra Pasma, and Tyler Watt presented the awards on July 22nd at the Hellenic Centre. They spoke about the important contributions that volunteers make.

The ceremony perfectly blended significance with a warm, celebratory atmosphere, and honoured Canadians from many areas of volunteering.



*Left to right - MPs Stephen Blais and Tyler Watt, MGs Adair Heuchan, Claire McCaughey, Josie Pazdzior and Rebecca Last with MPs Chandra Pasma and John Fraser. MG Kelly Noel was unable to attend.
(Photo by Belinda Boekhoven)*

New Master Gardeners in Training

Kathleen Atkinson
Shelley Pelkey
Victoria Walker

Congratulations to our new graduates!



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Betty Goodfellow

The Grand Erie Master Gardeners are pleased to welcome Betty to the group.



Halton Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Isabella Marchese

A very warm welcome is extended to our newest member, Isabella Marchese!

Member Transfer

Mary Lloyd Clifford

Mary transferred to Mississauga Master Gardeners in June.



Board Vacancy Vice President (VP)



MGOI is looking for 1 or 2 VPs to support the President. This 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

Dogbane: from Misunderstood to Valued Native



by Halton MG Cathy Kavassalis
with input from HMGs Claudette Sims & Isabel Belanger

In the July Newsletter, a North American dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*) was pictured with a note that “dogbane was used to poison dogs in Ancient Greece.” This needs clarification.

The truth is that our native dogbane was never used in this way. The Ancient Greeks used a Mediterranean relative, *Cionura erecta* (formerly *Marsdenia erecta*), to poison dogs. Both plants belong to the Apocynaceae family, which also includes milkweeds and *Amsonia* spp. Their shared family traits — bitter compounds and toxicity to mammals — likely explain why the name “dogbane” was applied broadly. [Wikipedia – Apocynum cannabinum](#)

But here's the catch: names matter. The term “dogbane” emphasizes danger, casting the plant in a negative light. Yet *Apocynum cannabinum* is also known by other names that highlight its value: **Indian hemp** or **Canadian hemp** for its strong fibres; **rheumatism weed** for its medicinal uses; and **honey bloom** for its nectar-rich flowers that attract pollinators. These names remind us that how we talk about plants shapes how they are perceived.

Cultural significance: Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island have long recognized the value of dogbane. Its strong fibres were twisted into cordage and nets, and its roots and berries were prepared as medicines. For example, the Chippewa used root decoctions for heart palpitations, while the Iroquois took root infusions for stomach cramps. Wild Adirondacks – Dogbane

Ecological importance: Dogbane supports a surprising variety of bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, and beetles. Like milkweeds, it serves as a host for specialist insects, including the dogbane moth and the striking, iridescent dogbane beetle (*Chrysochus auratus*). Its toxicity, while making it unpalatable to many mammals, benefits these insects by offering refuge and resources. [Illinois Wildflowers – Dogbane](#)

By reframing Canadian hemp not as a feared “dog killer,” but as a plant with cultural significance, practical uses, and ecological value, we can begin to undo the stigma that often surrounds **unfortunately named native species**. While not suitable for every landscape, Canadian hemp deserves recognition as a resilient and important member of our native ecosystems.



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: July Member Fieldtrip to Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station

Details: The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were invited, along with local farmers, to tour the LU Agricultural Research Station. The director, Tarok Singh Sahota explained how they were testing 31 new crop varieties, fertilizers for spring wheat and canola that are designed to provide season long nourishment, plant growth regulators and bio-products. Increasing yield is important so they are continually testing new varieties, high yielding varieties, and matching nutrient management as well. They are also testing seeding times for canola, a popular crop across the country. It was a very informative tour as we often get questions regarding crops.



left to right, MGs Gordon Ward, Theresa Love, Carole McCullum, Sylvia Goodheart & Andrea Steinhäusser
Missing from photo, Rosemary McNabb

Name: Thunder Bay Art Gallery Garden Tour

Details: The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were once again excited to participate in the much-anticipated Thunder Bay Art Gallery Garden Tour. MG Lynda Lahtenmaa has been an integral part of selecting the gardens for over 25 years. And once again, she did not disappoint.

There were 7 personal and 4 commercial gardens for the public to enjoy. Despite the weather forecast which included a severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings mid day, once the skies cleared everyone was back out enjoying the gardens.

Each year the Master Gardeners go 2 weeks before the tour and select their favourite plant, tree or shrub and provide a writeup on their choice. The 'MG Pick' is highlighted with a sign and sparks lots of conversations with the public. We love sharing our knowledge and always come away learning as well. What a great day!



Back row, left to right, MGs Jack Van Gemeren & Gordon Ward
Front row, left to right, Andrea Steinhäusser, Lynda Lahtenmaa & Sylvia Goodheart

left to right:
MGiT Laura Jones,
homeowner Kim Karioja,
MG Lynda Lahtenmaa



MG Sylvia Goodheart



Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Heirloom Tomato Plant Sales

Details: Lake Simcoe South MGs annual Heirloom Tomato Plant Sales featured over 20 varieties of tomatoes, almost all of which were grown from seed by Lake Simcoe South MG Maria Shtemberg. LSSMG volunteers explained the benefits of heirloom vegetable plants and provided growing tips to visitors.

Sales were brisk at our two community locations: Schomberg Community Farm on May 10th and Newmarket Farmers' Market on May 17th. Over 200 plants were sold!



MGs Donna Sardone (left) and Maria Shtemberg (right) at Schomberg Community Farm



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Roots and Shoots Peace Garden

Details: Guelph Master Gardeners in conjunction with the University of Guelph Arboretum Staff have, over the past 15 years, expanded and rebuilt an area with native plants, trees and shrubs. Truly a showcase of hard work and excellent leadership under MG Inger Knudsen. In Inger's words...

"The Roots and Shoots Garden is developed and maintained by the Guelph Master Gardeners. It is a dry woodland garden with native plants.



We have been involved with the garden since 2012, and it took many years before it got going as a garden. Vast areas of Buckthorn needed to be cleared, mulch needed to be applied to the sandy soil and plants were purchased to start the garden. Buckthorn is now under control, a nice organic soil has been

created and we have a great selection of woodland and woodland edge plants. All plants are labelled.

We work together with the Arboretum to decide what we plant and have a good relationship with the Arboretum, where we also have our meetings. We keep expanding the garden and adding new plants and are especially interested in Goldenrod and Asters. If you have something you think we might be interested in please let us know.

We will be creating an interactive map of the garden and if you come for a visit in the fall, you can get a list of the plant material."



MGs Inger Knudsen, left & Rosemary Fernandes-Walker



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Name: Garden Socials

Details: Some of the Peterborough Master Gardeners opened up their homes and gardens this summer and hosted some lovely socials for the group. Below are some pictures of some of these fun occasions. And a big thank you to the hosts!



The June 18th Social at MJ's

From left to right – Marilyn Homewood, MJ Pilgrim (host), Carol Ireland, Lois Scott, Silvia Strobl, Sharleen Pratt, Anne Craig



The July 16th Social at Carol's

From left to right – Brandi McNeely, Jenn Guertin, Marjorie Vendrig, Sharleen Pratt, Emma Murphy, Leslie Farooq, Christine Freeburn, Carol Ireland (host)



Colourful annuals and stunning Alliums in Carol's front garden



The August 13th Social at Lois Scott's

From left to right – Jennifer Guertin, Anne Craig, Marilyn Homewood



The August 13th Social at Lois Scott's

From left to right – Gladys Fowler, Rachel Burrows, Lois Scott, Silvia Strobl



Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Blakeney Food Bank Garden

Details: For the last 4 years, two members of Lanark County Master Gardeners have worked with Lanark County Foodbank to grow vegetables for the Food Bank. MG David Hinks worked with the Food Bank to bring the donated 2 acres of land to a thriving vegetable garden. He and MG Gerda Franssen work with a different team of volunteers each week as coaches and workers to plant, maintain and harvest crops for the foodbank.

As harvest season is upon us, the members deliver produce to the food bank. At our last meeting, Gerda had worked at the garden and delivered 549 pounds of food to the food bank. This was made up of tomatoes, beets, chard, onions, garlic and potatoes. Well Done team!



Left to right, Ramona Christiansen, Mary Lloyd-Clifford, Betty-May Evans, Karolina Marques and Sheelagh Rowland

Name: Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) Rooftop Gardens

Details: On Monday, July 7th MMGs had the pleasure of visiting the rooftop gardens at TMU (formerly Ryerson University). The first ¼ acre garden is the Andrew and Valerie Pringle Environmental Green Roof on the George Vari Engineering and Computer Centre, and the second is on the rooftop of the Daphne Cockwell Health Services Complex.



Garlic growing on the roof

It was a hot day in July as we watched 700 garlic bulbs being harvested by students, staff and faculty! The gardens are an exceptional model that is known worldwide in the Green Roof Industry.

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Mississauga Garden Day

Details: MMGs participated in the Mississauga Garden Day event again this year, hosted by The Riverwood Conservancy at the end of June (Saturday, June 28th).

Many clubs were there to offer advice and/or information about their groups. Walking tours were available to peruse the grounds. The weather was perfect for a summer stroll amongst the flowers.

The roof acts as a sponge, allowing the water to stay for 8 to 9 hours. No sprays and chemicals are used, and crop rotation is actively utilized. The soil is 12" deep so only certain vegetables, plants and shrubs can be planted for successful growing. The food grown is divided up into a 1/3 selling style: a farm stand for the public; a CSA membership for the students; and a food bank where items are donated to students in need. The green rooftops contain not only a garden market but also dedicated plots for Indigenous Foodways and Black Food Sovereignty, flower farming, mushroom cultivation, natural dyes and pollinator plants.





Garlic drying in the rooftop greenhouse



MMGs Group Shot

Name: CNE Master Gardener Advice Table

Details: Can't believe the Exhibition is already in Toronto! Where did the summer go?

Mississauga Master Gardeners have many volunteers from our group helping out at the Advice Table in the Enercare Building (by the Flower Show).

The following is a photo of MG Diana Westland (left) and MGIT Deirdre Walsh (right) manning the table.



Halton Master Gardeners

Name: Garden Journeys/Open Days 2025 – Led by MG Allyn Walsh

Details: This free event which took place in the city of Hamilton was meant to allow gardeners to explore gardens that are helping to restore biodiversity and support local ecosystems. A wide range of gardens was



welcome, whether the gardener was just starting to plant native species or whether they were further along the path to creating an ecologically sustainable garden.

The event took place over two weekends in August, August 8-10 and 15-17, and featured gardens in Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough East, all regions of Hamilton including the Mountain and Stoney Creek/Vineland.

Text and the selection of photos from City of Hamilton Open Days Gardens, 2025, were by Hariette Henry.





Name: Monarch Awards, 2025, Led by MGs Pam MacDonald & Janet Mackey

Dates: June 1st to October 15th

Details: The Monarch awards are meant to celebrate and encourage eco-gardening. They were originally established by volunteers and staff from the Hamilton Naturalists' Club and the Royal Botanical Gardens under the leadership of former Halton member Beverly Wagar. By promoting sustainable landscapes and recognizing ecological gardening practices, this program seeks to raise awareness of biodiversity and increase the amount and quality of habitat for native flora and fauna. Though the awards originally were set up as a contest, in 2019 the format shifted to a recognition program. Under this new format judges still visit gardens, and these visits are a great way for gardeners to meet, share ideas, and get advice.



Applications are now closed and garden visits will end on September 1st. Award recipients will be announced September 20th, and a wrap-up celebration will take place October 15th. For more information on the Monarch Awards visit:

<https://haltonmastergardeners.com/2025/04/30/monarch-awards-2025-in-celebration-of-native-plant-gardening/>

Name: Advice Clinics—Ask a Master Gardener

Details: HMGs held Advice Clinics this year throughout the summer and fall at Farmers' Markets in Dundas, Hamilton (Ottawa Street), Burlington (Burlington Mall) and, for the first time, in Oakville at the Dorval Crossing Mall @ Dorval Drive and the North Service Rd. W.

A warm "Thank you" to the many Halton members who volunteered!



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Rave and Plants

Details: On July 18th, MGOC had an information table at the Canadian Museum of Nature's 'Nature Nocturne', part dance party and part science fair. With a theme of "Deserts and Oases", MGOC put together an engaging and educational display, including:

- Info sheets on waterwise gardening, hydrazones in the garden and characteristics of drought tolerant plants. QR codes meant printing was kept to a minimum.
- Jar test examples of three different soil types – sand, loam (actually potting soil) and clay.
- Yarn to simulate different root structures that help plants adapt to dry conditions.
- Examples of plants that are adapted to dry conditions, including native cacti, succulents, native "hairy" plants, and rosemary.

The sold-out event attracted 2,000 attendees. MGOC's table in the popular Bug Lab received more than 100 visitors from 8 p.m. to midnight. Many of us wondered if we'd be able to stay awake, but the event was so lively and such fun that midnight arrived sooner than expected.

Thanks again to our bilingual team – Andrea Knight, Sylvie Lapointe, Pauline Yelle and Rebecca Last, and to Coordinator Odette McIntyre who reviewed the translations for accuracy and grammar.



MG Andrea Knight explaining drought adapted roots to Nature Nocturne visitors (photo by Rebecca Last)



Name: Summer Social

Details: It was thyme to get together on July 14th for our annual social event. Organized by Celia Schatzky and Sylvie Lapointe, it was hosted by Maryanne Ambroziak at her beautiful garden in Carp. Thirty MGs gathered to enjoy delicious food and some socializing.

(Photo by Peter Ambroziak)



Name: New Fact Sheets

Details: MGOC produced a new fact sheet about Hydrangeas that are specifically well suited to the Ottawa area (or anyone gardening in Zones 4b to 5b). Another was produced on scale insects (superfamily Coccoidea of the order Hemiptera) that can be such a menace.

Name: Advice Clinics

Details: Clinics were held at the Barrhaven Market, Carp Garlic Festival and Cumberland Farmers' Market.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Some Summer Activities

Details:

Fresh Flower Design Workshop

The Grand Erie Master Gardeners worked hard to prepare for our fresh flower design workshop on Sunday August 24th. MGIT Erin Casey led the sold out workshop. We looked forward to walking through Erin's fields of flowers!

Facebook & Instagram Social Media Pages

Our Facebook and Instagram social media pages are being managed by MG Laura Rodger who continues to try to post daily with informative and educational content. We are pleased that our number of followers continues to increase.

Please visit us and follow @:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/granderiemg.org>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/granderiemastergardener/>

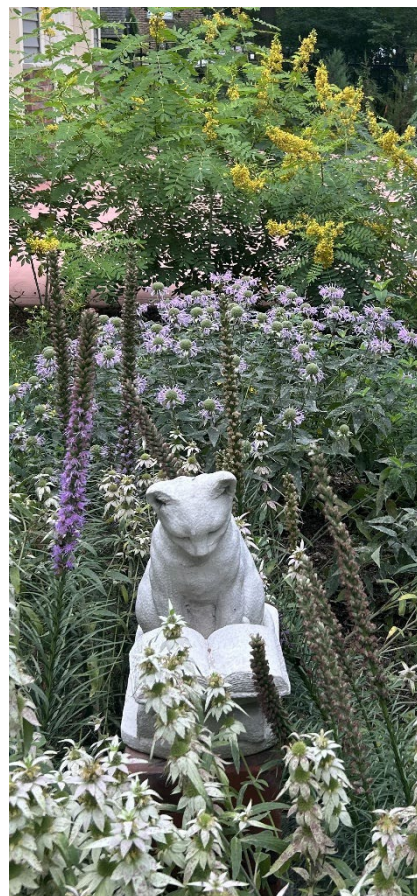
Meeting with Mohawk Chapel

Master Gardeners in Training Carolyn Bennett and Katie Iarocci met with representatives of the Mohawk Chapel Workshop who are looking into holding a workshop to educate their members on gardening and to assist with the gardens that are currently there.

Pollinator Magnets

This is a photo of "Reading Cat" statue surrounded by Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata*), Dense Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*), Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) and Wild Senna (*Senna hebecarpa*) in MG Laura Rodger's garden.

The photo unfortunately does not show the utter abundance of bees and other pollinators that are present all over these flowers.



Niagara Master Gardeners:

Name: Niagara Falls Garden Tour

Details: Niagara MGs took part in a garden tour at Halfway Carriage House in Niagara Falls at end of July. The property is named for 'Halfway House,' a tavern built in 1839 that served the Erie and Ontario Railway, the first railway in Upper Canada. Horse-drawn carriages carried people and goods along the railway from Queenston



(below the Falls) to Chippawa (above the Falls), an 11 mile journey. Halfway House was the only stop on that route. In the late 1800s, the building was rebuilt as a blacksmith shop by the Swedish-born Otto Lofgren.

The property is owned by Darren Schmahl, a landscape designer and instructor, and his partner Lori, an artist. The gardens were delightful and it was fun hearing about how it all came together.



Darren Schmahl (blue shirt) of Halfway Carriage House talks to the MG group about the history of the property. The stone barn in the background is from the time of the original railway.



Some huge trees on the property necessitated the use of lots of shady plants in some areas

A stone carved with the name of the blacksmith that owned the property in the late 1800s shares a garden with Russian sage, Amsonia, Allium and Queen Anne's lace, among other plants.



Name: 'From Our Garden' Tour, Vineland

Details: A group of Niagara MGs took part in an informative and inspiring tour of the 2-acre 'From Our Garden' property, run by *Start Me Up Niagara* and located on the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre properties in Niagara. Russ Moore, the garden manager of this worthy project, was our tour guide.



Garden Manager Russ Moore, far right, presents MG Karen Epp with a plaque recognizing Niagara MGs for their donation to the 'Adopt a Row' program



Signage marks the row sponsored by our group

Russ also provided us a write up about their operation and the needs and challenges they face. Here is an excerpt:

By Russ Moore

Start Me Up Niagara is a charitable organization offering services that support individuals facing significant challenges such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment, disabilities, substance use and compromised mental health. Services range from access to healthy food options and health care to employment services.



The “From Our Garden” program was started 12 years ago when Vineland Research and Innovation Centre (VRIC) offered *Start Me Up Niagara* a 2-acre piece of land located on the Vineland Research property in Vineland, Ontario. The generosity of VRIC allowed *Start Me Up Niagara* to grow their own fruit and vegetables to provide healthy food to individuals struggling with food insecurity. (Food is also harvested from VRIC’s own vast orchards and gardens, and includes peaches, plums, nectarines, carrots, beets, onions and apples.)

Last year, 42,000 lbs. of fresh produce from the properties were distributed to charitable organizations and food banks across the region. That said, without additional funding for staff, seeds, straw etc., the continuation of our garden program is very much in jeopardy.

We have made some strides on the funding side with our “Adopt a Row” sponsorship initiative started in 2023. This campaign asked for individuals and corporations/groups to sponsor a row in our garden to help offset the costs of operation. The campaign has met with some success but much more is needed if we are to move forward.

We publish a monthly garden newsletter that updates what’s growing and where the food is going. We also have our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram: <https://www.facebook.com/FromOurGardenSMUN/> <https://www.instagram.com/fromourgardensmun/>

Please help us spread the word. If you have any questions about our program or would like to volunteer or sponsor a row, please contact me at rmoore@startmeupniagara.ca.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Arboretum Expo: Tree Day! + Plant Sale

Date & Time: September 6th from 10-3

Place: Guelph Arboretum, University of Guelph. The Arboretum Expo will be held on the West Lawn, the Park and in The Arboretum Centre, with announcements and performances at the Gazebo.

Details: A community celebration of trees and the many exciting things happening in the Arboretum lands! Join us for tours of the grounds, trails, gardens, research projects, tree climbing demonstrations, and an in-person plant sale. Take home an interesting woody plant, grown in the Arboretum greenhouse and tended to by our dedicated staff and volunteers. [Check out the plants that will be available at our plant sale here!](#)

Guelph Master Gardeners will be on hand at their all-day booth in the Arboretum Centre / West Lawn. For further details visit: <https://arboretum.uoguelph.ca/education-events/ArbExpo>

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: 2025 Annual Fall Plant Sale

Date & Time:

September 13, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: 6 Kingsway Crescent, Etobicoke

Details: Free advice clinic, native plants for native pollinators, house plants and more!



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

2025 Annual FALL Plant Sale – Saturday, Sept 13, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
6 Kingsway Crescent, Etobicoke



Free Advice Clinic, native plants for native pollinators, houseplants and more!



www.etobicoke.mastergardeners.ca

Name: EMG Talk Series at the Humber Arboretum

Dates & Topics:

- September 20th – **Exploring Trees & Shrubs;** Presentation followed by a Tour of the Woodlot
- October 4th – **Supporting Biodiversity: The Power of Wetlands and Ravines**

Time & Place: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 205 Humber College Boulevard, Toronto

Details: Free Sessions. In person. Indoor presentation followed by an outdoor tour. Wear your walking shoes and dress for the weather to take the learning outside and enjoy the gardens and woodland.





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

Name: The Wonder of Trees—Long Branch Tree Festival

Date & Time: Sunday, September 21, 1:00 pm

Place: Marie Curtis Park, 42nd Street, Etobicoke

Details: Sponsored by Etobicoke Master Gardeners, this Guided Walk with Arborist Todd Irvine is 45-minutes long and begins at 1 pm at the 'Ask the Arborist' tent.

Lanark County Master Gardeners with Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Technical Update: The Wonderful World of Trees

Date: October 4, 2025

Location: Ottawa

Cost: TBD

Registration Information / Further Details: Coming Soon! Save the Date!



Durham Master Gardeners

Name: Planting—Miyawaki Mini Forest

Place: Heber Down Conservation Area, 5000 Cochrane St., Whitby, ON

Date: October 18th

Details: Join the Durham Master Gardeners for the planting of over 600 native tree and shrub species in a space of 200 square metres utilizing the Miyawaki tree planting method. Site prep was done in early August. You will not earn MG volunteer hours for this however the experience will be invaluable. Not to mention fun! Specific times and volunteer registration links are not yet available for the October date, but they should be posted closer to the event.

Toronto Master Gardeners

Technical Update Changing Cities, One Garden at a Time



Registration: Opens September 15th

Please visit the Technical Update page on the TMG website:

<https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/technical-update/>



Date, Time & Place: Saturday, November 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden

Cost:

\$65 for Toronto Master Gardeners

\$75 for other Master Gardeners

\$85 for members of the public

Includes a continental breakfast and boxed lunch

Details: We are excited to announce that the Toronto Master Gardeners will be hosting our first in-person Technical Update since 2020! Join us at Toronto Botanical Garden to explore how gardeners can support biodiversity in city gardens. The event will include a panel discussion, breakout sessions, and keynote speaker. The complete program and speakers list is now available on the TMG website. This will be a great opportunity to cross pollinate ideas and share inspiration with other Master Gardeners. We look forward to seeing you!

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Oak Wilt Disease

Reminder – Do Not Prune Oak Trees (*Quercus* spp.) from April 1st until December: winter pruning when the tree is dormant needs to be the new norm.



Oak Wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) is a fungal disease that can kill oak trees within one year. Red oaks are particularly susceptible. The pathogen that causes oak wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) is present in the Ontario environment, and prevention is key to defend against oak wilt. All ages and sizes of oak trees are susceptible:

<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminderno-pruning-oaks-from-now-until-november/#more-6673>.

Pathways by which oak wilt can spread include:

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

How You Can Help: Please share this message with the public and our MG 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

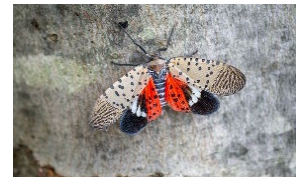
The Ontario government has posted in depth information on their website and advises 'not to prune or wound oaks between April 1 and November 30, when the **sap beetles** that spread the disease are active'.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt#:~:text=Oak%20wilt%20is%20an%20introduced,Falls%20area%20of%20Southern%20Ontario>.



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

"Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive planthopper that threatens Ontario's agricultural sector." The Ontario government has more information about identifying and preventing the spread here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/spotted-lanternfly-prevention-practices-producers>.

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



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 both 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! Please contact Maria Kubacki at the following coordinates:

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.

Follow:

[Facebook](#)

[X](#)

[YouTube](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

