



*Master Gardeners of Ontario Newsletter*

# Inside MGOI

## **MGOI Board Members**

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Vice President:	Vacant
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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](mailto:sabine.behnk@icloud.com)  
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca)  
Membership Database, Exams & Certificates: MJ Pilgrim, Peterborough [database@mgoi.ca](mailto:database@mgoi.ca)  
Badges & Pins: Lois Johnson, Niagara [supplies@mgoi.ca](mailto: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

## **March 2026 Newsletter**

### ***Inside This Issue***

#### ***Master Gardeners***

- Milestones
- Newsletter Working Group
- Master Gardeners Out & About
- Upcoming Events
- Resources—Oak Wilt Disease/Spotted Lantern Fly/CCIPR Links/CFIA Digital Toolkit/CFIA Seeds Alert

#### ***MGOI***

- Board Vacancy: VP

***Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton***

*Welcome to the March edition of Inside MGOI, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter. Our goal is to be a voice for Master Gardeners, a venue for providing insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members. It also features updates from the 28 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario, including member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, and upcoming events such as webinars/conferences/technical updates—essentially anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures—they are most welcome!*

*We are looking for fresh ideas and inspiration for meaningful change for this newsletter. Contributions to the newsletter, and inspirational ideas may be sent at any time to these coordinates:  
Isabel Belanger, Newsletter Editor, [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).*

## Grand Erie Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Marilyn Park

Congratulations to Marilyn who has gained her Master Gardener status! So happy to have her as part of our group.



### New Master Gardeners in Training

Myke Czikk

Kayleigh Meyer

Welcome Myke and Kayleigh! We are growing by leaps and bounds and are now up to 22 members!



## 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

### 15 Year Anniversary

Andie Wiens

Andie, a great mentor for newer members, reflects on 15 years, "The things I've learned and the marvellous people I've met..."



## Peterborough Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Thom Luloff

Sara Garden



*Marilyn Homewood (left) presents Sara with her MG Certificate*

Welcome Thom!



### Transfer In

Julien Ross, Master Gardener in Training

Julien has transferred in from Simcoe County MGs. While completing Guelph University's Horticulture program, he has been learning how to incorporate permaculture and native pollination practices to promote sustainability and food security. Julien wants to become a Master Gardener to deepen his knowledge, strengthen community partnerships, and share the joy of growing with others. By combining his culinary background with his gardening experience, he hopes to help others understand where their food comes from and inspire a more sustainable, community-focused approach to food.



## Tri County Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Michele Melady Young

Congratulations to Michele on receiving her Master Gardener certificate. Michele joined Tri-County Master Gardeners (then called Stratford and Area Master Gardeners) in 2022, transferring to us from the Master Gardener program in Alameda County, California.

She had been a Master Gardener for six years in California and was involved in many projects, in giving presentations and in training new Master Gardeners. Michele is now a dedicated Tri-County Master Gardener and has worked tirelessly to make all our projects successful.

We have benefited immeasurably from her knowledge and insightful ideas. Michele quickly upgraded her skills to include having Ontario specific knowledge about pesticide regulations, invasive plants and native plants.

She is a polished speaker who has given presentations and hosted many events in the Goderich area. Her ready smile and outgoing personality make her a great addition at all our events. In addition to Master Gardeners, Michele is involved in a number of ecological organizations including Butterflyway Rangers and the Maitland Trail Association.



*Michele Melady Young (on left) receiving her Master Gardener Certificate from TCMG Coordinator Elizabeth Spedaliere*



## Mississauga Master Gardeners

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Melissa Haddad

Andrew Lobo

### From Melissa

Hello. I am Melissa—an amateur gardener trying to grow as much as I can in the solarium of the apartment. While my mother takes care of her orchids, I try to grow herbs from seed and propagate them from supermarket cuttings. Having only a limited amount of experience gardening outside, I hope to learn as much as I can from my fellow knowledgeable Master Gardeners and contribute anything I can in return.

Mississauga Master Gardeners is delighted to welcome Melissa and Andrew to the group!



## Etobicoke Master Gardeners

### New Coordinator

Sarah Thompson

Despite the snow and cold, 2026 started off with a bang for Etobicoke Master Gardeners. Sarah Thompson stepped into the role of Coordinator in mid-January, and Janet Haynes Graham stepped back to Past Coordinator.

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Janice Lewkoski



*Coordinator Sarah Thompson, left with new Master Gardener Janice Lewkoski*



## New Master Gardeners in Training

Heather Horner  
Boska Paunovic



## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Pauline Yelle

Congratulations to Pauline, our newest Master Gardener and recent graduate of Dalhousie University's program. Pauline is already a regular participant at advice tables and a member of the continuing education programming team.



## Halton Master Gardeners

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Eve Bowder  
Sydney Withers

### Profiles

Though **Eve** is new to our group she is an experienced gardener who currently lives on an eight-acre property in Campbellville. She has been gardening her whole life and has redesigned many properties. Her current plot which represents approximately two of the eight acres on her land consists of flower beds, vegetable gardens and even an orchard.

Eve is a long-standing member of the RBG and her garden will be featured in their upcoming Special Gardens Tour 2026.

It would be lovely to visit your garden at some point in the future, Eve!

**Sydney** first acquired an appreciation for beautiful gardens while visiting the property of her grandparents when she was a child. They gardened in Eastern Nova Scotia and their large plot, which bordered a forest, contained many different plant varieties and selections.

Sydney has had some previous experience with plants as she worked for Connors Nurseries for a number of years. She became a homeowner in 2019 and at that time began plans to improve the garden beds. She first followed Halton Master Gardeners on Instagram and then thought a great way to deepen her knowledge would be to join the group.

Sydney hopes to learn more about the plant world and looks forward to sharing ecological practices. Sydney is definitely a can-do sort of person. She shared with me that one of the ways she earned extra money while attending university was by performing as Cinderella at children's birthday parties!



## Board Vacancy—Vice President (VP)

*The VP Position is currently vacant. MGOI is looking for 1 or 2 VPs to support the President.*



### The position entails:

- **Supporting and working closely with the President**
- **Monitoring the progress of the organization's goals and objectives**
- **Reviewing information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern**
- **Assisting Directors in resolving potential areas of concern, potentially bringing them to the attention of the Board of Directors**
- **Working with the Director of Membership and others to fill vacant Board positions**
- **Assuming the duties of the President in her absence; succeeds the President**



## We Need Your Help!



MGOI is run for and by Master Gardeners. If you would like to contribute, in a big way, by joining the board in the future or in a smaller way by helping with a special project, please let us know. You can reach out to your group coordinator or directly to me at [President@MGOI.ca](mailto:President@MGOI.ca). Thank you.

Anne Craig (Peterborough & Area)  
President, MGOI

### Newsletter Working Group-Update

The first meeting of the newsletter working group will be held March 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you everyone who signed up.

If you have any ideas for improving the newsletter please email me at the address below. Here are a few questions / ideas to ponder:

- What do you see as the function of the NL?
- Can it be made more relevant? How?
- Where do you see the NL going?
- What are the changes you would like to see?
- What should the look and feel be? What should the format be?
- How often do you want to read the NL? How long should it be? How often should it go out?
- Content – what should it include?
  - Annual TOCs?
- Name change—is there a better name?

Structure / content / delivery are all up for review.  
Anything else?

We are looking for any and all ideas, all the way down to logistics such as how often to publish, content, focus, layout, TOCs, length, etc. Other ideas:

- Annual content list, i.e. topics a year in advance.
- Move to article-based.
- Vehicle for exchange of best practices.

If you are interested, please contact me at: [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca). Looking forward to hearing from you.

Isabel Belanger, Editor

## Oak Wilt Disease / Spotted Lanternfly



April 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of Oak Wilt Disease season. **Reminder – Do Not Prune Oak Trees (*Quercus* spp.) from April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 is present in the Ontario environment, and prevention is key. All ages and sizes of oak trees are susceptible:

<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminder-no-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.

Learn more about oak wilt at: [ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt](http://ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt). Visit Facebook at:

[#ScienceON](#) [#InvasiveSpecies](#) [#ForestResearch](#) [#ForestHealth](#). Canada's oak wilt response framework is available through the CFIA:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/response-framework>

For information on **Spotted Lanternfly** please visit:



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

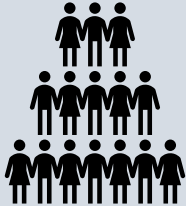


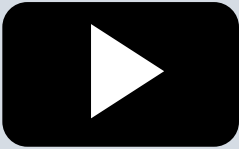





<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-pests-and-plants/insects/spotted-lanternfly>



## Toronto Master Gardeners 2025 Annual Report

Toronto Master Gardeners produces an annual report, for its members, about our group: changes in its membership, how we've spent our time, services provided to the public and by which means, and so on. The summary below serves as a dashboard, but the real strength is in the detailed data which supports strategic planning and decision-making for our executive team.

Toronto Master Gardeners and Toronto Public Libraries continue their strong partnership, with over 70 programs delivered in 2025. Both presentations and demonstrations are welcomed as a way to help grow communities and neighbourhoods at the local level.

<p><b>Direct contacts</b> 5,580</p> 	<p><b>Volunteer hours</b> 6,580</p>  <p>Avg. hrs/volunteer= 62 hrs Median = 46 hrs</p>	<p><b>Value of volunteer hours</b> CAD \$248,263</p> 
<p><b>Media Reached</b> 117,200 YouTube views</p>  <p>237,079 FB &amp; IG views</p>	<p><b>Homepage visits</b> 485,640</p> 	<p><b>Grow TO Newsletter</b> 918 users</p> 
<p><b>Leaving volunteers</b> 16</p> 	<p><b>Returning volunteers</b> 96</p> 	<p><b>New volunteers</b> 14</p>  <p><b>Total # as Jan. 2026 =</b> 110</p>



# Master Gardeners Out & About

## Projects & Events

### Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

#### Name: Seedy Saturday

**Details:** Once again, the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners attended the annual Seedy Saturday held at Roots Community Food Centre. It is a popular event and always has a great turn out as gardeners are excited to see



Back, MGs Carole McCollum (left) and Jack Van Gemen.  
Front, MG Sylvia Goodheart.

one another during the winter, and share seeds and fellowship. MGs were on hand to give free seeds, provide expert advice, offer information on how to become a Master Gardener and advertise our upcoming events.

Special thanks to MGs Hedy Koski and Sylvia Goodheart for bringing the bulk of the seeds. We appreciate Lynda Bobinski for creating

the display posters which featured “Top Plants to Leave for the Birds in Winter and Why”. The poster explained that by not cutting back many natives, perennials & grasses this helps support birds and other wildlife. Also, allowing some seeds to remain in your garden creates natural food sources. The “Plan Now for What to Plant for Next Winter” poster suggested Joe-Pye weed, echinacea, asters, marigolds and a variety of grasses such as Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and Hall’s Fescue (*Festuca hallii*). These are great additions to the garden that provide food sources for birds and hollow stems that offer overwintering spots for beneficial insects.

There were several informative presentations including “Hands-on Seed Saving” and “Do It Yourself Fertilizers” by local farmer Josh Szura who spoke about organic fertilizers, compost and fish hydrolysate. The Roots Community Food Centre staff are always inviting and generously provided free coffee and pumpkin or squash pies that were delicious. Many thanks to our dedicated MGs that show up every year to make this event successful.



MGs Lynda Bobinski (L) and Jack Van Gemen in the back  
Carole McCollum (R) and Sylvia Goodheart in the front

### Grand Erie Master Gardeners

#### Name: Seedy Saturdays

**Details:** The Grand Erie Master Gardeners were present at several very successful seedy Saturday events, including the Waterford Seedy Saturday (Homestead and Garden Market) on February 7<sup>th</sup> and the RARE Seedy Saturday in Cambridge on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

MGiTs Carolyn Bennett, Erin Casey and Dylan Cowen were also busy volunteering.



MG Alex Kucharew providing advice to the public at Waterford Seedy Saturday



MGs Kim Hutten and Lynne Goulet-Smith at RARE Seedy Saturday



**Name: Guelph’s “A Day in the Garden”**

**Details:** Many of our members attended the “A Day in the Garden” event put on by the Guelph Master Gardeners at Victoria Park East Golf Club in Guelph.



*From left to right: MG Anne Sawyer, MGIT Liz Hopkins, MGIT Erin Casey and MG Nancy Lee-Colibaba*



*From left to right: MGs Marilyn Park, Lynne Goulet-Smith and Laura Rodger*

**Name: New Communications Committee**

**Details:** The Grand Erie Master Gardeners have formed a new Communications Committee. As our group is growing and we are looking to improve our communication both within and outside of the group, we have some new (younger!) members who are well-versed in all the latest technological advances.

They are helping the rest of our group get up to speed and implement more effective communication.



*First meeting of the new communications committee: from left to right, MGIT Melissa Webb, MGIT Kailey Stewart, MG Kim Hutten, MGIT Amy Sandy and MG Laura Rodger*



**Peterborough Master Gardeners**

**Name: Seedy Sunday Peterborough**

**Details:** Our group set up our advice table at Peterborough Seedy Sunday on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Several MGs from our group also volunteered at the seed exchange tables. Always a fun day, chatting with eager gardeners and giving advice on growing from seed as well as invasive plants and pests and how to become a Master Gardener!

**Name: Riverview Zoo Bird and Pollinator Garden**

**Details:** The Sundial Garden at Peterborough’s Riverview Park and Zoo was established in 1972 with the gift of a sundial from a local insurance company. It is located along the main zoo corridor and visited by more than 250,000 visitors annually. While the hardscaping is in good shape and was well designed to provide a welcoming space for quiet reflection, the garden has become overgrown with many plants and shrubs that we now recognize as invasive. With funding from Bird Friendly Peterborough and the Kawartha Wildlife Foundation secured (and additional funding being sought from other partners), Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners will be working with zoo staff to transform this garden into Peterborough’s first official Bird and Pollinator Friendly Garden using best practices in ecological design. Engaging interpretive signs and events will be added to create an inviting space that will be a teaching garden.



## Tri County Master Gardeners

### Name: Stratford Seedy Sunday

**Details:** On February 22, 2026 a Seedy Sunday afternoon event was hosted in Stratford by The Local Community Food Centre (“The Local”) which is affiliated with Canadian Community Food Centres, an organization addressing food insecurity at a grassroots level. They do this by means of operating low cost markets, providing community meals, growing seasonal produce, teaching food preparation skills, and operating various other programmes.

Tri-County Master Gardeners were invited to participate in the Seedy Sunday event to give advice to would-be gardeners. We set up a table and had two shifts of MGs and MGITs who were available to answer questions from the public.

Although the The Local’s mandate means that it is concerned primarily with food production, we also promoted the idea that gardeners should be mindful of the health of the entire ecosystem in their care. To this end we had quite a variety of native seeds to give away, cleverly packaged in envelopes folded from recycled paper.

Information about growing requirements was printed on the envelope labels. The accompanying photographs show members of the TCMGs who participated during the first shift of a well attended Seedy Sunday.



Adrienne Hanbidge (l) and Carolyn Schmidt examining native seed packets



left to right: Leslye Glover, Carolyn Schmidt and Adrienne Hanbidge at the advice table with Seedy Sunday attendees



First shift at Stratford Seedy Sunday: standing l to r, Jim Fitzgerald, Adrienne Hanbidge, Carolyn Schmidt, MGIT Deb Pihl  
Seated: Leslye Glover  
Photo: Mary Ann Flaxbard of Garden Stratford

## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carlton

### Name: Protest

**Details:** MGOC joined other horticultural groups and gardening professionals to protest the closing of Algonquin College’s Horticultural Industries (Co-op) and Horticultural Techniques – Apprenticeship programs, the only such program in Eastern Ontario. MGOCs co-coordinators sent a letter to the college’s president and chair of its board, as well as to the Ontario Minister of Colleges and Universities. They argued that skilled and knowledgeable workers are needed in the industry, which employs about 130,000 people in Ontario and Quebec. Unfortunately, their efforts were unsuccessful. The college’s board of governors voted to cut 30 programs, including those in horticulture, on March 2, 2026.



## Name: Talks

### Details:

- The joint MGOC and Friends of the Central Experimental Farm lecture series began March 3<sup>rd</sup> with “What’s bugging you? Integrated pest management for your garden” by EP Power. It was followed on March 17<sup>th</sup> by Andrea Knight’s and Angelina Singston’s inspiring lecture: “Nurturing your own food forest.” There are three more lectures in the series. See ‘Upcoming Events’ and: <https://friendsofthefarm.ca/fcef-annual-events/master-gardener-lectures/2026-master-gardener-lectures/>
- On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Maryanne Ambroziak spoke on “Nature’s Turf: Cultivating Eco-Friendly Lawns” at the Manotick Horticultural Society.
- Judith Cox delivered a talk on “Vegetables in Any Situation” on March 16<sup>th</sup> to the Russell Horticultural Society.
- On March 18<sup>th</sup>, Barbara Sibbald presented “Notes on a Japanese Garden” to the Greater Ottawa Water Garden Horticultural Society.

## Name: Website changes

**Details:** There were three exciting additions to the MGOC website. On the public side, there is now a digital map marking all the farmers’ markets advice tables. And members can now access a selection of educational webinars and an image bank.

## Name: Advice tables

**Details:** MGOC provided advice at **Seedy Saturday Ottawa**, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The event featured seed vendors from across Eastern Ontario and West Quebec, selling heirloom varieties of seeds adapted to our climate and geography. At our Seed Exchange Table, attendees were invited to exchange seeds they didn’t need, for ones they do need. There was also a presentation on seed saving.

A second **Seedy Saturday** on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Carp Agricultural Hall also featured a MGOC advice table.

MGOC staffed an advice table at the annual **Ottawa Home & Garden Show**, a marketplace for home-related products and services, held from March 19-22.



MGOCs at the Ottawa Home & Garden Show on March 19<sup>th</sup> included (l-r): Amanda Carrigan, Pauline Yelle and Stephanie Sleeth. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Yelle)



## Mississauga Master Gardeners

### Name: Seedy Saturdays

**Details:** The Mississauga Master Gardeners had a busy “Seedy Season” with two events:

#### 1. Mississauga Seed Library - February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Always an exciting time when the City of Mississauga allows residents to borrow, grow and return seeds to support local food systems. The Mississauga Seed Library, located at the Hazel McCallion Library, had many community groups attending.

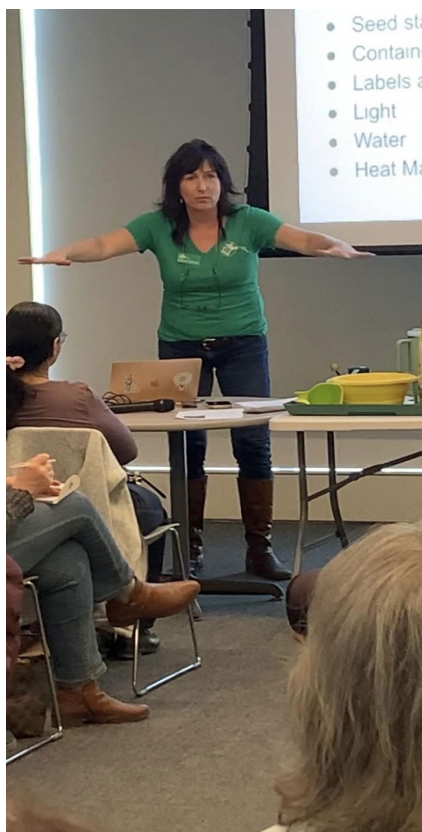


L to R: MGIT Mary Loyd-Clifford, and MGs Ramona Christiansen and Sheelagh Rowland



The MMGs hosted an advice table in the company of many gardening-related groups. MMGs Mary Loyd-Clifford, Sheelagh Rowland and Ramona Christiansen enjoyed the many questions that came their way, along with the many stories shared by folks who stopped by our table.

Ramona presented the topic ‘Seed Starting’ to a great crowd who were eager to learn how to grow many of the seeds received at the event.



Ramona Christiansen



MMG Michelle Acosta



## Grey County Master Gardeners

### Name: Eco-Responsible Online Seminars Wrap-up

**Details:** We are just wrapping up our series of eco-responsible online seminars this weekend (March 21<sup>st</sup>). We hope you have enjoyed our knowledgeable speakers this winter, and that they have you inspired and thinking about spring.....whenever it decides to arrive!!

### Name: Seed Packages

**Details:** Group members have met twice to create hundreds of seed packages that will be handed out at upcoming Seedy Saturday events (Owen Sound on March 28<sup>th</sup>, and Wiarton on April 11<sup>th</sup>).

### Name: Gardener in Residence Programs

**Details:** Our Gardener in Residence programs are just starting up again this month. The first to run on March 2<sup>nd</sup> was a workshop on seed starting and propagation at the Meaford Library. They had a packed house and all attendees were able to take home a seed tray!

Our third year at the show, the booth featured an advice clinic and several interactive learning opportunities for children and adults, including seed starting, invasive vs native plants, birds in the garden and a fairy garden highlighting succulents. Feedback from attendees and show organizers was very positive.

## 2. Brampton Seedy Saturday - March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

The MMGs are always proud to support the Brampton Horticulture Society’s Seedy Saturday with an advice table.

This free community event features seed swaps, local vendors selling seeds, honey, soaps and many other gardening-related items, expert talks, a kids’ zone and a Seedy Café.





Master Gardeners Stephanie Fletcher, Ann Joyner and Jenna Vandermey were on hand to lead the group. Stephanie is leading the group in these 2 pictures.

## Etobicoke Master Gardeners

### Name: News & Events

**Details:** At our first meeting of the new year, we invite members to share an aspect of their **gardening practice**. This year Erez Sussman presented key features of tree biology, drawing from his experience and ongoing study as an Arborist, and Ralph Walton shared his passion for Hostas through the ongoing evolution of his own garden.

At the end of January, the Etobicoke Master Gardeners coordinated with the Mississauga Master Gardeners to create and run a booth at the three-day **Home & Backyard Show**, which took place at the International Centre in Mississauga.



MMG Ramona Christiansen, left with EMG Suzanne Zacharczyk

In February Kevin Kavanagh of South Coast Gardens, and his young colleague Dylan Cowan gave an informative and entertaining talk to our members via Zoom on **types and characteristics of native ferns** and their shade companions.

And February saw the start of our **winter public lecture series**, kicked off by Frank Kershaw talking about The Romantic Garden style. Our second lecture took place on March 17<sup>th</sup> with Todd Irvine speaking on The Wonder of Trees: Pruning, an Exercise in Thought and Consideration.

## 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

### Name: Community Drop-Ins and Seedy Saturdays

**Details:** The spin-off benefits of community service: MG Bev Wagar in Brockville has been hosting ten one-hour drop-in sessions every other week at the local library on topics related to ecological gardening and native plants. The well-attended sessions now have the locals discussing starting an eco-gardening/native plant enthusiasts' group in the area.

The Seedy Saturday events of late winter are great profile raisers for MGOI. Volunteers reliably collect more newsletter subscriptions and inquiries about membership at each venue, as well as gauging trends in public interest through questions asked.

Quality of venue and event organization varies from place to place. Engaging visual displays greatly increase public interactions. For example, the "jumping worms" tabletop poster brought many people to the TIMG table.





**PICTON SEEDY SATURDAY** - Manning the 1000 Islands Master Gardeners booth at the Picton High School on Feb. 21, left to right, back: June Crocco, Barb Gosse, Kay Langmuir; front: Andie Wiens (15-year pin), Tina Hodgson, Tracey Filson (TIMG coordinator)

**Name: Seedy Saturday Almonte**

**Details:** Our next Seedy event was two weeks later on March 14<sup>th</sup>. This time, our hosts included Helen Halpenny, Gerda Franssen, Paul Pietsch, Jordan Scott-Richer, David Hinks, Tim Deslippe and Kelly Morrison. Once again, we were kept busy.



Seedy Saturday Almonte. L-R, Gerda Franssen, Jordan Scott-Richer, Paul Pietsch, David Hinks

**Lanark County Master Gardeners**

**Name: Seedy Sunday Perth**

**Details:** We kicked off our March Seedy Events early on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We had the chance to show off our new banner and hand out our new brochure.

Our hosts, Master Gardeners Judy Wall and Tim Deslippe came prepared with demos of seed starting, seed viability testing and scarification, all of which drew in people visiting the events. As always, many people came to the event and we were always happy to chat.



MG Tim Deslippe at Almonte Seedy Saturday



MG Tim Deslippe answers questions at Perth Seedy Sunday

One of the star attractions was the Seed Snail. Some people had seen it on Facebook but were excited to see it in action.



Seed Snail



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

**Name:** 2026 Friends of the Farm and MGOCC Lecture Series

**Dates Remaining:**

April 14

April 28

**Details & Topics:** Based on last year's feedback, the five lectures in 2026 (March-April) will explore Edibles. Topics include Integrated Pest Management, Nurturing a Food Forest, Cold Frames and Cold Crops, Growing Unusual Edibles and Tiny Gardens, and Tiny Gardens, Big Harvest.

**Cost:** Members: \$10 per lecture or \$45 entire series

Non-members: \$12 per lecture or \$55 entire series

**Registration:** <https://friendsofthefarm.ca/fcef-annual-events/master-gardener-lectures/2026-master-gardener-lectures/>

REGISTER TODAY!  
www.friendsofthefarm.ca

**What's Bugging You? Integrated Pest Management for your Garden**  
With Master Gardener EP Power  
March 3rd, 2026

**Nurturing Your Own Food Forest**  
With Master Gardeners Andrea Knight & Angelina Singson  
March 17th, 2026

**Cold Frames & Cold Crops: Extending the Season**  
With Master Gardener Odette McIntyre  
March 31st, 2026

**Growing Unusual Edibles: Successes, Failures & Learnings**  
With Master Gardener Claire McCaughey  
April 14th, 2026

**Tiny Gardens Big Harvest**  
With Master Gardener Judith Cox  
April 28th, 2026

**2026 FRIENDS OF THE FARM LECTURE SERIES:**  
Members: \$10 per lecture or \$45 entire Series  
Non-members: \$12 per lecture or \$55 Entire series

Presented by:  
Friends of the Central Experimental Farm & Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

## Etobicoke Master Gardeners

**2026 Winter Lecture Series.**

**Gardening on the Edge – Adapting You & Your Garden to Climate Warming**

**Date & Time of Final Lecture:**

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

Main glass doors open at 6:40pm.

**2026 WINTER LECTURE SERIES**

KINGSWAY LAMBTON UNITED CHURCH  
1575 Kingsway, Etobicoke, ON M9W 2P6  
(416) 291-9100 ext. 2222  
ROMANTIC GARDENS FOR THE DREAMER

Wednesday February 18  
THE WONDER OF TREES - PRUNING, AN EXERCISE IN THOUGHT & CONSIDERATION

Tuesday March 17  
GARDENING ON THE EDGE - ADAPTING YOU AND YOUR GARDEN TO CLIMATE WARMING

Tuesday April 14

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

**Admission:** by donation/pwyc

**Details:** 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.

Join our presenter, Frank Kershaw, who has more than 50 years gardening experience with unusual plants in difficult times. Frank will provide insight, success stories and techniques of the many trees, shrubs, vines and perennials that are making inroads in our area during this time of change.

## Grand Erie Master Gardeners

**Name:** Upcoming Events

**Dates and Details:** Lots of upcoming events planned by the Grand Erie Master Gardeners with more information to come!

**Grand Erie Master Gardeners**  
Brant Haldimand Norfolk

### Upcoming EVENTS

FREE	APRIL 18	GRAVEL GARDENING COUNTY OF BRANT PUBLIC LIBRARY - BURFORD BRANCH (24 PARK AVE, BURFORD)	6:30 PM - 8 PM
FREE	APRIL 19	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! IT'S SPRING! LET THE GARDENING BEGIN!	1 PM - 4 PM BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN)
FREE	MAY 24	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! THE BEST LAID GARDEN PLANS: RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE	1 PM - 4 PM BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN)
FREE	JUNE 14	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! THE GARDEN PLOT THICKENS!	1 PM - 4 PM BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN)
FREE	JUNE 20	GEMG PLANT SALE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (452 GREY ST, BRANTFORD)	10 AM - 2 PM
FEE TBD	JULY 26	GEMG CUT FLOWER WORKSHOP THE GARLIC SHED (1908 HWY 24 SOUTH, SIMCOE)	1 PM - 3:30 PM
FREE	SEPTEMBER 20	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! SHIFTING GEARS... CLOSING THE GARDEN SEASON WITH PURPOSE	1 PM - 4 PM BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN)
FREE	OCTOBER 18	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD: APPLES TO (HARDY) ORANGES... WITH A SIDE OF VEGGIES	1 PM - 4 PM BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION, VISIT GRANDERIEMG.ORG



## Peterborough Master Gardeners

### Name: A Day for Gardeners 2026



**Saturday April 25, 2026**

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

**Date & Time:** Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>; 9:30am to 3:00pm  
**Location:** Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St., Peterborough ON

**Details:** Join us for the day—includes a choice of 4 seminars, lunch and door prizes

**Cost:** early bird \$60.; after April 1<sup>st</sup> \$75.

#### Registration & Further Details:

<https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/a-day-for-gardeners-2026/>

<p>Four Seminars, lunch &amp; door prizes</p> <p>Cost: \$60 early bird \$75 after Apr1</p> <p>Come join us for a fun day of learning, lunch and friendship!</p>	<p><b>Session 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Healthy Parks, Healthy People with Anne Craig OR</li> <li>❖ Gardens that BUZZ: Designing with Native Plants for Beauty and Life by Silvia Strobl</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Session 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Seasonal Gardening for Birds with Thom Luloff OR</li> <li>❖ Rose Care: A Beginner Guide with Jennifer Guertin</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Session 3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Resilient Landscaping for Community, Humans, and Food Webs with Deanna Hergert OR</li> <li>❖ 2 Mini sessions: Unusual Culinary Herbs with Carol Ireland AND Seeds: Heritage vs Heirloom vs GMO with Jillian Bishop</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Plenary: Growing Well: How Gardening supports Longevity, Health and Happiness with Mary-Jane Pilgrim</b></p>

## Grey County Master Gardeners

### Name: Owen Sound Gardeners in Residence Programs

**Dates:** Programs began in March and run monthly except for July, August & December.

- March (24<sup>th</sup>) - Seed starting
- April - Transplanting, Repotting & Dividing
- May - Using Ornamental Grasses in your Landscape
- June - Edible Container Gardening
- September - Rethinking Your Garden
- October - Bulbs and Tubers
- November - Gardening Tools

**Details:** More information can be found at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library in Owen Sound. Photos and details to follow!

## Halton Master Gardeners

### Garden Journeys/Open Days 2026

#### Garden Journeys



#### Open Days

**Date:** TBD, late July/early August

**Details:** This event, held over two weekends in Hamilton in 2025, featured 37 residential gardens and 3 public gardens in August. Gardens were selected based on ecological

principles such as native plant use, organic maintenance, and support for wildlife. All gardens were free and open to visitors over two weekends; recruitment of host gardeners was conducted through HMG newsletters, social media, partner organizations and City of Hamilton Communications.

Plans are underway to repeat the event in 2026. Stay tuned!

## Monarch Awards 2025, 2026

**Details:** The Monarch Awards celebrate and inspire eco-friendly gardening. Whether you're just getting started or already building a healthy space for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife, your efforts matter and deserve to be recognized.



The program, which was started in Hamilton in 2017, became part of Halton Master Gardeners in 2025. It is hoped that additional nearby communities will be included in future years. The mission of the program is: *To educate, inspire and acknowledge gardeners who create sustainable gardens that provide shelter, nesting sites and food sources for native flora and fauna.*



The Monarch Awards are different from traditional garden awards as their aim is to guide participants along a continuum to more ecologically beneficial practises. As such the participants of the program receive recognition for the work they have done as they progress from the Good Start level, through Chrysalis and Caterpillar levels, to finally becoming recipients of a Monarch Award. At this point their gardens exemplify ecological gardening practices. All participants to the program receive written feedback that includes highlights, successes, praise and advice on ways to improve.

Further details for the 2026 Monarch Awards will appear in coming months. Stay tuned!

## CCIPR Links



- Link to the 2026 Invasive Species Forum, February 17-19:  
<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/events/invasive-species-forum/>
- Check out Cathy Kavassilis' speech at the forum, 'Gardens That Give Back' (starts at 19:05):  
[https://www.youtube.com/live/1rUKu\\_HBTgU?t=1145s](https://www.youtube.com/live/1rUKu_HBTgU?t=1145s)
- Link to the CCIPR website:  
<https://ccipr.ca/>
- The CCIPR Facebook page is here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1503444570040194>

## Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

### 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! This toolkit includes extensive material on invasive species. Please use these and share freely.

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

Please contact Maria Kubacki:

**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](mailto: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](mailto:cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca)  
Tel: 613-773-6600

