



## Master Gardeners of Ontario Newsletter

# Inside

# MGOI

### **MGOI Board Members**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
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### **Committee Members**

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Badges & Pins: Lois Johnson, Niagara [supplies@mgoi.ca](mailto:supplies@mgoi.ca)  
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Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County  
Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Cathy Kavassalis, Halton  
Manager, MG Participation in the CNE & RWF: Kate Sault, Halton

### **May 2026 Newsletter**

#### **Inside This Issue**

##### **Master Gardeners**

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

##### **MGOI**

- Board Vacancy: VP

**Editor:** Isabel Belanger, Halton

*Welcome to the May 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/plant sales/open gardens—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:  
Isabel Belanger, Newsletter Editor, [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).*

## Thunder Bay Master Gardeners

### 30 Year Anniversary

Gordon Ward

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners congratulate Gordon Ward on receiving his 30-year pin. What a stunning achievement!



Coordinator Andrea Steinhäusser, right presenting Gordon with his 30-year pin



## Halton Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Judith Desembrana

Nikolina Radulovich



Coordinator Kate Sault, left presenting Judith with her MG Certificate



Nikolina, left receiving her MG Certificate from Coordinator Kate Sault

Photo: Hariette Henry

### ***Nikolina's Profile***

*by Hariette Henry*

Nikolina believes that gardening has always been in her future. Her grandparents were farmers, and her mother had beautiful flower and vegetable gardens. She realizes that she grew up around gardening, even if she didn't fully appreciate it at the time. She began to take an interest in her own gardens when she purchased her first home. At that time life was busy, her children were young and she worked full time. Unfortunately, gardening had to become an occasional hobby.

Nikolina works full time at Princess Margaret Hospital as a cancer scientist and finding time for herself has not always been easy. As she was scrolling through YouTube videos one evening, she came across a video about local cut flower farming and growing flowers from seed. Until then she had never considered growing flowers for a bouquet for herself or anyone else. "I always thought flowers came from the florist or from a large commercial grower". At that point she says "something about it completely captured me".

That winter Nikolina ordered her first packets of seeds, bought a small LED grow light, and started experimenting. She realizes that she was hooked from the beginning. What started as a small winter project became a passion, and not just for growing flowers but for learning how to design gardens that bloom continuously through the season, support pollinators, and bring beauty into everyday life. Nikolina realizes that gardening has become more than just a hobby and that it is something that has



helped her slow down and reconnect with herself. Congratulations Nikolina on achieving Master Gardener status!



## Simcoe County Master Gardeners

### New Master Gardener in Training

Annette Lighthouse

Simcoe County Master Gardeners warmly welcomes new member, Annette Lighthouse to our group. Annette is a passionate gardener with a special interest in native plants and sustainable growing practices. She tends her own vegetable garden and enjoys working with plants that support local ecosystems, including pollinators and beneficial insects. Annette will complete the Soils and Plant Growth course through the University of Guelph in April and is currently enrolled in the Plant Identification course as part of the Master Gardener Certificate Program.



Through her work as both an herbalist and gardener, Annette weaves together gardening, herbal medicine and traditional healing practices, helping others reconnect with the wisdom of plants. She is especially interested in making plant knowledge approachable and practical, whether in the garden, the home apothecary, or everyday life.



## Durham Master Gardeners

### 15 Year Anniversary

Sherry Dodson

#### Profile

by Norine Blyth

Sherry has been the backbone of DMG for the past five years, serving as Coordinator for our group and continuing to lead us until our new Chair was appointed this year.

Even now, Sherry continues to support Grace in her role as Chair, offering guidance and encouragement every step of the way.

Sherry is a wealth of knowledge, not only in the operation and growth of DMG, but also in all things gardening. Whether presenting workshops or delivering informative presentations for DMG, she continually shares her expertise and passion with our members and the public.



Sherry, right receiving her 15 year pin from Coordinator Grace Wilton

Thank you, Sherry, for everything you have done — and continue to do — for our group. Your dedication, leadership, and generosity are truly appreciated.

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Grace Wilton



Grace, left receiving her MG certificate from Sherry Dodson

#### Profile

by Norine Blyth

Congratulations Grace on successfully completing your courses with the University of Guelph. It has been a great year for DMG, and we are proud to celebrate Grace in her role as our new Coordinator and now a fully fledged DMG.

Your dedication, hard work, and commitment are truly appreciated,

and we look forward to all the great things ahead. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!



## New Master Gardener in Training

Anne Kern



### Profile

by Norine Blyth

Welcome, Anne! DMG is so excited to have you join our group. For the past 10 years, Anne has operated a small hobby farm where she grows nearly all her family's produce for the year — from winter beans to fresh greens and everything in between. Her goal has been to avoid purchasing produce for an entire year, and in Anne's words, "I am close to achieving that goal."

Another of Anne's passions is creating pollinator and native gardens, and she is enthusiastic about educating the public on the importance of these environmentally beneficial spaces. DMG is looking forward to learning from Anne and having her share her knowledge and experience with both our group and the community.



## Toronto Master Gardeners

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Chris Hill  
Sarah Cooper  
Donna Santos

### Profiles

**Chris** has loved flowers, plants and gardening since childhood. A retired elementary teacher, she ran the Green Team environmental club at her school.

She has been volunteering at the Toronto Botanical Garden as a tour guide and in the children's education programs for two and a half years. She also enjoys watercolour painting, creating mosaics, and finding inspiration in nature while walking her dog Palette.



**Sarah** began her gardening journey at the suggestion of her doctor as a way to help get through corporate burnout. It was a life-changing decision.



She fell in love with gardening and the many ways it impacts oneself and the community. Her passion is working with native plants to improve local ecology. Sarah helps run two community pollinator gardens in Toronto's Riverdale neighbourhood and

has received numerous grants for her projects.

**Donna** is a Toronto-based home vegetable gardener with a growing interest in urban food production, seed starting, and garden systems for small backyard spaces.



She is also a photographer, video producer, and vegetable gardening content creator behind High Garden, a YouTube channel that shares practical growing methods, seasonal guides, and experiences from her own urban garden. Together with her husband, she co-founded a seed ministry that harvests, packages, and distributes seeds to churches and charitable organizations to encourage food growing, seed sharing, and community outreach.



## **Etobicoke Master Gardeners**

### **15 Year Anniversary**

Mary Ellen Mathison

### **5 Year Anniversary**

Merryn Camphausen

### ***Of Interest***

**Mary Ellen** is leaving her position as EMG Treasurer, a role she has taken on very efficiently for many years. Details matter when it comes to income and expenses – Mary Ellen has been our reliable, steady, precise and experienced keeper of accounts. Her contribution to the smooth oversight of the financial status of EMG is much appreciated.



## **Lanark County Master Gardeners**

### **15 Year Anniversary**

Victor Wark

### ***Of Interest—by Dale Odorizzi***

Victor's work schedule has changed, and he is now able to work the Farmers Markets with us. Many of our visitors know Victor well and are always happy when he is there.



*Coordinator Gerda Franssen, left presenting Victor with his 15 year pin*

Victor has been a member of Lanark County Master Gardeners for over 15 years while working full time in the seasonal department of Canadian Tire. Victor is a very quiet fellow and often goes seemingly under appreciated by our group. When he first joined our group, he signed up for the courses at Dalhousie. At the time, he had never logged onto a computer so not only was he working full time and setting up to take his courses, but he also had to learn how to access a computer. Living in Lanark Highlands, internet access was difficult, if not impossible. Instead, while working the 11-7 pm shift, he went in extra early each day to do his course work. He did that and managed to achieve over 90% on all 4 courses and 100% on the last two.

When someone comes to ask a question, he is the first one to jump in with an answer. We always work in pairs and his partner can sit back and relax.

Victor is a great asset to our group and to Canadian Tire. Whenever we are in there, you hear his name called over the PA to help a customer in the garden centre. It has prompted my husband to ask me “Does no one else work there?” We hope we have Victor for another 15 years!



## **Grand Erie Master Gardeners**

### **Master Gardener Status Achieved**

Carolyn Bennett

Congratulations Carolyn! She has completed all the requirements to become a Master Gardener.



*Carolyn, left with GEMG Coordinator Lynne Goulet-Smith*



## London Middlesex Master Gardeners

### 15 Year Anniversary

Sarah Ragalyi

#### Profile

Sarah has been volunteering with the London Middlesex Master Gardener group for 15 years. Sarah came to the group from the Michigan Master Gardeners and has held various executive positions in her time in London. She has been Treasurer as well as Membership and Volunteer Captain. Sarah was also the lead on our very successful *Seeds to Table* course for a number of years, ensuring the community was learning how to grow vegetables from seed to harvest and everything in between. She is a committed team member and has helped out with our annual Seedy Saturday event for many years.

Congratulations Sarah and THANK YOU for your commitment to our group and the community!



## Peterborough Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Marjorie Vendrig

Marjorie was presented with her Master Gardener certificate at our last meeting. She has become very involved in our group, working on several committees including our Day for Gardeners event.



Marjorie (on the left) receiving her certificate from Marilyn Homewood



## 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

## Board Vacancy—Vice President (VP)

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



[https://www.etsy.com/market/ice\\_president](https://www.etsy.com/market/ice_president)

### This 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 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**

if you are interested in this position, or would like further information, please contact Anne Craig, President @: [President@MGOI.ca](mailto:President@MGOI.ca).



## Newsletter Working Group-Update

### Questionnaire

Coming soon! We are just finalizing a questionnaire asking for your input on improving the newsletter, to modernize and make it more relevant. Any and all ideas are welcome at any time. Please contact Isabel Belanger at: [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca). Thank you.

*The Working Group Team: Harette Henry, Halton; Mary-Lyn Hopper, Niagara; Deirdre Walsh, Mississauga; Leslie Ferguson, Etobicoke; Isabel Belanger, Halton*

## Of Interest

### CCIPR

#### Learn More & Do More



- 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 19:07): [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/>
- CCIPR Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1503444570040194>
- Join our growing number of CCIPR supporters

**Growing Solutions Virtual Conference**, December 11-12, 2025. Invasives Canada:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI9Eey8NVMys3Zjp5ODY0haRL9S5UqBWm&si=z-oAOI9k63MunxC>

### Earthworms—Two Native Species + Invasive Aliens

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=john%20warren%20earthworms>: A paper (2021) on the only 2 native, rare species of earthworms in Ontario. Also included is information on our all-too-common worms from Europe/Asia.

### Nursery Pest Update May 22, 2026—ONurserycrops Blog

<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2026/05/22/nursery-pest-update-may-22-2026/>

## Jumping Worms / Hammerhead Worms

Be on the lookout for jumping worms. Read about them here: <https://mgoi.ca/resources/>.

Hammerhead worms have been in the news lately. In an interview by CBC, Jonathan Witt, an Invertebrate Biologist from the University of Waterloo, says: "There are

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/hammerhead-worm/>



about five species in this group that have invaded North America ...The one ... popping up around Ontario is *Bipalium Advantium* which is commonly known as the wandering broadhead planarian. It has a very flattened profile unlike typical earthworms which have a cylindrical profile and are segmented. These are non segmented worms." <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/hammerhead-worms-in-gardens-ontario-1.7193039>

### Key Facts—per Google AI:

**The Toxin:** They produce tetrodotoxin. While not fatal to humans, it can cause severe skin or eye irritation. It is dangerous—and potentially fatal—if ingested by pets (or small children).

**Regeneration:** If you accidentally slice a hammerhead worm while digging or shoveling, each severed section regenerates into a whole new worm.

**Diet:** They primarily feed on earthworms, slugs, and snails.



Hamilton Conservation Authority

If you find one: **Wear gloves &:**

**Capture it:** Place the worm in a secure, sealable plastic bag or tightly closed jar.

**Dispose of it:** Kill the worm by adding a little salt, vinegar, or rubbing alcohol to the sealed bag/jar, or by putting it in the freezer. Once dead, throw the sealed container in the trash.

### Subscribe to The Spread

The Invasive Species Centre Newsletter:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/--The-Spread--May-Edition.html?soid=1129957779342&aid=YJKJ6hq18Y0>



## Oak Wilt Disease

Oak Wilt Disease season is now. **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 vulnerable although all oaks are susceptible. Read more: <https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminder-no-pruning-oaks-from-now-until-november/#more-6673>.



### Pathways of spread:

- **root grafting**—the fungus travels through the interconnected roots of infected and healthy trees growing in close proximity;
- **insects**—sap and bark beetles 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: [ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt](https://ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt)
- Visit Facebook: [#ScienceON](#) [#InvasiveSpecies](#) [#ForestResearch](#) [#ForestHealth](#)
- Canada's oak wilt response framework, CFIA: <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/response-framework>

## Spotted Lanternfly

♣ Snap it; ♣ Kill/Catch it; ♣ Report it



If you find spotted lanternfly:

- ♣ Snap it: Take clear photos
- ♣ Kill and/or catch it: Collect or squish it. Put it in a sealable container (e.g. small jar or plastic bag). Live specimens can be placed in a freezer to be killed. Retaining the sample is important so that a positive identification can be made.

♣ Report it: Record your accurate location and report the find to the CFIA. Information on **Spotted Lanternfly** is available here: <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-pests-and-plants/insects/spotted-lanternfly>; and here:

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

## Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

**Digital Toolkit:** The CFIA is looking for help and expertise to engage Canadians on how to 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, including extensive material on invasive species. Please use and share freely—and bug us if you have any questions or would like to discuss opportunities to work together! Please contact: **Maria Kubacki, Manager / Gestionnaire** Marketing and partnerships / Marketing et partenariats Communications and Public Affairs Branch / Direction générale des communications et affaires publiques **343-542-3856 / [Maria.kubacki@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:Maria.kubacki@inspection.gc.ca)**

## CFIA Seeds Alert

**Canadians are urged to connect with the CFIA before sending seeds abroad.** As Canada's plant health regulator, the CFIA works to ensure 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 certification. Seeds can be potentially invasive in some countries, or spread plant diseases or other pests. The destination country may destroy the seeds and issue 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 to increase awareness of the 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, and experts are also willing to write and submit a piece. Contact us @: 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

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# Master Gardeners Out & About

## Projects & Events

### Halton Master Gardeners

#### Name: Veolia's Earth Day Market

**Details:** On April 22<sup>nd</sup> Halton Master Gardeners were invited to participate in Veolia's Earth Day Market Event in Oakville. Veolia provides solutions in water, waste, and energy that promote sustainability; the company helps Canadian municipalities process food wastes using anaerobic digestion, converting wastes into renewable energy and valuable soil products. The facility is situated in a large natural area featuring native planting.

Representing Halton Master Gardeners were MGs Kathleen Terry, Kate Sault, and Janet Padiak. Mostly a young professional audience, topics of interest included vegetable gardening, native plants, invasive species control, and pruning. This was our inaugural year at this event and we hope to repeat it in the future.



From left to right: Kate Sault, Kathleen Terry, and Janet Padiak at Veolia's Earth Day Market Event in Oakville



### Grand Erie Master Gardeners

#### Name: RARE Plant Sale

**Details:** Master Gardeners Carolyn Bennet and Lynne Goulet-Smith volunteered at the RARE plant sale on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>, offering advice and answering questions from the public.

RARE is a community based land trust and environmental institute dedicated to protecting over 1550 acres of environmentally sensitive land across Waterloo Region and Wellington County.



Carolyn Bennet, left and Lynne Goulet-Smith

#### Installation of New Pollinator Gardens

**Details:** MGs Kimberly Hutten, Lynne Goulet-Smith, Alex Kucharew and MGITs Liz Hopkins and Melissa Webb worked hard installing the new native pollinator gardens in Aspen Park on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Pictured are Alex Kucharew, left and Lynn Goulet-Smith



MG Alex Kucharew and MGiTs Liz Hopkins and Betty Goodfellow worked on the pollinator garden at King George School along with students and teachers of the Eco Club on May 12<sup>th</sup>.



*Pictured are members of the Eco Club, King George School*

**Name: Transplanting Native Plant Seedlings**

**Details:** On Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>, MGs Laura Rodger, Kim Hutten, Lynne Goulet-Smith, Anne Saunders, Marilyn Park, Nancy Lee-Colibaba, MGiT Katie Iarocci and her daughter, as well as MGiTs Amy Sandy and Melissa Webb gathered at Kim’s home and transplanted over 1000 seedlings for our upcoming Native Plant sale on June 20<sup>th</sup> at Friendship House in Brantford.



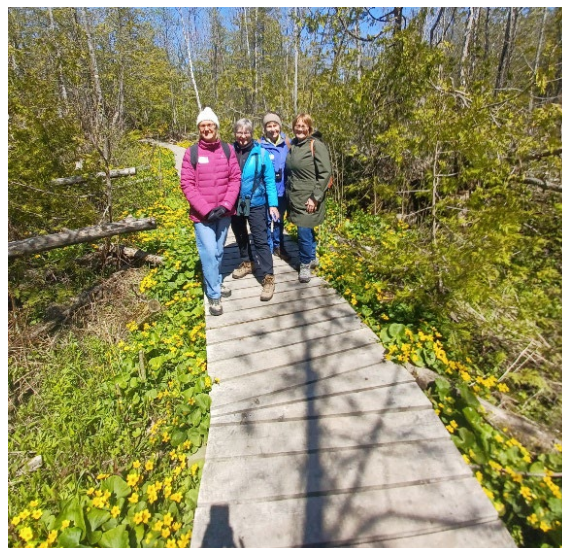
*Pictured are MGs Nancy Lee-Colibaba, left and Marilyn Park*

**Tri County Master Gardeners**

**Name: Naftel’s Creek Hike, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Details:** Michele Melady Young, Master Gardener from Goderich, arranged for a guided hike in Naftel’s Creek Conservation Area, Huron County for Tri-County Master Gardeners and friends. The hike was led by Erin Gouthro, Water Ecologist with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, who started off by telling us about her detailed study of biodiversity in several sample sections of the Maitland River watershed. Prior to European settlement the area was predominantly a beech and maple forest, but of course the ecology of Naftel’s Creek is far different today. A particular concern arising from Erin’s current data on the sections she studied is the growing paucity of the forest’s understory plants, and spring ephemerals in particular, which in turn affects the entire ecosystem. Erin urged us to grow native ephemerals, ferns and sedges in our own gardens, to contribute to preserving these particular species from the region and to contribute to preserving biodiversity in general.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to have a spring walk in a forest conservation area with the added dimension of seeing it through an expert’s eyes. Our brains were overflowing with new research information and plant identification details at the end of our outing! As an added bonus some of us continued sharing thoughts over lunch at the Albion Hotel in nearby Bayfield.



*Tri-County MGs amongst the Marsh Marigolds (Caltha palustris) from left to right: Adrienne Hanbidge, Elizabeth Spedalieri, Aline Kouhi-Klemencic, Michele Melady Young*



## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

### Out & About from April 22-May 21

#### **Name: MGOC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Details:** Members gathered for a festive evening marking MGOCs 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Original members Polly McColl, Lee Boltwood, Fran Dennett and Joan McNab each were presented with a commemorative certificate from the Province of Ontario, signed by Heath MacDonald, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

They also received a booklet featuring an article about the history of the group, a list of former coordinators and a timeline. These will also be posted on the MGOC website.



*With certificates from the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food commemorating their 40 years as original members of MGOC are (left to right) Lee Boltwood, Joan McNab, Polly McColl and Fran Dennett. Photo by Pauline Yelle*

#### **Name: Advice Clinics**

**Details:** Tis the season when gardeners are seeking information. Clinics were held at the Hintonburg Native Tree Give Away on May 9; Parkdale Market May 10 and 16; Carp Farmers' Market May 9 and 16; Westboro Market May 16; Main Street Farmers' Market May 16; and Ottawa Farmers' Market (Lansdowne) May 17.

#### **Name: Plant Sale**

**Details:** Members' plants were in high demand at the MGOC booth during the annual Friends of the Farm Plant Sale on May 10. The advice table was extremely popular with the swarms of shoppers/gardeners.



*Hard-working MGs at the Friends of the Farm Plant Sale included (standing left to right) Pauline Yelle, organizer Tong Zhao-Ansari, Amanda Carrigan and (seated) cashier Kelly Noel. Photo by Barbara Sibbald*

#### **Name: Talks**

**Details:** The final Friends of the Farm/MGOC lecture was held April 28, with a wonderful presentation by Judith Cox on "Tiny Gardens Big Harvest". Other talks included Rebecca Last on "10 Easy City Veggies" at the Parkdale Market's official opening day on May 9. Barbara Sibbald presented her "Notes on a Japanese Garden" to the Perth Horticultural Society on May 12, and to the Barrhaven Garden Club on May 13. Judith Cox gave her talk on "Vegetables in Any Situation" to the Russell Horticultural Society on May 18. And on May 20, Nancy McDonald presented on "Paint with Blooms" at the Greater Ottawa Water Garden Horticultural Society.



## London Middlesex Master Gardeners

#### **Name: Library Plant Exchanges**

**Details:** This winter was cold and the warm weather reawakens the gardener in everyone. We have been fortunate to capitalize on that by facilitating plant exchanges through the London Public Library throughout May.



Community members bring plants and take plants from the exchanges, while Master Gardeners talk to them about solving gardening problems, invasive plants, and choosing the best plant for their site. Master Gardeners are present at 13 plant exchanges facilitating valuable exchanges with community members.



*Shown (left to right): MG Heather Kamps, and MGiTs Ann Marie Allen and Janeen Collins-Dera*

### **Name: Seeds to Table**

**Details:** London Middlesex Master Gardeners finished up another successful year of *Seeds to Table*. This is an eight week course we offer every spring, and have offered over the past 14 years.

Our team of teachers provides everything students need to know—from never having putting a seed in the ground before to harvest and beyond. It is always a fun time for both the students and the teachers.



### **Etobicoke Master Gardeners**

**Name: March 25 EMG Members Meeting**  
**Topic: Colours of Joy – Inviting Orioles and Hummingbirds into Your Garden**  
**Speaker: Jim Mackiewicz**

Jim’s passion for backyard birding was evident in his engaging talk. He shared practical tips and key facts about two local bird species, including advice on observing and supporting them.

Of interest were his examples of particular types of feeders that are most likely to attract the two quite different bird groups.

**Name: EMG Winter Speaker Series – 3<sup>rd</sup> Lecture**  
**Topic: Gardening on the Edge – Adapting You and Your Garden to Climate Change with Frank Kershaw**

**Details:** This was a very well attended lecture on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> with a full public audience. Frank, a popular speaker well known to the gardening community, continues to generously impart his extensive knowledge on landscape design and horticulture through ongoing engagements with EMG.

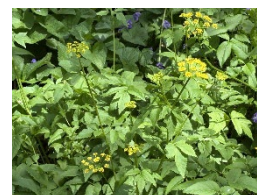
**Name: Etobicoke Master Gardeners’ Landscape Technician Scholarship of Excellence**

**Details:** This scholarship is awarded to the first-year student with the highest academic grade in Plant Studies 1 in the Humber Polytechnic Landscape Technician Program, and it is credited toward their Fall term tuition in their second year.

On March 25, Sarah Thompson (Coordinator) and Merryn Camphausen (Treasurer) had the pleasure of congratulating scholarship recipient Triton Crowley at the Humber Polytechnic Annual Scholarship Celebration.



*Left to right: Sarah Thompson, EMG Coordinator, Triton Crowley, & Merryn Camphausen, Treasurer*



## 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

### Name: Roots and Shoots Community Fair

**Details:** In the swirl of spring workshops, clinics and presentations, 1000 Islands Master Gardeners seized a unique opportunity to partner with Kingston Community Health Centres in support of the Kingston Youth Climate Council as they hosted the Roots & Shoots Community Fair on May 23 at Calvin Park Library. The event featured fun family activities and workshops on growing food and flowers. It also marked the official opening of the library's community garden.

Roots & Shoots was founded by Jane Goodall in 1991, to bring together youth from preschool to university age to work on environmental, conservation, and humanitarian issues.



## Lanark County Master Gardeners

### Name: April Monthly Meeting

**Details:** We had our last Zoom meeting of the winter on April 13. We invited MGOI President, Anne Craig to join us and she did. Just back from a vacation in England Anne showed us a little eye candy with photos from their beautiful gardens. She then brought us up to date on the progress and plans resulting from the SWOT Survey and subsequent Focus Groups. We were all very pleased with the direction that the MGOI Board is looking at going and are excited to learn what will happen next.

We also are set up with our schedules for the three Lanark County Farmers' Markets. We will be attending each of them biweekly so if you are in Lanark on a Saturday, stop by to see us.

### Name: May Monthly Meeting

**Details:** We had our first in person meeting in May at the home of one of our Founding Members, Helen Halpenny. Helen has a beautiful, expansive garden and she invited us to come early to dig up plants for our Plant Sale the following weekend.

As we arrived, different people immediately slotted in to get started. We had the diggers, the potters and the labellers and we soon had trunk loads of plants to take

home and nurture until Saturday. Helen rewarded us with homemade Butternut Squash Soup, rolls and desserts.

Our plant sale was a real success and we made more money than ever before. While all our members contributed one way or another to the plant sale, special thanks to Judy Wall for organizing everything, doing the pricing and getting to the market early to do the set up, and to Kevin Long who also arrived early to help with the set up and pricing and for manning the cash box all morning. Well done!



left to right, Judy Wall, Victor Wark, Gerd Franssen, Kevin Long (sitting), Tim Deslippe, Dale Odorizzi, Nancy Barnard

Here is a picture of *Gentiana acaulis* from Judy Wall's garden. She purchased it from a member of the Ottawa Valley Rock Garden Society last year as a very tiny plant. It is growing happily in her crevice garden (which she made).



## Peterborough Master Gardeners

### Name: Peterborough GreenUP - Growing Together

**Details:** Peterborough Master Gardeners joined with Peterborough GreenUP on May 2, holding the first of five free workshops. This event introduced seniors, new Canadians, and other interested gardeners to vegetable seed starting.

Over forty people attended, including some children. They were taken through the steps in a hands-on demonstration where each participant got to plant and take home a cell pack of lettuce. Participants were also given a tomato plant seedling and a packet of lettuce seeds.

An advice table was there for questions and there were many! It was a great success.

This event was made possible by a New Horizons Seniors grant with GreenUP and the hard work of PMGs Jennifer Guertin, Christine Freeburn, Joan Harding, Sharleen Pratt and Gladys Fowler.



*Gladys Fowler, left & Sharleen Pratt mix soil for planting*

*Chris Freeburn talks about seeding*



### Name: Ecology Park Plant Sale

**Details:** As they have for many years, PMG members attended the opening of Peterborough GreenUP's Ecology Park Native Plant Nursery, located off Ashburnham Drive in Peterborough's east end on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We're there to support the nursery staff and volunteers by providing scientific advice and assisting customers with plant, shrub and tree selection. The kickoff event is always well attended and it's a great opportunity to both educate and increase our community profile. This summer, PMG will have staff at the nursery on the weekends as well.



*LtoR: Carol Ireland, Gladys Fowler, Emma Murphy, Rachel Burrows, Jenn Guertin, Lea Brenna and Lois Scott*



*PMGs Jennifer Guertin (hat) and Lea Brenna help customers with plant selections*

*Ecology Park map*





Musical entertainment for the family while picking up new trees

The Monarch Awards celebrate and support Hamilton area gardeners who are helping create habitat for pollinators. If your front garden includes native plants like milkweed and provides food and shelter for butterflies, bees, and other wildlife, this is your chance to be recognized.

The program started in Hamilton in 2017 and became part of Halton Master Gardeners in 2025. We hope that additional nearby communities will be included in the future. 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 aim is to guide participants along a continuum to more ecologically beneficial practises. Participants receive recognition for their work 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.

Every pollinator-friendly garden makes a difference - consider applying!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Halton Master Gardeners

**Name:** Native Plant Sale

**Date & Time:** June 6, 2026  
– 9:30am-1pm

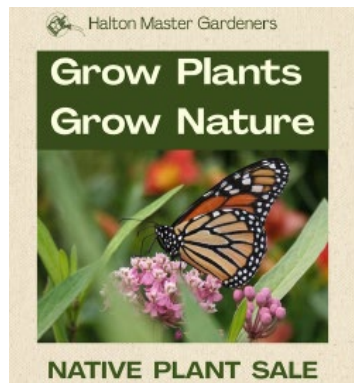
**Location:** Dundurn Castle –  
Pavillion, 610 York Blvd.,  
Hamilton, ON

**Details:** Beautiful, locally  
grown plants:

- Perennials: 2" x 5" plugs  
— \$7.50 each
- Shrubs & Trees (1 gallon)  
— from \$16.00
- Ctrl+Click **PLANT LIST** for plant listings, and **VIEW**  
'Planting Native Plant Plugs"— **PLANT LIST**

#### Shopping Details:

- Cash or e-transfer ONLY
- Pick up ONLY
- Bring your own box, bag or containers



### Garden Journeys/Open Days 2026

#### Garden Journeys



#### Open Days

**Dates:** August 8 - 9 & 14 - 16

**Details:** This is your opportunity to visit beautiful gardens across the City of Hamilton. Gardens will be open for visitors, and gardeners will

be available to discuss their own journey to eco-friendly gardening, from first steps to fully mature gardens.

**Hamilton Area Gardeners:** If you are working towards a biodiverse eco-friendly garden, **consider applying to be a host gardener.** It is a wonderful way to inspire members of the public and to meet other like-minded gardeners to exchange ideas.

**Out-of-Towners:** Curious about gardens that support biodiversity and our ecosystem? Taking steps to build your own nature-friendly garden? Looking for garden inspiration and practical ideas for gardens that are both beautiful and sustainable? These **free** open gardens are worth the trip to Hamilton!

**Questions:** Email us at:  
[gardenjourneysopendays@gmail.com](mailto:gardenjourneysopendays@gmail.com)

**Name:** Monarch Awards 2026

**Date:** Applications close June 27

**Details:** Monarch Awards are open to gardeners who rent or own a home within the municipality of Hamilton. Selected gardens will be visited by Monarch Award teams between July 13 and August 27, with award recipients announced in September.



## Toronto Master Gardeners



Visit the Toronto Master Gardeners at *Through the Garden Gate: The Beach*

**Dates & Times:** Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14, 2026; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Details:** One of Toronto’s largest tours of private gardens! Garden-goers will have the opportunity to visit 12 residential gardens in the unique Toronto enclave of the Beach, or as some call it, the Beaches.

Garden seekers will also have a chance to ask questions and learn something, too! Knowledgeable Toronto Master Gardeners will be stationed in each garden and are happy to answer plant and garden design questions. While you’re touring, look forward to pop-up musical performances, and local experts.

This outdoor event can be enjoyed solo or with family and friends, strolling along the tree-lined streets, while skipping in and out of gardens. Come early or linger after the tour to shop or dine at one of the local restaurants in the area. All proceeds from the tour support the Toronto Botanical Garden. [Get your tickets today!](#)

## Grand Erie Master Gardeners

**Next Workshop:** June 14

**Location:** 115 Front Road, Port Rowan

**Time:** 1-4pm

**Stay Tuned:** More upcoming events planned with more information to come!

### Upcoming EVENTS

|         |              |   |                |
|---------|--------------|---|----------------|
| FREE    | APRIL 19     | BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND!<br>IT'S SPRING! LET THE GARDENING BEGIN!<br>BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN)                                    | 1 PM - 4 PM    |
| FREE    | APRIL 23     | GRAVEL GARDENING<br>COUNTY OF BRANT PUBLIC LIBRARY - BURFORD BRANCH<br>(24 PARK AVE. BURFORD)   | 6:30 PM - 8 PM |
| FREE    | MAY 24       | BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND!<br>THE BEST LAID GARDEN PLANS:<br>RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE<br>BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN)                  | 1 PM - 4 PM    |
| FREE    | JUNE 14      | BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND!<br>THE GARDEN PLOT THICKENS!<br>BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN)  | 1 PM - 4 PM    |
| FREE    | JUNE 20      | GEMG PLANT SALE<br>FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (462 GREY ST. BRANTFORD)  | 10 AM - 2 PM   |
| FEE TBD | JULY 26      | GEMG CUT FLOWER WORKSHOP<br>THE GARLIC SHED (1908 HWY 24 SOUTH, SIMCOE)   | 1 PM - 3:30 PM |
| FREE    | SEPTEMBER 20 | BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND!<br>SHIFTING GEARS... CLOSING THE GARDEN SEASON WITH PURPOSE<br>BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN)                 | 1 PM - 4 PM    |
| FREE    | OCTOBER 18   | BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND!<br>FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD: APPLES TO (HARDY) DRINKS... WITH A SIDE OF VEGGIES<br>BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN) | 1 PM - 4 PM    |

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION, VISIT [GRANDERIE.MG.ORG](http://GRANDERIE.MG.ORG)

## Grey County Master Gardeners

**Name:** Owen Sound Gardeners in Residence Programs

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

- 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!

