



Master Gardeners of Ontario Newsletter

Inside MGOI

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Committee Members

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 Membership Database, Exams & Certificates: MJ Pilgrim, Peterborough database@mgoi.ca
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 MGOI Wear: Lynn Goulet-Smith, Grand Erie
 Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
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 Manager, MG Participation in the CNE & RWF: Kate Sault, Halton

September 2026 Newsletter

Inside This Issue

Master Gardeners

- Milestones
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MGOI

- Board Vacancy: VP
- Coordinators Conference 2026

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Welcome to the September edition of Inside MGOI, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter. Our current goal is to be a voice for Master Gardeners to provide a venue for 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. Pictures are welcome!

We are looking for a refresh for this newsletter. Contributions, ideas and inspiration for meaningful change may be sent at any time to:

Isabel Belanger, Newsletter Editor, newsletter@mgoi.ca.

Milestones

Durham Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Alison Babin

Welcome Alison, our newest MGIT! We are so excited that you have joined our group, you are a great fit!



Alison has been in the horticultural volunteering game for quite awhile. She has been with the Oshawa Garden Club, Little Forest Durham and even the Riverview Park Zoo in Peterborough.

Allison has been in close orbit to DMG for years—we are so glad she is with us now.

One of Alison's passions is seed saving. Last year she saved and cultivated over 1,000 plants, which she very generously shared with the Oshawa Garden Club and Little Forest Durham for their plant sales. Alison, welcome aboard the DMG gardening train!



Simcoe County Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary—September 2026

Kevin Van Andel

In reflecting on his 20 years of experience as a master gardener, Kevin says that advising the public stands out as particularly rewarding. Whether at a garden tour or an advice clinic, Kevin enjoys coming up with good answers that home in on a gardener's issue, especially when they are facing a gardening crisis. For Kevin, the answer often lies in applying the principle, "the right plant for the right spot".

Kevin's own garden features day lilies, grasses, sunflowers and other annuals, as well as plenty of flowering shrubs and trees. As for the growing interest in eliminating invasive plants and growing native species, Kevin notes his satisfaction in "knowing we are trending in the right direction and that master gardeners will be at the forefront".



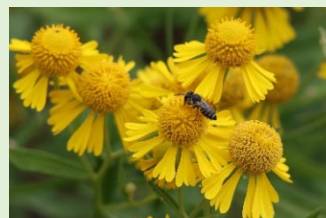
Coordinator Gail Cocker (left) and Kevin Van Andel
Photo credit: Cynthia Lauer

5 Year Anniversary

Katie Goulbourne



Katie Goulbourne, right with Coordinator Gail Cocker
Photo Credit: Cynthia Lauer



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Retirement

Ray Bielaski

Ray is retiring after 18 years as a Master Gardener with Etobicoke Master Gardeners. Many thanks for all your contributions!



Grey County Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary

Anja Lowrance



Anja joined us in Grey County almost 2 years ago after being actively involved with Etobicoke and Simcoe County Master Gardeners.

Chairperson Susan Cox (right) congratulates Anja (left) for over 15 years as a Master Gardener



Niagara Master Gardeners

5, 10 & 25 Year Anniversaries

Barb Large, 25 years

Mary-Lyn Hopper, 10 years

Michele Young, 10 years

Congratulations to Niagara MGs on receiving anniversary pins at the September meeting. Barb and Mary-lyn wrote short pieces, below, to mark the occasion.

By Barb Large

I joined the Master Gardeners to feed my passion for gardening and to learn more about horticulture and all it involves. I have a ravine lot that offers some challenges and many rewards.

Our extensive perennial garden includes a variety of conditions, such as shaded woodland, some wet-soil areas and a pond, along with lots of sun-filled spaces. It all takes lots of time and care and keeps me active and fit.

Over the past 25 years, I've really enjoyed connecting with the public, offering advice and sharing stories with like-minded gardeners. It has also been wonderful making friends and acquaintances inside the Master Gardener community with people who share my enthusiasm for this fascinating subject.

By Mary-lyn Hopper

It started for me in my childhood with a vegetable garden in the backyard. It seemed everyone in my Edmonton neighbourhood had one.

My perennial gardening began when my husband, a postie, admired a garden on his route and the owner sent home a wide variety of perennials when she divided them - no names attached, just sorted by short, medium and tall. For a prairie girl the variety that we grow in the Carolinian zone still amazes me.

I became involved with organic vegetable gardening with Canadian Organic Growers, starting a chapter in London, thus learning from local market gardeners. On retirement I joined Master Gardeners in London. Since moving to Niagara I have focused on transforming my yard, adding many native plants, trees and shrubs, as well as experimenting with a variety of vegetables. I especially enjoy providing gardening advice to new gardeners.



Receiving pins at our September meeting were, from left, Heather Swann (who will officially receive her MG certificate early next year), Mary-Lyn Hopper, 10 years, Michele Young, 10 years and Barb Large, 25 years



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Carol Ireland

Mary Kathleen Dunn



Carol, left, receiving her certificate from MG Marilyn Homewood

An active member of our group, Carol chairs our volunteer committee, and this year researched and found some new containers to hold our advice kits, ensuring supplies for clinics are well stocked and organized. She is involved in many advice clinics including Seedy Sundays (Peterborough & Apsley), Ecology Park, and the Monarch Festival.

Carol also joins in for our major fundraiser *Day for Gardeners* Technical Update. She currently helps with a GreenUP project with their fruit tree orchard in a community garden, and also oversees a fruit/berry garden and the Miyawaki Little Forest at a children's school where the group is building a willow tunnel for the children to play in.



Mary Kathleen, left, receiving her certificate from MG Marilyn Homewood

Mary K is a big part of our program committee. She also volunteers at several advice clinics including Seedy Sundays (Peterborough & Apsley), Ecology Park, Peterborough Horticultural Society and Home Depot. And she is involved in our *Day for Gardeners* Technical Update.



Mississauga Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversary

Maureen Neglia



Maureen, right receiving her 5-year pin from coordinator Ramona Christiansen

Congratulations Maureen on 5 years with Mississauga Master Gardeners!



London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Cathy Lynch

Christine Ricky

At our summer outings, we awarded two new master gardeners with their certificates. Cathy Lynch and Christine Ricky are now full-fledged Master Gardeners, and we are so happy for them both!





Board Vacancy Vice President (VP)

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

Job Description

- *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*



Cathy, left, receives her Master Gardener certificate from coordinator Pat Girard



New master gardener Christine Ricky, right, receives her certificate from coordinator Pat Girard



MGOI Needs 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.

Thank you.

*Anne Craig (Peterborough & Area)
President, MGOI*

If you are interested, or would like further information, please contact Anne Craig, President @:
President@MGOI.ca.

Newsletter Working Group-Update

Well summer got in the way—we took an August hiatus. Back on track for September, the 1st Focus Group meeting was held September 24th. This was an introductory meeting to start the process. Ideas are welcome at any time—send them to the editor at: newsletter@mgoi.ca.

Thank you.

The Working Group Team

*Mary-Lyn Hopper, Deirdre Walsh, Leslie Ferguson,
Isabel Belanger*

Coordinators Conference: This year's conference is being held October 3rd at the Best Western Plus Cobourg Inn & Convention Centre.



Spotted Lanternfly—Confirmed in Windsor

Adapted from CFIA & reported by the ONnursery Crops Blog

Spotted lanternfly - Spot it?

Snap it, catch it and report it



<https://active.inspection.gc.ca/netapp/contactus/contact-use.aspx> - report it online here.

The first detection of spotted lanternfly (SLF) has been confirmed in Canada on September 15, 2026 by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in Windsor, Ontario. Movement restrictions have been put in place to prevent the movement of regulated materials, including potentially infested plant materials. Surveillance in the surrounding area is on-going to determine the extent of the infestation and next steps.

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*, Hemiptera: *Fulgoridae*) has been regulated in Canada since 2018. It can feed on more than 100 species of trees and plants, however, significant impacts from this feeding have only been observed on grapes.

More information on this and other pests can be found on the [plant pest cards](#) page.

The CFIA has taken the federal lead for SLF. They have developed a CFIA preparedness plan and convened a national technical advisory committee (TAC) to engage federal and provincial/territorial governments, industry associations and other stakeholders potentially affected by SLF. Together with industry and our federal and provincial partners, the CFIA is working proactively to slow the introduction and is prepared to respond.

Read More

<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2026/09/21/pest-alert-confirmed-detection-of-spotted-lanternfly-in-windsor-ontario/>

What is being done

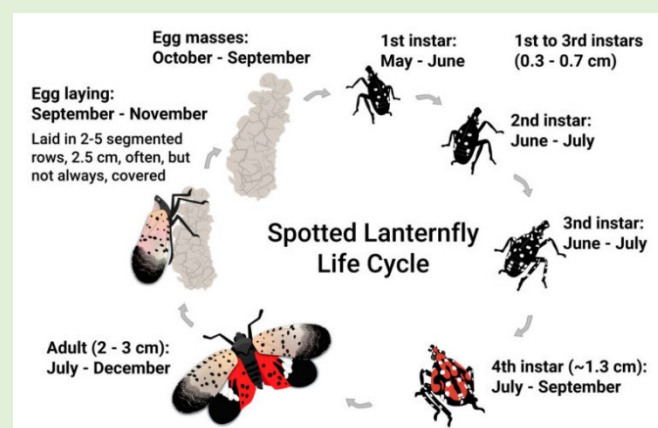
From ONnursery Crops Blog

Important: right now is a **HIGH RISK** period for hitchhiking adult SLFs. Currently, Ontario growers face the highest risk, but growers across Canada need to be vigilant, as SLF can spread on conveyances, too.

Movement restrictions have been put in place at the detection site in Windsor to prevent the movement of regulated materials, including potentially infested plant materials. Surveillance in the surrounding area is on-going to determine the extent of the infestation and inform next steps according to CFIA's [Spotted Lanternfly response framework](#).

Spotted Lanternfly is a **regulated pest** in Ontario and therefore any findings **must be reported** to the **Canadian Food Inspection Agency**.

Life Cycle / Capture



"The Life Cycle of the Spotted Lanternfly" by Molly Schafer, Mt. Cuba. <https://mtcubacenter.org/the-life-cycle-of-the-spotted-lanternfly/>

From the Invasive Species Centre:

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-insect-spotted-lanternfly-detected-in-ontario-and-canada-for-the-first-time/>

Females will typically lay one to two egg masses each containing around 30-60 eggs. These masses are then covered in the characteristic grey excretion which dries and darkens to a solid mud grey over time. Typically, in their invasive range SLF will lay eggs from September through November before adults pass away during the first freeze.



Their life cycle is completed over the course of a year:

- Eggs hatch into nymphs in spring (May) and mature through four nymphal stages, until they develop into winged adults around mid-summer (July)
- In late summer (September), adults will begin to congregate, mate and lay eggs
- Eggs overwinter as masses covered in a muddy-looking secretion; adults do not survive through winter.

SLF egg masses resemble flattened grey masses of seed-like eggs, typically laid vertically on almost any outdoor surface allowing SLF to overwinter and hatch in the spring. Females will often seek a more sheltered spot to lay their eggs, so check in crevices and sheltered areas, rough surfaces, and the undersides of tree branches.



Photo: [Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, Bugwood.org](#)

More information about the lifecycle and how to identify all life stages of SLF can be

read in detail at: [Spotted Lanternfly – Profile and Resources | Invasive Species Centre](#)

If you find SLF please take a photo, capture the eggs/insect in a sealed container, and alert the CFIA: [Contact Us - Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#).

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a preferred plant host of the spotted lanternfly, so if spotted lanternflies become established in a given area, they are likely to feed and lay eggs on any available trees-of-heaven although having tree-of-heaven in your yard does not necessarily mean that spotted lanternflies will show up there.

Some **quick tips** when looking out for SLF include:

- Learn to recognize SLF at all life stages (eggs, nymphs and adults) and report all sightings to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

- **SPOT IT** – In the spring and summer, be on the lookout for SLF nymphs. Adults could appear as early as mid-summer and may remain until late fall/early winter. Look for SLF egg masses year-round.
- **SNAP IT** – Try to get clear photographs of the specimen(s).
- **CATCH IT** – Using a hard plastic card or something similar, scrape off egg masses into a plastic bag or container and seal it. If you find an SLF nymph or adult, try to put it into a sealed bag or container for specimen confirmation (one easy way to do this is to trap it in a plastic bottle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyggQJz46PE&t=1s>.) Specimens can be stored in the freezer. SLF does not bite or sting.
- **REPORT IT** – Submit precise location and habitat information and any photographs of SLF eggs, nymphs or adults to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at [Contact CFIA online – Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#).

If you are visiting an infested area, check your vehicle and any items (such as camping equipment) that sat for a period of time outdoors for egg masses, nymphs or adults, before returning. You can even run your vehicle through a high-pressure car wash. Check out this [travel checklist](#) for more tips.

Please feel free to reach out to us (Invasive Species Centre) for any further questions or concerns:



Taylor Semeniuk (She/Her); Program Development Coordinator
[Invasive Species Centre. \(705\) 541-5790](#)
tsemeniuk@invasivespeciescentre.ca

Thank you, Leslie Ferguson, Etobicoke for reaching out to Taylor Semeniuk and providing information.

Resources



Learn More & Do More

- CCIPR website: <https://ccipr.ca/>; CCIPR Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1503444570040194>



- **Invasive Plants—Article by Cathy Kavassalis**
Link to the comprehensive article on invasive plants:
<https://haltonmastergardeners.com/2026/07/13/invasive-plants/>
- Read 'Invasive plants are available across Canada. Is federal regulation possible?' posted on the CBCs website on August 20/26:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/invasive-plants-sale-federal-regulation-9.7312362>. "
- Cathy's cross-country syndication interview with the CBC. Read about it here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1503444570040194>

Subscribe to:

The Spread, The Invasive Species Centre Newsletter:

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/signup/>

ONnurserycrops Blog

<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/>

Past Newsletter Issues

Access past issues of *Inside MGOI* anytime at
mgoi.ca/newsletters.

The May newsletter included information about:
Worms

Earthworms—Two Native Species + Invasive Aliens

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=john%20warren%20earthworms>



Invasive Species Centre

Jumping Worms

<https://mgoi.ca/resources/>

Hammerhead Worms

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



<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/hammerhead-worms-in-gardens-ontario-1.7193039>

Oak Wilt Disease

Do Not Prune Oak Trees (*Quercus* spp.)
from April 1st until December. Read more:



<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminder-no-pruning-oaks-from-now-until-november/#more-6673>; ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt;
<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/response-framework>

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Digital Toolkit: [digital toolkit](#)

Contact: **Maria Kubacki**, Manager / Gestionnaire
343-542-3856 / Maria.kubacki@inspection.gc.ca

Seeds Alert

Connect with the CFIA before sending seeds abroad.

Seeds can be 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. The CFIA has spokespeople available for interviews, and experts are also willing to write and submit a piece. Contact: Media Relations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Government of Canada:
cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca; Tel: 613-773-6600

Follow:

[Facebook](#)

[X](#)

[YouTube](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

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Newsletters

Several MG groups create their own newsletters.
Subscribe—Here are links to a few:

Halton: Cross Pollination -

<https://haltonmastergardeners.com/2026-newsletters/>

Ottawa-Carleton with Lanark County: Trowel Talk -

<https://mgottawa.ca/trowel-talk-newsletter-subscription/>

Toronto: Grow T.O. -

<https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/>



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Murillo Fair

Details: The rain and wind did not put a damper on turnout this year at the Murillo Fair. The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners set up their 'Ask a Master Gardener Booth' and displayed types of soil as well as information on common garden pests. We also had 2 draw prizes to entice people to our booth as well as lollipops for the kids—this always makes us very popular!

Murillo is 24 km away from Thunder Bay and the fair attracts people from all over the region. Activities include horse barrel racing, livestock and beef shows, animal and craft exhibits, carnival rides, market vendors, live entertainment and of course fair food. It's a fun weekend and we enjoy sharing our knowledge with the public.



MGs Andrea Steinhäusser, left and Carole McCollum at the Murillo Fair

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

Name: Guelph Arboretum Tour

Details: On September 8, a group from Simcoe County Master Gardeners enjoyed a wonderfully in-depth tour of the Guelph Arboretum. The arboretum staff kindly agreed to customize our route to accommodate our requests.

First, Senior Research Associate Sean Fox showed us the Rosaceae garden where we found a large collection of native rose species. Sean pointed out the differences

between them that often escapes the untrained eye. He also showed us the shrub rose growing along the fence that is not only ornamental during its blooming season but also serves as an accession collection for research on the biodiversity of these plants. Other highlights included some unusual *Potentilla* and *Dasiphora* varieties, three species of a low raspberry groundcover, and the start of what will become the world's largest collection of *Amelanchier* species.



In the Rosaceae garden: Sean Fox with (left to right) Cynthia Lauer, Jane Ying, Anna Sauve, Christine March, Joan Sundeen, Pat Cook, and Joan Neiman-Agapas. Photo credit: Marianne Lepa

In the afternoon, Research Coordinator Aron Fazekas took us behind the scenes to view the arboretum's collections of magnolias, blue ash, and elms that, in the arboretum's recovery project, have withstood repeated inoculations of Dutch Elm Disease. Highlights were the huge specimens of the rare native cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*), the stand of blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*) that have so far escaped the Emerald Ash Borer, and the young elms whose resilience may contribute to the renewal of the *Ulmus americana* in North America.



Viewing the Magnolia collection: Aron Fazekas with (left to right) Cynthia Lauer, Joan Neiman-Agapas, Joan Sundeen, Christine March, Marianne Lepa, Anna Sauve, and Jane Ying. Photo credit: Pat Cook.



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Etobicoke Master Gardeners at the CNE

Details: What fun to be partnered with Master Gardeners from Toronto, Mississauga, Halton and Peterborough to facilitate the CNE Master Gardener Advice Table! We enjoyed chatting with many people about a wide number of garden successes and challenges. Special thanks to Kate Sault for organizing this enjoyable event.



At the CNE booth, Etobicoke MGIT Madelaine Allan



Joyce Hostyn (centre), coordinator at Lakeside Community Garden, talks to Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton.
(Photo by Barbara Sibbald)

An **outdoor lunch** at the Lake Ontario Park Picnic Shelter included tomato testing. MG Catherine Disley's delicious concept provided ideas for next year's plantings.



A veritable rainbow of tomatoes.
(Photo by Odette McIntyre)

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Aug 22-Sept 21

Name: MGOC Garden Tour

Details: All aboard for Kingston. A bit of rain didn't deter 22 enthusiasts from a much-anticipated tour of two Kingston community gardens plus a private paradise near Maitland. It was organized by MGOCs Co-coordinators, Belinda Boekhoven and Odette McIntyre. First stop was the Lakeside Community Garden, a biodiversity showcase, where Coordinator Joyce Hostyn showcased the Little Forest project, which has 660 trees and shrubs, the food forest with its splendid PawPaw trees, a seed saving space and more. Butterflies and bees were everywhere on the 4-acre site, formerly part of the Collin's Bay Institution Prison Farm. It opened in 2013 with 50 allotment gardens and has since grown with several partners, including the 1000 Islands Master Gardeners who facilitate workshops.

Next up was the **Portsmouth Community Little Forests** located next to a Seniors Centre. Once a vacant lot of invasive plants including buckthorn and Manitoba maple, it is now, just three years later, a beautiful garden of meadow plantings and three Miyawaki forests: one featuring plants from the Great Lakes; the second, a walking forest with Carolinian plants; and then a bird forest of understory and shrub plants.

The ever-enthusiastic Little Forests Custodian Nathan Nesdoly winter-sowed 6,000 plants last year. Nathan and two other stewards keep Little Forests in shape.





*Nathan Nesdoly (green t-shirt), a member of 1000 Islands Master Gardeners, gave a guided tour
(Photo by Barbara Sibbald)*

Last but certainly not least was the **Mary Ann Van Berlo Garden** in Maitland. Situated on 2.4 acres of former farmland overlooking Lake Ontario, the property now features 450 daylily cultivars, a scree garden and many other delights. Mary Ann has been working the property for 14 years. An annual Open Garden is held the 3rd Saturday of July.



*Mary Ann Van Berlo – a true plantswoman
(Photo by Barbara Sibbald)*



*An enviable clump of blue gentian flowers.
(Photo by Barbara Sibbald)*



Name: Advice clinics

The final advice clinics were held at the Almonte Farmers Market, Sept. 19; Carp Farmers Market, Sept. 5, 12 and 19; Main Street Farmers' Market, Sept. 12; Manotick Watson's Mill Farmers' Market, Sept 12; Perth Farmers Market, Sept. 19; and Ottawa Farmers Market (Lansdowne), Sept. 20. Westboro Market was held Aug. 29. Thanks to all the coordinators and volunteers at this year's clinics.



Name: Trowel Talks

Busy gardeners made time to deliver lectures including "Paint with Blooms" by Nancy McDonald on Aug. 24 at the Orleans Public Library; "Fall, Final Garden Fling" also by Nancy McDonald on Aug. 29 at the Cumberland Public Library; "The Dry Run" by Rebecca Last at Greely Garden Club on Sept. 2; Mary Reid on "Berries," at the Williamstown Tartan Hall; Shelley Pelkey on "Birds in the Garden - Recognizing, Attracting and Protecting them," at the Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society on Sept. 15 and "Fruits in your Garden" from Mary Reid on Sept. 17 at the Nepean Horticultural Society.



Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Culinary Herbs Talk - Gateway Haven

Details: Gateway Haven in Wiarton is a retirement and long-term care facility that offers "Seniors Day Away" programs. Pictured here is Grey County Chairperson, Susan Cox, who spoke with seniors about Culinary Herbs.



MG Susan Cox



Name: Grey County Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Details: Every September we hold our annual plant sale at the pavilion in Meaford, ON. We proudly grow and sell high-quality perennial and native plant species. It is always well attended with many return customers. This year, our members offered over 1500 plants for sale!



MG Vicky Thompson unloading plants



The Line-up



Group Shot

Just for fun! I'm not sure there is a category for this! Susan Cox has had this sunflower grow over 10' tall....no special care given, she says, but she will be keeping some of its seeds!

*10 foot
sunflower
towering over
MG Susan Cox*



Northumberland Master Gardeners

N.B. Northumberland has decided to use first names only.

Name: September Meeting

By Michelle

Details: For the NMG September meeting MGs hit the road and drove to Castleton to tour Christine's amazing property.

Christine has several gardens, a pond, and a little path through a wooded area. NMGs dined on veggies right from her patch, watched the frogs in the pond and admired her award-winning dahlias.

Host Christine





The whole group: left to right, Kat, Michelle, Kim, Judy, Suzie, Christine, Claire, Paul & Sarah



Finding Claire

Name: Port Hope Fall Fair (Sept. 18-20)

Details: Members of NMGs hosted an advice clinic for the Port Hope Fall Fair. Our table was located by the floral and vegetable displays and so we drew several people in with questions. We also stacked our table full of flowers from Claire and Suzie's gardens (both of whom also have prize winning flowers and vegetables!). We've noticed that members of the public want to know what the flowers on display feel like so we provide that tactile experience for them. We also have a series of games that we have for kids and adults to test their knowledge on plants and pollinators. We'll be bringing our Plant Queen games with us to the October 3 Coordinators' conference!



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Fall Plant Sale, Saturday September 7th

Details: Niagara Master Gardeners held their annual Fall Plant Sale in a garage space at Vineland Research Centre. The sale features plants and bulbs generously donated by local nurseries and MG members.

This year we also had an information table on invasive species with live plants and 'Grow Me Instead' info.

The September event gives people enough time to get plants in the ground and developing roots before colder weather sets in. It is always well attended, usually with a lineup outside before doors open.



Gardeners share information and stories at the sale



On the left, Allan Large offers a tool-sharpening service. Right, customers line up at the cash with their gardens on wheels



The Niagara MG Fall Plant Sale landed on a day with perfect weather



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Summer Social, August 23rd

Details: The Grand Erie Master Gardeners held a Summer Social hosted at Katie Iarocci's fabulous country property.



GEMG members from left to right: Katie Iarocci (host), Kayleigh Meyer, Kimberly Hutten, Carolyn Bennett, Georgia McCormick, Alex Kucharew, Lynne Goulet-Smith (group coordinator), Anne Saunders, Amy Sandy, Laura Rodger, Erin Casey

Name: Beautiful Bouquet

Details: Another of Erin Casey's Beautiful Bouquets: all grown by her at The Garlic Shed.



Name: Our New Mascot

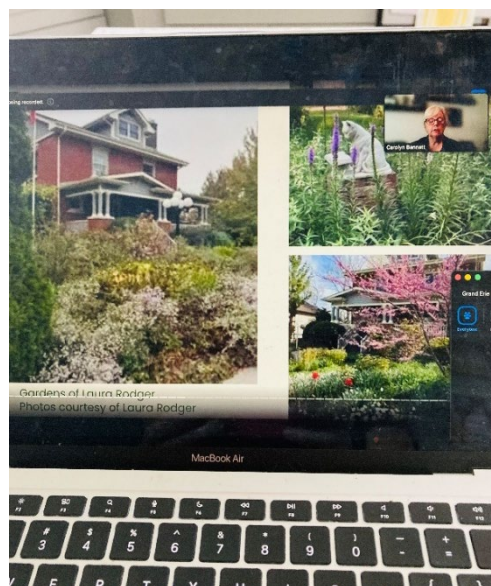


Details: MG Kim Hutten was "abuzz" as our new mascot (yet to be officially named) on September 19th while promoting our Bee City Pollinator Garden at Jury Park in Paris.

Name: September 20th Back to Basics Workshop

Details: The Grand Erie Master Gardeners *Back to Basics* workshop series continued September 20th for the first time online via Zoom. This time the topic was "Shifting Gears... Closing the Garden Season with Purpose". This photo was sent by one of the registered attendees and shows MG Carolyn Bennett presenting.

Presenters included Liz Hopkins, Carolyn Bennett, Erin Casey, Katie Iarocci, Kim Hutten with Lynne Goulet-Smith coordinating, Georgia McCormick giving the Land Acknowledgment, and Amy Sandy once again seamlessly putting all of the presentations together into a cohesive whole.



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Name: Garden Socials Keep Peterborough MGs Connected through Summer

text by Silvia Strobl, MG

Details: Like many Master Gardener groups, we take a break from educational programming in July and August. But for the past three years, visits to members' gardens have kept Peterborough MGs connected throughout the summer.

Organized by the Program Committee, these Garden Socials are a wonderful way to catch up with fellow MGs, get to know newer members, and discover different gardening styles and plants.



This summer, we admired a spectacular collection of hydrangeas in MG Christine Freeburn's garden and enjoyed the beauty—and fragrance—of *Hosta plantaginea* (Fragrant Hosta) in Anne Craig's garden. Both gardens beautifully incorporate a variety of native plants as well.

One newer member introduced me to the blooming Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*), which I was delighted to discover growing on my own property when I returned home!

The popularity of these garden visits has grown so much that members asked the Program Committee to organize one each month from June through September in 2027. Clearly, we're not ready to give up our summer garden connections!



Left to Right: Lois Scott, Anne Trudel-Inglis, Chris Freeburn (homeowner, in red), Gladys Fowler & Sally Rye



Sharlene Pratt, Gladys Fowler, Anne Craig, Jennifer Guertin & Lois Scott (from top left and around)



L-R: Jennifer Guertin, Carol Ireland, Sally Rye & Emma Murphy in Anne Craig's garden



L-R: Marilyn Homewood, Sally Rye & homeowner Anne Craig

Name: Riverview Zoo Bird and Pollinator Garden

Details: During the spring and summer months at the Sundial Garden at the Peterborough Zoo, PMGs and Zoo staff identified and removed invasive plants by cutting and then tarping stumps (smoke trees, buckthorn), spraying and digging (dog strangling vine), and tarping (periwinkle). A small area was cleared on September 2nd. On September 9th, 165 native plants were planted, watered in and mulched by 8 enthusiastic gardeners in 1 ½ hours. Much of the area will remain tarped over the winter to solarize the extensive periwinkle growth in anticipation of planting next spring. An interpretive sign will be installed shortly, and PMG volunteers look forward to beginning to use the space as a teaching garden in 2027.





(from left to right) MGs Silvia Strobl, Chris Freeburn, Sharlene Pratt, Anne Trudel-Inglis, Deb Fraser, Thom Luloff, Lois Scott & Olivia Wright, Treasurer of the Kawartha Wildlife Foundation



Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Wildflower Seed Collecting with the TRCA

Details: On September 20, Toronto Master Gardeners Tina Cesaroni, Pat Concessi, Rebecca Nesdale Tucker, Laren Stadelman, Martha Turner and Jennifer Young joined the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the public at [the Meadoway](#) (Jonesville Allotment gardens) to learn how to identify, sustainably collect and save native wildflower seeds.



At the Meadoway



*l-r: Martha Turner, Pat Concessi, Rebecca from the TRCA, Lauren Stadelman, Jennifer Young
Photo: Tina Cesaroni*

All photos by Tina Cesaroni.

London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Herbarium Visit in September

Details: Our September meeting was at the Dr. Laurie L. Consaul Herbarium at Western University. Our group toured the over 42,000 vascular plant specimens in the herbarium. Mycology professor Dr. Greg Thorn led the tour.

From member Darlene Davis who enthusiastically attended:



It was really neat seeing how much history can be tucked away in an herbarium cabinet and how old the specimens were. It was also kinda sad!

Greg talked about how difficult it can be to secure funding for collections like this and how herbariums don't get the same attention they once did. He mentioned that they did not have a controlled climate in the building. It's too bad because there is more than a century of plant history sitting in those cabinets! It kinda felt like a forgotten place.



Dr. Greg Thorn talking to our group



Our group of attendees who learned about their local herbarium



Preserved slime mould, a distant relative of vascular plants

UPCOMING EVENTS

Durham Master Gardeners

Name: Little Forest Durham – Mini Forest Plantings

Details: Little Forest Durham (LFD) has a very busy fall planting trees at our 4 Mini Forests throughout Durham Region. LFD is a partner of DMG; all 7 members are also DMG members – Alison is the newest member of DMG.

If you are interested in being involved with any of our planting days, we would love to have you join us.

Dates/Information/Registration:

Saturday, October 3 – Windsor Bay Park Mini-Forest Planting (Whitby)

[Link for more information on this event and registration.](#)

Saturday, October 17 – Whitby Central Park Mini-Forest Planting

[Link for more information on this event and registration.](#)

Saturday, October 24 – Steve Snodden Memorial Mini-Forest Planting (Uxbridge)

[Link for more information on this event and registration.](#)

Saturday, October 31 – Diane Hamre Recreation Complex Mini-Forest Planting (Clarington)

[Link for more information on this event and registration.](#)



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Next Back to Basics Workshop

Date & Time: October 6th from 7:30 to 8:30pm

Place: Online

Details: Watch our social media and website for registration to open. This workshop will be on Corms, Tubers, Rhizomes and Bulbs.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners	
Upcoming EVENTS	
FREE	APRIL 19 BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! IT'S SPRING! LET THE GARDENING BEGIN! WINDS CANADA (275 FRONT ROAD, PORT HURON) 1 PM - 4 PM
FREE	APRIL 23 GRAVEL GARDENING COUNTY OF BRANT PUBLIC LIBRARY - BRANTFORD BRANCH 200 PARK AVE. BRANTFORD 6:30 PM - 8 PM
FREE	MAY 24 BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! THE BEST LAND GARDEN PLAYS BRIGHT PLACE, BRIGHT PLACE WINDS CANADA (275 FRONT ROAD, PORT HURON) 1 PM - 4 PM
FREE	JUNE 14 BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! THE GARDEN FLOT TOWNSHIP WINDS CANADA (275 FRONT ROAD, PORT HURON) 1 PM - 4 PM
FREE	JUNE 20 GEMO PLANT SALE FESTIVAL HOUSE (450 GUY ST. BRANTFORD) 10 AM - 2 PM
FREE	JULY 26 GEMO CUT FLOWER WORKSHOP THE GARDEN FLOT TOWNSHIP WINDS CANADA (275 FRONT ROAD, PORT HURON) 1 PM - 3:30 PM
FREE	SEPTEMBER 20 BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! SHEDDING LEAFS... CLOSING THE GARDEN SEASON WITH PURPERS WINDS CANADA (275 FRONT ROAD, PORT HURON) 1 PM - 4 PM
FREE	OCTOBER 18 BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! FOR THE LOVE OF FRESH APPLES TO GARDEN FRAMERS... WITH A SIDE OF WINDS WINDS CANADA (275 FRONT ROAD, PORT HURON) 1 PM - 4 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION, VISIT GRANDERIE.MG.CAN

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Exploring Trees & Shrubs, The Colour of Fall (Tour)

Date & Time: Saturday, October 17, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Place: Humber Arboretum, Centre for Ecology, 205 Humber College Blvd.

Details: An on-site walking tour of the Humber Arboretum's Trees & Shrubs. Learn about many of the native trees and shrubs at the Arboretum, benefits to the environment and wildlife, and how to identify the tree or shrub. Hear about what to consider when incorporating them into your garden—all this while enjoying the colours of fall. Wear your walking shoes, dress for the weather and enjoy the gardens and woods.

Registration:

*The event is free, but space is limited and registration is required:

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

Winter Workshops: These are held via Zoom.

Dates:

- January 23
- February 27



Etobicoke Master Gardeners
HUMBER ARBORETUM

**Fall and Winter 2026/27
Eco-Garden Community Workshops**
Free Saturday Sessions, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Fall 2026: In-Person at Humber Arboretum*	Winter 2027: Virtual via Zoom
September 26, 2026 (Inside the Centre for Urban Ecology) Making the Cut: Pruning	January 23, 2027 Nurturing Indoor Greenery: A Guide to Growing Indoor Plants
October 17, 2026 Exploring Trees & Shrubs Tour: The Colour of Fall	February 27, 2027 Soil Health: A Natural Approach

Free, but space is limited and registration is required:
Humber.ca/arboretum/emg

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

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

ROM (Royal Ontario Museum) Promotions

On now at the ROM, [BEES: A Story of Survival](https://rom.on.ca/bees). Book tickets at rom.on.ca. Ends Oct 18th, 2026

À l'affiche: [LES ABEILLES : Une histoire de survie](https://rom.on.ca/fr/les-abeilles). Billets en vente sur rom.on.ca/fr.

Details:

Toronto's ROM is presenting a stunning new immersive exhibition, [BEES: A Story of Survival](https://rom.on.ca/bees), highlighting 120-million years of bee adaptation and survival.

Coupon—15% Off: The ROM

is pleased to provide Master Gardeners with a **special coupon (see poster) to save on tickets for the exhibition**. We hope you'll share this with your community, friends, and family.

