

Master Gardeners of Ontario



Annual Report 2010

Zones and Groups List

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Zone 1 | - | Thunder Bay |
| Zone 2 | - | Algoma, North Bay, Sudbury |
| Zone 3 | - | Elgin County, West Elgin, Essex-Windsor, London-Middlesex, Sarnia-Lambton |
| Zone 4 | - | Cambridge, Guelph-Welington County, Huron, Kitchener, Stratford |
| Zone 5 | - | Brantford, Halton, Niagara, Norfolk |
| Zone 6 | - | Lake Simcoe South, Mississauga, Etobicoke, Oakville |
| Zone 7 | - | Prince Edward County, Quinte-Tweed, Rideau 1000 Islands |
| Zone 8 | - | Lanark, Ottawa-Carleton |
| Zone 9 | - | Durham, Lindsay & District, Northumberland, Peterborough, Haliburton |
| Zone 10 | - | Toronto |
| Zone 11 | - | Simcoe County, Grey County, Muskoka- Parry Sound |

Master Gardener Groups in Ontario

Algoma
Brantford
Cambridge
Durham
Elgin
Essex-Windsor
Etobicoke
Grey County
Guelph and Wellington
Haliburton
Halton
Huron
Kitchener
Lake Simcoe South
Lanark
Lindsay
London-Middlesex
Mississauga
Muskoka-Parry Sound
Niagara
Norfolk
North Bay
Northumberland
Oakville
Ottawa-Carleton
Peterborough
Prince Edward County
Quinte-Tweed
Rideau 1000 Islands
Sarnia-Lambton
Simcoe County
Stratford
Sudbury
Thunder Bay
Toronto
West Elgin

**2010 ANNUAL REPORT
MASTER GARDENERS OF ONTARIO, INC.
SUMMARY**

Master Gardeners of Ontario had a busy year in 2010. Our Master Gardener groups were involved in many projects throughout the province. Included were:

- Canada Blooms
- Ontario Congress
- Ontario Expo
- Clinics
- Plant sales
- Garden tours
- Home and garden shows
- Farmer`s markets/fairs
- Senior`s programs
- Youth programs
- Educational programs
- Historical gardens
- Communities in Bloom
-

We have 36 groups across the Province with over 540 certified Master Gardeners and 161 Master Gardeners-in-training. Master Gardeners provided:

- Approximately 78,000 enquires received either in person, mail or via email
- 1,248 clinics and speaking engagement with approximately 4,000 attending
- Over 400 media contacts from television appearances on local cable shows, radio, articles for local or national newspapers, magazines and other media.

The combined financial aspects of all groups were approximately \$151,500.

We were sorry to lose United Counties, Bruce South and Oxford this past year. These groups were well known within their own communities, but due to the large distances involved in getting to meetings and providing gardening advice to a vast large rural area, it became impossible for these groups to continue. Recruitment is an issue for many of these rural groups and has been the topic of the past two coordinator`s conferences.

Presidents Message

Greetings. Many of you will remember that I have occupied this post before. Looking at the organization I am amazed at how we have changed and matured. I served on the Steering Committee when the Ministry of Agriculture was in charge and paid the bills. From there we moved to independence and sought to redefine ourselves as a new entity. The changes that most interest me are the ones of attitude and abilities. No longer do we look for someone to come and "take the organization and run it". OMAFRA is not seen as the potential parent. We have embraced the internet and electronic media. We have talented people able to use the new media and no one demands we remain static. To some these changes may seem natural, but to the first boards these were some of the most difficult problems to surmount and from the perspective of time I can more clearly see some of our first challenges and be impressed at how we have dealt with them.

We have not of course mastered all the problems. Some are constant and seemingly never ending. The board has asked the member groups to participate in a recruitment building exercise. This material originated in the Toronto organization and has been modified to be used throughout the province. I urge everyone to work through the material and find what is useful for your group. If your organization is having trouble with recruitment then obviously what you are doing is not working and perhaps it is time to try something out of your zone of comfort and instinct. A great deal of effort was put into this paper to aid the whole of Ontario in promoting membership. Please find time to review and discuss the material with your membership.

Between meetings the board continues to work via email, telephone and conference call. Please discuss issues with your Zone Director and if need be we can always try to help from the provincial level. The next opportunity for everyone to interact and work with the board is the fall coordinators meeting . I think this is one of the most important events of the year. We put a face to so many names and have a chance to learn and question. Please send a representative to the meeting and send your member with questions and gather tactics that will be of use for your local group.

It's the last week of April here in Thunder Bay and we still have some drifts of snow on the ground. Spring will rapidly morph into summer and gardening will be in full swing and that's what we are all about. Enjoy the garden!!

Ralph Bullough
President

MGOI Education Program

Master Gardeners in Training (MGiTs) must successfully complete an educational component and also complete the required annual volunteer hours before they become certified as Master Gardeners. There are three paths towards completing the educational component for certification in Ontario. An MGiT may take up to three (3) years to complete the educational component, no matter what path has been chosen. Note that both the Nova Scotia Agricultural College Program and the courses from the University of Guelph are online courses.

1. Nova Scotia Agricultural College Master Gardener Program

One path towards certification as a Master Gardener in Ontario is to complete the Master Gardener Training Program from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. The courses are taken online, and all of the materials for the courses are available online. For information about the courses, go to <http://www.nsac.ca/cde/courses/De/Master-Gardener/ontario.asp>. The fee for each course is \$250.

The NSAC courses are:

- The Science of Gardening
- Maintaining the Garden
- Plant ID
- The Art of Gardening

Note: There is no requirement at this time for Ontario Master Gardeners to complete a Summer Course in Nova Scotia.

In order to become certified as a Master Gardener in Ontario, proof of successful completion of all four courses along with a statement that the MGiT has completed the required volunteer hours should be forwarded by the Coordinator of the group to Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc., Provincial Administrator, at the MGOI administrative office: 113 Mill St, Creemore, Ontario L0M 1G0.

2. University of Guelph Courses

MGiT's may take three courses from the University of Guelph. An MGiT must register on his/her own as would any other student. The fee for each course is \$495. More information about the courses is available at admission@registrar.uoguelph.ca or <http://admission.uoguelph.ca/home.aspx>

The three courses required for MG certification are:

- Cultural Practice for Plants,
- Introduction to Plant Identification
- Growing Plants.

In order to become certified as a Master Gardener in Ontario, the proof of successful completion of all 3 courses along with a statement that the MGiT has completed the required volunteer hours should be forwarded by the Coordinator of the group to Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc., Provincial Administrator, at the MGOI administrative office: 113 Mill St, Creemore, Ontario L0M 1G0.

3. Certification Exam

If an applicant has recently completed a diploma or degree in horticulture or has extensive horticultural knowledge, he/she may choose to sit a Certification Exam. Likewise, an MGIT may choose to prepare for certification on his/her own and sit the Certification Exam. An MGOI document, Basic Knowledge Requirements, is available from the coordinator of a Master Gardener group or from the Provincial Administrator. An MGIT choosing this path must declare the decision to the coordinator and may take up to three years to prepare for the exam.

The Certification Exam is an open-book exam that is to be completed in 2½ hours under the supervision of an invigilator chosen by the local coordinator. The exam may be taken during the weeks of March 1, June 1, September 1 or December 1. The cost of the exam is \$100. Applicants are required to pass this exam with a mark of 70 per cent or more.

Technical Updating for Master Gardeners

Updating the knowledge and skills of a Master Gardener became easier this year with the introduction of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). A Master Gardener is required to complete 6 CEUs per year. Below are the ways that a Master Gardener may obtain the required number of CEUs.

Continuing Education Activity No. of CEUs:

- 6 CEUs - Attend a one-day, formal Technical Update.
- 6 CEUs - Attend a 2-day Summer Workshop co-planned by MGOI.
- 2 CEUs - Attend a class of at least 2 hours in Horticulture at a local college or university or other place of botanical/horticultural significance.
- 1 CEU - Attend a horticultural event of at least 1 hour on a technical, horticultural theme.
- 2 CEUs - Prepare a 1-hour presentation for your group or other event. The CEU is awarded for the preparation only.
- 1 CEU - Research a current horticultural topic and submit a paper to your group or the MGOI Newsletter.
- 1 CEU - Read a book on a horticultural subject and submit a report both written and orally to your group.
- 1 - Research and write an article or column for a local or provincial publication (newspaper, magazine, newsletter, TV, website).

Guidelines

- The focus of Continuing Education is on lifelong learning; all CEUs should be earned because learning occurred.
- CEUs must be planned learning events or activities.
- CEUs must provide information within the horticultural field that increases the depth and breadth of your knowledge of some aspect of horticulture, making you a better-informed Master Gardener.
- All CEUs must have a scientific/technical basis – for example travel tours or garden tours generally do not apply.
- Travel, meals, etc., are not included in CEU time.
- Events may be either volunteer or update activities, but not both.

Website Update – May 1, 2010 - April 30, 2011

by Linda Hugli, Webmaster

The MGOI.ca website continues to be an effective and evolving communications tool. Fifteen local MG groups have now developed their own websites as subdomains on the MGOI site. Webmasters are trained and mentored by MGOI.ca webmaster, Linda Hugli. The password protected pages on the site contain an ever expanding collection of resources thanks to the generosity of Master Gardener groups across the province.

In March 2011, the website set a new monthly record of 4,619 unique visitors within a one month period. The most significant referral site is the OHA's gardenontario.org site. We are very grateful to the OHA webmaster for featuring our link on their home page. The most frequently visited webpages in 2011 have been Homepage, Advice, Calendar of Events, Education and the Speaker's List. Master Gardeners are encouraged to submit additions to the Speaker's List as well as events to be posted on the Calendar.

Coordinators are asked to remind their members that they may login using the generic login for all MGs and MGITs.

Communications report - May 1, 2010-April 30, 2011

Members of communications committee:

Kelly Noel, chair; Linda Hugli, vice-chair, webmaster; Dianne and Gary Westlake, newsletter editors; Wendy Fletcher

Newsletter – What’s Growing On: Dianne and Gary Westlake continue to do an excellent job as the editors of our newsletter *What’s Growing On*. 502 members now receive it directly by email. To further cement our partnership with OHA, there is a “MGOI-OHA working together” logo in each issue of *What’s Growing On* and each issue of *Trillium*, the OHA newsletter.

MG-list:

There are now 399 registered members. Members can join on their own or send a request to be added. Instructions on how to join are on mgoi.ca under Communications/MG-List.

Website: Sub-domains: There are now 15 groups with a website in the mgoi.ca space (Ottawa, Sudbury, Etobicoke, Rideau 1000 Islands, Oakville, Guelph & Wellington County, Mississauga, Lanark, Cambridge, Niagara, Halton, Kitchener, Simcoe County, Lake Simcoe South and Brantford). The last three were added this year. There is a link to each of these websites on the front page of mgoi.ca. The invitation to any group without a website to develop one on mgoi.ca still stands. For this fiscal year, Communications generated income of \$605 (setup, training and hosting fees for subdomains) and had expenses of \$100 (hosting fees).

Landscape Ontario Ask the Expert: LO continues to forward plant-related questions to Linda Hugli who sends each one to a member of the panel of MGs who have agreed to answer them. This contribution is recognized on the LO website. A committee of the board used many of these questions and answers to produce the *Ask a Master Gardener* book that was published in March, 2011.

The Great Ontario Garden Guide: This guide was developed by the Communications committee last year. There were 1000 left over from the printing done to distribute to the groups and these were offered to groups for purchase at cost and were sold on a first come-first served basis. The Revenue Development committee took over the GOGG this year and had 30000 copies printed to sell to at a small profit to garden related businesses and organizations and to our own groups at cost.

Handbook:

The Handbook was revised in October, 2010, and a new print version given to each coordinator. The major amendments over the last year were removal of the MGOI policy on emeritus status and to leave it instead to the individual groups to choose if and how they honour retiring members, and a new policy to offer Honourary MG status to high-profile garden experts. The version of the handbook that is on the website in the members’ only sections is the up-to-date version.

Kelly Noel, Chair, Communications Committee

Revenue Development Report – May 1, 2011 – 30 April 2011

Over the past year, we've had some successes and some disappointments. Our major success has been the sale of Ask a Master Gardener books. We've sold 723 in a period of six weeks. Sudbury Master Gardeners will be selling them at the OHA Convention in Sudbury in July. It is hoped that this will generate some sales to horticultural groups in the fall.

The revenue for the spots on our website continues with the renewal of previous supporters and, unfortunately, the loss of support from the Cooperators for this year. There is room for lots more in this area.

We have sold over 10,000 copies of the Great Ontario Gardening Guide (GOGG). Although sales are slower than anticipated, we hope to sell more of these guides in the coming year, not only to our partner organizations but also to the general public.

John Crow
Chair
Revenue Development Committee

Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.
Budget for 12 months ending April 30, 2011

| | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Income | Actual | Actual | Budget |
| Donations (receipted) | 13,602 | 17,044 | 10,000 |
| Certification Exams | 825 | 1,100 | 1,000 |
| Fund Raising | 1,438 | 1,913 | 2,000 |
| GST rebate | 900 | 911 | 900 |
| Web Services | | 1,105 | 300 |
| Memberships | 22,400 | 24,365 | 25,375 |
| Balance Forward | 13,994 | 15,653 | |
| Total Income | 39,165 | 46,438 | 39,575 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Accounting | | 852 | 1,100 |
| AGM and Board meetings | 9,569 | 9,898 | 12,500 |
| Recognition | 1,332 | 2,489 | 2,000 |
| Conferences & Conventions | 200 | 2,374 | 3,000 |
| Honorarium | 5,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Insurance | | | |
| Directors and Officers | 1,080 | 1,080 | 1,080 |
| Liability | 2,214 | 2,214 | 2,250 |
| Marking Fees | 240 | 180 | 300 |
| Miscellaneous | 373 | 363 | 670 |
| Office | 229 | 451 | 600 |
| Partnership/HMG | | | 1,500 |
| Postage | 560 | 431 | 700 |
| Promotion/Communications | | 1,800 | 2,300 |
| Telephone | 266 | 290 | 500 |
| Web page MGOI | | 100 | 100 |
| Zone Director Travel Exp. | | 149 | 2,000 |
| Total Expenses | 21,063 | 28,670 | 36,600 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | 18,102 | 17,768 | 2,975 |

Algoma

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 95 |
| Total # of clinics | 2 |
| # Attending Clinics | 21 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 10 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 390 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 7 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | |
| # of Master Gardeners | 3 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 1 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 24 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 147 |

Highlight of the Year

Garlic mustard was a big issue in this area.

Major Volunteer Activities

Fundraising Activities

Meetings

Group Update

Brantford

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | |
| Total # of clinics | 6 |
| # Attending Clinics | 40 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 4 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 300+ |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 12 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 23 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 17 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 7 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 230 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 805 |

Highlight of the Year

2010 was the year end work party at the United Church Manse in Glen Morris, followed by our year end BBQ and a guest speaker, Frank Kershaw.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Planting the herb garden at the Bell Homestead x 3
- Re-planting CAS Homes gardens
- Converting flower beds to native flower beds at the Paris High school
- Bite of Brant Educational Fair

Fundraising Activities

- 2010 garden tour in Brantford
- Plant sale

Meetings

- 10 meetings per year

Group Update

Cambridge

Total # of enquiries

Total # of clinics

Attending Clinics

of Speaking engagements

Attendance at speaking engagements

Newspaper/TD/Media

of TUs/Continuing Education Units

of Master Gardeners

7

of Master Gardeners in Training

Total # of Administrative Hours

Total # of Advice Hours

Durham

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | 10 |
| Total # of clinics | 12 |
| # Attending Clinics | 5015 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 15 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 680 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 169 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 7 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 8 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 203 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 407 |

Highlight of the Year

We acquired six MGITs. This is credited to the group's work during the past four years by holding advice clinics throughout the community which raised awareness of our group

Major Volunteer Activities

- Oshawa Peony Festival which is a two day event with approx. 4000 people attending
- Valley Botanical Gardens
- Developed a relationship with Durham Int...and attended their board meetings.

Fundraising Activities

Delivering presentations at regional horticultural societies and home shows and advice clinics at local fairs and garden centres.

Meetings

We meet on the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Group Update

Two MGs reached their five year milestone, Gini Sage and Kim Pileggi.

Elgin County

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Total # of enquiries | 31 |
| Total # of clinics | 35 |
| # Attending Clinics | 517 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 20 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 745-1000 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 1 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 76 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 6 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 1 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 407 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 356 |

Highlight of the Year

During the 5 day International Plowing Match, five of our members spoke for one hour on a variety of gardening topics.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Clinics at Canadale Nurseries
- Clinics at Lavender Blue's open house
- 3 days at Aylmer Home & Garden Show
- Speaking engagements at horticultural societies, libraries, health unit, senior events and other social groups

Fundraising Activities

Our major fundraiser is "Digging in the Dirt" seminar and action. The sale of booklets and a bus trip to Canada Blooms.

Meetings

We meet 9-10 times per year.

Group Update

We have 7 active members, 6 Master Gardeners and 1 Master Gardener-in-Training.

Essex-Windsor

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 543 |
| Total # of clinics | 16 |
| # Attending Clinics | 950 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 11 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 353 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 50 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 6 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 25 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 1 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 509 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 799 |

Highlight of the Year

Again this year we were successful in writing horticultural related articles for the local newspaper, "The Windsor Star" which appears weekly every Saturday. As a group, we were able to secure a few different locations for clinics this year. Also, some of the speaking engagements were for different clubs or groups than in previous years.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Colasanti's Tropical Gardens in Ruthven from September to May
- Participated at St. Clair College's "Winter Blooms" one day event in March and the Fort Maiden Fair's one day event in May
- Box Store clinics from February to May

Fundraising Activities

- Only source of fundraising is the weekly column we write for the local newspaper

Meetings

Our meetings are from March to May and September to November for 2010. They are held on the last Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Group Update

Most of the members attended the day long formal horticultural topics at a College. Also, most attended six-one hour and two long horticultural themed events and some made presentations to the group.

Etobicoke

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 16 |
| Total # of clinics | 12 |
| # Attending Clinics | |
| # of Speaking engagements | 10 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 4 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | |
| # of Master Gardeners | 18 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 15 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 590 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 850 |

Highlight of the Year

A majority of our group joined together for dinner at Montgomery Inn in October. We enjoyed each other's company and discussed plans for the coming year.

Major Volunteer Activities

- A four part lecture series "Into the Garden" held at Montgomery Inn
- A plant fair in late May that included short lectures
- An ongoing project with the city to help tenants beautify their outdoor gardens at two apartments in the Kipling/Finch area

Fundraising Activities

- Annual plant sale
- Our two weekends at Islington Nurseries

Meetings

We hold meetings on the 4th Thursday at Royal York Road United Church in September, November, January, February, March and April.

Group Update

Our group welcomed seven new members in 2010. Four of our group received their Master Gardener certificate.

Guelph-Wellington

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Total # of enquiries | 3796 (includes website hits) |
| Total # of clinics | 26 |
| # Attending Clinics | 1200 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 16 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 650 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 11 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 133 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 24 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 13 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 900 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 750 |

Highlight of the Year

Our annual Day in the Garden in February was revamped. A new venue at Victoria East Golf and Country Club meant room to potentially double attendance. Lunch was catered by the Golf Club instead of relying on sandwiches made by the master gardeners. All in attendance received a gift bag with donated garden related items. There was also a soil block making demonstration at lunch augmented the three speakers. The new venue was a success with a 30% increase in public attendance. We have a new partnership with the University of Guelph Arboretum. After 14 years of meeting at the Turf Grass Institute, we now meet at the Arboretum Centre. We hope to do more joint projects with the Arboretum.

Major Volunteer Activities

In addition to our phone and email based hotline, we held weekly advice clinics at the Guelph Enabling Garden during the summer. Special events included roving MGs at garden tours, the U of G Trial Garden open house and the U of G Arboretum plant sale. We partnered with Pollination Guelph, City of Guelph Healthy Landscapes, the Arboretum at the University of Guelph, the Turf Grass Institute and the Guelph Enabling Garden to provide, advice, displays and speakers at their events. Several members helped at Canada Blooms and spoke to local garden clubs, interest groups and horticultural societies. Our website draws increasing traffic with 300-400 hits every month.

Fundraising Activities

Our only fundraising activity is our Annual Plant Sale which netted about \$6500.

Meetings

Our meetings provided a variety of interesting speakers and activities for members with talks on topics as varied as genetically modified crops, tissue culture and native orchids to a tour of a toxic weed garden. Members were provided with three hours of CEU at meetings. A new initiative this year was Member Sharing. Two members at each meeting provide a 50 to 10 minute presentation, book report, demonstration or plant description for the group.

Business meetings were difficult during the first quarter of the year as the group worked through the MGOI changes to the emeritus policy. Relations between members were strained and two potential

new members declined to join after sitting through the debates. In the last two quarters of the year, relations have been smoothed and meetings are now collegial.

Annually members are provided with a free educational and social bus trip. This year we explored the north shore of Lake Erie with stops at a peanut farm, a vineyard and winery and several public and private gardens.

Group Updates

Five members resigned during the year. Three resignations were partially or wholly related to the change in emeritus policy. The other resignations were members with increasing personal obligations that did not leave time to fulfill their volunteer obligations. We did have two new members join our group, one a returning member and one a transfer from another group. Two of our MGITs became Master Gardeners. This year we have thirteen new MGITs.

Haliburton

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 16 |
| Total # of clinics | 4 |
| # Attending Clinics | 60 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 2 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 20 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 4 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 28 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 4 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 6 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 278 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 243 |

Highlight of the Year

We initiated the Haliburton County Master Gardener website.

A garden was designed and implemented for the R.D. Lawrence Centre

A design for the Minden Community Centre was submitted to the Township.

Major Volunteer Activities

We gave advice at all Minden and district Horticultural Society meetings. We had advice clinics at the Minden and D.H.S. Annual Flower Show and their plant sale.

We had an advice clinic and provided assistance at the Bobcaygeon Garden Tour.

We had an advice clinic at the HCMG plant sale.

We also held eight weekly sessions on gardening with Grade 3 students of the local school at the Minden Hills Museum grounds.

Fundraising Activities

Our Haliburton County Master Gardener plant sale.

Meetings

We held seven group meetings. We attended the Zone 9 Technical Update and the Zone 11 Technical Update, as well as attending the MGOI AGM.

Group Updates

Three of our MGITs are enrolled in NSAC online courses and three other MGITs are currently pursuing the self-study program. We have maintained three of the MGITs that we recruited in our recruitment initiative.

Halton

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 113 |
| Total # of clinics | 13 |
| # Attending Clinics | |
| # of Speaking engagements | 74 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 790 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 1 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 237 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 27 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 4 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 608 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 742 |

Highlight of the Year

Halton Region Master Gardeners worked in partnership with the Royal Botanical Gardens to help organize the first RBG Garden Show in April. MGs provided speakers for presentations and workshops and introduced and thanked guest speakers. We are also very happy with our new subdomain website on MGOI which has attracted new members to our group.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Advice clinics and support at the Royal Botanical Gardens events
- Royal Botanical Gardens hotline
- Email enquiries
- Articles for the Burlington Post
- Various community gardens and tours (e.g., Burloak Long Term Care Facility, Oakville Hort Society Garden Tour, Junior Teaching Garden Oakville and Hamilton Trillium Awards)

Fundraising Activities

- Monthly draw table; draw items donated by members

Meetings

- 8 meetings which have an educational program component
- 2 social events: BBQ in June and a Christmas potluck

Group Update

- Visit our new website for the latest news at www.haltonmastergardeners.mgoi.ca

Huron

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 473 |
| Total # of clinics | 16 |
| # Attending Clinics | 116 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 13 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 210 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 110 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 11 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 185 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 391 |

Highlight of the Year

We were able to give Honourable Master Gardener status to Bill Rowcliffe. In addition, our members had a very successful "Garden Walk in July".

Major Volunteer Activities

For the first time, Bluewater entered Communities in Bloom and achieved "4 Bloom Status" for an exceptional job. Huron MG Betsy Rowcliffe and Susan Beatty worked on the committee and helped to achieve this honour. B. Rowcliffe originated the "Plant Sunflowers for Bluewater" initiative which became a catalyst to link the rural and urban areas of Bluewater.

Susan Beatty, Susan van Baardwyck and Leigh Selk worked with the Bayfield community on the Sunflower campaign and on the floral and landscaped areas of Bayfield. Jerry Selk was instrumental in the new landscape installed at the Bayfield Town Hall.

Fundraising Activities

- Annual plant sale which was not as successful as past sales

We are searching for new ideas for fundraising.

Meetings

Our meetings are well attended by all our members.

Group Update

One of our members has taken a leave of absence, however, our small group continues to be energetic, but due to our spread out geography, there are some limitations to our activities.

Lake Simcoe South

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | 57 |
| Total # of clinics | 70 |
| # Attending Clinics | 1263 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 12 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 504 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 34 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 120 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 17 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 2 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 1744 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 845 |

Highlight of the Year

We had three highlights for 2010:

- Our second annual plant sale which doubled in size and success
- Along the Garden Path Garden Tour in the fall
- Welcoming Mark Cullen as an Honourary Master Gardener

Major Volunteer Activities

- May to mid-October we manned weekly clinics at the Newmarket and Markham Farmers' Markets. We are looking to expand our role from clinics to presentations in Newmarket
- Participated at Canada Blooms, Successful Gardening Show and the CNE
- Held clinics at libraries in Newmarket and Vaughan
- Regional horticultural societies requested our presence for presentations and their own garden tours
- The Markham Fair and the Schomberg Fair were very busy and Markham as asked us to take on a greater role this year which may require some help from other MG groups

Fundraising Activities

- Plant sale
- Garden tour
- Sale of Vesey Bulbs
- In-house silent auctions
- Presentations to horticultural societies, seniors groups and Home Hardware

Meetings

We had an interesting program this year as follows:

- Jan-Feb-Mar – bugs, birds and tools
- Apr – Charlie Dobbin on garden design
- May – graduation and pin ceremony
- June – Paul Zammit's garden
- July-August – members gardens
- Sept – Pathways to Perennials with Lorraine Mennon and Mark Cullen

- Oct – succession and forward planning
- Nov – AGM with Megan Wurster, Sharon Temple, Doane Herb Garden Expert

Group Update

Despite the great program and successful fund raising, our group experienced a tumultuous year. We are starting the new year with renewed vigour.

Lanark

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 160 |
| Total # of clinics | 6 |
| # Attending Clinics | 517 |
| # of speaking engagements | 16 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 20 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 106 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 12 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 3 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 298 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 377 |

Highlight of the Year

We again developed and delivered six horticultural related seminars at Perth Campus of Algonquin College. One of our members made and sold rain barrels. We have a summer fun project, a A-Z bouquet. Each member drew letters at our March meeting and then grew plants representing that letter. At our September meeting, we made a bouquet of flowers representing our letters. This was a lot of fun and interesting. We held a year end potluck in November. We played a game of horticultural Jeopardy and then made seasonal wreaths, using grapevine wreaths made by one of our member's husband.

One of our MGITs, Kevin Long, has completed all of his Nova Scotia courses with a perfect score. We developed a mentoring program to help our MGITs deal with learning.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Man advice booths at three Farmers' Markets
- Man advice booth at Spirit of the garden
- Provided three of the four training sessions at the District 2 OHA Fun Day
- Delivered presentations at various horticultural societies
- Delivered seminars at Perth campus of Algonquin College
- Answered questions by phone and our email hotline
- Provided MG support at 4 horticultural society plant sales
- Introduced an Ask a Master Gardener column in local Hort society newsletters
- Wrote articles for local newspapers and Hort society newsletters

Fundraising Activities

- Plant sale
- Rain barrel sale
- Courses at Algonquin College

In 2011 we are working with the Perth Horticultural Society and the rain barrel company, offering rain barrels for sale.

Meetings

We meet the second Wednesday of the month except for December. November is our fun meeting with a potluck and a fun activity

Group Update

We are a healthy group. 2010 was the year of the MGIT. The MGITs we recruited are coming into their own. They are working towards certification and are taking on more and more responsibility. We have new recruits in the pipeline. Our financial situation is not as bleak as it once was.

Lindsay

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 77 |
| Total # of clinics | 24 |
| # Attending Clinics | 482 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 1 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 25 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | |
| # of Master Gardeners | 7 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 2 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 132 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 354 |

Highlight of the Year

Our outing this year was a visit to Martin Galloway's Nursery. Every member enjoyed the day and as Master Gardeners we love to learn and Martin Galloway did not disappoint.

Major Volunteer Activities

Like last year, our clinics at the Lindsay Farmer's Market were well attended. A noticeable increase in questions on food production from a younger crowd.

We attended Nurses' Week held May 9-15. Our local historical society held a garden tour in July and many of our members volunteered. We also had members who helped with tours and questions at the Lilacs of Lindsay celebration.

Fundraising Activities

Our full take over of Seedy Saturday was a great success on March 20, 2010. Attendance was very good. Thirteen vendors/exhibitors joined us. Door prizes were drawn at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon.

Meetings

Six meetings were held with an average attendance of six.

Group Update

At present, we have seven MGs and two MGITs. One MGIT is writing the certification exam.

London-Middlesex

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | 78 |
| Total # of clinics | 28 |
| # Attending Clinics | |
| # of Speaking engagements | 45 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 1337 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 130 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 12 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 6 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 1047 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 692 |

Highlight of the Year

We worked very hard to develop partnerships in London and the greater community as we developed our educational program. We also are very proud of the fact that we have a new Constitution and a set of by-laws for our group.

Major Volunteer Activities

- A very successful 'Seedy Saturday'
- London libraries plant exchange
- Advice clinics and booths at both the Home and Garden Show and Western Fair
- City of London Civic Garden greenhouse tour
- Numerous presentations for Lee Valley, horticulture societies and the City of London

Fundraising Activities

The major fundraising event for 2010 was our own very successful 'Rain Barrel' sale.

Meetings

We had nine general membership meetings with interesting educational speakers and outings.

Group Update

Four of our MGITs move up to MG status.

Mississauga

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | 10 |
| Total # of clinics | 10 |
| # Attending Clinics | 5000 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 23 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 80 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 3 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 104 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 12 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 8 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 312 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 576 |

Highlight of the Year

2010 was a good year for our group. We are beginning to branch out in activities which we normally would not participate in, such as community gardening, fund raising, and strategic planning with Riverwood Conservancy.

Major Volunteer Activities

Our major volunteer activities involve the following:

Successful gardening, children's section, Canada Blooms, CNE, Fall Home Show, Zoomers Show, Riverwood Plant Sale, Centennial Park Green House, Mississauga Agriculture in the City and Ecosource Community Gardening and Workshops.

Fundraising Activities

Selling MGOI Gardening and public speaking.

Meetings

Our meetings consist of an administrative hour, then one hour for keynote speaker who can be either a member of our group or someone from outside, or we do a video presentation on gardening topics.

Group Update

Two of our members became ill and were not able to fulfil all the volunteer and administrative hours. We had recruited one new member during the year.

Muskoka-Parry Sound

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 39 |
| Total # of clinics | 32 |
| # Attending Clinics | 253 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 17 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 304 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 5 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 84 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 11 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 338 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 346 |

Highlight of the Year

A presentation at the Huntsville Algonquin Theatre by Paul Zammit in April. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed his presentation on "Annuals and Perennials Worth the Hunt". Enough money was made to buy books for all the libraries in our district which we deliver by hand. This year's text was on trees.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Presentations at horticultural societies on different subjects
- Local weekly Farmer's Market in Huntsville all summer
- One day event to OPP wives at Deerhurst Inn in Huntsville
- Roger's Cove workshops for the elderly
- Fall fair booths in Huntsville and Bracebridge
- Help and advice at Community Garden in Bracebridge
- Plant gardens at the Locks in Brunel Township to update and refurbish the park gardens

Fundraising Activities

- The Paul Zammit presentation was our major fund raiser

Meetings

- Every second Monday March to November in a church hall or at member's houses.
- Each meeting has an educational component

Group Update

- Had an all day workshop at the Aspden Community Centre by Georgian Bay Biosphere's Glenda Clayton in November,
- Turf revolution came to our meeting in September in Bracebridge to present a one hour information workshop on grasses, soil and soil testing.

Niagara

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | 656+ |
| Total # of clinics | 60 |
| # Attending Clinics | 600 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 7 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 400 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 12 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 308 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 25 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 4 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 1008 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 1226 |

Highlight of the Year

- The July MGOI summer workshop at the School of Horticulture featuring plant identification and pruning techniques for shrubs and trees
- The monthly “hands on” workshops at the School of Horticulture which included propagation and transplanting techniques, outdoor container design and general plant care practices
- Our annual fall plant sale at the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre which was not only successful as a fund raiser but also as a social experience for our members

Major Volunteer Activities

- Advice clinics held at St. Catharine’s Library on Saturday mornings. These clinics are held monthly from October to March then weekly from April to September
- Advice clinics at the Saturday Welland Farmer’s Market in August as well as the seasonal Grimsby Farmer’s Market on Thursday evenings
- Assisted at the plant sales of local horticultural societies’ primarily with plant identification and plant selection for specific garden locations
- Acted as guides and resource personnel during the Shaw Festival Garden Tour in June. This year we will be producing the feature/description sheets for this event
- Provided plant/garden advice at the Rice Road Nursery in May and June on Saturdays
- Took part in the development of judging criteria for the Town of Lincoln Communities in Bloom competition and participated in the evaluation of nominated gardens
- Developed and held horticultural therapy sessions at Hospice Niagara
- Took part in Seedy Saturday workshops at the Ball’s Falls Conservation Authority area
- Manned a hotline/helpline five days a week year round. Garden advice is also offered through our website via email. We have just recently opened a Facebook account and invite our friends to ask questions or leave comments. It is anticipated that future communications with the public will be carried out electronically rather than by telephone.

Fundraising Activities

- Compensation for advice clinics at Rice Road Nursery
- Honoraria/fees from presentations and workshops
- Donations for our invited participation in the Shaw Festival Garden Tour
- Proceeds from a highly successful fall plant sale

Meetings

Our meetings take place once a month on the second Thursday at 7 p.m. in Rittenhouse Hall located at the OMAFRA offices in Vineland. Each month we have a speaker and then a business meeting follows. Our Christmas potluck luncheon was highlighted by a very competitive container design competition and a very creative gift distribution method.

Group Update

We offer congratulations to two of our MGITs on the completion of their mandatory course work. Our new LCD projector is indispensable – we no longer have to rent or borrow equipment. It is anticipated that we will purchase a lapel microphone from our plant sales revenues so that our speakers no longer have to shout. We will continue our financial support of a successful second year student at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture by means of scholarship.

Norfolk

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 66 |
| Total # of clinics | 2 |
| # Attending Clinics | 109 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 8 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 140 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 21 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 51 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 7 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 202 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 254 |

Highlight of the Year

This year our public clinics were more popular than ever. Kevin Kavanaugh gave his presentation “Pushing the Zones” to a full house in April and TV personality, Carson Arthur, enlightened us with “How Green is your Garden – environmental friendly solutions to eco-friendly gardens,” to an even larger audience in October. The venue for both clinics was the beautiful new store area at Eising Greenhouses and Garden Centre.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Two public clinics
- Our booth at the Norfolk County Fair where we are involved in the “passport” program that has participants answer a question at various stops. Our Passport entry was “Name two ways to start a new plant”. This gave us a great opportunity to display seedlings, cuttings, bulbs and other ways to get plants started. It proved educational for school children and adults alike.
- A local “Fair and Share” where volunteer organizations could showcase their group and answer questions for the general public.

Fundraising Activities

Our annual plant sale in May.

Meetings

We met monthly with most of the planning work taking place during the cold weather so that we could use our summer meetings to tour some local beautiful gardens.

Group Update

This year, sadly, we lost Maxine Vakarlis, a long-standing and vital member to cancer. Two other members, one an MG and one an MGiT, found that Master Gardeners was no longer possible for them. Our “Emeritus” member, Fraser McClung remains involved when he can get to events and meetings. It will be a challenge to keep up quantity and quality of our community involvement with our remaining seven active members.

Northumberland

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 113 |
| Total # of clinics | 7 |
| # Attending Clinics | 19 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 10 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 135 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 113 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 15 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 4 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 380 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 428 |

Highlight of the Year

Two Master Gardeners received pins in recognition of years of service; one five year and one ten year.

Major Volunteer Activities

MGs volunteered at the Port Hope Farmer's Market, Cobourg Hospice Plant Sale and Peterborough Garden Show where we were responsible for procuring the speakers, introducing and thanking them. We also manned an advice booth throughout the show. Members volunteered through May to July at a local garden centre answering questions and assisting with plant selections. Our hotline is sponsored by the store owner.

Members volunteered at Horizons of Friendship and Big Brothers/Big Sisters annual garden tours, the Port Hope Fall Fair, Baltimore Home Show and events for the Port Hope Public Library and the Community Health Care Centre.

Master Gardeners who are members of local horticultural societies volunteered at plant sales for Port Hope, Cobourg and Rice Lake societies.

Fundraising Activities

A new endeavour this year was the sponsorship and procurement of the speakers for the initial Big Brothers/Big Sisters Spring Garden Speakers Series fund raising event – a successful undertaking and the Series will be held again in 2011.

Meetings

Our meetings are scheduled the second Wednesday of each month with the exception of January, February and July.

Group Update

Our group had field trips to the Oshawa Peony Festival and the Black Oak Savannah. Speakers at our meetings included Peter Finch of Rolling Hills Organic Farm, Martin Galloway and Dawn Tack of Gardens Plus.

North Bay

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 44 |
| Total # of clinics | |
| # Attending Clinics | |
| # of Speaking engagements | 3 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 2 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | |
| # of Master Gardeners | 12 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 4 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 259 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 384 |

Highlight of the Year

We were delighted to welcome three new MGITs to the North Bay and District Master Gardeners. As well, three of our former MGITs, Vickie Doucette, Carol Gough and Judy Hendry have completed their studies and are now full Master Gardeners.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Dollars Independent Grocers Garden Centre on the weekends in May and June giving gardening advice to local gardeners. For this service, Dollars pays for the phone service which is our Hotline
- Gave advice to the staff at the garden centre so they can assist other gardeners
- Participated in the local horticultural societies' plant sales
- Participated in the first annual Seed Exchange in 2009. We are looking forward to an expanded Exchange next year.
- Supplied plants and planted one of the flower beds at Casselholme for the Aged in North Bay
- Our Coordinator Sue Greig, supervised the beautification project for the Mental Health Group in Powassen

Fundraising Activities

This year we held our second annual Master Gardener garden tour and plant sale. Monica McLaren graciously hosted the event this year at her beautiful urban garden. Attendance increased significantly and the sale was a great financial success.

Meetings

For the last two years, we have been meeting at the North Bay Public Library. Our goal for 2011 is to expand the educational component of our monthly meetings. One representative of the Master Gardeners attends the local horticultural societies' monthly meetings as a resource person.

Group Update

After twenty-two years of service, one of our long standing Master Gardener, Adrian van der Bijl, has decided to retire. He was always willing to give talks and demonstrations and share his vast knowledge.

We will miss his expertise but he has kindly offered to be available for any assistance that we may require.

Oakville

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Total # of enquiries | 17 (not counted) |
| Total # of clinics | 20 |
| # Attending Clinics | 80 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 5 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | not counted |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 30 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 4 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 2 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | unknown |
| Total # of Advice Hours | unknown |

Highlight of the Year

One of our members, David Oldacre set up our website and has been updating it regularly. This has become an active site both for members and those wishing to know more about what we do.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Oakville Organic Market Garden where we manned a “Ask a Master Gardener” booth every Saturday from June 19th to October 30th
- Pruning workshop
- Manning booths at: Canada Blooms(both 2010 and 2011), Landscape Ontario, Royal Winter Fair and the MGOI Fund Raising Webinar

Fundraising Activities

Meetings

We held eight monthly meetings plus our annual Christmas dinner.

Group Update

We started with ten members in early 2010 and now are down to 6, two of whom are MGITs. Our membership is steadily falling despite our recruitment efforts. Five of our members attended the Vineland Technical Update.

Ottawa-Carleton

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | 619 |
| Total # of clinics | 64 |
| # Attending Clinics | 2237 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 45 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 942 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 6 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 333 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 20 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 8 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 1148 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 924 |

Highlight of the Year

Trowel Talk – the Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardener on-line newsletter which is published and edited by Mary Ann Van Berlo. Subscription has grown from 150 to 900 in the last year.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Email and telephone helplines
- Clinics held weekends at Carp, Byward and Lansdowne Farmer's Markets
- Clinics at two garden shows; the Ottawa Home and Garden Show held in March and Ottawa is Blooming in May. We held a first time clinic at the Children's Garden which is a special park and garden designed for and dedicated to children by the residents of Ottawa East.

Fundraising Activities

- Plant sales held in May and August
- Money received for a four lecture series with lectures provided by master gardeners in conjunction with Friends of the Experimental Farm
- Donated honoraria by master gardeners who have given talks to various horticultural society members
- Donated money given to master gardeners who wrote articles for the online Lee Valley Gardening newsletter
- Honourarium given by the City of Ottawa for our Byward Market Clinic

Meetings

We hold six regular meetings in January, February, March, September, October and November. We have a special education meeting held in the Fern and Native Plant display gardens of Pine Ridge Studio near Carp, Ontario. We had two potluck dinners, one in the summer and one in the winter.

Group Updates

We had two recruiting sessions, one during the District 2 Horticultural Society AGM and one during the District 2 Hort Society Flower Show. Although many people asked questions we received only one new MGIT, who had to resign two months later because of family commitments. One other MGIT heard about us through the recruiting session and joined the Lanark Group because of proximity to them. Four

other MGITs have joined us this year and one MGIT will be on a reduced contract. One of our long term members had to resign because of health issues.

Peterborough

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | 261 |
| Total # of clinics | 128 |
| # Attending Clinics | 867 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 79 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 5057 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 64 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 286 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 22 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 5 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 1899 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 1164 |

Highlight of the Year

In August, our group travelled to Plant Paradise Gardens in Caledon and Lost Horizons Nursery in Acton. We then visited Judy Brisson's garden in Guelph followed by dinner at the Elora Mill Inn. The following day we toured the University of Guelph Arboretum, visited Greenway Blooming Centre in Breslau and finally Northland Nursery. In September, we hosted members of other Zone 9 groups to enjoy a day of speakers and activities. We also welcomed some members from Zone 7.

Major Volunteer Activities

Ecology Park – three clinics were conducted each week throughout May and June as well as at the spring plant sale on the Victoria Day Weekend.

Urban Forestry Project – members assisted with the tree inventories in Peterborough.

Peterborough Garden Show – four of our members sit on the organizing committee which meets throughout the year and is responsible for all aspects of the show. During the show, we have an information table set up where we answer questions and distribute horticultural information and information about master gardeners.

Communities in Bloom – we provided eight judges for the local competition.

Fundraising Activities

Once again, in conjunction with the Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Northumberland Master Gardeners, we organized the 2010 edition of the Peterborough Garden Show. Four Peterborough members sat on the organizing committee and we were responsible primarily for the publicity and advertising. Members also manned an information table throughout the show.

Meetings

Our meeting schedule included eight meetings, each consisting of a business portion of a maximum duration of one hour and an educational component of a minimum of one hour. Topics included" growing and repotting orchids, Peterborough Urban Forestry Project Report, problems affecting honeybees, wild rice, grasses and how to man an MG Clinic. Another of our meetings was an on-site at the Peterborough Zoo where we learned about the Riverview Creek Shoreline Restoration and Naturalizing Project and helped plant almost 300 native plants. We also had two social gatherings.

Group Update

Two members completed their requirements and were presented with their MG certificates. We welcomed a new member who transferred from the Stratford group.

Prince Edward County

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 13 |
| Total # of clinics | 6 |
| # Attending Clinics | 106 |
| # of Speaking engagements | |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 4 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 1 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 94 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 13 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 2 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 266 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 373 |

Highlight of the Year

Our local Weekly County News is enthusiastic about the column that we submit and will accept anything else we send. The column is "Ask a Master Gardener". This is managed by our new graduates. They wrote weekly from late March until late October which is a lot of hours. The questions came by email, telephone and personal contact. The CBC chased our main writer down for a spot on the morning show, "Putting the garden to bed".

Major Volunteer Activities

We revised and edited the Advice Sheets that we have written. We added colour headers related to each subject. While our aim was to inform our neighbours we were overwhelmed by the response. Our plan is to send them by email when possible as the printing is very expensive. This also gives us a chance to answer questions with little more detail. We shall see if this is a good idea. To improve our presentation skills, we have a member do a PowerPoint talk at most meetings. Talks of general interest are developed into an Advice Sheet. We are present at all local Horticultural Society meetings. We name the plant contributions and the preferred conditions for growth at the auctions and plants sales of the society. We also make a short 5 minute talk on specific plants, for example, tulip, peonies and/or insect invasions.

We provided our table/umbrella and two MGs at a local gardening gala fundraiser. We provided master gardeners for a very busy nursery in Trenton which is supported by the Quinte-Tweed Master Gardeners. We staffed a booth at the County Fair with the horticultural society.

Fundraising Activities

We raised money with our annual plant sale and we received a donation for helping with advice at a local garden centre. The money raised was used to subsidize our MGITs with 50% of tuition fees, administration costs and a travel subsidy for members attending distant technical updates and meetings.

Meetings

We held 12 meetings in 2010. The average attendance was 12. We also celebrated with a summer potluck dinner and an AGM and social time.

Group Update

Our group has 12 master gardeners and two MGITs. One MG was on a leave of absence. We have had three queries for potential members, but no joiners so far. Delegates were sent to the MGOI AGM and the MGOI Coordinator's Conference. All of us updated and did various Continuing Education Units.

Quinte-Tweed

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 668 |
| Total # of clinics | 49 |
| # Attending Clinics | |
| # of Speaking engagements | 15 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 433 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 18 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 296 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 13 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 3 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 634 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 739 |

Highlights of the Year

We have developed an ongoing collaboration with a local garden centre where members can give out advice and work with actual plant materials to instruct people on planting planters and placement of plants in flower/vegetable beds. To provide enough manpower coverage we have partnered with the Prince Edward County Master Gardener Group.

Personal achievements were enjoyed by a number of our members:

- One member completed the Ontario Judge's course.
- Another earned the Landscape Design Certificate from St. Lawrence College.
- A third has been invited to join the Belleville Fair Board as a director responsible for coordinating, judging and stewardship.
- Two members have begun post-retirement careers in horticulture.

Major Volunteer Activities

Our members volunteered at plant sales held by garden clubs they belong to and at sales held by other community groups. Members also shared their knowledge at the Belleville University Women's Garden Tour and at Smylies Garden Centre. Also, several members joined forces with Master Gardeners in other zones, helping out at such events as the Peterborough Garden Show and at Canada Blooms. We provided ongoing technical assistance through the Master Gardener email account.

Fundraising Activities

We held a very successful plant sale in May. In addition, we enjoyed a generous donation from Smylies' Garden Centre in return for holding Information Clinics there on Saturdays and Sundays during May and June.

Meetings

Our business meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month (January to May and September to October) at Quinte Gardens in Belleville. During the summer months, and in November, business is combined with pleasure as we met at each other's homes for potluck dinners.

Group Update

Membership declined in 2010 as several long-serving members reluctantly chose retirement. We regret the loss of our old friends, but continue to stay in touch. Nine members received their five year recognition pins at our Christmas party/meeting and three members received their 15 year pins.

Rideau 1000 Islands

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | 2900 |
| Total # of clinics | 8 |
| # Attending Clinics | 1469 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 42 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 994 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 17 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | |
| # of Master Gardeners | 11 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 5 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 959 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 789 |

Highlight of the Year

Our educational sessions at each meeting.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Teaching school children how to plant planters
- Helping to identify and plant perennials at many community plant sales
- Judging for Communities in Bloom
- Teaching at the local college
- Answering questions at clinics, emails and setting up horticulture therapy programs

Fundraising Activities

- Selling brochures
- Speaking engagements
- Personal client advice by appointment
- Two workshops

Meetings

We always start off our meetings with a meet and greet, then an educational component and then business.

Group Update

We have recruited some new members and are looking forward to helping them succeed with their individual educational paths.

Sarnia-Lambton

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 18 |
| Total # of clinics | 4 |
| # Attending Clinics | 230 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 3 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 175 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 5 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | |
| # of Master Gardeners | 12 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 100 |

Highlight of the Year

The highlight was our participation in Sarnia's Christmas "Celebration of Lights" where we judged the homes that participated. This was our first year judging the competition and we have been asked back for 2011.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Plant sale in May
- Garden tour in June
- Art Walk and Hobby Fest
- Forest Annual Garden and Home Accents Show

Fundraising Activities

- Plant sale and garden tour

Meetings

Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month. We hold ten meetings a year with the summer off. Our July meeting is usually a garden party and our December meeting is our annual Christmas party.

Group Update

Although we have had a decline in membership, we have been approached by several interested people, so we hope to see an increase in our membership this year.

Simcoe County

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total # of enquiries | 72 |
| Total # of clinics | 2 |
| # Attending Clinics | 26 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 21 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 1235 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 47 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 256 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 12 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 3 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 620 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 194 |

Highlight of the Year

In October, we had our Technical Update entitled "Design for you". It was a great success. We had three well known landscape designers in Simcoe County speak on landscape design, design elements, designing with plant material and designing a garden through the years.

Major Activities

We continue on with our Picksmart to local horticultural societies in the area. In addition, we held the technical update in October.

Fundraising

Our fundraiser this year was our technical update, plus we generate revenue from our picksmarts.

Meetings

We meet eight times per year and we try to have an educational component at each meeting.

Group Update

Our group is busily recruiting new members, but it is a challenge. Simcoe County is a large area to cover so our members travel great distances to attend meetings and to give presentations to the many horticultural societies in the area.

Stratford

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 27 |
| Total # of clinics | 9 |
| # Attending Clinics | 63 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 12 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 700 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 8 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 31 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 14 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 2 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 625 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 738 |

Highlight of the Year

Our big event is the annual Stratford Garden Festival. We offer advice at our booth at the 4 day event, and we also provide speakers for the program, give speaker intros and sell coir bricks, neem oil and basket.

Major Volunteer Activities

As well as participating in clinics and as speakers at the three local horticultural societies in Stratford, Listowel and St. Mary's. We participated in the St. Mary's Garden Fair, the Stratford Spring Plant Sale and we also gave a clinic on organic vegetable garden for the Stratford Pesticide Fee Committee. As well, we staffed the seven sites of the summer garden tour for the Stratford Horticulture Society and gave advice at the annual flower show. We also have members act as speakers at Canada Blooms and the winter and fall trade shows of Landscape Ontario.

Fundraising Activities

Our major fundraising effort for our education fund was again the Stratford Garden Festival in March. We sell coir blocks, neem oil and hanging baskets. We also offered our wares and advice at the St. Mary's Garden Fair in June.

Meetings

We had ten monthly meetings and two special meetings in 2010.

Group Update

Despite having a small group, we continue to be very active and highly visible in Perth County. Last year we had one new MG and one MGiT and the prospect of adding a couple more MGITs in 2011.

Sudbury

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 141 |
| Total # of clinics | 14 |
| # Attending Clinics | 104 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 6 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 58 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 1 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 60 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 16 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 40 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 238 |

Highlight of the Year

Our highlight of the year was the graduation of our five MGITs.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Seedy Saturday
- Earth Day
- Art in Bloom

We did outreach to other horticultural societies in rural communities.

Fundraising Activities

- Two plant sales in conjunction with the Sudbury Horticultural Society

Meetings

- We do plant profile presentation at most monthly meetings
- We hold meetings every month except July and August

Group Update

Our group recognized three MGs with 5 year pins, three MGs with 10 year name badges and two MGs with 15 year pins.

Thunder Bay

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 44 |
| Total # of clinics | 45 |
| # Attending Clinics | 701 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 30 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 700 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 20 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 133 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 24 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 7 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 555 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 591 |

Highlight of the Year

We had several:

- Completion of the “Pest and Disease” CD which is made available at locations where MGs are doing presentations
- MG Study Day at the Mn.Landscape Arboretum, organized by the University of Mn for MGs. This was attended by seven of our group. There were excellent speakers on a variety of topics.

Major Volunteer Activities

- Soroptimist Garden Day in March in which several members did presentations and held a Q&Q panel over the lunch hour
- Home and Garden Show in April in which MGs had their usual booth. There were many questions on vermicomposting setup, poster boards on soils and information on soil testing kits available for the new soil testing lab at LU. Giveaway coleus seedlings were another attraction
- Slice of Pizza which is a two day event for grade 3 students as they learn where the ingredients of making a pizza come from. MGs assist the students to transplant a patio variety of tomato into a pot which is taken home with them.
- Art Gallery Garden Tour. MGs are present in each of the gardens on the tour. Prior to the event they have selected a plant which is designated “MG pick” and this generates a lot of questions about all aspects of gardening.
- Speaking requests from various groups resulted in MGs giving presentations on a range of topics throughout the seasons

Fundraising Activities

- Sale of CDs
- Plant sale
- Partnership with Confederation College; to run well attended gardening classes on a variety of subjects during the spring and fall sessions

Meetings

The group held 10 regular monthly meetings with an educational component in each.

Another technical day sponsored by the MNR and the City was attended by many members. This was a very informative series of presentations on the Emerald Ash Borer, with good visuals, handouts and

excellent presenters, etc. This was considered an excellent pro-active move by the City so that members of the public can be made aware of this pest, and plans are now underway for how to deal with it when it arrives in this area.

Toronto

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Total # of enquiries | 902 |
| Total # of clinics | 94 (includes garden tour at TTGG) |
| # Attending Clinics | 4,818 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 39 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 2,025 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 588 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 70 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 26 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 2,491 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 4,143 |

Highlight of the Year

The highlight of the year was our increasing involvement with the TBG's public education programs. Most spectacularly, two of our MGs, Elizabeth Stewart and Connie Hunter, took lead roles in working with TBG staff to develop and present a new, highly successful program on urban vegetable growing. The program is a set of five weekend workshops that attracted 150 attendees in its first year. The program is being repeated and expanded this year. This involvement has also provided the TMGs with related speaking engagement opportunities. The other major increase in our ongoing involvement with the TBG is TMGs volunteering as docents/tour guides for significantly expanded tours of the TBG gardens and Edwards Gardens organized by the TBG.

Major Volunteer Activities

Through the Garden Gate, the Toronto Botanical Garden's fundraising garden tour – the TMGs provided significant volunteer support for this event. Six TMGs volunteer on the planning committee to organize the event, choosing the gardens, meeting with garden owners and writing up descriptions of each garden and attending both days. In addition, 60 TMGs volunteer in the gardens over the two day event. Canada Blooms continues to be a major activity. In 2010, TMGs staffed 119 volunteer shifts (90 at advice clinics and 29 at presentations and early morning tours). Growing Under Glass, a programme for grade 3 students in high needs communities ran for a second year and TMGs filled 671 volunteer shifts assisting in delivery of learning experiences for over 1000 children.

Fundraising Activities

The major fundraising activity in 2010 were 27 advice clinics held at Islington Nurseries where TMGs filled 51 volunteer shifts. TMGs also attended 18 paid speaking engagements during the year.

Meetings

The TMGs held 10 monthly meetings and 10 executive meetings in 2010. As well, we hosted and our members attended an Annual Technical Update in 2010.

Group Update

The TMG continues to thrive. We did have a larger than normal number of retirements in 2010. However, this decrease has been more than balanced by new recruits. As well as the 17 MGITs entering in 2010, we have just added another 14 MGITs as of January 2011.

TMGs continue to be very busy with an increasing number of members contributing more than 50 hours annually – a service threshold we are recognizing and celebrating within our group.

West Elgin

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Total # of enquiries | 2 |
| Total # of clinics | 3 |
| # Attending Clinics | 12 |
| # of Speaking engagements | 4 |
| Attendance at speaking engagements | 100 |
| Newspaper/TD/Media | 2 |
| # of TUs/Continuing Education Units | 50 |
| # of Master Gardeners | 7 |
| # of Master Gardeners in Training | 2 |
| Total # of Administrative Hours | 240 |
| Total # of Advice Hours | 132 |

Highlight of the Year

We hosted our 2nd Annual West Elgin MG Open House. This is an evening in which we host to introduce the Master Gardener organization into the community. This year's guest speaker was Brenda Gallagher speaking on native plants. We also exhibit parts of displays we have shown at other events during the past year and have a very attractive display to encourage more people to join master gardeners. Also, great gardening door prizes and grab bags for everyone. Over 50 people attended.

Major Volunteer Activities

Fundraising Activities

Meetings

Group Update

Master Gardeners of Ontario Board of Directors



Ralph Bullough
President

Ralph Bullough has a BSc in geology, a BA in economics and a BEd in education. With this he became a Tool and Die Maker. Life leads in strange directions. His gardening interest probably came from his father as forced labour when he was young. As a young man, Ralph made every effort to distance himself from his father's projects. Later, after his father had passed away, the gardening genes came to the fore and Ralph started his long term interest in various parts of horticulture. Retirement pends and he hopes to devote more of his time to gardening and finally catch up on all the tasks that could be done during a summer season.

Donna Russell
Zone 1

Since retiring from nursing in 2004, I have become more passionate about gardening and painting as my new careers. I have been a Master Gardener for 11 years, serving as the treasurer of our local branch for the past 4 years. Our cottage-style gardens on a small city property have been featured on numerous garden tours throughout the years.



Linda Hugli
Zone 2

Linda Hugli is a retired educator, having taught elementary school children for 33 years. She has been an active member of the Sudbury Master Gardeners for 15 years, and is the group's Past Coordinator. Linda joined the MGOI Board of Directors in 2007 and is currently MGOI's Zone 2 Director, Corporate Secretary, and Webmaster.

Linda is Past President of the Sudbury Horticultural Society. She is also editor of the Ontario Horticultural Association's quarterly periodical, Trillium.

Linda and her husband have been gardening just outside of Sudbury, Ontario for the past 18 years. Their garden has been featured on several tours, and in Patricia Singer's book, Ontario's Outstanding Private Gardens. They enjoy visiting and photographing botanical gardens throughout North America and the Caribbean. The Huglis also organize annual horticultural excursions for Northern Ontario gardening enthusiasts.



Bob Worthy

Zone 3

Bob Worthy joined the London MG group in 2004 after many years of being involved in several horticultural societies.

Bob worked 3 summers at Dept of Agriculture in Windsor in the early 1960's inspecting plants at the border and tracking Japanese Beetle infestation.

A professional accountant, since retiring as senior executive over 10 years ago, he agreed to serve as interim General Manager of a large greenhouse operation.

He has extensive gardens at his summer lake home south of Bayfield; also, enjoys the annual OHA conventions for 6 of the last 7 years.

Bob and his wife have travelled the globe, been on 29 cruises, and enjoy a month each year in Hawaii, S California and Florida during the winter.



Ann Ironside

Zone 4

Ann Ironside has been a Master Gardener for 9 years and the Coordinator of Guelph and Wellington County Group for 2 years.

She has a passion for native plants and has also worked in a Native Plant nursery for 2 years when she retired from her previous working life. In the nursery she collected and planted seeds, tended the seedlings and potted them up once they had developed enough.

Marie Johns

Zone 5

Marie Johns is a retired elementary school principal who only came to realize her passion for gardening upon moving from Toronto to Jordan, Ontario ten years ago. Living in the country amongst the many vineyards in the area was both a delight and a great motivator to learn more about horticulture. Marie became a certified Master Gardener with the Niagara group in 2005 and served as coordinator from 2008-10. Through the years, Marie has been involved or volunteered with numerous gardening groups and serves on the executive of the Lincoln Garden Club & Horticultural Society and the OHA District 9 Convention 2012 Committee as well as being a member of the Steering Committee for the Brueckner Rhododendron Hybridization Project of the Niagara Rhodo Society. As a member of the Hosta Society and an avid plant collector, Marie is on a quest to find the most interesting and showy hostas to fill her shady ravine property.



**Lynne Marie
Sullivan**

Zone 6

Lynne Marie Sullivan is fairly new to Canada and to Master Gardeners but has been gardening since childhood and loves to share her passion for growing edibles and flowering shrubs. Most of her career was spent in the insurance industry as a commercial liability underwriter and systems consultant. Lynne also served in the Peace Corps in South America for a few years. Lynne Marie is a member of the Lake Simcoe South MG's, and administers their internal website and publicity, and in May 2010 stepped in as MGOI's Zone Director's for Zone 6. Lynne, along with Jane Beck, Zone 10 Director, make up the Recruitment & Publicity committee. This committee will be promoting Master Gardeners as the renowned authorities for home gardeners throughout Ontario.

Jeanne Stoness

Zone 7



Kelly Noel
Zone 8

Kelly Noel joined the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton in May 2003 and has participated in several of the volunteer activities of the group, including writing articles for a weekly column in the Ottawa Sun, answering telephone and email helplines, giving lectures, and answering questions at clinics. Kelly served as the Coordinator of the group from September 2004 to December 2006.

Zone 9 – VACANT



Jane Beck
Zone 10
Co-director

Jane is a Toronto Master Gardener having completed the designation through the University of Guelph. One of the things she has come to understand about being a gardener is that you are constantly learning how little you really do know about the subject. There's always something that gets in the way of that perfect picture you had painted for your garden during the winter months.

Jane started her gardening on a farm in Ontario with idyllic soil; something we don't always have on our Toronto properties. Jane has lived and worked in Europe and that's where she learned that Canadian gardeners really do have to work hard to garden. The harsh seasons take their toll on our efforts to create beauty around us. Jane has been back in Canada for 6 years and owns a Management Consulting business.



Tena van Andel

Zone 10 Co-director

Tena van Andel is delighted to have been a Master Gardener in Toronto since 2003 where it has been a great pleasure to be the Volunteer Coordinator for several years. She enjoys talking to anyone about anything horticultural, although orchids, large trees and the exotic bring a special gleam to her eye.



John Crow

Zone 11

John grew up in Toronto and an early age was interested in gardening. While living in Markham, he became involved with the Markham Garden Society and served for a few years as President. During that time John created a plan to recreate a Carolinian forest in Milne Dam Conservation Park. It involved a plant rescue from lands designated for the Pickering airport. John also served as one of the Directors of the Canadian Wildflower Society. In his 50's John decided to take some night school courses in landscape architecture at Ryerson and passed with honours. John and his wife moved to Innisfil 13 years ago and became a Master Gardener, coordinator, Zone director and at the same time was President of the Painswick Horticultural Society. In addition John teaches courses in the Town of Innisfil entitled " For the Love of Gardening".



James F Lee
Past President

James Lee joined Master Gardeners of Niagara in 2001 and completed his studies through the University of Guelph in 2004. James became the Zone 5 Director in 2004 and President in 2006.

James is currently a member of the Lincoln Horticultural Society as well as the St. Catharines Horticultural Society. James's passion for gardening came from his grandmother. James gardens in rural St. Catharines and is fortunate to live in a microclimatic zone of 7A. He is most proud of his sweeps of ornamental grasses and his many Carolinian native plants.



Charlie Dobbin
Director at large

Charlie Dobbin is a well-known horticulturist and landscape designer with professional gardening experience world-wide. During her 18 year career in retail, she gave many seminars and demonstrations, wrote and edited articles for newspaper and magazines; had her own radio show and made guest appearances on over a hundred television programs.

Currently Charlie hosts the Garden Show on AM740 every Saturday at 9 a.m. She also co-hosted the very successful HGTV show, "One Garden, Two Looks" and can be seen delivering practical and entertaining gardening tips on a variety of television stations. Since 2004, Charlie has been a volunteer judge for Communities in Bloom, Ontario. During the winter, Charlie is the Horticultural Director for Canada Blooms and The Flower and Garden Festival.



Denis Flanagan
Director at large

After graduating from Horticulture in Surrey, England, Denis was involved in many projects including work for the Royal Family and achieved a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Following a successful transplant to Canada, Denis continued designing award winning gardens including many for Canada Blooms. He has taught at several community colleges including Humber and Seneca.

Denis is well known for his gardening shows on HGTV and continues to promote the joys and benefits of horticulture through the “Green for Life” program at Landscape Ontario.

Other Members of the Board

Judith Rogers – Ontario Horticultural Association

As a freelance garden writer, I have a weekly gardening column in our local newspaper and a quarterly article in the Simcoe County magazine Footprints.

I am the Ontario Horticultural Association director for district 16 which has eighteen societies and I was appointed by our president to be the OHA outreach rep for the MGOI board. I have Master Gardener Emeritus status from Lake Simcoe South MG.

My position is to convey ideas and suggestions between the two groups as they continue to work together.

Helen Scutt

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs

Wendy Fletcher

Treasurer

Charlotte Vorstermans

Provincial Administrator