



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to the March edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. With a focus on you, the Master Gardeners, this is your vehicle for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 31 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, new group projects, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and activities of our groups and our members. And pictures – please feel free to submit pictures!

Contributions to future editions of 'Inside MGOI' may be sent at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Isabel Belanger, newsletter@mgoi.ca.

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Recording Secretary/Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
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Facebook: Linda Hugli, Sudbury
MG Advice Clinic Manager for Canada Blooms: Christine Spence, Etobicoke
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

In This Issue

- Master Gardeners
 - Milestones & Projects
 - Upcoming Events
- MGOI
 - Ontario Volunteer Service Awards
 - Conference 2016
 - Master Gardeners at Canada Blooms
 - A Moment for Membership
 - Education Matters
 - Volunteer Opportunities

INSIDE MGOI

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

March, 2016

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Congratulations to the Board of Directors' Nominees for the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards!

Claudette Sims – President

In 2015, I nominated some members of the Board of Directors for the [Ontario Volunteer Service Awards](#) in appreciation of their dedication and service: Past presidents Ralph Bullough and Jane Beck and Directors Kelly Noel, June Streadwick and Tena van Anandel.

This year the Board of Directors were invited to make the nominations for 2016. Our focus was on Master Gardeners who volunteer above and beyond their own groups to make our entire provincial organisation more effective and interesting. Six wonderful people were nominated and all Board of Director members immediately and heartily endorsed the nominees: Dale Odorozzi (Lanark), Linda Hugli (Sudbury), Gary and Dianne Westlake (Peterborough), Suzanne Zacharczyk (Etobicoke) and Pam Love (Durham).

Dale Odorozzi has been a Master Gardener for 13 years. She has worked tirelessly as her group's coordinator, the moderator of the coordinators' list, and the official "Tweeter" behind the MGOI Twitter account. Our 920 followers and impressive 3,058 Tweets are in large part due to Dale's daily efforts! I value Dale's thoughtful ideas, positive attitude and willingness to help.



Linda Hugli has an inspiring 21 years' service as a Master Gardener. She was our first MGOI Webmaster and I still marvel at the fact that she came out in person to train us – coordinators who were interested in starting a MG website – at Sue Lusted's home in Niagara many years ago. I had no idea at the time that she was from the Sudbury area! Many of us are indebted to Linda for answering website questions and mentoring us for many years. Linda is now the "face" behind MGOI Facebook.



Gary and Dianne Westlake are well known to Master Gardeners as the past editors of our MGOI newsletter but also as enthusiastic presenters. They both joined MGs at Dianne's suggestion in 2002, and she was the Coordinator of her group until just recently. Both were Zone 9

Directors at different times and very involved in the Peterborough Garden Show as Master Gardeners. Gary was also on the Education Committee for a number of years and Dianne is now an OHA director.



Suzanne Zacharczyk has had a big impact in her brief seven years since joining Master Gardeners. She was a Zone Director and played a key role in Canada Blooms for many years. She is now coordinator of her Etobicoke group and a valued and active member of the Board of Directors. As Director of Operations, Suzanne is responsible for all our Information Technology issues and headaches – well, she's responsible for finding solutions to the headaches, not creating them!



Pam Love has been a Master Gardener since 2006 and in those 9 years has worked as coordinator of her Durham group, Zone Director and active Board member. Pam is a perfect fit as our new Director of Membership as she is brimming with ideas to support our groups. Her positive attitude and enthusiasm are contagious!



These are only some of the contributions that these six talented individuals have made to Master Gardeners of Ontario – the actual list is much longer!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all our members, a sincere thank you goes out to each of these individuals for their ongoing hard work and dedication. They are an inspiration to us all! Thank you and congratulations!

Did you know your group can nominate up to 6 adults who have at least 5 years of service, for the Ontario Volunteer Service awards? The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship sends your nominees an invitation to a local awards ceremony celebrating all nominees from various volunteer groups. It is an impressive event and is amazing to see so many dedicated people with volunteer service of 20, 30, 40 or more years. Nominees also receive a certificate and a pin.

Please consider nominating someone from your group or suggesting a nominee who has made an outstanding contribution provincially so they can be nominated by the Board of Directors in 2017.



Milestones

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

15 years:

Linda Peacock

5 years:

Tracy Bosley

Anna Sauvé

Achieved Master Gardener Status:

Susan Allen

Anne Brolley

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

25 Years:

Barbra Stock

15 Years:

Elaine Metcalf

Marianne Malachowski

Virginia Mitchell

Joyce Young

10 Years:

Kathleen Bazkur-O'Connell

5 Years:

Sandy Goranson

Kathy MacPherson

New Master Gardener in Training:

Rebecca Lamb

Member Transfers: (from Quinte-Tweed)

Alice Lumley

Marlene Phillips

Steve Storms

Maxine Thompson

Sue Uddenberg

Mississauga Master Gardeners

5 years:

Alice Bur

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

5 years:

Terry Mueller

New members:

Erin Dorgan

Cynthia Anderson

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Achieved Master Gardener Status:

Christine Spence

Projects

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Project Name: Community Gardens in Picton

Details: The Master Gardeners are working with many other groups to bring this important project to life for all the people of the county.



PEC Master Gardeners at Seedy Saturday in Picton

Photographer, picture on March masthead: Diane Marchese

Erratum: Apologies for the garbled column in the February edition of 'A Moment for Membership'. This has now been fixed and the correct version may be found on the MGOI website: <http://www.mgoi.ca/news/newsletterarchive.html>



Conference 2016:

'Come Grow With Us 2016', April 8th -10th, Huntsville, Ontario, is just around the corner. You won't want to miss the erudite speakers, cutting edge research, mystery celebrity gardener presenters, trivia tournaments and our Spring Fling Gala dinner. There are still spots left in most sessions - don't be shy! Register for the conference at www.conference.mgoi.ca. To receive the special MG rate, all room reservations must be made by calling Deerhurst Resort at 1-800-461-4393.

Note from the Conference Registrar:

All registrations are acknowledged immediately – online registrations on the day they are sent, and mailed in registrations as soon as I receive them.

It is not too late to register but it would be best at this point to do it online using the link above.

If you did not register a companion, but now wish to bring someone with you, then contact me at

conferenceregistrar@mgoi.ca and I will arrange to add your companion and invoice you through PayPal.

If you did not sign up for one of the pre-conference workshops and now wish that you had, again contact me at that email and we can make the necessary change.

You can find the description of all workshops on our website <http://mgoi.ca> and click on the conference link.

Master Gardeners at Canada Blooms

Tena van Andel, Director of Events

A thank you to all those Marvellous Master Gardeners who volunteered at Canada Blooms this year. All our presentations were extremely well attended (SRO for most!) by attentive audiences. Both advice clinics were busy with inquisitive people waiting in line to talk to a Master Gardener. Many came looking for us with pictures for help. In one three hour shift, I personally spoke with new gardeners from North Bay, Sudbury, London, Owen Sound, Colborne, Windsor and all over the GTA. Canada Blooms is a truly rewarding volunteer experience.



The Advice Clinic is busy



Toronto Master Gardeners Pat Concessi, Linda Lynott, Maureen Webber hosting the Advice Clinic



Master Gardener Judy Clarke with MGIT Karen Hughes – hidden by a captive audience at the Sit-down Clinic

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."

Henry Van Dyke



A Moment for Membership

Pam Love, Director of Membership, MGOI

What Grade Would You Give "MGOI"?

Last May, we received a surprising email @mgoi.ca. Pam Dallaire in Smooth Rock Falls was requesting information on starting a NEW Master Gardener group - the Cochrane and District Master Gardeners (CDMG)! OMG! We had not had a new group start up in years! The MGOI Directors were pretty excited! We immediately provided Pam with the information she needed and helped her through the process.



Pam Dallaire, CDMG

Cochrane & District Master Gardeners – Starting Small

They were a small group for sure— only 5 members, and definitely starting from scratch – no one in the group was a Master Gardener! Pam had previous leadership experience, but the group would obviously

need support to be successful. The Board asked Holly Rupert, the coordinator of the *Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners* (TBDMG) if her group would consider supporting a satellite arrangement with CDMG until they got "up and growing".

The main focus of the partnership would be providing mentorship for their officers.

Pam, Holly and MGOI all participated in drafting a *Memorandum of Understanding* which outlined how we envisioned the working arrangement between the groups and MGOI, with provisions to make changes, and even step aside if things did not work out.



Holly Rupert, TBDMG

Fast Forward 10 months...

Thunder Bay Perspective

Holly had been somewhat skeptical - how much support would this new group need? Holly's initial concerns did not materialize; instead, she feels she has benefited personally from the mentoring relationship with Pam.

"Pam is highly self-directed, asks questions and then presses forward." Once the two coordinators started using Skype things really took off, as they could put faces to names. Holly credits the liaison with helping her to feel "less isolated" as a coordinator. Through answering questions for Pam, Holly's own understanding of MGOI policies has become clearer. Holly reports feeling stronger in her leadership role and she has also stepped forward to join the *Growth and Retention Committee of Membership*.

Cool Tools

As part of the collaboration, the two groups have experimented with web-conferencing, using WebEx to include Pam in the Thunder Bay meetings. At the February 2016 TBDMG meeting, WebEX allowed Pam to hear and see the guest speaker and share her report directly with the Thunder Bay group. The TBDMG members could also put a face to a name as Pam participated in the meeting. The two groups are able to share their activities and ideas and build on one another's experience. TBDMG report being impressed by the number of advice clinics the Cochrane group have held and are looking for new opportunities for one-on-one time with the public. The education component of the February meeting was recorded and Pam was able to share the link to the presentation with her own members.

The Cochrane Perspective

This quote says a lot about Pam and her experience: "The success of starting a group is due to the combined effort of Holly, the TBDMG, and all the MGOI executives."

"My only hope now is to have new technologies integrated within MGOI, so that instant communication (face to face) becomes an everyday occurrence. I hope to help push the boundaries of connection not only with MGOI but to show how the CDMG group will bridge the physical gap using technology."

"If I could give MGOI a grade, I would give it, and the Thunder Bay & District MGs, an A++. You couldn't get any better. 😊"

Claudette Sims, President, MGOI responded by saying: "We are beyond happy with how things have turned out for both the CDMG and Holly and her TBDMG group. I totally love that each group has added something positive to the other. I think these technologies are exactly what "we" (MGOI/groups, etc.) need, and we will be exploring these options for our membership."

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEES:

Growth and Retention Committee:

Ingrid Janssen, Holly Rupert, Dale Odorozzi

Group Liaison Committee: Wyoma Fauconnier

Reward & Recognition: Anja Lowrance



Education Matters

June Streadwick, Director of Education

1. We have been contacted by Gaia College about the courses offered through that institution. All the courses are based on organic and holistic care. The one we get asked the most about is the “Organic Master Gardener”. Although this is not one of the required courses in becoming a Master Gardener, the Education Committee feels that this and the other courses outlined would meet the standards for earning CEUs.

Upon completion of any of the courses, a Master Gardener would earn 24 CEUs. For more information you may check the website at www.gaiacollege.ca.

2. There is a very interesting course offered on permaculture through Oregon State University. This has just come to my attention and it is my understanding that we can still register for the current session. The website below gives you the details:

<http://open.oregonstate.edu/courses/permaculture/>

There is no charge for this online course, and permaculture is something in which we all need to have a better understanding.

3. Earlier this month the following link was sent to me. I have found it fascinating, and certainly worth reading. No CEUs for doing so, but it makes one think.

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/EM100E/EM100E.pdf>

MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Treasurer/Corporate Secretary:

Timeframe: 2 years plus 6 month transition period, working with the current Treasurer and Corporate Secretary.

Starts April 1, 2016 – term ends with the AGM in 2018.

Description: The Treasurer is responsible for general financial oversight and works with the Board executive and directors. Main responsibilities include banking, book-keeping, bill payment, financial planning and budgeting, financial reporting to the Board, advising on fund-raising.

As custodian of the organization’s records, the Corporate Secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate documentation and meeting any legal requirements such as annual filing deadlines. The Corporate Secretary is responsible for reviewing and updating documents as necessary and ensuring all documents are safely stored and readily accessible.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

March into Spring

With the Northumberland Master Gardener Garden Lecture Series.

Date: Final Monday - April 4th

7:30 p.m. - doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Calvary Pentacostal Church, Port Hope.

Details: Individual tickets available only at the door for \$15. per evening.



Peterborough Garden Show

Date: April 8-10, 2016

Location: The Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough ON.

Details: It's officially Spring! and you know what that means? the Peterborough Garden Show can't be far away!

For all the most up-to-date information, keep checking the FB page

(<https://www.facebook.com/ThePeterboroughGardenShow>) and our official website at

<http://www.peterboroughgardenshow.com/>

The Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners co-host the garden show to raise money for:

- SCHOLARSHIPS to students studying horticultural related studies
- supporting Master Gardeners in Training
- and grants to COMMUNITY GARDENS

Technical Update – Thunder Bay:

Topic: Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott Presentations

Date: April 30th, 2016

Location: Confederation College, Thunder Bay

Cost: \$20 for the afternoon session; \$35 for a full day

Registration Information: On the TBDMG website: <http://tbbmastergardeners.homestead.com>

Details: In a combined Technical Update and public event, Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott (Ph.D.) from the University of Washington will address sustainable landscaping practices with a scientific viewpoint.

Morning Session:

“The Science of Sustaining our Landscape - Selecting and Planting Healthy Plants and Trees” (open to MGs and Invited Guests)

10:00am - 12:00pm

Afternoon Session:

“Exploding the Myths - Separating Fact from Fiction” (open to MGs and the General Public)

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Etobicoke Master Gardeners / Humber Arboretum Eco - Garden Community Workshop Series

Date: May 7th, 2016

Details: The ‘Growing Your Own Food’ workshop will be presented by EMG and Humber Arboretum

Location: Humber Arboretum, 205 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke, ON

Mississauga Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Date: May 28th 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Details: The Mississauga MGs will have their annual Spring Sale in partnership with the Riverwood Conservancy and in conjunction with the City of Mississauga’s Earth Market. The Earth Market will feature free workshops, art classes, documentaries, and music in addition to the MMG Plant Sale.

Location: The Riverwood Conservancy, 4300 Riverwood Park Lane, Mississauga

Prince Edward County Annual Plant Sale

Date: May 28th, 2016 - 8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Metro parking lot on Main St., Picton

Details: Perennials, annuals, Native Plants, herbs, local roses and much more, all at reasonable prices.



Etobicoke Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Date: May 28, 2016 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: 8 & 10 Bethnal Ave., Etobicoke; 10 blocks south of Bloor, east off of Prince Edward Drive

Details: For sale will be a variety of plants including perennials, vegetables, annuals, herbs, etc. available for good prices

M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop - 2016

Dates: July 16th & 17th

Location: This workshop is being held in the beautiful Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

Details: *The Tiny Garden – Big Thinking for Small Spaces*

How often do we get asked what can be grown in a small garden? More and more we hear about people down-sizing, who wish to continue gardening whether it be in containers or just in a smaller space. We also get asked this by home owners whose new house is on a very small lot. The usual plants are just too big for the area.

Why not come and join Jessica Bond, an instructor with the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, as she guides us through the appropriate plant selection, garden design, container gardens, and vertical gardening. This is only one of three fascinating topics offered at this year's workshop. The other two are:

- IPM – Using the Tools to Beat Key Ontario Pests: Phenology, Entomology, Organics.

- Tree Assessment (Structure Review, Hazard Review and Risks Assessment).

The main reason for offering Master Gardeners and Master Gardeners in Training a workshop in the summer is to encourage continued learning as well as receiving sound practical advice. The Board of M.G.O.I. have agreed to again offer each attendee who completes the workshop a \$50 subsidy to help offset their expenses. The Board fully appreciates that although the fee for the workshop has remained the same for the past eight years, \$250, other costs have not.

For registration information go to www.mgoi.ca.

10th Annual Coordinators' Conference **Coordinators – mark your calendars now!**

The 2016 Coordinators Conference will be held at the Landscape Ontario facilities in Milton on October 15th, 2016. Groups will be invited to send up to 3 members – usually the coordinator, the co-coordinator and a potential coordinator!

The **Annual General Meeting of MGOI** will be held on this day also. Each group has one vote. This vote is usually carried by the coordinator, but any member of a group is eligible to be that group's voting representative at the AGM.

*It's spring! Farewell
To chills and colds!
The blushing, girlish
World unfolds
Each flower, leaf
And blade of sod—
Small letters sent
To her from God.*

John Updike, "April," *A Child's Calendar*, 1965

