



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to fall and our September 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.

MGOI Board Members:

President:	Claudette Sims, Halton
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Co-Director of South & West Region:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener

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Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke newsletter@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
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MG Advice Clinic Manager for Canada Blooms: Christine Spence, Etobicoke
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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INSIDE MGOI

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

September 2016

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Peterborough Master Gardeners

In Memoriam - Don Nicholson



Don Nicholson

"The thing I remember most about Don was his sense of humour and his fascination with all things growing and living," said MG Rachel Burrows. *"When he found out that I had bluebirds nesting in one of my boxes he immediately wanted to come out to see them."*

As MGs Dianne and Gary Westlake and many other gardeners can attest, Don was also extremely generous, sharing his plants over the years. Says Dianne, *"When he would come to our house for coffee, he frequently brought a plant. We have a number of them growing in our garden."*

A genuinely kind and generous man, Don particularly loved orchids and roses, although he confessed to being more of a plant collector than a garden designer.

Don organized one of the first MG bus tours to the Ottawa area and did a trial run to make sure that everything worked and was worth a visit. He also planned and organized a trip to Cuba and was fascinated with the local flora and meeting the people. Don became zone director at a time when MGOI was going through a big period of change, making a tremendous contribution and keeping the Peterborough MGs aware of what was going on.

Although he struggled with health issues over the past few years, Rachel notes that *"his faith and sense of humour*

carried him through many difficult times and he retained them both."

We will miss him.

10 years:

Sue Lajeunesse

5 years:

Carol Bulmer, Deb Fraser, Kathy McMahon, Beth Williams

New Member:

Will Read

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

New Member:

Mary-Lyn Hopper

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved:

Alice Bur

Bev Campeau

Member Transfer:

Doris Power, to Mississauga from Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Thunder Bay Master Gardeners

25 years:

Carole McCollum

20 years:

Gordon Ward

15 years:

Sylvia Goodheart

10 years:

Ed Hoffman

Deanna Hoffman



Master Gardeners Out & About

Peterborough Master Gardeners

Name: Peterborough Master Gardeners Two Day Annual Trip

Date: July 19th & 20th, 2016

Details: The trip this year was around the Golden Horseshoe, including stops at the newly restored (Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) Rock Garden in Hamilton, William Dam Seeds in Dundas, Benchscape in Beamsville, the amazing Whistling Gardens in Wilsonville, Vineland Nursery, and Northland Nursery.



Peterborough Master Gardeners at the William Dam Seed Nursery

Name: Peterborough Master Gardeners Visit to Meadow View Gardens in Roseneath, ON

Date: August 17, 2016

Details: Peterborough MGs visited a seven-acre recreation of a traditional English style Country Estate Garden started in the spring of 2015.

<http://www.meadowviewgardens.org/>



Checking out the gardens

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Western Fair Advice Table

Date: Sept 9-18, 2016

Details: Throughout the 8-day London Western Fair, London Middlesex Master Gardeners took turns answering over 100 gardening questions from the public. Julie Dorssers is pictured here with the interesting and educational display she created on building a raised garden bed.



Julie Dorssers

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Look, Listen & Learn

Date: June 4th, 2016

Details: The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners (TBDMG) annual “Look, Listen & Learn” event and Plant Sale, hosted at “Winsome Folly” - Wyoma Fauconnier’s magnificent property in Thunder Bay, ON. This event is our major fundraiser; gardeners in our community line up to purchase quality plants from MG gardens. We had about 20 participants in our learning sessions.

Name: Art Gallery Garden Tour

Date: July 24th, 2016

Details: The *Thunder Bay Art Gallery Garden Tour* featured five exquisitely designed gardens and a community vegetable garden that were generously opened to the public for viewing; TBDMG members fielded inquiries. Featured below is the whimsical garden of Debbie and Frank Bil on Broadoaks Dr., Thunder Bay, ON.



MG members who worked in this garden were, L-R, Kim Vernon & Tracy Rowe

Name: Children’s Community Garden at Thunder Bay Botanical Conservatory

Date: Summer 2016

(Note... all families gave permission for photos to be taken)

Details: Members of Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners have been cultivating a new ‘friendship’

with the Friends of Thunder Bay Conservatory. This community group has been working hard to put our conservatory back on the map with afternoon and evening events and children’s activities. This year,



the Friends guided the development of a community garden that featured a straw bale garden and new raised beds designed for children. Master Gardeners Holly Rupert, Susan Renaud, Hazel Baxter and Ralph Bullough assisted with

the family planting event in June. The Friends maintained the garden over the summer and in September, a harvest event had children return to dig potatoes and pick squash. This is a partnership our group is aiming to strengthen in the coming year.



Name: Hymers & Murillo Fall Fairs, Thunder Bay
Date: Sept. 4th & 5th, 2016 and August 20th & 21st, respectively

Details: The TBDMGs were in attendance with an *Ask a Master Gardener* booth at both the Hymers and Murillo Fall Fairs, just outside of Thunder Bay, ON. These classic country fairs were well attended with a wonderful selection of local produce on display and for sale, and an eager public interest in improving gardening knowledge.



L-R, Susan Renaud and Holly Rupert at Murillo Fair

President's Corner – Advice to Grow On!

This question from a member has given me the opportunity to talk about how social media has made an impact on our advice hours to the public:

“Are there any restrictions as to how advice is given to the public? For example, does it need to be given in person? Does the advice have to be given to someone in the group's region or can it be outside the region?”

Members of the Master Gardeners of Ontario agree to contribute 20 hours of volunteer work each year giving advice to the public. First of all, it's important to make sure that any advice activity you do is approved by your group in advance. In the past, advice was given in person or over the phone - on “hotlines”. We also have a fine tradition of writing articles for newspapers and newsletters.

Today, we are seeing more and more groups and members using social media to advise the public. Questions are answered via email and even on Facebook. Blogs are becoming more popular and topical; I learned about straw bale gardening on Holly Rupert's (Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners) amazing blog.

And they have the advantage of being interactive so the public can comment and ask questions in response to a blog “article”. Halton MGs do an online gardening chat with CBC digital radio and Ed Lawrence on "Ontario Today" every week during the summer.

Questions from social media come in from all over Canada and beyond, so your hours are not limited to answering questions in just your group's region.

Twitter is another way of sharing your gardening expertise with the public. The hours may not add up to a lot, but groups and individuals can have an impressive impact and appeal to a younger generation of gardeners. The MGOI Twitter feed now has over 1,000 followers!

Social media is also a great way for more remote groups to fulfill their advice hour requirements.

The times they are a changin' – I'm glad we're changing with them!

Do you have a question or a comment? I'd love to hear from you: president@mgoi.ca

Claudette Sims, President, Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI)



A Moment for Membership

Face to face contact is one of the best ways to attract new members but not the only way.

We are excited to introduce a new ad to help attract new members. Many people have told us that they subscribe to gardening magazines and review the ads, so we thought we would give this a try. We were approached by *Ontario Gardening Magazine* which is publishing a special edition in October to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. Our ad will appear in the online edition in mid October, and paper copies will be available in Shoppers Drug Marts later that month. This edition will also contain an article by Guelph and Wellington Master Gardener Sean James.

This is a first step.

The idea in the future is to have a designated month for a membership recruitment focus, supported by ads and/or articles in magazines or local newspapers and providing information about Master Gardeners of Ontario. To go along with this, it would be great if groups who are able would have some kind of activity in Membership Month where the focus would be on new members. An open house perhaps?

How can you help?

- Let me know if you get any new member interest because of the ad.
- Let me know if you would like to be on a committee to explore, organize and execute this idea?
- If your group does an article for a local paper would the paper run the ad? Would you include the ad in your electronic newsletter?
- If you have a new member application on your group website, are you monitoring the inquiries in a timely manner?
- Use this ad as the first page of a presentation as a talking point to let your audience know we are looking for new members.
- Any other ideas?

A big thank you to Holly Rupert, Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners, for designing this beautiful ad.

Pam Love, Director of Membership
pamlovenews@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mississauga Master Gardeners Annual Fall Plant Sale

Date: Saturday October 1st, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: The Port Credit Library, 20 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga

Details: A range of perennials, spring-flowering bulbs, trees and shrubs will be available. Don't forget to take advantage of (and support!) the seed library at the Port Credit Library.

Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Technical Update: Kingston Home Gardeners Conference – Garden Bones: Trees and Shrubs

Date: Saturday October 15, 2016 from 9am to 3pm

Location: Christ Church Parish Hall, 990 Sydenham Rd., Kingston

Cost: \$40

Registration Information:

www.rideau1000islandsmastergardeners.com

Or contact Ann Gay eanngay@cogeco.ca or 613-389-0109.

Details: Presentations to be given by 3 experts in the field:

- 1) **Bruce Bostock** on The A to Z of Trees from Selection to Demise and Everything in Between
- 2) **Steve Poole** on Shrubs for all Seasons and the Small Garden
- 3) **John Madden** on Tree Care & Pruning

Included in the day will be 4 mini presentations by our own Master Gardeners, a silent auction, a gourmet lunch, and the option to take a tree walking tour through the historic Catarauqui Cemetery.



Come and enjoy a day in historic Kingston!

10th Annual Coordinators' Conference - 2016
Coordinators – please register ASAP!

Date: October 15, 2016

Details: The conference will be held at the Landscape Ontario facilities in Milton. Groups are invited to send up to 3 members: the coordinator, co-coordinator, and a potential coordinator!

The Coordinators' Conference Team is ready to go! Please welcome and thank valiant volunteers:

- Kathleen Lang, Lanark County MG, Coordinator Conference Manager
- **Anja Lowrance, Simcoe County MG, Registrar:**
2016.mgoi.cc@gmail.com
- Shirley Novak, Halton MG, Social Convener
stay tuned for updates

Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum

Details: Will present the 2016/2017 Eco-Gardening Community Workshop Series in collaboration with each other. All sessions run from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. To register for the free community events, please e-mail arboretum@humber.ca or call 416-657-5009.

Name: Pruning

Date: November 5, 2016

Name: Soil Health: The Natural Approach

Date: January 14, 2017

Name: Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

Date: March 11, 2017

2017 International Master Gardeners Conference

Details: Master Gardeners can get the latest newsletter on the 2017 International Master Gardeners Conference, to be held in Portland, Oregon in July 2017, at:

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/home-page/>

Fall Organic Master Gardener Courses

Details: Interested in learning even more about gardening? Check out the Organic Master Gardener course starting this fall in Guelph, Ottawa and Toronto. Gaia College, the course licensor, recently had their Continuing Education Credits reassessed, and this course has been pre-approved with MGOI for 24 CECs. Visit <http://www.cog.ca/our-services/OMG/> for more details and to register. There is an early registration discount. Any questions about the course can be directed to Julia Dupuis at julia@cog.ca

MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Director of Events

Timeframe: 2 years, October 2016 – October 2018 (potential to stay on until October 2022)

Description: Immediate opening for this rewarding Board position. The Director of Events has the privilege of providing vision and guidance for any event that welcomes MG volunteers from all over Ontario. Detailed procedures and timelines are available. Teams for both Canada Blooms and the Coordinators' Conference are already in place, so year 1 would be a very leisurely acclimatization to the role. Have more questions? I would be delighted to answer any questions at casey.vanandel@sympatico.ca.

Be warned, you'll have to be prepared for some gushing about how much fun and how being the Director of Events changed my life. It could change yours too!

