



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to the November edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. Our focus is on you, the Master Gardeners. This is your vehicle for providing updates, insights and getting 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
Vice President:	vacant
Corporate Secretary:	Terri Briggs, Lake Simcoe South
Treasurer:	Cathy Thompson, Niagara
Director of Communications:	Kelly Noel, Ottawa-Carleton
Director of Education:	June Streadwick, Niagara
Director of Events:	Tena van Anandel, Toronto
Director of Membership:	Pam Love, Durham Region
Director of Operations:	Suzanne Zacharczyk, Etobicoke
Director of Relationship & Partnerships:	Vacant
Director of Revenue Development:	vacant
Director of Central Region:	Katherine Mathewson, Durham
Director of East Region:	Sue Flinders-Adams, Peterborough
Director of North Region (interim):	Kathleen Gorsline, Lake Simcoe S.
Co-Director of South & West Region:	Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Co-Director of South & West Region:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener

Committee Members

Recording Secretary/Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke newsletter@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
Facebook: Linda Hugli, Sudbury
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.**

November 2016

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

5 years:

Terry Mueller, Janet Carker, Judith Cox, Anita O'Connell

New Master Gardeners in Training:

Amanda Carrigan, Candace Dressler, Claire Leduc, Mary Jonsson

Member Transfers:

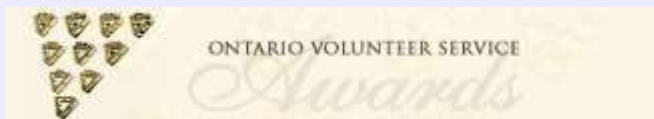
Lesley Peace, from Peterborough to Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

Sudbury Master Gardeners

5 years:

Dan Tobodo

A Moment for Membership



Have you hugged your Coordinator lately? Looking for an alternative way to recognize their efforts?

"All humans need to be recognized in a meaningful way for their efforts. This helps to build self-esteem and confidence. Recognition is an important component of volunteer retention. When volunteers feel appreciated and important, they are more likely to feel connected to the program and continue their involvement." *Google*

Did you know that your Master Gardener group can nominate up to 6 members for the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards – awards that recognize individual volunteers for continuous years of commitment and dedicated service to an organization such as your group. Adults are recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30+ years of service.

For further information and to submit the application go online at:

<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/citizenship/honours/vsa.shtml>

The deadline for submission is January 25th, 2017.

The awards are presented at special ceremonies held across Ontario where recipients are presented with a stylized trillium service pin acknowledging their years of service. Recipients also receive a personalized certificate and are invited to bring a guest. The nominating organization (your MG group) is also invited to bring two representatives to the awards ceremony.

If you have other ideas for recognition please let me know.

Pam Love, Director of Membership

pamlovenews@gmail.com

Canada Blooms 2017

Canada Blooms - THE gardening event of the year run in conjunction with the National Home Show at Exhibition Place in Toronto - will soon be here. 2017 will see Canada turn 150, so the show promises to be extra special! The theme is "Oh! Canada".

Speakers for our wildly popular Master Gardener Speaker Series are needed.

See 'UPCOMING EVENTS' on page 5 for more details



Season's Greetings!

Note that there will be no publication of the MGOI Newsletter in December. Are you already making plans and resolutions for next year's garden? Please forward one of your resolutions to the editor at: newsletter@mgol.ca for inclusion in January's Newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you all again in January!



President's Corner – The Inside Scoop!

Board of Directors Meeting at Landscape Ontario

The Master Gardeners of Ontario Board of Directors met on the Sunday following the Coordinators' Conference. This all-day, in person meeting is important to help us get to know each other so that we can work more productively together. A fun meeting starter really helped us with this: "Share with your partner something we don't know about you – a phobia, an unfulfilled ambition, a hidden tattoo!" The partner was responsible for explaining what was shared – a strategy which encourages active listening skills. Some of the answers were hilarious and some were surprising, and no, you won't find them in the minutes of the meeting!

The Board of Directors welcomed and congratulated Terri Briggs of Lake Simcoe South MGs who will be our new corporate secretary, and Cathy Thompson of Niagara MGs who will be our new treasurer. Karen Sciuk, a member of Kitchener MGs, was welcomed as our new Regional Co-Director for the South-West region.

Some of the morning was spent discussing a governance policy for the Board. This document would outline procedures, strategies, best practices and job descriptions and will be a valuable resource, not only for the current board but also as a resource for new board members.

We broke for an enjoyable lunch organized by Shirley Novak (Halton MGs) who had volunteered to be social convener for the day. Now that we have changed to functional roles, the agenda for any meeting is straight forward and very efficient. All directors present information within their areas of responsibility. Regional Directors share any concerns or requests from their groups. Next steps for the Board include revamping the MGOI website to update files and make information easier to locate, and reviewing the Annual Report information.

Filling positions is an important and ongoing task in order to maintain a vibrant Board. There are a number of positions that are vacant or will become vacant soon: a Director of Events is urgently needed as Tena van Andel has finished her term on the board. Our Directors of Education and Communications would gladly take on apprentices to learn these important areas of responsibility. All of these positions are fun and rewarding. If you know of someone (including yourself) who would do a good job, please encourage them to apply – sometimes that vote of confidence is all it takes! Volunteer positions are described on the [Volunteers Admins Opportunities](#) tab of the MGOI website.



*Back row: Sue Flinders-Adams, Karen Sciuk, Rhonda Grein, Suzanne Zacharczyk, Claudette Sims
Front row: Cathy Thompson, Pam Love, Terri Briggs, Kelly Noel, Katherine Mathewson, June Streadwick (standing)*

During lunch we posed for sensible and silly photos.



Thanks to Kate Sault (Halton MGs) for the lovely dahlias from her garden! Who wouldn't want to be part of this fun group!

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

Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Forest Project

Details: Grey County Master Gardeners have run the Edible Forest station since the beginning of the Festival in 2011. To assist with this program, Ursula Karalus planted patches of wild leek and wild ginger in the fall of 2014. These native plantings (in Allen Park) are located by the **Edible Forest Station** and will be appreciated for years to come.



2016 Bruce Grey Forest Festival - Allan Park Conservation Area

Details: On October 4, 5 and 6 approximately 1,000 Grade 7 students visited 32 hands-on learning stations. High school students and Grey County Master Gardeners staffed the **Forest Feast** station.

While tapping a sugar maple tree is the most popular experience at the Forest Feast Station, students also learn about 13 other trees and plants that are edible or medicinal.

Use the link below to learn more about this annual event:

<https://www.facebook.com/bgforestfestival/>

Name: Doing What Comes Naturally

Date: Saturday, October 22nd, 2016

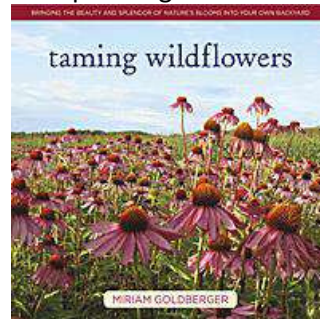
Location: Harmony Centre, 890 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound

Details: This event featured two speakers: Pam Charbonneau, DCS Associates, who was first up, and Miriam Goldberger, Wildflower Farm.

Remember the line from that old commercial *'The only good bug is a dead bug'*? In Pam's 9:00 a.m. presentation "Good Bugs for the Backyard Lawn", she introduced us to bugs that help maintain a healthy lawn. Qs & As followed the presentation.



Miriam spoke next at 10:30 a.m. Using photos from her own flower farm, Miriam's presentation "Taming Wildflowers" is a celebration of wildflowers. She talked about growing native wildflowers from seed and incorporating them in the home garden.



Qs & As followed by a book signing and product sales closed the session.

Correction to the October Issue: where it said Grey County Master Gardeners visited Willow Farm Grasses "for a spectacular showing of over 120 native grasses", it should have said "for a spectacular showing of many native grasses".



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Technical Update 2017

Date: Saturday, January 7, 2017 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Toronto Botanical Gardens

Details: This year's theme is 'Gardening without Chemicals'. Mark Cullen, C.M. is the keynote speaker.

Registration: Online registration is available at <https://squareup.com/store/tmg-public>

A mail-in registration form is also available from Marion Comper comper.marion@gmail.com

The fee is \$45 for MGs and MGITs.

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 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. To register for the free community events, please e-mail arboretum@humber.ca or call 416-657-5009.

Name: Soil Health: The Natural Approach

Date: January 14, 2017

Name: Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

Date: March 11, 2017

Canada Blooms 2017

Dates: Fri, March 10th – Sun, March 19th inclusive

Speakers: are needed for our wildly popular Master Gardener Speaker Series. We have 21 spots to fill, spread across 4 days: March 11th, 14th, 17th & 19th. As a MGOI event, this fun opportunity is open to all Master Gardeners in Ontario.

Talk topic suggestions such as Pollinator Gardens, Container Gardening, Mushrooms, Challenges of Northern Gardening, Allotment & Community Gardening, or Gardening with Children, could work around this year's theme.

Finally, being a speaker at Canada Blooms comes with some very nice perks - sign up and find out what they are. Contact Adrienne Hanbidge at:

ahanbidge@hotmail.com

Organic Master Gardener Courses

Details: Canadian Organic Growers (COG) will be offering the Organic Master Gardener Course in 3 locations across Ontario this winter.

What is the Organic Master Gardener Course?

The course examines the connections between soil, plant, human, and environmental health while addressing sustainable land management practices to maintain food and ornamental gardens in the urban landscape. The course is designed for all types of gardeners: community and backyard gardeners, landscapers, organic farmers, and anyone who enjoys growing and eating their own food without the use of pesticides and chemicals.

Winter 2017 Courses

Kingston: Mondays, January 9 to April 10

Hamilton: Thursdays, January 19 to April 20

Toronto: Tuesdays, February 21 to May 23

Register early. Save \$50! Check the course webpages for individual early bird deadlines and discount codes. For more information on each course and to register visit COG's website at cog.ca

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/>

9th Annual M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop – 2017

Date: July 8th/9th, 2017

Details: Topics for this workshop are still being confirmed but rest assured, they will be as educational and challenging as the many that have been done previously. Circle the date on your calendar, plan to attend to learn and earn 12 CEUs. Watch this space for more details as they become available.

