



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to the March edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. Our focus is on you, 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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Committee Members

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 Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke newsletter@mgoi.ca
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 Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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

March 2017

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Peterborough Master Gardeners

25 Year Anniversary

Ferne DeBaeremaeker



As both a Master Gardener and an Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) Member, Ferne DeBaeremaeker has promoted gardening through teaching, growing plants, and by example.

She is a charter and founding member of the Norwood and District Horticultural Society (NDHS), which is also

celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. She served as NDHS President, and since then has served continuously on the Board of Directors in one capacity or another—she is currently Treasurer.

In 2014, Ferne received one of the highest OHA awards, the Hazel Wilson Award, which recognizes meritorious service to horticulture with at least 15 years service in at least three areas (minimum three years in each) including: Society Executive Officer; Society Director or District Executive Officer; horticultural judge; Master Gardener; speaker and/or workshop presenter; consistent donor; or grower.

In addition to these volunteer positions, Ferne devotes at least one day a week at Community Care in the Norwood office. She is an active member of Norwood Lioness' Club and serves on the Norwood Fair Board.



Stratford Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Marty Schwende

Karen Russell

Returning Master Gardener

Lorraine Kuepfer



Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Carol Litwack



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Lance Dawson



Canada Blooms 2017

Canada Blooms celebrated Canada's 150th birthday this year. There was definitely a Canadian forest theme going on with lots of evergreen trees: white pine, spruce, cedar. Master Gardeners ran two advice clinics - One-on-One & Ask a Master Gardener - each day of the 9-day show. They answered a myriad of gardening questions from the public ranging from plants for scorching sites, to plants for under shady trees, to our foe the Japanese Beetle, and even questions re: ponds - one was on how to restore an 18th Quebec pond.



Joanna Blanchard,
(left) with
Margaret Rousseau,
Toronto



Susan Quirk (left) Mississauga
with Jane Springer, Toronto



Preparing for a Rainy Day in the
Garden



Celebrate with Tim Hortons, eh!

Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Stratford Master Gardeners

Event: Stratford Garden Festival

Details: Stratford Master Gardeners participated in the very successful 4-day Stratford Garden Festival in March.

Master Gardeners made two presentations on vegetable gardening, answered dozens of gardening questions, and enriched the Stratford Master Gardeners education fund by selling a great many coconut fibre blocks.

Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

Other: Fifty-Five Plus Magazine Article by Judith Cox

Details: You may be interested in reading Judith's lovely article "Helping Young Minds Grow - Gardening with Children" in **Fifty-Five Plus** magazine. The article can be found on pages 36-38 of this link:

<http://www.fifty-five-plus.com/home/>

Other: Ottawa Snow

Details: There is still so much snow to go in Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardener Diane McClymont Peace's back garden.



Through the Garden Gate 2017

Gardens of North Rosedale & Moore Park, Toronto



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, Toronto Botanical Garden's *Through the Garden Gate (TTGG) 2017* tour on Saturday, June 10 & Sunday, June 11 will showcase 30 spectacular gardens in the North Rosedale and Moore Park areas of Toronto.

Over the years, Toronto Master Gardeners have volunteered thousands of hours to "animate" the tour gardens with their informative presence and interaction with the public.

This year, two Master Gardener volunteers are required for each garden on both days; that's 120 volunteer spots. Toronto Botanical Garden's event organizers provide volunteers with detailed information about expectations and logistics of the event, and are available to answer any questions. Shifts run from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and sign in is at headquarters at 9:00 am both days. Hours count towards your own volunteer requirements. In appreciation, you will receive a free pass to visit the gardens on the day you are not volunteering and a refreshment voucher. If you would like to participate in this popular garden tour, please contact **Brigitte Richter** at gardenhideaway@yahoo.ca no later than **May 8th**. Kindly provide your name, contact information and preferred volunteer day, Saturday or Sunday (or both!).

Thank you! and Congratulations to 'Through the Garden Gate' on your 30th year!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: The 17th Incredible Peterborough Garden Show

Dates: Friday April 7th, 5pm to 9pm; Saturday April 8th, 10am to 5pm; Sunday April 9th, 10am - 4pm

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

Details: The Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners are not-for-profit organizations of passionate volunteers who host the garden show to raise money. We return it to our community with scholarships for students in horticulture-related studies, to support Master Gardeners in Training, and to provide grants to community gardens. It is our major fundraiser.

Some of the speakers this year include Paul Zammit, Darren Heimbecker, Steven Biggs, and Cathy Dueck!

Admission: \$ 8/day OR get a weekend pass for \$12. Children under 12, with adult: Free
NEW this year – e-tickets...

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

There are also several locations for advance ticket sales.

For more information email:

info@peterboroughgardenshow.com or check out our [Garden Show webpage](#) or [Facebook](#) page!



Peterborough Garden Show 2016



Peterborough Garden Show 2016

Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

Name: Master Gardeners Ottawa-Carleton Lecture Series

Dates: April & May 2017

Details: Every year the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm partner with the [Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton](#) to offer timely and informative presentations at Building 72, from 7 pm to 9 pm.
2017 lectures include:

[Pruning: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly with Laura Moses](#)

Tuesday April 11

[Is that a Dandelion or a Dahlia? Gardening for Beginners with Mary Reid](#)

Tuesday April 25

[Gardeners, Contain Yourself with Rebecca Last](#)

Tuesday May 9

[Going Grassless – Honey I Shrunk the Lawn with Julianne Labreche](#)

Tuesday May 23

Cochrane District Master Gardeners

Name: Gardening for Butterflies – Webinar and Q&A

Date: April 15th 2017, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Details: Join the Cochrane District Master Gardeners this Easter Weekend for a live online Webinar entitled "Gardening for Butterflies" on YouTube.

- **Host:** Pamela Dallaire, Coordinator, Cochrane District Master Gardeners, Smooth Rock Falls
- **Co-host:** Ingrid Janssen, Coordinator, Durham Master Gardeners

This Webinar/ Question & Answer session will focus on gardening for butterflies in Northern Ontario. Join us via YouTube. We'll give you the link to ask questions while the webinar is live.

Here is the link to the YouTube page.

<http://youtu.be/julnFz10n8E>

Please invite your friends and bring your questions!



Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

Details: COG is offering a new course this spring – *Growing Organic Food* – geared to both experienced and inexperienced gardeners interested in learning about growing their own food.

If you are concerned about where your food comes from, what's on it, or just want to learn how to grow your own food, then this course is for you! Taking you through an entire food growing season, COG will teach you essential gardening skills from seed selection and planting to harvesting and preserving, to ensure that you and your family are getting the best nutrition possible straight from your garden.

Offered in 4 locations across Ontario, only 2 are still accepting applications. The course includes 5 classroom lessons, 11 hands-on lessons and 3 self-directed blogs delivered over the entire growing season. This course is eligible for MGOI Continuing Education Credits.

Toronto

Thursdays, April 20 to September 21, at The Stop's Green Barn, 601 Christie St., Toronto, ON

Kingston

Mondays, April 24 to October 24, at Boys and Girls Club, 559 Bagot St., Kingston, ON

Cost: \$750+HST

For more information including full schedules, specific topics and registration please visit [COG's website](#). Any questions about the course can be directed to Julia at julia@cog.ca or by calling COG at 1-888-375-7383.

Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

Name: Rain Barrel Sale

Date: April 30, 2017

Details: Order your rain barrel in advance and pick it up at 17 Tristan Court, Ottawa. Accessories are also available. Order on-line at <https://rainbarrel.ca/mgottawa>, or get an order form via email at ottawa@mgottawa.ca, or call 613-236-0034 and leave a message. Profits help support the MGOC volunteer activities.



Rain Barrel Sale
Buy a rain barrel and help the planet (and your water bill!)
Pickup: Sunday, April 30, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Where: 17 Tristan Court (south-west of Hunt Club and Merivale)
*Barrels must be ordered in advance.

The 120 litre capacity rain barrels are available in blue and black colors. \$69.99 each. Tax included.
The 180 litre capacity rain barrels are available in blue or red. \$99.99 each. Tax included.

Also available for purchase:
✓ Spigoting hose and hose clip
✓ Dimensional diverts
✓ Dimensional spig
✓ Spigot flower sill
✓ Wheelbarrow rain barrel stand
✓ Spigot connector
✓ 1,000 litre rain barrel
and more.

All of the barrels come equipped with a leaf and mosquito filter basket, an overflow adapter to connect barrels in series, 1 cm of over-flow hose and a spigot.

To order online, see <https://rainbarrel.ca/mgottawa/>
To get an order form, email ottawa@mgottawa.ca or call 613-236-0034 (leave a message).

Supported by the Ontario Council of Master Gardeners.
Profits will help support MGOC volunteer activities.

Richters Herbs

Location: 357 Highway 47, Goodwood, ON L0C 1A0 (north of Toronto to the end of the 404, then east to Goodwood); Tel. 1.905.640.6677 Fax. 1.905.640.6641

Details: Richters Herbs is offering seminars at their greenhouse location this winter and throughout the year. For more information visit:

<https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=Events/events.html>. They also offer free on-line seminars at <https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=events/events2016.html>.



The 2017 Richters catalogue is available and is filled with culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs and seeds.

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

Dates: July 8th and 9th

Details: For full information on this year's summer workshop, check the M.G.O.I. website at www.mgoi.ca, found on the member's side under the "Workshops" tab. The registrations are being received by the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture and the minimum number of participants has almost been reached. The spaces are limited, and if you are thinking of attending this incredible weekend, register as early as possible. The three topics this year, from which two can be chosen, are:

- Creating Gardens – A Designer's Approach
- The Carolinian Zone – Understanding a Unique Habitat
- Urban Agriculture

For further information or if you have any questions, contact June Streadwick, streadwick@sympatico.ca or Yvonne Causer, ycauser@hotmail.com. We are looking forward to welcoming you this year in Niagara!

Save the Date

Name: Coordinators' Conference

Date: Saturday, October 14th, 2017

Location: Landscape Ontario, Milton ON



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!