



What's Growing On?

The newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.

Winter, 2008

Executive notes

...by James Lee

A Bright Future for MGOI

Happy New Year, fellow Master Gardeners and MGITs. 2008 brings many new initiatives and opportunities for the Master Gardeners of Ontario. The Trillium funds MGOI received in 2007 have allowed your board the opportunity to develop some new initiatives which can only strengthen and grow your organization.

During 2007 your board changed the by-laws to allow for more Directors at Large to assist us with many of these initiatives. Here are some of the exciting things we've achieved and are currently working on:

- MGOI has now formally partnered with the Ontario Horticultural Association, Landscape Ontario, Communities in Bloom and the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects.

- MGOI has also been fortunate to have been asked to manage the Ask the Experts stage at Canada Blooms 2008. This will provide many of our Master Gardeners the opportunity to share their horticultural skill and knowledge with the public. The MGOI information booth will also be beside the presentation stage on the 700 Level.

- During 2007, the new MGOI training program was launched and in 2008 you will hear a lot more about our ongoing educational initiatives.

- MGOI also launched its "new and improved" web site www.mastergardeners.ca.

- New promotional materials have been produced and distributed to all of our groups across Ontario.

- New committees of your board have been struck as well as new chairs.

I am excited to speak to you about our new Revenue Development Committee. This group is being chaired by Zone 11 Director John Craw and Zone 4 Director Andrew Cartmell, and so far, two volunteers from our membership have joined the committee. The group will work with the MGOI board as well as with our members and the public, and actively participate and direct the future revenue development activities of MGOI. First and foremost, this revenue will be used to keep member dues as low as possible, but more importantly, to seek supporters for our education programs, our volunteer initiatives and simply to assist with the ongoing operations of MGOI. This committee will be working very closely with a MGOI consultant in early 2008 to develop the necessary skills and training. We

are seeking more volunteers for this very important group. I ask that you contact John Crow directly if you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested. John can be reached at jonbon@sympatico.ca or 705-436-5292.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Canada Blooms.

James Lee, President

Zoning in

... news from our 11 zones

Zone 3

Two carloads of **Sarnia-Lambton** MGs attended Stratford's excellent Technical Update last fall. In addition, Clint Jacobs and Melissa Shipman from the Walpole Island Heritage Centre were guest speakers at the group's October meeting. Walpole Island has taken on a leadership role in the field of the environment and sustainable development. Their presentation highlighted the island's flora and fauna, some of

its problems, such as turtle poaching, and species at risk. At the November meeting, Nikki May presented the work of the Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee (SUWC). She spoke about the Carolinian Zone with its many unique plants and animals, as well as the different habitats the SUWC is trying to save across the county.

Zone 4

Huron MGs Jodi Berg, Marg Delaney, Summer and Tyler Papple and Jerry Selk have successfully completed their self-study program and passed The Interim Exam. They will receive their certificates February 1st.

Zone 6

Oakville and Mississauga MGs, along with volunteers from other groups, hosted a booth at Landscape Ontario's Congress Horticultural Trade Show and Conference in January. The objective was to promote the availability of Master Gardener Advice Clinics to garden centres

across the province this spring. The new recruitment brochure, produced by MGOI, was also handed out at the show. Leads generated have been forwarded to the appropriate MG groups. This is the fourth year of our participation in this event.

The **Etobicoke** MG group celebrated its third year anniversary with a potluck dinner. In October, the group held a membership drive at the general meeting of the Etobicoke Horticultural Society and will be providing four Question and Answer clinics during 2008, which will also be used to increase membership. Two of the group's members, Marcia Gettas and Sandra Niemy, have offered to act as program schedulers to arrange some exciting outings and speakers!

Toronto MGs will be participating in the Toronto Botanical Garden's Get the Jump on Spring event on February 16.

Meet Linda Hugli, Zone 2 Director



An active member of the Sudbury Master Gardeners for 13 years, Linda Hugli is the group's Past Coordinator and MGOI liaison and coordinator for the Ontario Natural

Resources' project, Going Beyond the Zones. During Saturday's Ecology Day at Canada Blooms, Linda will make a presentation to introduce this initiative, and will explain how gardeners can become involved. She will also outline how to use the Ontario Natural Resources website to retrieve information about selecting perennials, shrubs, and trees.

Linda is a retired educator, having taught elementary school children for 33 years. She is Past President of the Sudbury Horticultural Society, and editor of the OHA's quarterly periodical,

The Trillium. Linda has created and is webmaster of the Sudbury Horticultural Society's website.

Linda and her husband have been gardening just outside of Sudbury, Ontario for the past 16 years. Their garden was featured in Patricia Singer's book, Ontario's Outstanding Private Gardens. They enjoy visiting and photographing tropical botanical gardens when they cruise the Caribbean islands each winter. The couple also organize garden tours throughout Northern Ontario.

Members will be making four half-hour presentations, and holding a book sale and advice clinic.

Zone 8

In addition to its regular advice clinics the **Ottawa-Carleton** MGs will also be holding the clinics at the Ottawa Farmers' Market. Two members will also be presenting a workshop on growing vegetables to Ottawa University students in February. This has been arranged through OPIRG, a provincial network of student-based organizations working for social, environmental and economic justice. The MGs will also participate in a four-lecture library series. Some members will also be traveling to Toronto to participate in Canada Blooms.

Zone 11

At this time of year, **Haliburton** MGs and MGITs are nestled in snowdrifts, dreaming of spring and reviewing seed catalogues and studying for MG certification. The group now has a permanent meeting location at the Minden Lions Club building, which has the enough space for its members and other MG groups to participate in technical updates. The Haliburton MGs will also be maintaining the garden beds on the property.

News to use

... tips for Master Gardeners

Canadian research shows that our primitive ancestors heard:

25% human voices, 5% tools and 70% natural sounds.

Today we hear 70% machinery, 25% human voices and 5% natural sounds –
submitted by Judith Rogers, coordinator, Lake Simcoe South

Tributes

... activities & achievements

Etobicoke Graduates

Cynthia O'Grady, Tanya Kroman and Diana Baxter successfully wrote the Interim Exam in November. Congratulations!

Guelph & Wellington County

One of the founding members of the Guelph and Wellington County MGs, Maria Hiltz, has achieved emeritus status after a bout of illness and recuperation. Members hope to see Maria at various upcoming functions. .

Kitchener Grad

Christine Gilhuly, who has been with the Kitchener group less than a year, pursued the self-study program and passed the certification exam with flying colours. Christine will become a fully fledged MG once she completes her volunteer hours.

Emeritus

Lanark County MG Joan Tosh, who has been a Master Gardener for almost 20 years, has been awarded emeritus status.

In Memoriam

The Lanark County Master Gardeners recently lost member Alice Graf after a long fight with cancer. A MG for more than 10 years, Alice's gardens gave her great joy and comfort. She took great pride in being a Master Gardener as well as in helping her local church and community in Pakenham.

Ottawa-Carleton

MGITs Mary Ann Van Berlo and David Hinks received their Master Gardener certificates. The group also welcomes new MGIT

Josie Pazdzior who is also the president of the Ottawa Valley Rock Garden and Horticultural Society, as well as transferred MG, Kevin Didsbury. Congratulations go to Susheela Godbole and Ruth Kempthorne who have been granted emeritus status.

Toronto MGITs & Service Awards

Toronto Master Gardeners welcomed 13 new MGITs who joined the group in January. The group also congratulates 20-year-service members Susan Dolbey, Vivien Jenkinson, Rosemary Dobson and Linda McCrossan.

On the wires

... the electronic MG

MG-List

Avalon Hamlin reports that this year was the best ever for the MG-List. More than 100 members posted messages on topics ranging from environmental issues to square melons and orchids. The MG-List is open to all MGs and MGITs and provides a way of communicating with other MGs across the province. To register, send an email request to Avalon at hamlin@ebtech.net and enjoy sharing information with your fellow MGs.

Flower Power!

Canada Blooms has an e-newsletter called Flower Power with behind the scenes information about the show. Many of you have contributed gardening tips, which will appear in upcoming issues of Flower Power. To subscribe to this FREE newsletter, visit www.canadablooms.com and click on Flower Power E-newsletter.

Board News

... news and information

What is a Provincial Field Advisor?

The Provincial Field Advisor is a newly recreated position. In the early days of our organization there was such a person who traveled back and forth across the province meeting with fledgling groups and helping out in many ways. This was during the time when MGOI was sponsored and financed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAF).

Fast forward to 1998 when the Master Gardeners became fully independent and responsible for our own affairs – financially and administratively. Between then and now consider the advances in and the spread of technology. In 2007 the Provincial Field Advisor is not travelling back and forth across the province but she is helping our organization in any way she can – and she does this using her computer.

Back up slightly to May 2007 when the idea of a Provincial Field Advisor was put forth and officially accepted by the MGOI board. Now move forward again to the board meeting in Owen Sound last summer when I was asked to take on the position of Provincial Field Advisor. Since then I have been busy with a number of tasks, some of which have been delegated by the board, and others created by myself when I've seen the need. Collectively we are developing a job description as we go along. We hope to keep it flexible in order to accommodate a range of needs as they emerge.

Here are some examples of tasks that I have done since August 10:



- Introduced myself and described the job to all coordinators
- Provided relevant information to incoming and prospective directors (orientation)
- Conducted a survey regarding the preferred date for the next Coordinators Conference
- Produced and moderated a discussion paper for the board regarding Friends of Master Gardeners
- Produced and moderated a discussion paper for the board about a membership drive
- Responded on an as-needed basis to individual coordinators
- Conducted a survey on handbooks and CDs
- Collected information on satellite groups
- Circulated a request for digital photos for our new digital slide show

I grew up on a small farm in Saskatchewan. Otherwise I come from an educational background – thirty-four years as a teacher and administrator. Gardening featured largely in my retirement plans and I threw myself into it enthusiastically in the spring of 1996. In 1998 I found out about Master Gardeners but was advised that the organization was in transition. I was able to

connect officially in November 1999.

Since then a myriad of opportunities have presented themselves within this organization. I treasure all of my experiences within our local group (Ottawa-Carleton) and with our board. I represented Zone 8 from June 2005 to August 2007; however the trip is long and time consuming and I welcomed the chance to help by simply sitting at my computer.

The general objective of having a Provincial Field Advisor is to reduce the workload of the board and the Provincial Administrator, thus freeing up more time for directors to deal with more crucial responsibilities. I can do this by taking on routine jobs such as those described above. I am available to anybody in the organization and can be contacted any time by e-mail, regular mail or telephone. If I can answer your questions I will. If I can't I will refer you to someone who can. At the same time I will continue to take on assignments delegated by the board. I do not have a vote on board matters but can participate in discussions as the need arises.

Your board is an extremely hardworking group and like all of you, all of the directors are volunteers. Much has been accomplished and much remains to be done. We are all in this together. I say this because your ideas count. I can receive those too, and then field them to the board for their consideration. You can reach me at:

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Calendar

... upcoming horticultural events

February 24

A Day in the Garden

Guelph and Wellington County MGs host this event at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Speakers include Frank Kershaw on Ornamental Grasses, Bob Leask on Hostas and Jack Kent on Daylilies. Information: mgguelph@hotmail.com or 519-824-4120 x56714 to reserve a seat. \$30 at the door, lunch included.

March 6 to 9

Successful Gardening Show

International Centre, 6900 Airport Road. Information: home-show.net/successwithgardening

March 11

Native Plants

The Haliburton group goes going green with three technical updates planned in 2008. The first features speaker Kathy Dueck on native plants. Minden Lions Club, 7 p.m. Admission, \$10. Open to any MG group(s) within traveling distance of Minden. Information: Diane

Hearse 705-731-0846 or rodi@nexicom.net.

March 12 to 16

Canada Blooms, the Toronto Flower & Garden Festival

Metro Convention Centre, South Building. Master Gardeners will be hosting daily lunchtime Q&As as well as making presentations throughout the show. Full speaker schedules and information: canadablooms.com

Canada Blooms
THE TORONTO FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL
MARCH 12-16, 2008
METRO TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE, SOUTH BUILDING
WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY 10AM-5PM SUNDAY 10AM-6PM

JOIN GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS FROM ACROSS NORTH AMERICA IN OUR CELEBRATION OF SPRING IN ONTARIO - FLOWERS FOR 2008!

Explore some of Ontario's premier landscape designers, shop the new Living Green, Antise Alley and Plant Marketplace and meet Canada's gardening experts speaking on garden travel, plants, design and more!

Experience most-attend events including our Evening Night Party - Love in the Garden, Home Depot Outdoor Living Centre, Scotts Plant Food Hubler and Miracle-Gro On Up the Staircase.

ADULT \$10 SENIOR/STUDENT \$7 CHILD 12 AND UNDER FREE NEW-INC AFTER 5PM RATE \$10 FOR TICKETS VISIT WWW.CANADABLOOMS.COM #16-NET/8488 DR. SECRET'S ONTARIO STORES

SPONSORED BY:

February 28 to March 2
Stratford Garden Festival

Note the show's new location in the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road. Information: www.stratfordgardenfestival.com.

March 20

Horticultural Therapy

This Lake Simcoe South MG meeting features speaker Bruce MacNeil. Newmarket Community Centre, 7:30 p.m. Open to any interested MGs. Information: Lssmastergardeners@gmail.com.

April 12

Digging in the Dirt

Elgin County MGs host a day of seminars and a plant auction. Tickets, \$5 at the door. Information: Helen 519-773-9621 or Richard at dominionday@hotmail.com

April 24

Accessorizing Your Garden

Bracebridge MGs are hosting a presentation by Frank Kershaw at the Rene M. Caisse Memorial Theatre in Bracebridge. Tickets, \$10 or \$12 at the door; 7:30 p.m. Information: Kathy Dyer 705-645-0004 or the.dyers@sympatico.ca.

May 15

Feng Shui in the Garden

Speaker, Holly Trevelyan. Newmarket Community Centre, 7:30 p.m. Open to any interested MGs. Information: Lssmastergardeners@gmail.com.

September 13

Zone 4 Technical Update

Huron Master Gardeners will host the 2008 Zone 4 technical update in the beautiful town of Bayfield, on the shores of Lake Huron. Mark your calendar; details to follow in future issues.

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What's Growing On? is published four times a year for Master Gardeners in Ontario. To submit news about your Master Gardener group, contact Lorraine Flanigan, Editor at lorraine.flanigan@sympatico.ca.

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