



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside MGOI

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. Our focus is on you, the Master Gardeners, and this is your vehicle for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board and 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](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).

#### **MGOI Board Members:**

President:	Claudette Sims, Halton
Vice President:	vacant
Corporate Secretary:	Connie Hunter, Toronto
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Director of Education:	June Streadwick, Niagara
Director of Events:	Tena van Andel, Toronto
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Director of Central Region:	Katherine Mathewson, Durham
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Director of North Region:	vacant
Director of South & West Region:	vacant

#### **Committee Members**

Recording Secretary/Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener  
Webmaster: Jim Cook [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca)  
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto: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.**

**February, 2016**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke**

# MILESTONES

## In Memoriam



*Elaine Baldwin of Kitchener*

### **‘Everything she did, she did it right to the edge’**

Born: June 16, 1953 in Kitchener; Died: Nov. 8, 2015 of pancreatic cancer

Elaine Baldwin never did anything in half measures. Elaine was an eclectic Master Gardener who enjoyed both her own gardens as well as her involvement with the Kitchener Horticultural Society Board of Directors. She graduated, with distinction, from the University of Guelph with a Certificate in Horticulture this year.

As a 30-year veteran medical librarian at St. Mary's General Hospital, Elaine was so good at her job she received the Reverend Rip Kirby Award of Excellence and the Mission Legacy Award. Staff in the facility went a step further, and the library will be renamed in her honour.

## **London Middlesex Master Gardeners**

### **30 years:**

Eva Norman-Vestergaard – one of the founding members of LMMG



*Dorothy McGee (left) presents Eva Norman-Vestergaard with her 30 year award*

### **Master Gardener Certification Achieved:**

Cheryl Losch  
Hilary Thomas  
Brenda Scott

## **Algoma Master Gardeners**

### **30 Years:**

Maria Smith



*Maria Smith, 30 Year Master Gardener*

As a founding members of Algoma MGs, 30-year member Maria continues to be as energetic and committed to MG's as ever. With a wealth of knowledge, Maria is always eager to participate in any community event – her attitude is that she is not just providing information to the public, but that each interaction is a learning experience for her as well.

## **Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners**



*Joan McNab, Lee Boltwood, Polly McColl, Fran Dennett*

These four great ladies have been volunteers for the entire 30 years since the Ottawa-Carleton group was formed – and all are still going strong!

The group celebrated this anniversary with a tasty cake at the January meeting.

## **Stratford Master Gardeners**

### **30 Years:**

Anna Peterson  
Dorothy Elliott



*Anna Peterson & Dorothy Elliott (charter members)*

### **5 Years:**

Susan McLennan

## ***Kitchener Master Gardeners***

**30 Years:**

Maryanne Weiler



*Gwynedd Brundrett (left) with Maryanne Weiler*

Gwynedd is a 29 year member pictured here with Maryanne Weiler, a 30 year member who spent a year with Stratford before founding the Kitchener Master Gardeners.

**20 years**

Bruce MacNeil

## ***Etobicoke Master Gardeners***

**10 years:**

Edel Schmidt

**5 Years:**

Isabel Belanger

## ***Grey County Master Gardeners Milestone***

The Grey County Master Gardeners were formed in 1996, and we are celebrating our 20th anniversary this year. Six of the original founding members are still with the group – Verna Beckenhauer, Diane Everest, Ursula Karalus, Diana Lenk, Margaret McDonald and Paul Statia.

## **Thunder Bay and District Master Gardeners TBDMG Golden Trowel Award**

From our annual report: *“In 2015, we instituted The Golden Trowel Award. Given in December to ‘a member in good standing who has demonstrated over the past year significant commitment to the success of the group.’ The executive chose our webmaster, Hazel McLean, as the first recipient.”*



*Congratulations, Hazel McLean!*

In the coming years, the award will rotate in December to a new TBDMG recipient. Nominations can be submitted throughout the year to the Executive.

## **Conference 2016:**

Registration is still open for ‘Come Grow With Us 2016’, April 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, Huntsville, Ontario – a plenitude of thought provoking speakers, hordes of hilarity and the opportunity to make friends from all over North America. Please register ASAP because we have begun to finalize session numbers, delicious menus, schwag bags and extra curricular activities. The public is most welcome. [www.conference.mgoi.ca](http://www.conference.mgoi.ca).

The MGOI **Rewards and Recognition Committee** is planning an exciting ceremony for the presentation of the Awards of Excellence Friday evening. The judges are completing their feedback on the projects. Wow!!!! They are super impressed!! Be there to cheer!!!!

### **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. If you mailed in a registration form and have not heard from me, then please contact me at [conferenceregistrar@mgoi.ca](mailto:conferenceregistrar@mgoi.ca).

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

If you haven't signed up yet, what are you waiting for? Join the fun!!

### **ITEM OF NOTE:**

February 28<sup>th</sup> - deadline for entering the Pollinator Inn contest. Simply submit your team name and the name of your Inn to Josée at [josee@joseecouture.net](mailto:josee@joseecouture.net)



## Focus on Prince Edward County Master Gardeners (PECMG)

We are very active in our community and are involved in: The County Garden Show, our annual Plant Sale, managing the Heritage Gardens at Macaulay House in Picton, Community Gardens, Grow A Row and our local food bank, an advice column in our local newspaper, a spot on a local radio station, demonstrations at local nurseries, and of course, consultations with local gardeners.

We are also actively working to raise awareness of Wild Parsnip in Prince Edward County and have developed a Wild Parsnip Identification sheet that we will be handing out to all first responders (since they are so often at the side of the roads), schools, local businesses, doctor's offices and at all of our events.



PEC Master Gardeners

## A Moment for Membership

*Pam Love, Director of Membership, MGOI*



Happy Valentines!

Did you know that research shows that recognition is one of the top reasons people volunteer.

Recognizing volunteers on Valentine's Day can sometimes pose a challenge since this holiday is so closely associated with couples and has such a strong romantic connotation. Instead, let's acknowledge and celebrate our volunteers' contributions. Make an announcement at your meeting recognizing the outcomes of some of your group activities or the impacts your members have had, or make a small gesture of some cookies with a note: "We appreciate every single one of you", or create a photo page on your website including photos of members in action, hearts and notes. You can extend the recognition by sending a note of appreciation to your partners or supporters in your community. Make February a month of appreciation - or if you have already had your meeting this month, make it March or any other month, or every month! "Recognition" contains the root word "cognition" which means to really see and understand something. One way to see something is to shine a light on it - or to raise the visibility of what volunteers have done - to focus on the outcomes and impacts, not merely on activities or hours.

The Canadian Master Gardener Awards of Excellence was established to recognize outstanding projects that demonstrate excellence in the delivery of Master Gardener services to the public. The awards recognize and applaud the great work that is being done throughout the country by local MG groups. They also provide ideas and motivation for other groups to broaden their activities.

We are in the final process of tabulating the results from the selection committee for the awards. Can you feel the suspense building? Here are some rave reviews:

"Gave participants opportunities to grow (in more ways than one!!)"

"Made us proud to be MG's and confirmed our relevance in today's evolving world!!!"

"Cannot wait for MG studios to evolve!!!"

"You are influencing the lives of people who might otherwise be left on the sidelines!!!"

"Converted non-gardeners!!!"

"Enthusiasm shone through!!!"

The winners will be announced at the Conference in Deerhurst on the Friday evening, April 8th. Have you registered yet to get a front row seat?

Following the reward ceremonies at the conference we are going to arrange for information about the awards submissions to be posted on the mgoi.ca site. We are doing this not only to recognize the groups who participated this year, but also to share ideas, best practices, and to inspire all groups to paraphrase the comment above "Make us proud to be MG's and confirm our relevance in today's evolving world!!!"

On a personal note I would like to acknowledge Anja Lowrance from the Simcoe group who has done a stellar job helping with the logistics and organization of the award applications, the responses from the selection committee and tabulation of the results. Thank you Anja!

Thank you also to our selection committee: Jane Beck, Central Region; Nancy Cole, Eastern Region; Deanna Hoffman, Northern Region; James Lee, South West; Heather Connors-Dunphy, Atlantic; Colleen Zacharias, Manitoba; Lynne Christmas, BC; Liz Klose and Denis Flanagan, Honourary Master Gardeners. The time they have taken to review the applications, and provide comments and feedback is invaluable and appreciated.

Hope to see you on the red carpet in April to help us cheer! Bring your Bling!!!

### CALLING ALL MGs

MGOI logo clothing is now available for you to order.

Please click on the link below to see the items offered.

The price is on each item and there are size charts linked.

There is a \$4.95 processing fee on each order so make a group order to save money!

Order **before March 7th**. Orders will be available for pick up at the Canadian MG Conference during registration.

<https://mgo16.itemorder.com>

Direct questions to Elizabeth A. Stewart

[elizabethstewart2204@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethstewart2204@gmail.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Seedy Saturday Thunder Bay

**Date:** 1-4p.m., Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Location:** Oliver Road Community Centre, Thunder Bay &

### Gillies Seed Swap Thunder Bay

**Date:** 1-4p.m., Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Location:** Gillies Community Centre, Thunder Bay

**Details:** Thunder Bay and District MGs will be participating in two Seedy Saturday events, building connections with the urban agriculture community. We will have an 'Ask a Master Gardener' table, and a member joining an expert panel discussion about seed saving and vegetable gardening in our Zone 2b climate.

### 'A Day in the Garden'

**Date:** February 28, 2016

**Details:** This is a special milestone event for the Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners. Depicted on the poster is a *Hemerocallis* named 'Day in the Garden' in commemoration of G-WMGs 20th anniversary. Three specimens will be given out as door prizes and a few will be available for purchase.

Other activities include three great speakers: Charlie Dobbin, Dr. Brendon Larson and Stefan Weber; and a demonstration on rooting hardwood cuttings by Master Gardener Robert Pavlis. Between speeches or during a fabulous buffet lunch, attendees can peruse through various vendors and ogle over more than 30 items that will be raffled off throughout the day.



 Guelph-Wellington  
Master Gardeners invite you to the  
**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**A Day in the Garden**  
Sunday, February 28, 2016  
8:45 am – 2:30 pm  
Victoria Park East Golf Club  
1096 Victoria Rd. Guelph, ON.

**\$50 includes lunch, prizes, demonstrations, and speakers:**

- **Native Plants & Seeds** Stefan Weber (St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre)
- **Gardening in a Changing Climate** Charlie Dobbin (Host of *The Garden Show*)
- **Pollinators** Dr. Brendon Larson (UoW Assoc. Professor, Environment & Resource Studies)

Register by phone: 519-824-4120 ext. 56714 or email: [mgguelph@hotmail.com](mailto:mgguelph@hotmail.com)  
or download and mail in form: [guelphwellingtonmastergardeners.wildapricot.org](http://guelphwellingtonmastergardeners.wildapricot.org)

## Stratford Garden Festival

**Date:** March 3, 4, 5, 6, 2016

**Details:** Great speakers. Plenty of flowers. Visit the MG booth.

<http://www.on.lung.ca/stratfordgardenfestival>

## Seedy Saturday London

**Date:** March 5, 2016 – 10a.m. to 3p.m.

**Details:** Gardeners come to shop and Learn! See our website for details on the gardening talks and a list of vendors: [www.londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com](http://www.londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com)

**Location:** Carling Heights Optimist Ctr., 656 Elizabeth St., London ON

## Canada Blooms



**Date:** March 11<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Location:** Enercare Centre, Exhibition Grounds, Toronto ON

## March into Spring

With the Northumberland Master Gardener Garden Lecture Series.

**Dates:** 4 Mondays: March 14, 21, 28 & April 4.  
7:30 p.m. - doors open at 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Calvary Pentacostal Church, Port Hope.

**Details:** Tickets for the series \$40. Individual tickets available only at the door for \$15. Per evening.



NORTHUMBERLAND MASTER GARDENERS PRESENTS  
**Spring into the Garden Lecture Series**

This spring, join green thumb enthusiasts on four Monday evenings for Garden Lectures from four very accomplished Garden Speakers. Whose expertise will definitely inspire you. Is there really a better way to spend Monday evenings in March/April?

**March 14, 2016 - Bostle Foot**  
Flowers, Food, Pollinators, Perennials & God: Perennials in the Garden

**March 21, 2016 - Marian & Louis Bann**  
Growing and Enjoying Transient Succulents

**March 28, 2016 - Maureen Hubert**  
Renovating Your Garden

**April 4, 2016 - Trish Symons**  
Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

Lecture location:  
Calvary Pentacostal Church, 401, Coll Street East, Port Hope  
Dates: Four Mondays - March 14, 21, 28 and April 4, 2016  
Time: 7:30 pm (doors open at 7pm)  
Tickets available February 1, 2016: \$40 for all four lectures (cash, cheque or credit transfer)  
Single lecture: \$15 (depending on availability)  
By email: [springgarden@northumb.org](mailto:springgarden@northumb.org)  
In Calabary: Queen's Business & Community, 3177 Calabar Street  
In Port Hope: Holton Flowers, 63 Wilson Street  
For more information:  
Contact Northumberland Master Gardeners  
at [nlmggardeners@hotmail.com](mailto:nlmggardeners@hotmail.com) or Helen at 905-377-9853

### **Technical Update – Thunder Bay:**

**Topic:** Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott Presentations

**Date:** April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Location:** Confederation College, Thunder Bay

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

**Registration Information:** On the TBDMG website:

<http://tbmastergardeners.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

### **Thrifty Gardener – Thunder Bay**

**Date:** 9-3:30p.m., Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Cost:** Toonie for entry

**Location:** Oliver Road Community Centre, Thunder Bay

**Details:** The TBDMG annual Thrifty Gardener event will focus on Invasive Species; Healthy Soil; Houseplants for clean air; Plants poisonous to our pets; and a yard sale of treasures to engage the public.

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

**Date:** July 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>

**Details:** This workshop is being held in the beautiful Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. There are three topics, from which two must be chosen. The Program Outline is on the website at [www.mgoi.ca](http://www.mgoi.ca) under “Education”, along with all the forms necessary for registration.

The cost is \$250 for the weekend, and covers lunches on both days and morning breaks.

The instructors for the weekend are Darrell Bley, Jessica Bond and Jason Leavens, and all three are looking forward to working with Master Gardeners. Jessica and Jason are new to the workshop, but Darrell has instructed many workshops and so is familiar with Master Gardeners and thoroughly enjoys their many questions during the sessions.

Registrations are currently being received at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture and it is anticipated that the spaces will fill up quickly. Early registration is recommended to ensure getting into the desired sessions, as they are limited in size.

Come and enjoy a weekend immersed in horticulture, learning from expert instructors and meeting fellow Master Gardeners and Master Gardeners in Training from across the province.

### **MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **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.

#### **Conference Ambassadors:**

**Timeframe:** April 8 - 10

**Description:** Meet and greet our speakers, make them feel like honoured guests at the conference (they are!), facilitate a well-run breakout session. If you can’t remember which speaker/breakout you’ve signed up for, please go to [conference.mgoi.ca](http://conference.mgoi.ca) for the list.

Be the hostess with the mostess!

Be the host with the most!

