



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to the October 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 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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Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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INSIDE MGOI

Newsletter of the

Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

October 2016

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Stratford Master Gardeners

In Memoriam

A charter member of the Stratford Master Gardeners, Frances Culliton passed away on October 12th. Frances was an accredited Ontario flower show judge, and instructor of floral décor at the Stratford Chef School.

New Master Gardeners in Training:

Shelley Bender
Sabine Behnk

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

10 years – Gold Badge Recipients:

Charlotte Vorstermans
Rhona DesRoches

Master Gardener Status Achieved:

Inez Mitchell

New Master Gardener in Training:

Stephanie Brash (studying at Guelph)

Mississauga Master Gardeners

15 years:

Bill Pooke

Niagara Master Gardeners

10 years:

Karen Walsh (March 2016)

Master Gardener Status Achieved:

Emily Mazi
Kathleen Livingston

New Master Gardeners in Training:

Gail Richard
Kelly Masterson
Margaret Tanaszi
Cathy Thompson

Member Transfers:

Kathleen Livingston, from Saskatchewan

A Note from the MGOI Webmaster

Subject: MGOI Newsletter Archive

Many thanks to Avalon Hamlin for sending old copies of the MGOI newsletters to us. She is continuing to send them and I'll be adding them to the website, here:

<http://mgoi.ca/news/newsletterarchive.html>

Some of the newsletters are scanned and appear on devoted photo album pages. These are .jpg files and may have to be expanded to read.

We're looking forward to more copies coming to us. Again, many, many thanks to Avalon.

Jim Cook, *Webmaster*

mgoi.ca



President's Corner – The Inside Scoop!

Coordinators' Conference 2016

There was a wonderful vibe at this year's Coordinators' Conference! The day started with delicious treats prepared by Shirley Novak, Halton Master Gardeners. Registrar Anja Lowrance, Simcoe County, greeted everyone with a draw ticket and agenda.

Kelly Noel, Communications Director, distributed the revised version of the Coordinators' Handbook, printed on one side only so that pages can easily be printed out and replaced if changes are made.



Anja and Kelly made a great team!

Twenty-five out of 31 groups were present in the room, including – for the first time ever – a Coordinator “virtually” present! Pam Dallaire (Cochrane District MGs) joined us via video conference from Smooth Rock Falls.



Here's Cochrane District coordinator “virtual” Pam Dallaire in attendance at Suzanne's presentation!

The opening quiz and the AGM ran smoothly, and the first presenters were introduced.

Nancy McDonald (Ottawa-Carleton) and Maureen Hulbert (Toronto) facilitated a discussion about the results of a resource sharing survey. There was general agreement that sharing resources would benefit all groups; several people volunteered to help make this a reality. Everyone was impressed with the energy and enthusiasm in the room!

I attended the breakout session on leadership – seemed like a good fit for me! Suzanne Zacharczyk (Etobicoke) impressed me with her quick and knowledgeable replies to all questions. I was glad to learn that leaders aren't necessarily always Genghis Khan or Mary Poppins. A good leader adapts to the situation and can use different styles depending on the factors at hand – a kind of Genghis Poppins!



“Resource Sharing” generated a lot of enthusiasm!

Before lunch, groups divided into their regions and met their new Regional Directors. These meetings proved very useful, helping groups to make connections and discuss concerns. It was interesting to note that regions shared similar issues. The ‘Northern Caucus’ has groups with geographic limitations that make meetings challenging. The South-West has many small groups that have difficulty meeting their many requests for support from the public. And the Central region has large groups that sometimes have too few requests for the large number of members.



The “True North” region meets with “virtual” Pam, on the counter.

A follow up survey was sent to groups after the conference. Ninety-seven percent of respondents felt the AGM ran smoothly. One hundred percent reported they were very pleased that the Board supports the groups by providing bookmarks, recruitment kits and the opportunity to order MG clothing. And 100% also reported that the conference was interesting and well organized. That kind of feedback will be hard to beat next year!

Presentations and supporting documents from all sessions will be posted on the [Coordinators' Conference & AGM](#) tab of the MGOI website for easy reference.

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

Projects

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Start Me Up Niagara Community Garden Labyrinth
Details: This is an ongoing project to assist the community and this group to provide healthy food to those in need.

Master Gardeners Out & About

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Oaks Garden Tour
Date: October 4, 2016
Details: After a wonderful presentation to our group, Paula Berketo and Jeff Klager of Niagara Parks led a guided tour of the Oaks Gardens in Niagara Falls. The event was well attended by Master Gardeners and area Garden Club members.

Name: Landscape of Nations – Unveiling Ceremony
Date: October 2, 2016
Details: Niagara Master Gardeners were invited to participate in the Opening Ceremony for these very important Gardens which were built to commemorate the important role that Native peoples played in the 1812 War.

Name: Rooted in the Garden
Date: September 10, 2016
Details: Niagara Master Gardeners were invited to spend a day at Niagara Parks and set up an information booth.

Name: St. Catharines Public Library
Dates: Various times throughout the spring and summer
Details: Niagara Master Gardeners attend the library to provide garden advice to the public.

Name: Shaw Festival Garden Tour
Details: This is a long standing event for the Niagara Master Gardeners. We attend this event annually and are present at the various open gardens to provide assistance and information to visitors.

Name: Niagara Master Gardeners Annual Fall Plant Sale
Date: Usually the first Saturday after Labour Day but this year was held a week later due to our participation in the 'Rooted in the Garden' event at Niagara Parks.
Details: With wonderful donations from all the membership this annual plant sale for the public is our major fund raising event. This year was very successful even though the date was off by a week.

Name: Technical Update (TU) - MGOI Summer Workshop. Hosted at Niagara Parks
Dates: July 16 and 17, 2016
Details: The cost was \$250.00 and the TU was open to all Ontario Master Gardeners. Participants had a choice of two topics from three available subjects this year: IPM, Tree Risk-Assessment, and Tiny Gardens. This is an annual event and we are always pleased with the participation of Ontario Master Gardeners, the high calibre of the presentations, and as always the great food provided by the Horticulture School chef. There was a wonderful dinner on the Saturday night, and we were grateful for the very reasonable accommodations provided by Niagara College.

Name: Community Access Hotline for Gardening Questions
Dates: Operated year round
Details: All members take part in sharing shifts to answer the hotline (either by phone or email). Questions and answers are being catalogued.

Name: Hospice Niagara
Dates: Several times per year
Details: Three volunteers from the Niagara Master Gardeners attend Hospice Niagara on a regular basis to present an afternoon workshop to clients. In these workshops people make various plant based ornamental pieces that they can take home and enjoy.

Name: Advice Clinics at Rice Road Garden Centre in Fonthill, and Country Basket in Niagara Falls
Dates: Various dates throughout the spring and summer
Details: Niagara Master Gardeners visit these two Garden Centres on a weekly basis to set up advice clinics aimed at the public. Both Centres generously provide honorariums to our group.



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Milford Fair

Date: September 17, 2016

Details: The Milford Fair has been an annual event for the PECMG's for many years and this year was the 70th Anniversary. We always enjoy meeting with the public. The fair is a lovely reminder of a simpler time and a true agricultural fair.



Barbra Stock, Linda Melady and Sandy Goranson talk with a gardener at the Milford Fair 2016.

Photo Courtesy of Julia Lamoca.

Name: Planting at the Hospice Prince Edward

Date: October 3, 2016

Details: In memory of our dear friend Kathy MacPherson, a group of PEC MG's got together at the Hospice Prince Edward in Picton. We chose a hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'DVPpinky') which will produce beautiful pink blooms throughout the season.



Memorial planting for Kathy MacPherson, Oct 3, 2016, Picton



Miscanthus zebrina
in PEC MG
Barbra Stock's
garden

Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Self Indulgence Day

Date: August 15, 2016

Details: Our self Indulgence Day consisted of a visit to Grange Hollow Gardens and Nursery in Desboro for a review of heritage tomatoes, vegetables and herbs as well as native perennials and annuals in a rainbow of colours. We ate a delightful lunch at the Williamsford "Great Books" store and restaurant, followed by a visit to Willow Farm Grasses for a spectacular showing of over 120 native grasses.

Grey and Bruce Counties are blessed with a Rural Garden Tour that details many diverse gardens in the area – from rock to sand to clay.

Try us out sometime!



Grey County Master Gardeners



Self Indulgence Day – A Collage of Pictures



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Location: Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto

Dates: November 4th – 13th, 2016

Details: Master Gardeners will help OMAFRA at their Pollinator Garden booth. There are 3 shifts:

8:45 – 1:00

1:00 – 5:00

5:00 – 9:00

Volunteers are still needed for some morning and evening shifts. Free parking is available. Please contact Tena van Andel for more information:

casey.vanandel@sympatico.ca

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

Cochrane District Master Gardeners

Name: Seniors Lunch & Learn

Date: November 7th, 2016

Details: The Timmins Public Library hosts: "Miniature Gardening Indoors" with guest speaker Pam Dallaire from the Cochrane District Master Gardeners. Seniors will learn how to create a miniature themed garden for year-round enjoyment.

Fall & Winter 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. Winter courses will be held in Toronto and Kingston. Gaia College, the course licensor, recently had their Continuing Education Credits reassessed, and this course has been pre-approved with MGOI for 24 CEUs. 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

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/>



Master Gardener in Training Forum: Overview

Connecting Master Gardeners in Training

<http://mgit.createaforum.com/index.php>

The “Master Gardener in Training Forum” (MGiT Forum) is a mentoring service run by the Cochrane District Master Gardeners (CDMG) group.

The forum is currently run by the coordinator, Pamela Dallaire, but the group hopes to expand the service by introducing it to all groups within MGOI. Members willing to assist in the mentoring of any Master Gardener in Training can register and start answering questions asked by students.

The role of the forum is as follows:

- Help Master Gardeners in Training to make personal connections with other members in MGOI
- Reduce the workload of individual mentors by spreading the responsibility of mentoring to all members of MGOI
- Bring MGOI mentoring into the digital age



Categories and Threads

Discussions are divided into Categories and Threads (individual discussions). For example, under *General Category* are included:

- MGIT Lessons
- Plant ID Basic Plants
- Quizzes
- Lessons for all MGs.



Anyone registered on the forum can start a Discussion Thread under a specific category.

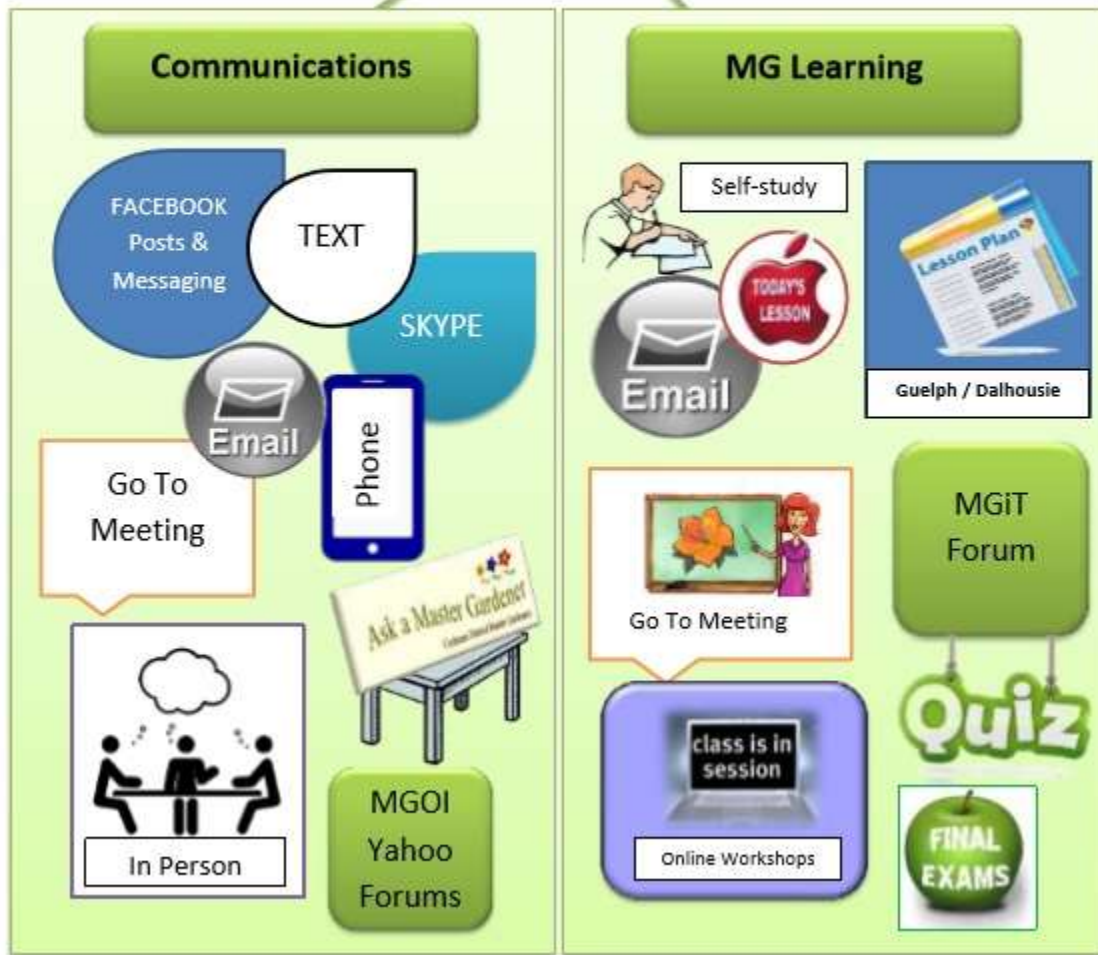
How is the Forum Used?

The MGIT Forum is just one tool used by the CDMG mentors and Master Gardeners in Training, allowing mentoring over large geographical areas. By connecting online, discussions can occur at times convenient to both student and mentor.

With the prevalence of Cell Phone texting, iPad use, and new technologies, the CDMG group hope that the Forum will encourage younger people to join MGOI and become the new generation of Master Gardeners. The MGIT Forum is just one step in that direction.



Cochrane District Master Gardeners



Contact Information

For more information about the MGIT Forum, please contact:

Pamela Dallaire, Coordinator

Cochrane District Master Gardeners

Email: pameladallaire@hotmail.com

Home: 705-338-1024 / Cell & TEXT 705-262-1506

Skype - Pamela Dallaire



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!

COCHRANE DISTRICT MASTER GARDENERS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Digital Assistant

Timeframe: 3 – 6 months, trial

Description: The Cochrane District Master Gardeners are looking for a volunteer to help update our events on-line and on the website, post Twitter and Facebook updates, and create digital flyers. Additional knowledge of "Skype" and "Go to Meeting" would be an asset. If you would like to help, your assistance would benefit Master Gardeners in Training from across Ontario, and our members.

Contact Pamela Dallaire at

pameladallaire@hotmail.com or phone 705-338-1024.

