



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside

# MGOI

Welcome to the November edition of *Inside MGOI*, 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 30 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome!

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:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener
Past President:	Claudette Sims, Halton
Corporate Secretary:	Terri Briggs, Lake Simcoe South
Treasurer:	Vacant
Director of Communications:	Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto
Co-Directors of Education:	Kate Sault, Halton
	Inger Knudsen, Guelph-Wellington
Director of Events:	Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Director of Membership:	Maureen Hulbert, Toronto
Director of Operations:	Pamela Dallaire, Cochrane District
Director of Revenue Development:	Vacant
Director of Central Region:	Robynne Dunn, Durham
Director of East Region:	Sue Flinders-Adams, Peterborough
Director of North Region:	Kathleen Gorsline, Lake Simcoe South
Director of South & West Region:	Jim Fitzgerald, Stratford

#### **Committee Members**

Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener  
Webmaster: Jim Cook [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca)  
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca)  
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County  
Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Anne Bossart, Georgian Bay  
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Dianne Azzarello, Toronto

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#### **INSIDE MGOI**

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

**November 2020**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### New Central Regional Director / Master Gardener Status Achieved

Robynne Dunn

Congratulations!



Robynne has been a member of the Durham Master Gardeners for three years. She started gardening with her father at a very young age – growing vegetables in the backyard. Her passion for gardening has never waned. She has a Certificate in Landscape Design from George Brown College and is continually looking for new ways to expand and share her knowledge and passion for

gardening. She has a wide variety of interests including sustainable practices and landscape renewal/rejuvenation.

Welcome to the Board Robynne!



## Durham Master Gardeners

### New Master Gardener in Training

Jennifer Murphy

Durham Master Gardeners welcomed our newest member, Jennifer Murphy, in September. Jennifer's special interests are garden design, vegetable gardening, using organic methods and cooking her homegrown produce. Some of us were able to meet Jennifer in person at the Whitby Ajax Garden tour this September and on our outing to Windreach Farm.



Her skills include public speaking, presentations and being creative and we are sure there will be lots of opportunities to put these to good use in our group. Welcome Jennifer!



## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

### Thirty Years of Gardening Advice

Gillian Boyd

Take a walk through Gillian's beautiful backyard pollinator garden and you'll see a true Master Gardener at work. Her garden is a thoughtful celebration of nature overflowing with native plants. She identifies and describes each one in careful detail; visitors learn so much if they're lucky enough to have a tour. She is a wise woman sharing her vast store of information about natives and non-natives too. You'll walk away inspired and sometimes, if you're lucky, with a garden plant too.

Gillian is a teacher, mentor and friend for many members of MGOC. She was honoured for her work during the last technical update organized jointly by the MGs of Lanark County and Ottawa-Carleton. The tribute was appropriate during that TU with its focus on Ontario native plants and invasive plant species.

Gillian has written and spoken publicly about native plants extensively and has contributed her skills to several community wildlife gardens. In her own words, her informal environmental garden at home "reflects my interest in soils, plant behaviour, xeriscaping, and gardening to attract birds, butterflies and other beneficial wildlife."

As we learn more about native plants and the important role that they play, we are learning that biodiversity matters. Homeowners need to reflect upon their historical commitment to turf grass and non-native ornamentals.



*Gillian's Garden*



Gillian designed a home garden many years ago that was ahead of its time. We are so fortunate for her many contributions to MGOC and the Ottawa gardening community. Congratulations, Gillian!



## Halton Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Hariette Henry



## Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

### Member Transfer

Jennifer Ziorli

Jennifer has transferred from Toronto to Guelph. She is a MGIT and is taking her qualifying courses. Jennifer has already connected with a mentor in our group.



## Recent Changes to the MGOI Board

*by Isabel Belanger, Editor, Inside MGOI*

There have been a number of changes to the Board recently as some members have stepped down and others succeeded them.



### *President*

Karen Sciuk, Kitchener, has succeeded Claudette Sims, Halton, as President of MGOI.

### *Past President*

Claudette now becomes Past President.

### *Vice President*

This position is now vacant.

### *Treasurer*

This position is also vacant. A new Treasurer is being sought as soon as possible. Claudette has provided a job description, see page 4. Qualifications and an application form are included at the end of this newsletter.

### *Director of Communications*

Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto succeeds Kelly Noel, Ottawa-Carleton.

### *Director of Membership*

Maureen Hulbert, Toronto succeeds Pam Love, Durham.

### *Director of Central Region*

Robynne Dunn (see profile under Milestones), Durham succeeds Katherine Mathewson, Durham.



## ***Wanted – MGOI Treasurer***

### ***MGOI is currently without a treasurer!***

The treasurer is an essential position in our organization and we need to fill this position ASAP! Without a treasurer, we are unable to pay bills or process donations and other transactions. **(Please see application and role description on page 13 and 14 of this Newsletter.)**

### ***Qualifications and Workload***

A Treasurer doesn't have to be an accountant or bookkeeper, but it certainly helps. If you are particular about how reports are prepared, are detail-oriented and like things to add up, we'd love to hear from you.

The accounting records are maintained using QuickBooks software. This software is used to print cheques, enter deposits and journal entries and prepare monthly bank reconciliations. The busiest time of year for the treasurer is the first half of the year. Group membership fees are received in January and February. "Good News to Grow On" funds (if offered) are distributed in March. Year-end is April 30 when everything has to be tidied up and balanced. Records are sent/taken to our auditor in late June or July for him to prepare the Review Engagement financial statements and the Charities Return. In October, it is time to prepare a short summary for the Annual General Meeting informing members of the financial transactions undertaken by the Board during the fiscal year.

Are you interested? Feel free to email for more details or questions (please see below).

### ***Interested, but not sure if you have the time? How about job sharing?***

If the time commitment or responsibilities are holding you back from stepping up to help as Treasurer, consider sharing this position. Two people could divide the duties and share attendance at meetings, or the position can be broken down into a "treasurer" and a "bookkeeper". The treasurer member could attend Board meetings and hold the vote on motions. The bookkeeper could do the day-to-day work or journal entries/bank accounts. They would support each other and work together to fulfil these essential duties.

### ***Know someone who would make a great treasurer?***

Please recommend the name of a fellow member who might really enjoy this role and we'll reach out to them. We can't do this without you!

To apply, ask questions or recommend someone, please email Past President Claudette Sims at: [pastpresident@mgoi.ca](mailto:pastpresident@mgoi.ca).

Thanks for your support,

*Claudette Sims, Past President, MGOI*



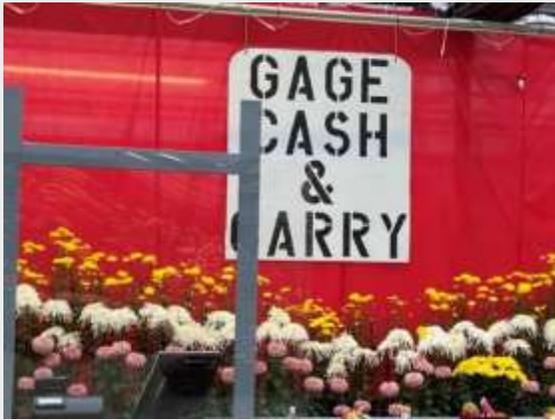
by Isabel Belanger, Editor Inside MGOI

The Hamilton Fall Garden and Mum Show, or Mum Show as it's affectionately called, opened on October 23<sup>rd</sup> this year and ran until November 1<sup>st</sup>. This was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary (which will be celebrated in 2021) of the show; it has had many iterations over the years and presents a new theme every year.

The show has taken place at the Gage Park Greenhouse since 2011 when the greenhouse opened. The facility features over 20,000 square feet of display space and has allowed for the creation of a new design and layout. Normally the show features a children's area, a live demonstration area and a vendor area, all of which were cancelled this year. The greenhouse facility expanded the display area with larger aisles and multiple areas to rest and enjoy the beauty of the many displays. All good in Covid-19 times.

The theme this year was 'Thank You Front Line Workers'. This year's display featured over 200 varieties of Chrysanthemums and more than 100,000 blooms.





The protocol was different this year because of Covid-19 safety measures: masks were required, the show was free this year, and most tickets were timed and reserved although walk-ins were accommodated depending on crowds.

Although we did not pre-order tickets over the internet (they were all taken) we lined up as walk-ins and were allowed into the Tropical Greenhouse. I haven't been there since it shut down after lockdown in March. It did reopen in the summer but only on weekends (Friday – Sunday). It was good to see old friends – I'm sure some of the plants had put on at least a foot of growth since early March!



Although Mums are not my favourite flower the bright colours and creative displays were a welcome sight. Many of the uncommon Mums are particularly captivating. There were four billboards describing 11 categories of Mums: Irregular Incurve; Unclassified; Spoon; Intermediate Incurve; Reflex; Brush & Thistle; Anemone; Pompom; Quill; Hardy Mums; and Gnomes. I quite like the Brush & Thistle type (not your average Fall Mum, although I do like Spiders which are part of the Hardy (Fall) Mum type.).





Chrysanthemums are revered in Japan and are second only to the cherry blossom. The “official” Japanese flower is the 16-petal chrysanthemum used for the imperial seal. Festivals are held all over Japan in late fall to celebrate the more than 350 types of Kiku (Japanese for Chrysanthemum), ‘just some of the 200,000 varieties said to exist in the world.’ <https://www.nippon.com/en/guide-to-japan/b08104/>

We look forward to the 2021 Mum Show and next year’s theme celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the show. The Mum Show is basically an amazing floral display created by some of Hamilton’s finest horticulture staff.



## Master Gardeners Out & About: *Projects & Events*

### Durham Master Gardeners

#### Name: Wind Up – Year 2 of Parkwood Estates Rejuvenation Project

**Details:** Durham Master Gardeners' second big project for the year, at Parkwood Estates, also wrapped up this month. This was Phase 2 of our five year project. Ingrid Janssen and Tracey Smyth took the lead for our group by doing the research and design layout. Other members working with the Oshawa Garden Club removed the original overgrown plants during the summer, then planted the new perennials called for in the redesign along with 1200 bulbs in October. We sold the plants removed from the original garden at a plant sale and raised \$1,400 to go toward next year's phase of the project. Thank you everyone who took part.

Parkwood Estates is right next door to the LakeRidge Health Hospital and Cancer Centre. Patients and staff come over to the garden for respite and a break during COVID-19 – just to get away from the pressure. They are always asking questions when we are in the garden. We can't wait for them to see the transformation in the spring.



*Parkwood bulb planting*



### Brantford Master Gardeners

#### Name: Brantford Master Gardeners Update Details:

##### Monthly Meetings

BMG continue to hold our monthly meetings via Zoom to keep our members informed.

##### BMG Photo Contest

In an effort to keep our members engaged, BMG have started a photo contest. Each month there is a different category of plant photo to submit. For the month of November, members were asked to submit a photo of their favourite plant(s) ... we all have more than one! The photos are sent out, anonymously, in PDF format, for members to vote for their favourite photo. The winner is announced at our next monthly meeting and is afforded bragging rights! 😊

##### Links to Interesting Articles/Webinars

Cathy Kavassalis – Plant Choices

<https://youtu.be/dxVqDYtmUI4>

How a single-celled organism almost wiped out life on Earth (A. Willis, 4 min)

<https://youtu.be/dO2xx-aeZ4w>

Can plants talk to each other? (Richard Karban, 5 min)

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/can-plants-talk-to-each-other-richard-karban>

Orchids: The Masters of Lying, Cheating & Stealing (4 min)

<https://youtu.be/D94Oe0Vuh9U>

Plant Science Investigation (PSI) (CSI spoof) (7 min)

[https://youtu.be/8OnAS7d62\\_k](https://youtu.be/8OnAS7d62_k)



## Simcoe County Master Gardeners

### Name: Late Fall Blooms

**Details:** The Simcoe County Master Gardeners have been meeting online for most of this year and boy do we miss the personal contact! It is tough to stay engaged and in touch. We borrowed an idea from Simcoe South MGs in October and asked our members to share photos (via email) of what was still blooming in their gardens in late October.



*Inez Mitchell's Aconitum – a group favourite*



*Linda Peacock's Brassica oleracea, grown from seed*

Members were asked to share the proper botanical name of each submission. This was a great, cheerful exercise! It took such a short time to take a few quick pictures and send them on. We had a terrific amount of participation and many said they would include some of these plants in their garden planning for 2021. The best part was the feeling of sharing and togetherness it gave us as a group between

meetings.

We are working on more fun ideas to share over the winter.



*Pat Cook's Hamamelis virginiana*

## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

### Name: Pollinator Workshop

**Details:** MGs in Ottawa were fortunate to be invited to a pollinator workshop spanning two consecutive Saturdays in November. Class size was limited to only six participants, with everyone masked and socially distanced to ensure safety. The workshop was held at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden located at the Central Experimental Farm. The space includes a model background garden filled with beautiful native plants, as well as a butterfly garden.

This workshop was taught by a member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, supported by a grant from the City of Ottawa. Eight MGs completed this workshop, which included creating plans for a pollinator garden of their own. These skills will be invaluable in future as more gardeners are turning to native plants in order to attract beneficial pollinators.



*Ottawa MGs take a stroll through the Fletcher Wildlife Gardens during their pollinator workshop*

## Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

### Name: Guelph-Wellington Update

**Details:** We are keeping a low profile but meet on Zoom every month. Louise Milton makes sure that we have excellent speakers. This month Heather Rajotte will be speaking on Grassroots Gardening. I do not think this will be about lawns!

We will also talk about the plant sale we will arrange in 2021. Plant orders will be taken on-line and we are excited to have a new way of getting plants into gardens.



## Brantford Master Gardeners

### Name: Interesting Websites

**Details:** Here again are the BMGs listings of interesting websites published in previous issues of *Inside MGOI*. Enjoy!

#### Bringing Nature Home-Catskill Nature Nursery

<https://www.facebook.com/266259994940/posts/10158103043124941/?sfnsn=mo>

#### The Growing Season

<https://growingseasoncanada.com/>

#### RBG At Home

<https://www.rbg.ca/athome>

#### Garden Making Magazine-Virtual Tour of Famous Gardens and Interesting Sites

[https://gardenmaking.com/enjoy-a-virtual-tour-of-famous-gardens/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter+Apr+17+2020](https://gardenmaking.com/enjoy-a-virtual-tour-of-famous-gardens/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter+Apr+17+2020)

#### Bird Song Opera

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMXD4h5w8D8>

#### Terra Greenhouses Workshops

<https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=18a1d58804&e=8ca039d1a6>

<https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=e2b3c88cd9&e=8ca039d1a6>



## Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

### Name: Guelph Symphony Orchestra Collaboration with Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

**Details:** In the August newsletter we reported on a collaboration between GWMGs and the Guelph Symphony Orchestra. Here again is the link to all eight of the garden performances available for hearing and viewing on YouTube:

<https://guelphsymphony.com/garden-performances-2020/>



Autumn blooming *Hamamelis virginiana*  
Photos: Inger Knudsen, G-W



## Upcoming Events

### MGOI Website

**Details:** If you would like your Master Gardener event posted on the MGOI website under the **News & Events** tab, please send details to our webmaster Jim Cook at [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca).

Images need to be in .jpeg or .png format.



### Toronto Master Gardeners

#### Register for TMG Technical Update 2021!

**Topic:** Beat the Winter Blues

**Date:** Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Location:** comfort of home via Zoom

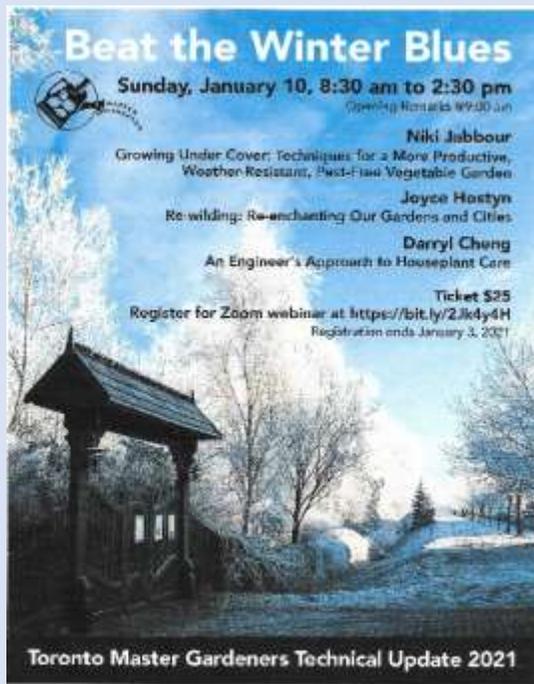
**Cost:** \$25

#### Speakers:

- Niki Jabbour
- Joyce Hostyn
- Darryl Cheng

Register for Zoom webinar at <https://bit.ly/2Jk4y4H>

Note: Registration will close January 3, 2021



### London Middlesex Master Gardeners

#### London's Seedy Saturday is going virtual!



**Details:** 2021 will be the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Seedy Saturday for London Middlesex Master Gardeners (LMMG) and it will be different than any other Seedy Saturday we have planned!

London's Seedy Saturday roots go back more than twenty years, from an original gardening forum with 25 attendees in a church basement to the event just this past March with more than 1000 attendees and 70 booths.

Seeds of Diversity helped us get started by sharing organizational coaching and support, some advertising, and links to national seed companies. They continue to support this event every year by bringing their seeds to swap and knowledge to share.

Our typical event includes 3 speaker presentations, plus a large marketplace of vendors and educational exhibitors such as garden clubs and environmental groups.

Again this year we will offer 3 great talks but the format this time will be virtual. We considered cancelling the event or shifting it to later in the year when we could hold it outdoors, but in the end decided to hold onto our 'first Saturday in March' tradition and take the leap to learn how to do it virtually.

So.. now we are researching and testing various methods of hosting online events. There's quite a learning curve! Our plans include advertising on social media, and preregistration for three presentations.



We're also exploring ways to include our valued vendors and exhibitors by offering onscreen links to their video ads or educational messages.

Local gardeners look forward to Seedy Saturday every year. In 2021 we will continue our tradition of sharing some knowledge to educate and encourage new and experienced gardeners alike...and this year they can enjoy it all from the comfort of their homes! Planning continues for our event on **March 6, 2021** ....stay tuned!

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## Upcoming Events on Hold

*N.B. These upcoming events are currently on hold.*

### Stratford Master Gardeners

#### POSTPONED!! Technical Update

##### Information:

We had asked you to save the date of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for our Technical Update, *Gardening for the Planet: Creating Biodiverse Habitats in Our Gardens*.

As a result of COVID-19 we postponed the event rather than leave people uncertain as to whether it would go ahead.

We will re-schedule as soon as the situation becomes clearer. We hope to see you there!



### Halton Master Gardeners

#### Postponed! Technical Update! Stay Tuned!

**Topic: Refugia: the future of gardening**

**Original Date:** Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Location:** Waterdown, ON

##### Speakers:

- Dr. Christina Davy, Research Scientist with the Ministry of Natural Resources
- Catherine Kavassalis, Halton Region Master Gardener
- Paul Gellatly, Director of Horticulture, Toronto Botanical Garden
- Claudette Sims, Past President MGOI
- Other special guests TBA

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#### Name: 2020 Atlantic Master Gardener Conference – Cancelled until Summer 2021

**Topic: Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada**

**Location:** Truro, NS on July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Keynote Speaker:** Julie Moir Messervy, award winning landscape designer from Vermont and author of *New Landscaping Ideas that Work* and other books, has indicated that she is willing to come next year. Registrants will have their money refunded ASAP.





**Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.  
Application for Director, Board Officer or Committee Member**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info (phone and email): \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a member of your Group? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like best about being an MG?

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How have you been involved in the administration side of your Group? (ex: Roles held, duration, involved in a project, planning of a group activity, etc.)

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Which role are you applying for with MGOI and why? Committee or Executive

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What skills/strengths/experience do you have that will help with this position?

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The Board consists of members across the province and often needs to make decisions via email or teleconference. How would you manage your multiple priorities to respond to Board matters in a timely manner?

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What area would you need to work on to be successful as a MGOI Director?

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Please forward to [pastpresident@mgoi.ca](mailto:pastpresident@mgoi.ca) & [secretary@mgoi.ca](mailto:secretary@mgoi.ca)



# Treasurer

(Individual or shared position)

The MGOI Treasurer is an essential member of the Board of Directors & a signing officer for the Corporation.

## Overview

- The Treasurer shall understand and review the Corporation's finances and report on them to the Board of Directors and the Member Groups.
- This position may be shared, e.g. the responsibilities & vote can be shared between two people, or the responsibilities can be divided into "Treasurer" (attending Board meetings, voting, preparing financial reports) and a 'bookkeeper' posting transactions & record in accounting system.
- Term of the position is 2 years. A maximum of 3 terms can be served.

## Functions & Duties

- Maintain all necessary financial records of MGOI
- Ensure everyone handling money keeps proper records and documentation
- Conduct all financial transactions, e.g. bank accounts, term deposits, payments of bills, donations
- Receive & process deposits from fundraising, donations, GST/HST rebate and any amounts applicable to the organization that are not received by other board members
- Prepare periodic statements of the financial position of MGOI, or reports to the Board of Directors as requested
- Develop the annual budget with input from Board members
- Conduct business in accordance with the budget, Board motions, financial condition and proper accounting procedures
- Submit accounting reports to Canada Revenue Agency and Corporations Canada as required
- Cooperate with the chosen auditors in presenting all materials necessary for the financial review engagement report

## Qualifications

- Ability to conduct business effectively and efficiently
- Ideally an accounting/bookkeeping background/experience
- Knowledge of QuickBooks software (or willingness to learn)
- Access to a TD branch bank

## Communication

- Liaise with MGOI President re issues, concerns or problems
- Reply to correspondence in a timely fashion
- Communicate with Officers/Directors/Groups as necessary

## Supports for Board Members

- Eligible for travel expenses relating to the position as described in our MGOI policies/procedures
- Communications Guidelines for Board Members document
- MGOI Governance Guideline document
- Insurance to cover liability of the Corporation & indemnify directors

