



# What's Growing On?

The newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.

Winter, 2007

## Executive notes

... by James Lee



See us at  
**Canada  
Blooms**  
March 7-11

Volunteer at  
Canada Blooms!  
See page 2 for  
details.

Happy New Year to all MGs and MGITS across Ontario. I wish each of you a wonderful gardening season.

It is my pleasure to report that MGOI has received an Ontario Trillium Grant of \$107,000 for an 18-month period. The grant is to be used in assisting our organization to increase our capacity for organizational stability, for training and educational advancement and to reach out and partner with other organizations in communities across the province. The executive and other members of your board have been meeting to implement some of the action plans for this great opportunity to further our organization. Further details of these actions will be communicated to all of you as they are developed.

MGOI will be hosting our first coordinators' conference at the Landscape Ontario offices on Saturday, April 14, 2007. This will be a full day of information and updates for all coordinators across Ontario. It is important for all groups to be represented at this conference. We tried very hard to select a date where we could have the facilities we required, the speakers we needed

and that would allow the majority of groups and board members to attend. Further information on this conference will be forthcoming shortly.

Your Education Committee has also been working very diligently and we are all very pleased with their research and action steps to-date. Further details about our new education program will be outlined during the coordinators conference and then communicated to all members.

Your board has been very active, communicating by email to vote and make many decisions in between board meetings, and action steps have been taken to ensure we meet our obligations under our Trillium grant. Our next meeting will be held at the Toronto Botanical Gardens on Sunday, March 4, 2007. According to our new policy, we will provide you with periodic updates and will distribute a summary of our board discussions to everyone following the meeting.

As president, I must share with you that I am constantly pleasantly surprised at the amount of work and dedication the MGOI board conducts on your behalf. It is a pleasure to work with each of you.

## Zoning in

... news from our 11 zones

### Zone 2

**North Bay** MGs Helen and Stewart McCombie are just about ready to submit the group's plant list to the Plant Hardiness Zones Project. Two members also helped plant over 5,000 tree saplings, which will be used in North Bay's new Waterfront Park. Together with Ron Rossini and Rebecca Last, the group is also preparing A Response to Climate Change for Master Gardeners, which will be presented to the MGOI board in March.

### Zone 3

**Sarnia/Lambton** MGs proudly saw the graduation of six new members – a significant number for a group that totals only 19. Not even broken bones kept one determined member from her task completing the U. of Guelph program. To celebrate, the group had a fun filled Christmas party at a local restaurant, complete with a “Chinese gift exchange”. There were lots of laughs and gifts for the hard working group.

### Zone 6

**Oakville** MGs set up an information table at the Landscape Ontario Conference held at the Toronto Congress Centre in January 2007.

**Toronto** MGs welcomed 18 new MGITs, 15 of whom will take the U. of Guelph courses, and three will sit the Intermediate Exam. The group will also hold an Advice Clinic at Canada Blooms and participate in the Green Matters Speaker Series with presentations on low maintenance gardening.

### Zone 8

Edythe Falconer has been appointed coordinator for the **Ottawa Carlton** group – congratulations! The group is planning a series of free lectures at Gloucester North Library. Topics include: Ground Covers on January 30, Shade Gardening on February 21, Vegetable Gardening on March 7, Container Gardening on March 20 and Fall Colour in the Garden on April 18.

### Zone 9

**Durham** MGs have a new group co-ordinator – welcome to Anita Vicente-Pereira.

The **Lindsay & District** MGs are involved with the Kawartha Lakes Food Source Seedy Saturday on March 24 at the Queen Street United Church in Lindsay. The day features a seed exchange, demonstration tables, speakers, vendors, a children's table and best of all, food!

Rose Roi has been appointed coordinator of the **Oxford** MGs. She and assistant

coordinator Sarah Donovan replace former coordinator Doug Winterton who ably served the group for many years. The group also welcomes MGIT, Denise Van Beer. Oxford MGs have also offered to help with the October Zone 9 Technical Update, which is being organized by the **Stratford** group.

**Peterborough & Area** MGs have initiated a series of workshops as part of the training program for MGITs. Topics include arboriculture, propagation techniques, houseplants, roses and lawn care. The program has also proven popular with the group's MGs, providing opportunities to improve their skills. The group also continues to write weekly gardening articles in the *Peterborough Examiner*, which have been well received and have raised the MG's profile in the community. The newspaper has also provided a way to share information and to advertise the hotline and website. As a result, the hotline has been busier than ever!

## Canada Blooms

The Ask the Expert booth at Canada Blooms is an opportunity for various Master Gardener groups in Ontario to show off their knowledge. Visitors to Canada Blooms have learned to appreciate our non-biased approach and science-based answers to a wide variety of some pretty tough and unusual problems in the home garden. As there are usually three or four Master Gardeners in the booth at any one time, some interesting debate can take place as to how to approach a particular problem.

The booth will be located in the Marketplace on the 800 level. MGs from all over the province are encouraged to volunteer on a day they will be visiting the event. It is a great way to meet other MGs from other groups. We will have brochures available on How to become a Master Gardener, information on gardening programs and events and our Gardening Calendar will be available for a donation of a loonie. To volunteer for this event please contact your coordinator for the booth schedule or me directly at [valerie.liney@sympatico.ca](mailto:valerie.liney@sympatico.ca) or 905-853-7126. It would be beneficial to have a secondary time that you would be available in case your first choice is taken. –Valerie Liney

## News to use

... tips for Master Gardeners

### Mystery Plant

The Halton MGs have been publishing a great contest called Mystery Plant in their newsletter. Each month MGs are asked to identify a photo of a plant like the one below, with the following clue: It's a weed that reproduces from seed. It has four-petalled yellow flowers and when the stem is broken, it oozes an orange-coloured juice. Can you guess what it is? (Answer appears under the photo)



*Chelidonium majus (Greater celandine) belongs to the poppy family. It can be found on page 86 of Publication 505 Ontario Weeds.*

### A garden tip

From the Oxford MGs comes this tip for dealing with whitefly: make a sticky coating by mixing two parts petroleum jelly with one part household detergent and spread on bright yellow cards. Place these cards near infected plants.

### RBG Growing Stronger

MG Belinda Gallagher is happy to report that the RBG is on a slow and steady road forward. Funding from both federal and provincial governments means that phase one of the rejuvenation project can be undertaken, including:

◆ Providing barrier-free access from RBG Centre to Hendrie Park Gardens

◆ Increasing year-round display and program space

◆ Re-developing Hendrie Park Gardens and gardens as a major focal point

◆ Introducing a new perennial garden on a peninsula of tableland projecting into the Grindstone Creek valley, surrounded by natural lands on three sides

◆ Providing a new gateway entrance to RBG Centre

◆ Improving the visitor's experience by renovating the entrance and parking lot.

As chair of the Science, Horticulture, Education and Conservation committee of the board Belinda is proud to be part of the process – and we're proud of her!

## On the wires

... the electronic MG

### Simcoe County Website

With the help of Carol Dunk, Simcoe County MGs have created a great new website at [www.simcoecountymg.com](http://www.simcoecountymg.com). Carol's own website at [www.caroldunk.com](http://www.caroldunk.com) is also full of lots of good information

### Niagara Website

The Master Gardeners of Niagara have a new website at [www.mastergardenersofniagara.com](http://www.mastergardenersofniagara.com). The colourful site is chock full of news and information about the group's activities.

## Tributes

... activities & achievements

### Durham Grads

The Durham Master Gardener group is pleased to announce the recent graduation from MGiT to MG of Pauline Garvey, Colleen Pearce, John Van Ekeren, and Anita Vicente-Pereira. They now have more Master Gardeners than Master Gardeners in Training!

### Grads, Grads, Grads

London/Middlesex MGs welcomed a number of new official MGs including; Lynne Campbell, Kathy Fox, Linda Fox, and Bob Worthy. Way to go former MGITs!

### Hi Praise for Hi Marks

With an average of 98.6, Simcoe County MG, Marlene Gilbert, received the highest marks in Ontario on the three University of Guelph courses. Well done!

### Trillium Award Winner

Lanark County Master Gardener Helen Halpenny was presented with the Ontario Horticultural Association's Trillium Award at the 2006 Convention in Ottawa. Helen is a past District 2 director and was on the volunteer committee hosting the 100th anniversary convention in Ottawa. Congratulations!

### Huron Honours

Congratulations to Eleanor Horst for achieving ten years' service, and welcome to new MGITs Nancy Arthur-Ische, Jodi Berg, Marg Delaney, Summer, Tyler Papple and Jerry Selk.

## Lanark Service Awards

Congratulations to Lanark MGs Ankaret Dean for 10 years of service and to Judy Wall for five years.

## MG Emeritus

Amy Pokorny, one of the founding members of the Lanark County MGs, has been granted Emeritus Status. Amy has been an active volunteer and has provided guidance to the group regarding trees and native plants.

## 20-Year Members

London/Middlesex MGs congratulates 20-year members Elmer Jorgensen, Donna Hickmott and Eve Norman-Vestergaard. Your past contributions have been mighty!

## Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

Hearty congratulations go to Muskoka-Parry Sound MGs Patty Butler, Linda Dronseika, Betty Good, Lynn McIntosh, Moira Payne and Susanne Smith on their Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

## Calendar

... upcoming horticultural events

**Saturday, February 17**

### Get the Jump on Spring Toronto Botanical Garden

Toronto MGs conduct demonstrations on organic gardening throughout the day. Information: [www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca](http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca)

**February 25**

### Gardening for the New Homeowner

Guelph/Wellington County MGs host this day-long event featuring speakers Sean Fox, John Valleau and Dugald Cameron. Information: 519-8244120 X 56714.

**March 1 to 4**

### Stratford Garden Festival Stratford Fairgrounds

Don't miss the Stratford MG booth, display gardens, marketplace and presentations. Information: 519- 271-7500; [www.stratfordgardenfestival.com](http://www.stratfordgardenfestival.com).

**March 7 to 11**

### Canada Blooms Metro Convention Centre

Plenty of plants, gorgeous

gardens, spectacular speakers and great gardening gear! Information: [www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

**March 24**

**St. Judes Church, London.** London/Middlesex MGs' annual public gardening clinic. Seating is limited to 100. Information: Nancy Abra [aabra@gtn.net](mailto:aabra@gtn.net).

**April 12**

**Faith Baptist Church, Huntsville** Muskoka/Parry Sound MGs host Paul Zammit on Container Gardening: Four Seasons of Interest. Tickets available from any MG, Treasures and Trophies in Huntsville or the Health Food Store in Bracebridge.

**Thursday, April 12 to 15**

### Ontario Garden Show Royal Botanical Garden

The region's premier gardening and design show. Information: 905-634-8003, ext. 321.

**April 13, 14 and 15**

### Peterborough Flower Show – For the Love of Gardening

**Evinrude Centre, Peterborough** Peterborough & Area and Northumberland MGs, together with the Peterborough Horticultural Society have expanded this show to more than 100 vendors, four speakers and five workshops daily. Information: [www.fortheloveofgardening.ca](http://www.fortheloveofgardening.ca)

**April 14**

### Day of Gardening Seminars Knox Presbyterian Church, St Thomas

The Elgin County MGs host this day of presentations exploring the Five Senses of gardening. Information: Helen at 519-773-9621.

## Master Gardeners of Ontario Board of Directors

**President** James Lee [jflee@sympatico.ca](mailto:jflee@sympatico.ca)

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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](mailto:lorraine.flanigan@sympatico.ca).