



# Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*

Volume 28, Issue 4

www.streetsvillehort.ca

November 2020

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## Next Meeting

**Tuesday November 10**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting 7:30pm**

**Speaker Dugald Cameron "The Fragrant Garden"**

**How to participate?**

**Send an email; to Maureen Dodd by 11pm on Monday November 9th at the very latest, earlier would be better.**

**Email Subject: add me to the Zoom Meeting [maureendodd62@gmail.com](mailto:maureendodd62@gmail.com)**

**You will receive an email invitation with a link to the Zoom meeting, on Tuesday evening click on the link, you may need to wait a short while, then you will see the meeting screen. Make sure you have the sound turned on!**

## The President's Message

November is upon us, and we've had a little taste of winter weather, although as I write this the forecast is calling for a few sunny days to come providing a last chance to get the final garden cleanup done without freezing in the process. Are you also one of those people who hates to cut down a plant that is still flowering? I am always last minute in the cold but last week's freezing nights were brutal so everything can go now.

It is also a good time to plant bulbs for next spring. It will be here before we know it and I'm sure we'll all be happy to see some colour in our gardens after the dull winter weather. Tulips, daffodils, crocus, grape hyacinth, snowdrops, so many choices (if the squirrels don't get them first).

I have also taken to planting garlic cloves over the past few years. I read that they were excellent to plant amongst the roses





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to keep aphids away, so I planted them generously around my lupins which had been destroyed the previous year. It seemed to work; no aphids in the lupins. A bonus is that the garlic scapes/flowers create an interesting and beautiful touch to the garden when they 'bloom'. And if that wasn't enough, you can cut the scapes and throw into your favourite recipe, then dig the garlic bulbs later to keep you in garlic throughout the winter. I'm not really terribly fond of garlic but there is something so satisfying about cooking with a product of your own garden patch!

Normally we'd be having our SHS Annual General Meeting this month, a legal requirement for us as a member of the OHA and a non-profit organization. Due to covid-19, the deadline for holding the meeting has been extended. We will decide in the new year when and in what format the meeting will take place.

We are experimenting with our first remote speaker on a Zoom meeting this month. Be sure to register to attend and provide us with feedback after the fact.

We will also not be able to hold our December holiday workshop meeting. This is a very social and fun meeting for most of our members and we'll all miss it this year. Does anyone have any ideas for anything that we could do as a replacement? Or maybe you have a favourite holiday craft that you could share with everyone? It's going to be a different winter for all of us in many ways but different doesn't have to be a bad thing. It's an opportunity to try something new and with all of the creativity I've seen in SHS members, who knows what delights may appear!

Please send your ideas to the SHS mailbox - [streetsvillehort@gmail.com](mailto:streetsvillehort@gmail.com). Stay safe, be well.

✂ **Marg Rowan and Janet Shaw**, Co-Presidents

## Speaker of the month: "The Fragrant Garden" by Dugald Cameron



This month we will be hosting our first ZOOM speaker event. We now have a Zoom account that allow us to have virtual meetings up to one hundred invitees.

Date: November 10th at 7:30pm , Registration: by 11pm November 9th to Maureen Dodd, [maureendodd62@gmail.com](mailto:maureendodd62@gmail.com) see page 1 for more information.

Dugald has presented to SHS several times, most recently in October 2018. Dugald's gardening career began at an early age in his English Grandmother's garden where he occasionally helped out with weeding & digging. He started Garden Import, a mail order nursery in 1983. The business was closed in December 2014 after 32 years.



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Dugald was on the Board of Directors at The Toronto Botanical Garden from 1996 to 2009. He speaks on many subjects to many Horticultural Societies in Southern Ontario, occasionally sat in for Ed Lawrence on CBC's Ontario Today, was the first president of the Greater Toronto Bulb Society and is a member of numerous horticultural societies (Toronto Botanical Garden, Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society, International Clematis Society). His gardening passions include tuberous Begonias & Clematis, Daffodils, Summer Bulbs and Tulips. ✂ Janet Shaw

## Leslie Log House Annual Report

Although we did not get started at the Log House until June 25th (due to COVID restrictions) we accomplished a whole lot this year!

The construction of the sidewalk and paving of the parking lot in the fall of 2019 left a whole mess of complications for us. The sidewalk was higher than the path had been and there was a grading issue with soil running down into the gardens. The split rail fence was approximately 6 to 8 inches away from the sidewalk leaving an issue of someone getting stuck in the gap. Concrete had been dumped into some of the flower beds and the issue of a ton of weeds by the time we got in there was another problem. The front bed had literally turned into a bowl with the centre of the garden being lower than the edges. The ground near the front door was bare with no grass.



Left: Spring 2020

Right: Fall 2020





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Thanks to the teamwork of our faithful volunteers all of those issues were dealt with effectively and at no cost to us! During the summer we weeded, watered and dug out all the plants in the front bed, added soil and replanted the whole area.

With the help of the City, soil and compost was delivered for the beds, the fence was moved, the gap filled in with river rock, and the sod was laid.

The Log House property is certainly looking a whole lot better than it did when we left last fall. Our volunteers (Dean Scully, Grace Nelham, Janice Ward, Viv Holmes, Nury Garzon, Janet Shaw, Marg Rowan, Monica Ross, Jon Eldridge, Steve Fenech, John Dodd, Shelley Dodd, and Marianne Brown) logged 300+ hours. Without them we would never have accomplished the work we did.

The garden is now put to bed for winter and we look forward to Spring when we once again return to our "Community Service" work at the Log House. ✂ **Carol Ashford, Leslie Log House Garden Chair**

## Archive Report 2020

The Archives consist of binders full of pictures and newspaper clippings of events that have taken place since our re-establishment in 1972. Pictures are taken at various events and meetings and placed in the binders so we may look back and see how our Society has grown and see our members at work in the community or how they participate in our plant sales, flower shows, garden tours, community work and workshops.

The photo albums are usually on display at various functions such as our AGM and Plant Sale. Please take the time to browse through them next time they are on display to familiarise yourselves with our activities and also put names to the many faces of our volunteers.

Having taken over this responsibility at the AGM October 2013, I have taken a few pictures this year and will have 2019-20 pictures and clippings entered in a photo album. Should you have any photos taken at our events we are happy to include them in our binder. ✂ **Grace Nelham, Archive Chair**

## Membership Report

2019-2020 saw our membership decrease by 4.9% from prior year (2018-2019). June membership at year end 2019-2020 numbered 97.

8 new members joined SHS throughout the year, and we had 8 guests participate in our monthly meetings. 13 memberships were not renewed.

Membership participation averaged 52 members per evening. We hope to see everyone at our next 'real' meeting and until then please join us for our Zoom meeting on November 10.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2020-21 please let us know if you will be doing so. When we are able to hold in person meetings. [streetsvillehort@gmail.com](mailto:streetsvillehort@gmail.com)

✂ **Vivianne Holmes, Membership Chair**



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## Rotary Park Report 2020

In the fall of 2019 we planted 50 tulip bulbs in 2 bunches and in April 2020 they seemed to all come through with little or no damage from the squirrels, and they were beautiful along with the daffodils planted in previous years but very few people were there to see them.

I did a quick clean-up of the park in April but then received a letter from the city, telling me not to do it again until we received permission from them. Permission wasn't received until the end of July - although we may have resumed working a little before that.

There was a lot of cleaning up to be done and always plenty of weeding but very little planting of new plants except those that our members brought from their own gardens.



An ornamental tree died in the Spring. It was a Weeping Caragana planted in memory of William Duke, and our board agreed to replace it with a Japanese Flowering cherry (*prunus serrulata* 'Kiku-shidare-zakura'). This was carefully planted on October 8th and we look forward to it's bright pink Spring flowering.

We've had ongoing problems with lack of water at the park and were determined to resolve them this year. In August, Enza Lafratta wrote to Councillor George Carlson who put us in touch with the right people at the Parks department. We met with them in September and they have promised to provide a hose connection at the West end, provide access to a hose at the East end and to evaluate and amend if necessary, the irrigation system in April 2021. Wow - all this time we've been asking the wrong people! To top it all, they just brought us 50 tulip bulbs which we'll plant next week.

Our volunteers have worked hard to get the park looking good again, and they are : Nick & Enza Lafratta, Asoke Bera, Anita and Alex King and Sandra Jensen. Thank you so much to them and I look forward with a lot of optimism to 2021 and invite others to join us in the park on Thursday mornings. ✂ Jon Eldridge



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## Speakers Report 2020

We enjoyed 5 speakers between September 2019 and March 2020.

September 10th, 2019: **Mushrooms and Fungi** by Jo Ann Howes, past president and vice-president of the Erin Horticultural Society.

JoAnne is an avid organic country gardener & seed saver with a special interest in all things "fungi & mushroom" related. Her presentation was very informative and received positive reviews from members, especially those having an interest in mushroom and fungi identification and collection.

October 8th, 2019: **Lochland Botanicals** by Diane Corlett.

She and her husband started their 93 acre Halton farm which is dedicated to growing toxin free, herbal and floral products for culinary, cosmetic, and wellness purposes. The farm's growing beds are open to visitors and contain over 40,000 organically grown plants, including more than 140 different species. They also offer meditation and yoga classes. Diane's relaxed and humorous style of presentation as she related their journey from the beginning to opening in 2017, was most enjoyable. She had available some of her organic cosmetic products for purchase.



January 14th, 2020: Mehdi Mosallah, owner and operator of **TreeLocate** based in Halton, entertained us with illustrative photographs and accounts of the many large trees he has removed, transported and replanted. Through his photographs and accounts, he related the enormity and challenges experienced with some projects, and observed conditions and soils for optimal tree growth.



February 11th, 2020: **Bird and Blooms: Photographing Birds Near and Far**  
By Dave Taylor

Dave is an accomplished wildlife photographer and the author of more than 40 books and several magazine articles on wildlife and ecology. He is currently the Educational Program Director/Consultant for The Riverwood Conservancy. Dave's stunning photographs from around the world kept us in awe, and his tales of the efforts expended to shoot the perfect photo illustrated the patience and determination required to obtain them.



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March 10th, 2020: **Orchids** by Dr. Larry Petersen from the University of Guelph Professor Emeritus.

In addition to discussing the Phalaenopsis orchids we all are familiar with, he educated us in the diversity of orchids found in nature around the world. He brought along copies of his book "When is a Flower Not a Flower", which several members purchased.

*Due to the COVID 19 State of Emergency put in place March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by the Ontario Government, the speakers for April, May and June had to be cancelled. We hope to have those speakers present to SHS in the future.* ✂ Janet Shaw

## **Plant Sale Report 2020**

We started planning for the 2020 plant sale in February, there are always tasks that need to be done while snow is still on the ground. Tracking sheets were created for volunteer hours, number of plants potted per plant variety, and labels needed. Number stickers for our plant sale signs were ordered and received.

Labels that were used the previous year need to be washed and sorted into plant species, Shelley Dodd took responsibility for this task. Janice Ward collected pots from Terra.

Publicity was planned, and new ideas were discussed for promoting our sale to neighborhood groups.

Potting dates discussed and organized with Ross and Sarah Pengilley. And then.....

✂ **Monica Ross Plant Sale Chair**

## **Publicity report 2019-2020**

Our 2019 October Open house was promoted on a total of 21 websites, including those of our local politicians' councilors George Carlson, Pat Saito, and Sue McFadden

Other local groups include Gardenmaking.com, Streetsville Village Times, Streetsville Living Facebook page, Streetsville Hort Facebook, the Streetsville BIA, Mississauga.com, icangarden.com, Churchill Meadows Residents Association, Eventbrite, SNAPD North community events calendar, elocalpost.com/Streetsville, and the City of Mississauga and Region of Peel calendars.

✂ **Monica Ross, Publicity Chair**



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## Fundraising Report



Our fall 2019 bulb sale was a success. We made a profit of \$198.02, 25.6% of the cost.

We had 14 packages left after the sale, those bulbs were potted for sale at our April 2020 meeting, which would have increased our profit to \$271.22 however we did not have an April meeting so the pots stayed in my raised bed and unfortunately squirrels ate every bulb!

✂ Monica Ross



## 2019-2020 Volunteer Report

This past year has been different, and COVID-19 had a huge impact on the total number of volunteer hours, as we had to cancel our annual Plant Sale, spring meetings, and spring and early summer community gardening.

Overall, we contributed a total of 1124.3 hours between September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 which is about half as much as last year.



Hats off to those volunteers who kept up the garden beds at Rotary Park and Leslie Log House, with over 313 hours of gardening completed! Many thanks and much appreciation to Carol Ashford, Asoke Bera, Mary Ann Brown, Shelley Dodd, Jon Eldridge, Viv Holmes, Sandra Jensen, Alex King, Anita King, Enza Lafratta, Nick Lafratta, Grace Nelham, Monica Ross, Dean Scully, Janet Shaw, and Janet Ward!!!

Thanks also to the following board members who spent more than 100 hours looking after the running of your horticultural society: Monica Ross, Marg Rowan, Nury Garzon, and Janet Shaw. Thank you to everyone who contributed, regardless of the number of hours – every hour helps.

✂ Maureen Dodd, Volunteer Chair.



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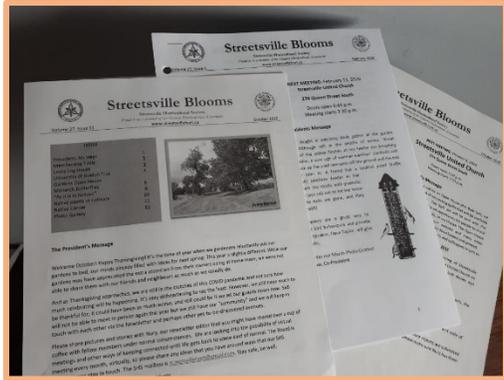
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## Newsletter Report 2020

Ten editions of Streetsville Blooms were published for 2019-2020 year. We e-mailed it to 78 members and seven members receive the newsletter by mail and pay a fee of \$10 per year to offset the cost of mailing

Three colour copies of the newsletter were sent to OHA to be considered for award at the OHA July 2020 AGM, however the AGM was cancelled. Janet Shaw submitted an article from our April 2020 newsletter that was included in the OHA Trillium

Summer 2020 issue.

Information used is submitted by committee chairs, board of directors and readers of the newsletter including gardening tips, poems, photographs, recipes and timely articles. Special thanks to Heather Marchment who writes "The Native Corner" and Grace Nelham for the pictures and articles. Also, I have contributions from Steve Fenech, Franca Ambrozic and Carol Zarb. Also, I am grateful for the messages of our readers: Thanks to Ursula, John and Janice. I am also extremely thankful to Monica for the proofreading.

Total net expenses for the newsletter were \$76.35. I have used our prepaid printing card at UPS in Streetsville for ten copies of the newsletter monthly, we have a balance of 2432 pages of printing black and white, and 92 for the colour on our UPS card. Printed copies of newsletters are kept in binders and we still have envelopes and the Society stamps.

It is a pleasure to assemble the newsletter every month, learn about gardening and enjoy the beauty of nature. ✂️ **Nury Garzon.**

## Flower Show Report

We were able to hold just two Flower Shows in our 2019/2020 season, those being September and October 2019. Debbie Lemire was unable to continue as Flower Show Chair for those months, and Anita and Alex King kindly volunteered to Chair those shows with the very helpful assistance of several volunteer coordinators.

In September there were 10 exhibitors. In the Cultural category Lorena D'Archie won Best in Show and Judges Choice was awarded to Sue Harshman. There were no entries in the Design category.

In October there were 11 exhibitors. Best in Show was awarded to Monika Schouten for her Cultural arrangement. Monika also received the Judges Choice award for her Design entry. In the member judged pumpkin contest, Henry Schouten's design received the most votes.

Flower shows planned for spring 2020 were not held as all General meetings from April to June were cancelled due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency.



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We dearly hope that we will be meeting in person again in early 2021 and as soon as that happens Flower Shows can resume. A reminder that we are looking for a volunteer to act as Flower Show Chairperson for the 2020/2021 season. Education and assistance in what is required in taking on this role is available, so if you are interested, please let anyone on the Board know! Or contact us at [streetsvillehort@gmail.com](mailto:streetsvillehort@gmail.com)

✂ Janet Shaw



Maureen Dodd has volunteered to be our new webmaster and will be updating the Streetsville Horticultural Society website.

## Refreshment Table Report

The refreshment table always groans with goodies generously donated by our members. The social part of meeting and chatting over a "cuppa" and enjoying a treat, is a part of our meeting that I'm sure everyone misses. Thanks to so many for taking time to share with others.

The "lug a mug" initiative was very well received and is more important now than ever. What that will look like in the future remains to be seen.

Any time we have a potluck I so look forward to trying EVERYTHING that folks share; especially family favourites and heritage dishes. I for one will miss that this time around.

Remember, the time it takes to make homemade goodies counts as volunteer hours. We keep track of the names of all the donors so please put your name on your donation. Stay safe everyone and like me, perhaps you are having even more meaningful conversations with your house plants!! For the year, income from member donations to the refreshment table was \$182.10 our expenses for purchasing tea, coffee, cream, sugar, and napkins were \$62.53 , resulting in a profit of \$119.57

Stay safe everyone and like me, perhaps you are having even more meaningful conversations with your house plants!!

Cheers ✂ Cathy Clipperton. Refreshment Chair





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## **Native Corner: Walking Fern – *Asplenium rhizophyllum***

Fall is officially upon us, and as the weather cools and we continue to explore, we are less distracted by the showier plants and colours, and are often treated to some rare finds that continue to hang on late in the year (many hanging on throughout the year). One such rare find I happened upon a few weeks ago hiking at Devil's Pulpit. I was busy trying to safely cross some limestone boulders when I noticed how close I was to putting my hand right on a curious species that I've only seen one other time (and that was because I was looking for it at Silver Creek). The uncommon and unique Walking Fern.

As I watched a family pass me on the trail and put their hands on the same rock I did, not noticing the fern, I wondered how many people have passed by this rare beauty, too engulfed in their own musings, failing to see what's right before their distracted eyes. An interesting little evergreen, the plant actually gets its name from its unusual reproductive strategy.

The walking fern produces offspring when the slender tips of its fronds touch the plush moss and send out new roots. As many new plants grow, this creates a mat with overlapping fronds arching into the moss, covering the top (and often spreading down the sides) of limestone rocks.

A walking fern may have taken up to five centuries to adapt to that particular rock. Its roots extend into all the little pockets in the rock, modifying the soil beneath the moss. No other fern creates a symbiotic relationship like this – reciprocity at it's best. This very special relationship cannot be reproduced by digging up this fern and replanting somewhere else, and it is unfortunate when the ignorant attempt to do so.

This perennial fern has long, narrow, fine pointed, arching leaves that radiate from the short rhizome. As said before, tips touching the ground can sprout new plants but occasionally, sprouts arise from the basal lobes of the frond. As a result of this behaviour, old plants are often surrounded by a dense family of attached plantlets. The fronds grow in star-shaped tufts and young plants are flat to the ground while older plants have semi-erect and/or arching fronds. It makes it's home on shaded, moss-covered faces of limestone or other basic cliffs, rocks, and boulders as well as edges, cracks, and crevices of moist outcroppings, usually with a northerly exposure. It is sometimes found on the ground or fallen logs, but rarely on sandstone.

The distinctive fronds can reach 1-15" long and 1-2" wide at the base, with the fertile fronds being somewhat larger than the sterile ones. An evergreen, the blades are slightly leathery, shiny green above, paler below,



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smooth, and usually heart-shaped or somewhat ear-shaped at the base. Triangular in appearance, it tapers to a long, thin point. The margins can be wavy or indented (like the above picture), and the veins are sometimes netted near the midrib. Sori are often numerous but are scattered irregularly throughout the blade at the junctures of the veins.

Next time you're out and about, have a look around - it's a perfect time to catch something understated, but exquisite. As always, never dig up plants from the wild, and don't buy from nurseries that do. ✂

## Heather Marchment



## Ecosystem restoration-The Iron Curtain Greenbelt- Completely Unplanned and Unexpected Success

Ecological restoration is the process of restoring the original functions of an ecosystem that has been damaged by human actions, like over grazing, forest clearance and pollution or by natural events such as forest fires and floods. Most of the time the restoration is planned, trees are replanted, soil is rehabilitated and habitat for wildlife is recreated. The success rate depends on the extent of damage to the original ecosystem and it can take many years for improvements to be obvious. Sometimes it isn't planned, over time fields surrounding an abandoned farm will return to the forest that was present originally.





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Sometimes completely unplanned and unexpected changes happen!

What happens when you seal off a corridor of land for 40 years and don't let anyone in? You create a protected habitat 1400km long and between 30 and several hundred metres wide. Soil has not been contaminated by pesticides and herbicides. You are setting the stage and creating the conditions that will allow natural ecosystems to become sustainable. The "Iron Curtain" separated men and nature in Europe for almost 40 years. Lethal to humans, it was a blessing for nature as endangered animals and plants found an



undisturbed home in the shadow of the border. Today, the former border acts as a "Green Belt" across Europe- a treasure trove of bio-diversity. After the border was opened it quickly became apparent that the area had returned to a natural wilderness. Teams of ornithologists, botanists, entomologists, walked for hundreds of kilometers along the former border and recorded what they found. More than 1,000 species from Germany's List of endangered species were identified.

On field trips into the former border zone, researchers found a surprising mix of habitats that had disappeared from both sides of the border zone due to land use pressures.

In December 1989, environmentalists from both sides of the border met to set in motion a plan for the German Green belt. The "German Green Belt" consists of 150 natural parks, 150 flora-and-fauna areas, and three biosphere reserves. It starts at the Baltic and runs to the Czech border. That idea has now been expanded to create the European greenbelt, a nature reserve that will run 6800km along the entire length of the former Iron Curtain.





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The interconnecting habitats along the former border allow animals to move from one area to another. Rare plant species have persisted because their habitats are still intact; they have not disappeared due to urban sprawl. These photos show the size of the greenbelt, in some areas the forested regions were part of the security zone and are included in the green belt.



In some areas the Green Belt provides valuable habitats for wolves, bears, lynxes, eagles and migrating birds such as the Spoonbill and Crane.

Much of this information is taken from a paper I wrote for a University of Guelph Course: The Naturalized Landscape.

For more information follow these links

✂ Monica Ross

<https://www.euronatur.org/en/what-we-do/campaigns-and-initiatives/european-green-belt>

<https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/>

[https://issuu.com/euronatur/docs/european\\_greenbelt\\_10\\_years\\_brochur](https://issuu.com/euronatur/docs/european_greenbelt_10_years_brochur)



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## Everyone needs help in the garden: Steve Fenech

