



# Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

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

[www.streetsvillehort.ca](http://www.streetsvillehort.ca)



Volume 29, Issue 4

December 2021



## Next Meeting

**Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Streetsville United Church**  
**274 Queen Street South**  
**Doors open at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting starts 7:30pm**  
**Please bring Food Bank**  
**Donations**

## Co-President's Message

The December meeting will be an in person meeting in the auditorium (Big Room) of the Church.

Proof of vaccination will be required, and masks must be worn. Guests will not be admitted.

Plans include a demonstration of how to make a Christmas table centre piece.

We have been given a collection of gardening books by someone who has moved to the west coast, these books will be available to our members at \$1 each.

Raffle table and Refreshments including Coffee/Tea/Hot Apple Cider and Cookies.

And the best part; a chance to chat with each other and talk about gardening.



**We wish you a happy and healthy Christmas: Carol and Monica**



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## November 2021 AGM

### Meeting highlights

Twenty-eight members attended our Zoom Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 9th, including new members Judi Kokis, Sheila Robart-Morgan, and Vicki Cook, Maria Casalino a returning member was not able to attend.

Maureen Dodd set up the Zoom meeting. It has been wonderful to have Maureen's tech skills during the pandemic to keep members in touch with each other through Zoom meetings.

Before the start of the meeting many members discussed how well plants in their gardens have grown this season. The canna lily tubers Janet Shaw obtained from the Streetsville Business Association and that were started indoors in February and sold to members were a hot topic! Sue and Rob Harshman had success growing theirs in pots and some grew over 10 foot tall. Mike and Pat Salisbury also had success as well, both in their garden and pots. Sheila discussed how planting in "lighter and fluffier" soil, using mushroom compost seemed to produce the best results, such as her 5 foot delphiniums which are still blooming.

Grace Nelham shared a lovely photo of the Japanese Maple she purchased in 1993 which is a spectacular red hue. Monica showed her Chinese Fan Palm which she just brought inside to over winter.

Carol read the President's message highlighting the successes of the SHS as noted in the November newsletter and yearly reports, during this unprecedented year which had no in-person meetings. Carol asked for member input regarding the December in-person meeting, as well as commemorating the SHS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022.

Monica Ross discussed the financial report and fielded member questions. She explained that speaker costs had risen because in the previous year there were no speakers for 6 months due to the pandemic.

Carol presented the Jean Kennedy Outstanding Volunteer Award to Viv Holmes for her positive contribution to the society by helping without being asked, taking on new tasks such as the Pollinator Gardens, and her congenial manner. Viv has just recently stepped up to be Refreshment Chair with Martha Witney when we resume in-person meetings. Viv was very honoured to be recognized for her efforts!

Doreen Coyne, District 15 Assistant Director, conducted the elections. The 2021/22 board members are:

Monica Ross & Carol Ashford – Co-Presidents

Judi Kokis – Secretary

Mary-Ann Brown- Treasurer

Marg Rowan – Past President

Grace Nelham-Archives and Volunteer Hours Chair

Nury Garzon – Newsletter editor

Robb Dods & Martha Witney – Financial Auditors

The evening concluded with some discussions about the December in-person meeting. We look forward to reconnecting with you in person soon!



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How well do you know the BOD members?



Carol Ashford: Her favourite place is the Leslie Log House; she also belongs to the Streetsville Historical Society and loves to spend time at her sewing machine making quilts. She joined Streetsville Horticultural Society in 1995.

Mary-Ann Brown is very active, likes to walk and be outside, she helps as much she can for example at the Raffle table and Leslie Log House. She joined Streetsville Horticultural Society in 2019.

Nury Garzon Born in Colombia, her favourite color is purple. She likes gardening, reading and playing sudoku. Favourite plant: succulents, she joined Streetsville Horticultural Society in 2018.

Judi Kokis was born in Montreal, Quebec on the 14th of June. She loves colour and is partial to turquoise right now. Besides gardening, she plays bridge, reads, listens to music of all kinds, goes to the opera and loves live theatre. Blue Jays, Raptors, Buffalo Bills and travel as well as being a political junkie occupy her time. Oh yes, and food - both eating and cooking are very important. She joined Streetsville Horticultural Society in 2021.

Grace Nelham: Born in the south of England to English and Welsh parents, emigrated to Canada with her first husband 56 years ago. Loves: spending time with family and friends, Canada, nature, travelling, walking alone on the beach at sunrise and sunset. Hobbies: Past; sailing, tennis, golf, camping. Current; photography, walking, gardening, reading, singing. Joined Streetsville Horticultural Society in 1993.



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Monica Ross was born at Horsham St Faith RAF base Norfolk, England in August 1954. In 1966 she moved with her parents and 5 siblings to Oakville, Ontario. Favourite colours, all greens and the blue of the Caribbean Sea. Interests: ecological restoration, horticulture, travel and an almost obsessive preoccupation with family history. She joined Streetsville Horticultural Society in 2013.

Marg Rowan was born in Corner Brook Newfoundland on October 4th; her favorite color is blue; she likes any recipe with chocolate and her favourite plant is hibiscus. She has a beautiful 100-hundred-year-old maple tree in her backyard. She joined Streetsville Horticultural Society in 2006.

## Membership Desk

This month our membership continued to grow with 7 members renewing or joining, bringing our total to 72. We welcomed 3 new members, Brent Hopkins, Sheila Robart-Morgan, and Vicki Cook plus returning member Maria Casalino.

Thank you for talking to your neighbours about the Streetsville Horticultural Society and promoting all the benefits of membership!

For those of you waiting to renew using e-transferring, it has not been completed yet by the bank so please drop off your form and payment at the December meeting, mail it, or deliver it to either Mary-Ann Brown or myself.

✂ **Shelley Dodd**





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## Volunteer of the year 2020-2021



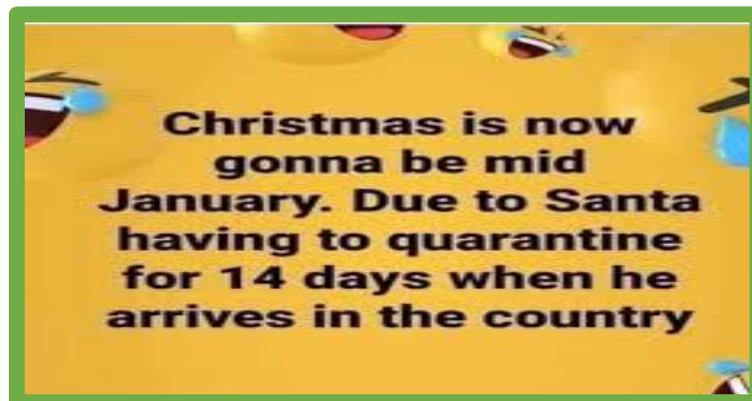
The “Jean Kennedy Outstanding Volunteer” award was awarded at the November AGM. Jean Kennedy was one of our members, who many years ago was always willing to help and first to step up and volunteer with a smile on her face. Sadly, Jean passed away in 2003 and the “Outstanding Volunteer” award was set up in her memory.

Some of the criteria for winning the award is to have a congenial and pleasant manner, help out at meetings without being asked, volunteer hours to the society for community gardens, overall participation, willing to take on tasks, not looking for recognition etc.

This years’ winner has been a member since 2016, has served on the board for 2 years, worked diligently at the Leslie Log House and Rotary Park, and most recently has stepped up to run the Refreshment Table with Martha Witney at our regular in-person meetings.

Congratulations to Viv Holmes on winning the “Outstanding Volunteer” Award!

You are amazing Viv! 🎉 Carol Ashford





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## Congratulations Mary Gilbert

Streetsville Horticultural Society sends “Congratulations” to Life Member Mary Gilbert. Mary joined SHS in 1983 and has taken on many duties and worn many hats over those 38 years. She has been Secretary, President, Flower Show Convenor, Workshop Leader and has had many other jobs within the Society over this period.



On November 27th Mary Celebrated her 90th Birthday.

We wish Mary all the best in years to come and hope she continues to stay in good health and is able to join us regularly at our meetings.

**Happy 90th Birthday Mary!!**

Pictures l to r: Mary and her sister Eileen Lamberton; Monika Schouten, Mary Gilbert and Ursula Evanoff ready to present a Christmas demo; bottom picture: Past Presidents celebrating our 40th Anniversary; L to R: Grace Nelham, Carol Ashford, Pauline Brown, Mary Gilbert and Sarah Pengilly. Center Picture: Mary Gilbert with award for SHS’s “Front Door” entry at the CNE. ✂ Carol Ashford



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## Over-wintering Dahlias

The following tips were provided by Anna Leggatt our speaker on October 12<sup>th</sup>

- Dig up dahlias immediately after the first frost - or before if the foliage is dying.
- Label the clumps.
- Cut stems down to 20cm. Carefully remove extra soil.
- Leave in a cool, dry place with the stems sloping down so sap will trickle out. When dry, inspect and remove damaged tubers.
- Clumps can be divided at this point but if you cannot clearly see buds, don't do it.
- Get a cardboard box (plastic may keep extra wet in) and put tubers in a sterile damp, soil mix. Not pure peat moss.
- Cover with several layers of newspaper.
- Place the box in a cool dark room at about 16c.
- Spray the newspaper with water from time to time, checking the tubers.
- Late March, bring into a warmer place and divide tubers as they sprout, potting them up if still cold outside.



I hope the above is useful. She also provided us with a full list of bulbs shown in her talk and if anyone would like a copy of this, please contact Monica, Carol or myself.

✂ Jon Eldridge



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**My Primrose - Primrose flowers (*Primula polyantha*)** usually bloom in early spring, offering a variety of form, size, and color. ... **Blooming often lasts throughout summer** and in some areas, they will continue to delight the fall season with their outstanding colors. This year my Primroses have bloomed Spring, Summer, Fall and are

blooming still!  
Photo taken November 19, 2021. ✂ Grace Nelham.

*Primula* is a diminutive of the [Latin](#) *primus*, "prime", alluding to the fact that this flower is among the first to appear in spring.



## Fall at the Leslie Log House





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## Native Corner Christmas Fern – *Polystichum acrostichoides*



Considering the festive season is upon us, I thought I'd highlight one of our aptly named ferns this month. Of our evergreen ferns, this is the best fitted to serve as a decoration in winter. In fact, Christmas Fern earned its name because it stays green right through the holiday season. A tough, robust, leathery fern, it has deep green, glossy green fronds year-round. They need only a mixture of red berries to become a close rival to the holly at Christmas time.

Wrapped in a garment of brown scales, the young fronds of the Christmas Fern are sent into the world early in the spring. When we go to the woods in April looking for early spring ephemerals, or to listen to the first songs of the Robin and the Bluebird, we notice that last year's fronds are still fresh and green. Low down among them though, curled up like tawny caterpillars, are the young silvery fronds.

The early ephemerals will have made way for pink and blue and white hepaticas, for starry bloodroot, and for trout lilies; Thrushes and Orioles will have joined the Robins and the Bluebirds before these newcomers present much of an appearance. When the tender, delicately green fronds are first unrolled they contrast strongly with their polished, dark green, leathery companions.

The lustrous fronds grow in clusters from a crownless rootstock and range from 12-32" in length and 1.5-5" wide. In this plant the difference is quite conspicuous between the fertile and sterile fronds. The sterile ones are shorter and appear broader, while the fertile are tall, slender, and noticeably contracted by the abundantly fruiting pinnae near the apex.

Found in humus-rich rocky crevices, dry or moist wooded slopes or along stream banks





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where it is cool moist and shady, the Christmas Fern fronds have 20 to 40 pairs of pinnae(leaflets). The pinnae are pointy at the tip, while the base has an upward pointing lobe resembling the toe on a Christmas stocking.

A delight to see throughout the year, the Christmas Fern is an easy one to identify. I hope to see you out there exploring!

Happy spotting!

As always, never dig up plants from the wild, and don't buy from nurseries that do. **Heather Marchment**

## FOR BIRD LOVERS

For our members that have bird feeders there is the link the for the Project FeederWatch critical for research to help winter bird populations. The project is funded by our caring members who also submit their backyard sightings for data analysis. <https://www.birdscanada.org/you-can-help/project-feederwatch/>



The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a winter tradition for thousands of Canadians. This upcoming season marks the 122nd year for the CBC in Canada. If you're interested in birds and their conservation, I encourage you to participate – whether you're a novice birder or a seasoned expert. Here is the link <https://www.birdscanada.org/the-christmas-bird-count-a-tradition-that-helps-birds/>

Getting involved is easy! Count birds on your circle's count day from December 14 to January 5. You even have the option of counting from the confort of your home!!



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**Curious facts about Bird Song** Birds sing to defend and impress: For a bird, singing can be draining. It is both energetically expensive and alerts predators. So then why do birds sing? Evidence suggests that in part, it is to proclaim and defend their territories. Studies have also shown that songs play a crucial role in attracting and impressing potential mates and may signal the overall health of the singer. As in humans, singing in birds is often a chance to show off.

**Chances are when you hear a bird singing it's a male.** The majority of female songbirds in temperate zones use shorter, simpler calls while the males produce the longer and more complex vocalizations we think of as song. The story is different in the tropics where females commonly sing, and many species engage in duetting.

The songbird syrinx makes vocal gymnastics possible—for example the Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) is able to sweep through **more notes than are on a piano keyboard in just a tenth of a second.**

**Songbirds begin learning their songs while still in the nest,** listen to the adults singing around them. Following fledging, young birds attempt to replicate these songs, practicing until they have matched their tutor's song. Some songbirds, such as the catbirds, thrashers, and mockingbirds, learn to mimic other species—frogs, cats, and even car alarms.

**Songbirds have local dialects,** just as humans have regional accents, some bird species develop distinct, area-specific dialects. These local dialects are then passed on to the next generation of young birds, which hear the songs being performed by their father and other local males. After many generations, the birds from one area can sound quite different from those the next mountain over.

**They sing at dawn (we're not sure why):** Birds are often up before dawn singing their hearts out and adding their voices to the dawn chorus. Many of the songs heard at dawn are thought to function as warnings given by male birds in defense of their territory and mate. While the dawn chorus is a common phenomenon wherever birds live, little is known about why birds concentrate their efforts during these early hours.

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/birdsong/>



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