



Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 30, Issue 7

www.streetsvillehort.ca

March 2023



Next Meeting
Tuesday, March 14th
Streetsville United Church
In Heritage Hall
274 Queen Street South
Set up at 6:30 pm
Doors open at 7 p.m.
Meeting starts at 7:30 pm

Co-Presidents Message

Upcoming garden events

Brampton Horticultural Society in partnership with the City of Brampton are hosting the 11th Annual Seedy Saturday and Garden Show Saturday March 11TH 2023 at Century Garden Recreation Centre at 340 Vodden Street East, Brampton 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

- Seed exchange and Swap If you have seeds to share, or would like seeds (vegetables, flowers, trees or herbs) from fellow gardeners.
- Hear from Gardening experts Attend one or more of our presentations
- Connect with more than 30 vendors to include seed vendors, artisans, educational displays, environmental & historic exhibits
- Kid's Zone for children accompanied by an adult
- Get expert advice from Horticultural Societies and Master Gardeners
- Access gardening resources
- Enjoy our Seedy Café
- Seed catalogues and used books available
- Free Admission, first 100 visitors receive a plant

Our April meeting will be an Open House: this event is a great opportunity to introduce local residents to our society. We need new members, their skills to help our society grow and prosper please ask your friends, neighbours, colleagues to join us for the evening. Open House information will be posted on our own website plus many other local event websites.



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The **District 15 Annual General meeting** will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 1 pm to 5 pm at St. Matthew's United Church, 333 Crosby Avenue, Richmond Hill. Your District AGM is an opportunity to mingle and chat with fellow gardeners and horticultural society/club members from across the District.

Registration for the day will be \$15.00 per person. This fee will include coffee and tea before the start of the meeting and light refreshments with coffee and tea during the break. There will be activities, as well as Awards presentations, the business portion, and the elections. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please speak to either of us.

Carol and Monica, Co-presidents SHS ❀

Membership Desk

Hopefully, you are having success nurturing your newly purchased succulents or your forced bulbs from the December meeting have made an appearance! Spring is definitely in the air and I am sure you are as anxious as I am to begin a new season of gardening.

At our Valentine's Day meeting, we welcomed new members Judy & Stephen and guests Jadzia and Erica. Our membership has hit 94, with 16 new members! We look forward to having our new members participate in our community gardening and plant sale. ❀ **Shelley Dodd**



Refreshment Table

Thank you to members: Marg Allen, Sue Harshman, Judi Kokis, Vivianne Holmes, Maureen Dodd, Marg Rowan, Faulene Hopkin, Martha Witney, and Judy Castelino for donating to the valentine's refreshment table.

Please remember to sign the sheet if you contribute tell Grace Nelham the amount of time that you used to prepare, etc. as volunteer hours.

We are experiencing a rise in the cost of styrofoam cups, milk, cream, and coffee, so, to offset some of the costs please lug your mug to the meetings.

❀ **Martha Witney and Vivianne Holmes.** Refreshment Co-ordinators



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Speaker of the month

Our speaker on March 14th is Allie Abram from the City of Mississauga Parks, Forestry & Environment Division.

Her topic is "Natural Areas Management in Mississauga".

The City's Woodlands and Natural Areas team is responsible for the restoration, expansion, and protection of natural areas in Mississauga and Allie will be sharing information about the Naturalization program and Invasive species management plan, current projects, and how residents of Mississauga can get involved.

Allie has a background in ecology, ecological monitoring, and community-focused ecological restoration and she enjoys engaging with the public about all nature-related topics.

I will be away for this meeting, but I'm sure you will make Allie welcome, and hope you will have an interesting Q & A session. 🌸 Jon Eldridge



Member judged photo contest

SHS is holding a member judged photo contest that will take place at our March meeting. Bring your 4 x 6 colour and black and white photos to the March meeting. The contest will be judged by the members present.

Print your name on the back of your photos. All photos must be nature related. One entry per class per member. Family memberships may have 2 entries, BUT the photo entries

must be taken by different people.

The classes for the contest are My favourite Nature Photo-colour and My favourite Nature Photo-black and white.



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Seed season



Borrow. Grow. Return. When the growing season is over, harvest your seeds and return a portion of them to the library, to help keep the seed library self-sustaining. The Mississauga Seed Library accepts only open-pollinated heirloom (non-hybrid, non-GMO) pesticide-free seeds, which are less than 4 years old. Seeds should be clean and labeled with the seed type, year grown, and the location where it was grown.

Orders for Spring 2023 will begin on March 11 at 1 pm.

Planting Calendar for Mississauga is available at <https://www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-calendar/ON/Mississauga>

Toronto Botanical Garden: "Get the jump on spring & Seedy Saturday", March 25, 2023.

Grown in Mississauga. Learn how to grow vegetables at home. https://ecosource.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Grown-in-Mississauga_Training-Manual_-min-min-1.pdf

10 Best Vegetables to Grow in Ontario (2023 Guide) at <https://thegardeningdad.com/best-vegetables-to-grow-in-ontario/>

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Bloom charts

Bloom charts are very helpful when designing your garden, they help you keep track of when plants in your garden are in flower, showing you when there are gaps in bloom. It can be a useful tool in achieving succession of bloom in your garden design.

Using a bloom chart for individual areas can also be a help in colour design, letting you plan beds with simple colour schemes, such as white or mauve sections of the garden, or more intricate combinations of multiple colours such as reds, oranges, and yellow with purple bloom accents.

A bloom chart has places for you to write in plant names on one side and columns for the dates of bloom across the top. List the flowering trees, shrubs, perennials, vines and bulbs you already have. Collect any photos or notes you have; this information will be your guide to starting a record of flowering schedules.

As each plant begins to flower, mark the dates it is in bloom on the chart. For example, if daffodils begin to bloom the second week of April and last until the second week in May.

Once the bloom-time chart is filled in, it not only shows what plants you have growing and when they flower. It will also show you when nothing is in bloom. Filling that gap will need research.

Look at what is in bloom in your neighbourhood, ask neighbours and people in your local Hort society for recommendations.

If you use online sources, make sure to include hardiness Zone 5/6. Some perennials adapt to seasonal temperatures, coming into flower earlier in warmer zones (Zones 5 and 6), and later in colder zones, winter conditions stay later in spring and hard frost comes earlier in autumn, shortening the growing season. Cooler or warmer garden areas, those that only get morning sun vs areas that have full afternoon sun will affect when the same plants flower in those areas.

Once you have taken this into account you can plan your garden appropriately, so you can have something in flower at all times during the growing season in your area. When you have this information, plant selection at the nursery becomes more purposeful, rather than being based on whim ("Oh, that looks pretty, let's buy it").



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There are many examples available on the internet or you can create your own, like this simple table.

Plant name	Plant colour	Start bloom date	Finish bloom date



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Happy World Water Day!

March 22, we come together to raise awareness and take action to tackle our current water issues. There are many ways you can help protect and enhance local freshwater areas, and you do not have to have a shoreline property to get started!

Top ten actions we can take to protect local freshwater:

- ✓ Use non-toxic cleaning products
- ✓ Fix leaky faucets
- ✓ Properly dispose of medications
- ✓ Avoid detergent pods
- ✓ Buy clothing made from natural fibers or install a microplastic filter on your washing machine
- ✓ Reduce salt use on walkways
- ✓ Take care of your septic system
- ✓ Experiment with water-friendly landscaping
- ✓ Invest in a rain barrel
- ✓ Help with a community clean up



For more information: <https://planet-water.org/world-water-day>



Are needed to help prepare for our plant sale on 27 May 2023

Sign up sheets and more information will be available at the March meeting.



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Rare Species: *Albuca spiralis*, commonly called the **corkscrew albuca** or **frizzle sizzle**, is a species of flowering plant in the family *Asparagaceae*, that is native to Western and Northern Cape Provinces, South Africa.

It is a small geophytic perennial plant that reaches 20 cm in height when in flower, and slowly offsetting to form clumps. It is distinguished by corkscrew-coiled leaves. When dormancy begins, the inflorescence appears and soon bursts open with fragrant flowers with bright yellow petals with a broad green midrib coming from the side of the flower stalk.

Geophytes are plants with underground storage organs, somewhat like bulbs, where the plants hold food and water.

Habitat and ecology: This small summer dormant bulb comes from the winter rainfall regions of southwestern Africa where it grows on stony flats among various kinds of scrub in hot, dry conditions. The species is not considered threatened in its habitat early in the twenty first century.

The plant is recognizable by its distinctive leaves, which are narrow, spiral tipped with glandular hairs.

The plant bears nodding green flowers with pale yellow margins. The flowers are sweetly scented, with an aroma like that of vanilla.

This plant can be grown in Canada. Care for it as you would a succulent, and since South Africa is its natural habitat, bring it indoors in autumn.

✿ Nury Garzon



Starling murmuration ... sounds like a song, doesn't it? The reality is just as lovely as you would imagine. Starlings are small- to medium-sized birds that have short tails and pointed heads with glossy black feathers streaked with hints of purple and green. In large numbers, starlings can create a "murmuration" when huge groups of these birds gather together, moving in one large mass across the sky. They do not simply fly in a flock. They twist and turn into all different shapes during these sky shows.

The name for this activity comes from the sound starlings' wings make when thousands are fluttering together in one large liquid mass. ✿ Ursula Evanoff



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PHOTO GALLERY

A good friend gave me an Amaryllis bulb kit for Christmas so in mid-January, I potted it up and hoped for the best. I saw it was sprouting and watched as it grew taller and taller and taller to a height of 22 inches. It was like a real-life Jack and the Beanstalk.

There was a large bud on top that when it finally bloomed turned into three beautiful deep red blooms that measured six inches across.

It was a beautiful surprise on a cold winter day when it finally opened. ❀Carol Ashford

