



STREETSVILLE BLOOMS



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 20, Issue 6

MARCH 2014

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 11

**CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH
2630 Inlake Court**

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Register for District 15 AGM

Heritage Seeds available for sale

Speaker: JESSIKA CORKUM-GORRILL

Topic: "One Million Trees Project"

Speaker Bio: Jessika Corkum-Gorrill has worked with the City of Mississauga's Forestry Section for the past five years, and is now in the role of Natural Areas and One Million Trees Coordinator. These programs aim to encourage tree planting on both public and private lands and engages the community in hands-on projects to restore and enhance Mississauga's natural areas.

Prior to working with the City of Mississauga she worked with a local conservation authority and environmental non-profits. Her educational background is in Environmental Technology and Ecosystem Restoration.

Jessika's presentation will provide background information on the City's community planting programs and One Million Trees Mississauga. You will learn about the new interactive website launched for the program and how the Streetsville Horticultural Society can get involved. For more information on One Million Trees Mississauga go to www.onemilliontrees.ca.

Dean Scully, Program Chair

"In the hopes of reaching the moon men fail to see the flowers that blossom at their feet."

~Albert Schweitzer

President's Message

No one in Mississauga will forget the worst ice storm in memory that hit just before Christmas, 2013. The treacherous icy roads, power outages, downed trees, car accidents and brutal cold almost brought our city to a complete standstill. One observer commented that parts of our city looked as if tornadoes had moved across the landscape shearing off tops of trees and downing power lines.

Much of the damage has been repaired, but the toll the storm took on our tree canopy was considerable and will take years to restore. When spring arrives we will be reminded once again of the power of nature to damage and destroy our trees.

As a Society we are very concerned about the health and general condition of our trees, which add so much to our city. There are several strategies we can all embrace as we struggle in the spring to restore our urban forest. First, it is important that we encourage our neighbors and city to trim trees wisely and not simply chop down damaged trees. Trimming should be done carefully so that as branches are trimmed, sharp saws are used to make clean even cuts to prevent further damage from disease. Many trees can be saved through judicious trimming rather than removal. Properly pruned trees have great resiliency to come back after a damaging winter.

If trees are damaged beyond rescue, new trees should be planted soon to give them a head start on growth to replace the ones that are gone. The site for a tree planting needs to be prepared by the addition of fertile soil and plenty of water. Twice weekly watering does wonders for new young trees. A number of nurseries are providing discounts for replacing ice-damaged trees.

We also recommend the planting of native species of trees that are hardy and thrive in harsh urban conditions. We have the opportunity to encourage those who are faced with the job of planting trees to research appropriate species that will thrive around our homes. This is an excellent opportunity to help our neighbors to plant young trees.

The recent ice storm reminds us once again of one of our main purposes as a Horticultural Society – to value and protect our urban forest.

Rob & Sue Harshman, Co-Presidents

DID YOU KNOW?

Ground coffee loses its flavor immediately unless it is specially packaged or brewed.



DON'T RAISE ANY DUST

Before you clean the ashes out of your fireplace, sprinkle them with wet coffee grounds. They'll be easier to remove, and the ash and dust won't pollute the atmosphere of the room.

DEODORIZE A FREEZER

Get rid of the smell of spoiled food after a freezer failure. Fill a couple of bowls with used or fresh coffee grounds and place them in the freezer overnight. For a flavored-coffee scent, add a couple of drops of vanilla to the grounds.

FERTILIZE PLANTS

Don't throw out those old coffee grounds. They're chock-full o' nutrients that your acidic-loving plants crave. Save them to fertilize rosebushes, azaleas, rhododendrons, evergreens, and camellias. It's better to use grounds from a drip coffeemaker than the boiled grounds from a percolator. The drip grounds are richer in nitrogen.

KEEP CATS OUT OF THE GARDEN

Kitty won't think of your garden as a latrine anymore if you spread a pungent mixture of orange peels and used coffee grounds around your plants. The mix acts as great fertilizer too.

TIP: DIVIDE AND CONQUER

If you don't like where a tree is, move it. Or if that rosebush at the side of the house is looking sad and neglected, just shift it to a different place where it might thrive and get gorgeous. Dividing your perennials should be at the top of your gardening list—it's the best way to make the most of your plants. After splitting your plant, pot it up and donate to our plant sale.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER?

Look up the word 'volunteer' in the dictionary and perhaps this is what you will find:

vol-un-teeer [vol-uhn-teeer] noun

- a person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking.
- a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.
- **Jean Watt**

On Sunday, Jan. 19th the inaugural **Timothy Street Medals of Honour** were presented to 21 remarkable individuals by MP Brad Butt. Those chosen individuals dedicated their time year after year, supporting and strengthening our community through volunteer efforts. Butt said "we established this award to recognize the tremendous contribution that volunteers make to better our community and our country".

Among those volunteers was Streetsville Hort. Society Member **JEAN WATT** whose volunteering is above and beyond what is expected.

Jean was also recipient of a Mississauga Volunteer Services Award pin for her 25 years of volunteering with the Streetsville Historical Society, presented by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship & Immig. in 2012.

Jean is also a frequent volunteer at S'ville Horticultural Society functions including Rotary Park, Leslie Log House, garden tour, our Plant Sale and a regular contributor to our refreshment and draw tables.

Congratulations Jean for contributing many, many hours to help make our Community a great place to live!!



Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they're priceless.

Author unknown

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 8 - 16 Maple Magic at Bradley Museum
Weekdays noon to 4:00 pm Weekends 10:00 am
to 4:00 pm For details see:

www.mississauga.ca/portal/discover/museum
activities

Mar. 14 – 23 Canada Blooms – Direct Energy
Centre, CNE Toronto Admission \$17 – for more
info go to www.canadablooms.com

April 26 District 15 AGM Nobleton Lakes Golf &
Country Club – register at March meeting.

May 24 – SHS PLANT SALE at Leslie Log House

May 31 Friends of Wabukayne holding open
house at CRF / Lake Wabukayne. 11:00 – 2:00
p.m. SHS will have info table & sell plants &
cookbooks. We will host a story time for children at
the butterfly garden featuring Eleanora Roberts and
her puppets. Volunteers needed.

July 18 – 20 OHA Convention Cornwall

DRAW TABLE

Hello everyone, I am very happy to be back
as your Draw Table Chair. In the coming months,
thanks to the generosity of the members who
continue to donate items to the draw table, I will be
making up some wonderful assorted baskets
hopefully, something to please everyone.

A special thank you goes out to **Jean
Barna** for the beautiful planter she made up and
donated to the February meeting. I would also like
to thank **Simon Campling, Kristen
Harshman-Best, Sue & Rob Harshman** and
Gerry Bryan, for their contributions to future
draws.

We appreciate and thank the many
members, who purchase tickets every week; your
donations go along way to meeting some of our
objectives throughout the year.

Thank you all again for your support!

Mary Bernier, Draw Table Chair

TIP: Clean, sharp tools are easier to work with,
and they do a better job. Now is the time, while
the snow is on the ground, to do the prep work.

PLANNING FOR SEED STARTING

Spring will be here before we know it. It's
time to think about what we want to grow this year,
perhaps different perennial varieties, maybe new
and interesting annuals, or perhaps growing plants
from seed.

If you haven't grown annuals or vegetables
from seed in the past, or perhaps the project wasn't
successful, you probably have lots of questions.
There are many how-to books and guides for seed
growing; one of the very best is "From Seed to
Bloom" by Eileen Powell. Also The Fine Gardening
website has many useful articles; I have included
some links at the end of this article.

Seeds started outdoors require much less
care and attention than those started indoors. I am
going to concentrate on indoor growing and the
factors you should think about before picking plant
varieties and sowing the seeds. Growing plants
from seed can be a very rewarding experience but if
you haven't thought about the supplies you will
need and the how-to's, it could be frustrating. It
doesn't have to be complicated or expensive but it
does require some planning. Knowing the answers
to these questions will help you decide what types
of plants would be the most suitable for you to grow
and determine how successful you will be.

1. Where are you going to set up your grow op?

Many people immediately think
basement, it's out of the way
and has space available, it
may not be the best choice if it
is not somewhere you spend
time; you aren't looking at it all
the time and may not notice
wilting seedlings or other
problems. I grow seeds in the
master bedroom where I can
be sure of seeing them several
times a day.



2. Do you have a suitable fixture
or shelving for pots or trays? There are many
very expensive shelving systems with grow
lights, heat mats etc, they really are not
necessary. A very basic utility shelving unit
works well.

3. Do you have fluorescent fixtures or sunny windowsills? Standard fluorescents work well and are much cheaper than grow lights; cool white tubes will be fine. Hang the fixtures from the shelves or support them on pieces of dowel. Windowsills (if your house has them) are not the best choice, they don't get as much light as we think and are often quite cold at night.

4. What will you use for containers? Most seeds need warmth and moisture to germinate so keeping the seeds warm and moist makes a big difference to your germination rate. Once again there are many options, from self-



watering at \$24.50 each, to used pots for free. You can buy clear plastic domes to put over plastic flats, put pots into plastic bags or, my favorite, use the clear plastic clamshells that salads, fruit or some baked goods come in, the lid is attached and each container will hold up to about 10 seedlings.

5. What soil will you use? My choice - use Jiffy 7 expandable peat pellets, you can plant one or more seeds per pellet and if you need to thin the seedlings just cut the unwanted ones down with scissors. If using pots a soilless mix is best, there are several good brands, look for one that is specifically designed for seed growing. Instead of transplanting seedlings I move the peat pellet into a pot filled with soil; it's much easier for me and the seedling is not disturbed.

6. How will you water the seedlings? A large watering can is fine, two are better. Don't use water straight from the tap, it's too cold, refill your watering cans after every use so the water has time to warm up before the next watering.

7. How many weeks do you want to spend nurturing your seedlings? There is a lot of information on seed packets so read them carefully. They will tell you when to plant the seeds, and when they can be planted outside. Do the seeds need light or darkness to germinate? How deep and far apart should the seeds be planted? What care do the young

seedlings require? Some annuals for example petunias must be started in January if you want flowers in May, do you want to spend close to 5 months looking after annuals that are easily available and can be bought quite cheaply. Remember as with all babies you can't go away without arranging a babysitter.

8. How many plants do you want to grow? A small number of seedlings, maybe a flat can fit easily on top of the fridge or on a kitchen counter with some extra light provided, more than that requires a designated growing area.

9. How much money do you want to spend on this project? You could buy a 3-tiered fixture with lights for about \$300 to grow 12 tomato plants but it makes no sense. There are lots of ways to grow your own plants without spending a lot of money, some are listed above, and for more tips use the Internet. If I can answer any questions please let me know.

<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/ten-seed-starting-tips.aspx>

<http://www.finegardening.com/item/17104/all-about-starting-seeds>

<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/nurture-seedlings-tiered-growing-stand.aspx>

<http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/464/>

Submitted by Monica Ross

SEEDS FOR SALE

SHS will have Vegetable Seeds for sale at our March meeting. The cost per package will be \$2.00 (this is our cost – there is no markup on the seeds). First come, first served.

Now is the time to get started with your seeds for this summer's garden. Don't miss out on this great deal!

We are living on this planet as if we have another one to go to.

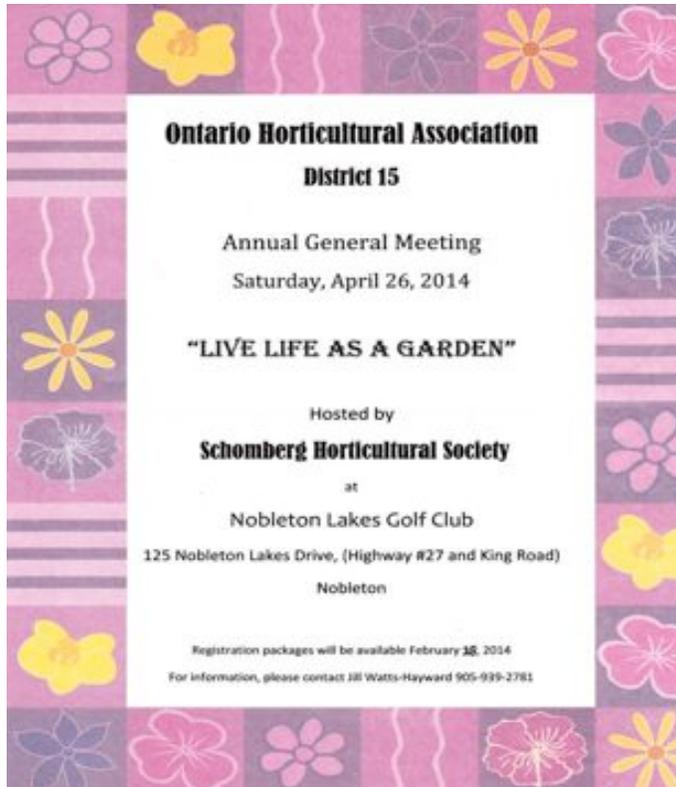
THE GARDEN

By late winter and very early spring I not only enjoy the flowers blooming in my sunroom, I need them. My sense of well-being depends on having plants living, growing, and blooming around me, especially when there are still none flowering out of doors.

We grow plants, especially flowering plants, in our gardens, greenhouses, and windows because they are beautiful. Beauty never requires justification, because it balances the ugliness, hurt and sorrow that are present in every human life to a greater or lesser degree. Without beauty as inspiration and refuge, our deprived souls grow hard and cold, and often we transfer, or project, our unacknowledged suffering onto others, especially those with whom we live and work.

Beauty is invariably a positive factor, an enriching presence, a healing influence. It is true in music, painting, in dance, of clouds in the sky and birds singing in the light of dawn, of flowers, even humble geraniums in kitchen windows.

Excerpt: Freeman Patterson, The Garden



DISTRICT 15 AGM – APRIL 26

The OHA District 15 AGM will be held on Saturday, April 26 at the Nobleton Lakes Golf Club. The theme for the day is “Live Life as a Garden”.

There will be a flower show and all those attending are welcome to submit entries. The Flower Show Schedule and Registration package for this meeting will be available at our meeting on March 11th and should be available on the OHA website at the end of Feb. Vendors will also be on hand with gardening items.

Cost for the day for SHS members is \$15.00, which includes lunch. The original cost is \$25.00 per person - SHS is subsidizing \$10.00 per member. What a great day out for \$15.00.

Please bring \$15.00 cash or cheque to the March meeting to receive your package. Car pooling will be arranged at a later date.

PLANT SALE – MAY 24

For those who missed the announcement at the February meeting, the plans for the plant sale are well underway. I'm trying something new this year. The date of the sale is Saturday May 24th, which is later than past years. This should give us more plants and healthier specimens to sell. The venue has changed to the grounds of the Leslie Log House. I'm very excited about being at the Log House because the hours can be extended and I'd like to make it a festive, family affair. Already planned is a program for children and I will be working with the Streetsville Historical Society to plan other activities.

Many volunteers will be needed for this event. Sign up sheets and information packages will be available at the March meeting.

As a reminder, the plant sale is the major fundraiser for the SHS and it can only be successful with your help.

Debra Buckler, Plant Sale Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to **Pam Grundie** and **Kavitha Manickam** who joined SHS as new members in February. Make a special effort to make our new members feel comfortable at our general meetings and share with them some of the activities and events that you have experienced in the past.

Try to remember to wear your name tags and greet one another by name. Introduce yourself to someone that you have not met before to expand your repertoire of friends within the society.

I would also like to take this time to thank all the ladies who have been helping me out at the membership desk. **Cathy Sanderson** and **Heather Tregaskes** helpers in February and **Pat & Mike Salisbury** are scheduled for March.

Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

WINTER GARDEN

Though my winter garden
Is dressed in gray and brown,
There lies a rainbow sleeping
Beneath the frozen ground.

My daffodils are waiting
Underneath the winter snow
To announce Spring in all her glory
With trumpets made of gold.

My iris now are sleeping.
They dream of summer fields,
Dressed in velvet, midnight blue,
A emerald spears they wield

Bejeweled with hoary frost
The soul of a rose waits quietly
For summer sunshine
To burst with crimson, suddenly.

High above it all,
Bare trees stand solemn guard,
Sentinels of Hope and Promise
While the soil is cold and hard.

Glenda Banta

TIP: Remember, when you're planting for butterflies, you'll want to make sure to plant flowers that will sustain the caterpillars, as well.

REFRESHMENTS

Many thanks for the donations to the refreshment table at the February meeting.

Please remember that the church is a **NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT** and ensure that any contributions brought in do not contain nuts.

Also, **LUG YOUR MUG** to the meetings to save the environment from Styrofoam contamination and also to save costs.

Mary Hachey, Refreshment Chair

12 FRUITS & VEGGIES WITH MOST PESTICIDES

The Environmental Working Group report includes The Dirty Dozen, a list of the fruits and vegetables likely to contain the highest amounts of pesticide residue.

How this helps you: Choose organic produce when buying anything listed on The Dirty Dozen. And while we would encourage you to buy local and organic, if money's tight, then it's not going to kill you to buy conventional from the second group. As the EWG says, "The health benefits of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables outweigh the risks of pesticide exposure."



What's new this year? Once again, apples, strawberries, and spinach are included in the Dirty Dozen. Blueberries and lettuce fell off the list, but cherry tomatoes and cucumbers are on there.

The Dirty Dozen

Apples	Celery
Cherry tomatoes	Cucumbers
Grapes	Hot Peppers
Nectarines (imported)	Peaches
Potatoes	Spinach
Strawberries	Sweet bell peppers

Plant some seeds and grow your own pesticide free!

Questions, concerns, ideas, want to **volunteer** call Presidents: Sue & Rob Harshman (905) 607-2802
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