



STREETSVILLE BLOOMS

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 20, Issue 5

FEBRUARY 2014

NEXT MEETING: FEB. 11

**CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH
2630 Inlake Court**

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Cathy Kavassalis

Topic: "Our Trees: Looking Back & Planting Ahead"

Speaker Bio: Catherine Kavassalis is a passionate gardener and conservationist. An advocate for tree protection, Catherine has initiated Heritage Tree Hunts, crafted tree protection bylaws, and has worked to curb invasive species that threaten forest health.

For her commitment to protecting Oakville's natural heritage, Catherine was presented a Provincial Certificate of Recognition and an Ontario Horticultural Association Community Improvement Award in 2012, a Provincial Natural Heritage Award in 2011, the Joyce Burnell Tree Champion Award in 2010 and the 2009 Oakville Environmental Spirit Award.

Catherine is member of the Halton Master Gardener group, the Past President of Oakville Horticultural Society and a former member of the Board of Directors for the Royal Botanical Gardens. A scientist, educator and inspirational speaker, Catherine endeavors to stimulate interest and awe in the living world.

Since we have just suffered severe loss of trees from the recent ice storm this is a truly timely topic.

Dean Scully, Program Chair

"Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them."

Bill Vaughan

President's Message

Our Flower Shows

As you are reading this article you are probably sitting in the comfort of your home. Outside are the cold winds and snow from the most recent approach of the polar vortex. Although your garden may be far from your mind at this point, it might be an idea to think ahead to the warm weather, which is around the corner and the excitement of your flowers, bushes and trees coming into leaf.

Most of us who are gardeners spend some time planning out new ideas for our gardens each year. As you open the seed and bulb catalogues searching for new flowers, why not think about what you could grow to enter one of our Flower Shows?

Over the last four years our Flower Shows have grown very quickly and the number of entries has increased dramatically. Many people who have never entered a show before have submitted a flower and won in their category.

At SHS, we encourage everyone to try their hand at entering a Flower Show. The process is quite straightforward. The schedule for our Flower Shows is published in May for the next year. Select one or more of the categories that interest you or for which you already have flowers in your garden. You may want to purchase plants that could be entered into a show from a nursery or on-line company. On the day of the Flower Show, follow the instructions for entry and bring your selection early to our meeting.

One of our members remarked after a recent Flower Show, "It took me three minutes to go into my backyard and cut some of my roses and put them into a vase. I won second place and enjoyed the rose for a week in my kitchen."

So as you watch the snowflakes swirl around your kitchen window, why not give some thought to planning for a season of Flower Shows?

Rob & Sue Harshman, Co-Presidents

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to **Marie Kothari** who joined our society in December. Please make a special effort to make her welcome and share some of your experiences involving your relationship with SHS.

Please remember to wear your name tags at all times while at our meetings; it will make it much easier for us to get to know each other. You can pick your tag up after signing in at the desk and return it at the end of each meeting to **Sanita Minhas** will be collecting at the end of the night!

A big thank-you goes out to those who have signed up to assist at the membership desk. **Cathy Sanderson** and **Marg Rowan** will be assisting in February. Please arrive at 6:45 to ensure full set-up before the group arrives!

There are still some membership cards that have not been picked up, please do so at the next meeting.

Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

WHAT WE'RE UP TO ???

Your SHS Executive has not been sitting back and letting the grass grow under their feet. Many plans are in the works for the current year and in the years ahead.

Some of the things that we are planning are:

- A story time for children on gardening at the Erin Mills Town Centre or other location where we can also showcase our Cook Book and seek new members.
- A Flower Arranging demonstration to be held at Erin Mills Town Centre or other location.
- Having two or more of our members visit elementary schools to introduce children to gardening
- Updating the community on a regular basis on the Asian Long Horn Beetle
- Holding a January general meeting as we used to in the past
- Working with the City in their challenge to plant 1,000,000 trees
- Creating our own Streetsville Hort Website
- Revamping our "Welcome New Members" package to ensure those who join SHS know what we are all about and what we do!
- Holding a Spring Tea at a garden offered by one of our members. Anyone interested in working

on this committee should contact: Sue or Rob Harshman at 905 607-2802

Of course, all of the above initiatives will require volunteers and we hope our membership is up for sprucing up our society. *Your Board cannot do it all..... we need your assistance!* Any other ideas from our membership are most welcome. Please contact Rob or Sue at (905) 607-2802.

WINTER GARDENERS

Gardening is a bit like writing: it is a solitary experience, when we are actually doing it. However that does not mean that we are not social people. Very much the opposite.

There is nothing we love more than getting together to compare notes, pictures, gardening travel stories and to brag about the size of our tomato crop.

Winter is our time to get together. Garden Clubs, Horticultural Societies, courses on every aspect of gardening and casual, thrown-together meetings occur with tremendous frequency when the snow is piled high.

In this regard I contend that gardening cures shyness. I have frequently seen otherwise shy, retiring people open up and offer an opinion or reflect on an experience where gardening is concerned. It is the ultimate motivator for the tight lipped.

Mark Cullen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 8 & 9 Southern Ontario Orchid Society's Annual Show & Sale. It will be held at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto. Go to www.soos.ca for info & \$2 off coupon

Feb. 11 SHS General Meeting

Feb. 22 "Get the Jump on Spring" 10 am – 4 pm at the TBG. For more info go to: <http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/jump-on-spring/>

March 6 – 9 Successful Gardening Metro Convention Centre

March 14 -25 Canada Blooms Direct Energy Centre at CNE. Info on flower show competition, admission, speakers etc. go to

<http://canadablooms.com>

Apr. 23-26 African Violet Convention

Westin Prince Hotel, 900 York Mills Rd., Toronto

www.avsc.com for more info

May 24 SHS Plant Sale

GREEN THUMB EARNS SANITA A RED RIBBON

Congratulations to Sanita Minhas who brought home the first place prize at the Streetsville Horticultural Society's October flower Show for her amazing Dahlia (variety. Jax)

Sanita grew the Dahlia from a tuber, which she planted outside in the early spring and worked hard keeping it watered and growing beautifully all summer.



A member of Streetsville Horticultural Society for five years, Sanita grows flowers and vegetables with her mother Nicky Hall and has won many ribbons over the years.

Sanita also found a way to combine her love of gardening and giving back to the community. Throughout the summer she volunteered once a week at the Ecosource Community Garden in Mississauga, which provides produce to local food banks. Sanita worked hard planting vegetables and herbs and spent many hours weeding.

Way to go Sanita!

Excerpt: Community Living Mississauga, Winter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For the OHA booth at the SUCCESSFUL GARDENING SHOW **March 6 – 9, 2014, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building, on Front Street.**

Volunteers are needed for the OHA Information Booth and the Flower Show, during Successful Gardening, March 6 – March 9, 2014. The shifts are 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm, 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm, and 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm. (Sunday finishes at 6:00 pm.) Although the show closes at 8:00 pm., the last group will remain ½ hour after the show closes, to make sure that the exhibits are monitored as the people leave the show.

As a volunteer, you will meet and greet people who are looking at the Flower Show, and answer questions about horticultural societies, and how to join, etc. All the information is available in a binder at the OHA table, so it is an easy task. There will be a minimum of two volunteers for each shift. You will be asked to take turns walking through the Flower Show on a regular basis to make sure nothing is being touched or damaged.

Volunteers will receive a name badge, which entitles them to enter the show at any time. If you would like to volunteer, or want further information, please contact me at tom.omalley@sympatico.ca, or 905-278-1958.

If you would like to enter the Flower Show, the schedule and entry forms are available on the OHA website, www.gardenontario.org. This is an O.H.A Flower Show, and we'd like to encourage all society members to enter.

Barb O'Malley, Volunteer Coordinator

HELP WANTED

Seeking a fun-loving, energetic volunteer to be the right-hand-man/woman to assist our Plant Sale Chairman, Debra Buckler with Plant Sale preparations scheduled for May 24th. No experience necessary!

If you are interested in helping Debra, or need further information as to what is required, please contact her at: 905 567-4803 or email her at:

debra.buckler@rogers.com

ICE STORM CLEAN UP

In case you missed this in your local newspaper here are the instructions for the clean up from the City of Mississauga:

In order to assist residents with the removal of excess wood and brush debris, the Region of Peel will begin collecting small bundles of wood and brush from the curb beginning January 13th on regularly scheduled collection days.

- *bundles of wood and brush must not exceed 1.2 m (4ft.) and 76 cm (30 in.) in diameter and weigh no more than 20 kg (44 lbs.) to ensure collector safety.*
- *individual branches and tree limbs must not exceed 1.2 m (4 ft.) in length and 7.5 cm (3 in.) in diameter and weigh no more than 20 kg (44 lbs.)*
- *leave small bundles of yard waste at the curb as the Region of Peel anticipates yard waste collection may not coincide with residents regularly scheduled collection day*

Residents also have the option to take debris to Regional Community Recycling Centers at no cost. For more information on yard waste and Christmas tree collection, please visit the Region of Peel's website.

MY WINTER GARDEN

In winter's cold and sparkling snow,
The garden in my mind does grow.

I look outside to blinding white,
And see my tulips blooming bright.
And over there a sweet carnation,
Softly scents my imagination.

On this cold and freezing day,
The Russian sage does gently sway,
And miniature roses perfume the air,
I can see them blooming there.
Though days are short, my vision's clear.
And through the snow, the buds appear.

In my mind, clematis climbs,
And morning glories do entwine.
Woodland phlox and scarlet pinks,
Replace the frost, if I just blink.
My inner eye sees past the snow.
And in my mind, my garden grows.

Cynthia Adams

Scottish Borders/Lake District GardenTour - Summer 2014

Hosted by Marjorie Mason of Mason House Gardens. Join us and visit the beautiful border country of Scotland and the Lake District in North England - history, culture and gardens galore!

Includes Beatrix Potter's Hilltop garden, Lake Windermere, Holehird Gardens, Yorkshire Dales and Hadrian's Wall, Alnwick Castle, Lindisfarne and Holy Island, Floors Castle and gardens, Melrose Abbey, Peebles, Edinburgh Botanic Garden and much, much more!

For more info: www.stewart-caledoniatours.com or www.masonhousegardens.com or call Marjorie at 905-985-6573, or 905-649 3532

REFRESHMENTS

Volunteers needed to bring light refreshments (squares, crackers/cheese etc.) to the February meeting. If you can help out, please contact Mary Hachey at 905 858-8897.

Also, please remember to **Lug Your Mug** to our meetings to save on costs and also to save our precious environment.

Mary Hachey, Refreshment Chair

BIRD FEEDERS

Why bother with a bird feeder in your backyard? The great advantage is that by feeding birds on a regular basis, they learn to come to that spot every day and as more birds learn, the numbers of species and individuals increase. Your backyard can become your own bird sanctuary.

Feeders also provide advantages for birds. They are used much more frequently when natural food sources are less abundant – particularly in winter months. When the weather gets colder, the birds using the neighborhood feeders may rely on this food source for survival. Late autumn is a good time to establish feeders, as this is when birds are setting up their winter territories.

Once feeding is started, it should be maintained throughout the winter and particularly during the colder weather. A break in the normal routine could well mean that the birds you have so carefully attracted will move on. Try feeding the birds at the same time each day and you will notice

how they quickly adjust to a daily routine. Early morning is best. Better still; provide sufficient food to last two or three days.



There may only be a few birds at the feeder at any one time, but this does not necessarily mean that only a few birds are using the feeder. It can be difficult to recognize individuals, but banding and watching them as they come back to feeders, it has been shown that birds use feeders for only short periods during the day. Any one feeder may be visited by many individuals throughout the daylight hours as they forage through the neighborhood. This is normal, particularly in the winter when they must range over a much wider area to find the variety of foods they need to sustain themselves.

When you place a feeder in the garden, don't expect the birds to find it immediately. It often takes a few weeks for numbers to build up, so persevere and be patient.

It is best to position the feeder some distance from the house, as the birds will be wary if they see movement. Find a site that is likely to be attractive to birds; immediately adjacent to dense trees or bushes for instance, rather than in the centre of the lawn. Immediate escape cover is important as the food itself. Small birds are innately aware of the danger of avian predators such as hawks, and will soon take a liking to a feeder that offers safety as well as good fare.

Bear in mind also that cats can be a real threat, so make it difficult for them by ensuring that the birds have a chance to see them. Avoid positioning your feeder right beside a suitable hiding place, such as a low bush, and make sure that it is high enough to be out of the reach of the agile cat – which can leap as high as two meters. A large

circle of page wire under the feeder will soon dissuade the neighbor's Tabby.

There are countless designs for bird feeders, but essentially they all do exactly the same job: they dispense food for birds in a convenient and manner.

The Northern Cardinal (pictured at left) is fond of sunflower seeds, watermelon and cantaloupe seeds, scratch feed, bread and peanut butter. Though they prefer feeding on the ground, they don't mind a hanging or stationary feeder. In the yard, cardinals will feast on almonds, white ash, American elm, and both cherry and autumn elaeagnus, as well as blackberries and honeysuckle berries and the seeds of four o'clocks. Though Cardinals are basically seed and fruit eaters, insects such as ants and beetles may account for up to a third of their feed when available.

Excerpts: Birds of Toronto & Vicinity and Backyard Bird-Lovers Guide.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

SHS is looking for a volunteer who is able to do AV, PowerPoint, and video presentations. We need someone who would be able to produce short power point presentations for our monthly meetings as well as produce video presentations for use in our Society. If you would like further information and/or you can help out, contact Rob at 905 607-2802.

"Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits, and know one had a hand in them."
Harriet Naylor

LOTTE BRUNER – Judge

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our dear friend and longtime Cloverleaf member, Lotte Brunner on Jan. 17, 2014 in Parry Sound Hospital as a result of a lengthy illness.

Lotte joined Cloverleaf in 1977 and, in her early days, became actively involved in the



flower shows through her friendship with Bette Hall, Geo Mentis and Olga Alexander. This interest grew to encourage Lotte to become a Design Judge in 1983 and a Horticultural Judge in 1987. Lotte was also a specialist judge of roses, lilies and dahlias. She judged many SHS Flower Shows over the years and also taught several "Flower Design" workshops for us. Lotte shared her knowledge with many hort members and was a mentor to many who also became judges. She has also been an on-going member of the Flower Show Committee, organizer of the Cloverleaf 60th Anniversary Flower Show, an entrant and judge at Canada Blooms, on the Show Committee for Successful Gardening as well as Cloverleaf's public flower shows at Sheridan Mall and the three club shows (Cloverleaf, Credit Valley & Streetsville) at Meadowvale Mall and other venues in the city. In addition, from 2005 to 2012, Lotte was the chief organizer of the floral designs, which were donated to the Art Gallery of Mississauga for their show openings throughout the year.

Lotte has always given her time and talents to the on-going Judging Schools at the RBG as a presenter and judge and will be greatly missed by the many friends she has made in the horticultural communities across the province.

In 2012, Lotte received special recognition from Cloverleaf for 35 years of continuous and active membership in the club, a 35-year award from the Ontario Volunteer Service Award Program and, in 2013, was placed on the OHA Honor Roll in recognition of her significant contribution and services to her club and the OHA.

VOLUNTEERISM

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."
~Franklin Delano Roosevelt

As part of a new initiative for SHS, we are asking for volunteers who would be interested in helping out with developing children's outreach programming. One of the areas your board has decided to focus on this year is on developing more activities which involve children.

We are planning to visit schools to promote horticulture in a fun and interactive way exploring themes such as nature, bees, gardens, pond life,

trees, fruits & veggies, & flowers.

If you have skills that would be helpful in this area please contact Committee Chair Eleonora Roberts at gattescohouse@rogers.com.

Volunteer Hours Submissions: We're working on a standard form for volunteer hour submissions - hear more on this at the next meeting.

Eleonora Roberts, Volunteer Chair

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.

GARDEN TOUR

This winter has been long and cold, but start thinking about how nice it will be to show off your garden in the annual garden tour this year. If you've been thinking that you'd like your garden on the tour, or if you know of anyone else who might be interested, please get in touch with any board member and express your wishes.

We'd love to have a combination of small & large, as well as a diverse approach to style. Spring is just around the corner - I promise Also, please let me know if you are interested in joining me on the Garden Tour Committee to help organize this much-loved event.

Eleonora Roberts, Garden Tour Chair

FLU SEASON IS UPON US

What's the difference between Swine Flu and Bird flu?

For the Bird Flu you need tweetment; and for the Swine Flu you need Oink-ment!

Hope you don't catch either one!!



Questions, concerns, ideas, want to **volunteer** call Presidents: Sue & Rob Harshman (905) 607-2802
 Editor: Carol Ashford (905) 858-0748
 Email: streetsvillehort@hotmail.com
 OHA website: www.gardenontario.org
 SHS website: gardenontario.org/site.php/streets

