



# STREETSVILLE BLOOMS



Streetsville Horticultural Society

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

Volume 21, Issue 4

Dec. 2014

## CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

**DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH**  
2630 Inlake Court

**DOORS OPEN AT 7:00**

**Meeting at 7:30**



Come out and enjoy a fun evening with fellow members and the Christmas Fairy and take home a beautiful centerpiece for your Christmas dinner table.

All those attending are requested to bring non-perishable food items for the Food Bank.

See details of what to bring and how to register on page 5.

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### DRAW TABLE

Many thanks to member **Gary Childs** for his donation to the draw table this month. His donation will be used as one of the draw prizes in the coming New Year.

A very Big **THANK YOU** goes out to all the ticket purchasers; as the Draw Table had a great night. Congratulations to the winners of the Plant Stand, Waffle Maker and gift basket. Be sure to visit my table at the December meeting; lots of great items to be raffled off.

Mary Bernier, Draw Table Chair

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we reach the end of 2014, we can look back with great satisfaction on what we have accomplished as a Society. We have made major progress in the development of the gardens at the Leslie Log House and Rotary Park. We also took initiative to do tree planting on the Pinchin Property. We planted, mulched, staked and watered 40 native trees altogether. All age groups were involved in the plantings from a Brownie group to teenagers, young couples and those of us who are over 39. In addition, our Society has produced a Cookbook with over 120 favorite recipes and set up a new web site that is both attractive and functional. All of these accomplishments are in addition to our regular program of speakers, workshops and newsletters for our members.

Driving around Mississauga I have noticed the green markings on many City owned ash trees. This means they have been injected with TreeAzin, which protects them against the emerald ash borer. As you will remember, our Society took leadership in circulating petitions and writing letters that convinced the City to inject the trees. Altogether close to 20,000 trees were injected and saved from sudden death. What a difference this has made to our city streets!

Something very exciting for us is to see so many of our members volunteer so much of their time to bring about positive change in our city. In this last year we have contributed over 1,600 volunteer hours to SHS projects. That is a very encouraging sign and bodes well for next year.

As we look ahead to 2015, there is much to do on our various projects and we rely upon you, our members, to commit to work as hard as you did this year. Thanks for all your effort. We appreciate it so much.

Have an enjoyable holiday season and on behalf of the Board of Directors we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Sue & Rob Harshman, Co-Presidents

## CALLING ALL PHOTO ENTHUSIASTS

This is an invitation for SHS members to share photos of some of the fabulous gardens you visited near or far. Interested in compiling a 3 to 5 minute photo presentation for our general meetings of a garden or a series of gardens you've visited on holiday? What a great opportunity for us to share some of the lovely gardens from around the world, near and far.

Inquiries: please register with Eleonora or Nigel Roberts 905-302-4491  
Link to the GARDENS OF ENGLAND photo show:  
<http://streetvillehort.ca/shs-members-photo-shows/>



*Kew Gardens,*

*England*

Eleonora Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice

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## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK:

Our membership drive has come to a close although we will always welcome new and old members. Thanks to everyone for paying their dues within the first couple of meetings; it makes my job so much easier.

In November we had one new member join us: **Carrol Newcombe**. Please reach out to Carrol and other new members to make them feel welcome.

I would like to thank my wonderful helpers on the desk last month, **Shirley Boyes** and **Heather Tregaskes**. December helpers are **Marg Rowan** and **Renee Taylor**.

We are looking for helpers for the New Year so please sign up for 2015. The coming months are simple; you will be basically be helping other

members find their nametags! What a great way to meet new friends!

When you hand in your nametags at the end of the evening, please take a few seconds to tuck in the string; then toss in your tag in the box at the exit.

Also, some prize money envelopes are at the desk and need to be picked up. If you earned prize money and didn't receive it at the AGM, check with me.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas workshop on December 9th. Cheers!

Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

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## 10 REASONS TO VOLUNTEER FOR SHS

1. It feels good.
2. Meet some new people with similar interests. Make some new friends.
3. Help us get things done faster. Many hands make light work. If a job takes 4 hours done by 4 people, 16 people can get the job done in one hour.
4. Volunteering is a great way to learn a new skill.
5. Spend some time with your family. Members with children in high school needing to fulfill volunteer hours? Invite them to join in on some of our community projects.
6. Make your community a better place to live.
7. Gain some work experience.
8. Enrich your life – be an inspiration to others.
9. Satisfaction from accomplishment.
10. Get your hands dirty – or wear gloves – your choice! ☺



Eleonora Roberts, Volunteer Chair

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“When you do something noble and beautiful and nobody notices, do not be sad. For the sun, every morning is a beautiful spectacle and yet most of the audience still sleeps.”

John Lennon

## **TREE PLANTING AT LESLIE LOG HOUSE- PINCHIN FARM PROPERTY**

On Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 53 volunteers planted 40 trees on the property donating 87.5 hours of volunteer time. A huge thank you goes out to all who participated.



I arrived in the snow at 8 a.m. to meet the tree delivery truck. Next the refreshment crew arrived including Carol Ashford, Lynn Merritt and Grace McElhinney. By 9:45 it had stopped snowing and we were ready to plant. We dug holes, planted the trees, mulched and staked the trees, then watered them all (Nicky Hall kindly lent us her 500 ft hose which made watering easy) and by 11:45 we were done! Just in time as the weather turned much colder and windy. Many of us enjoyed the hot dogs, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate donated by SHS members.

We planted 8 varieties of native trees: sugar maple, red maple, bur oak, white oak, basswood, bitternut hickory, black cherry and white pine. These trees would all have been present on this land before it was settled in the 1820's.

### **WHY DID WE DO THIS?**

There are many reasons for planting these trees. As stated in our constitution some of the purposes of the society are to 'encourage the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers on public and private grounds, and to promote protection of the environment'. Some of you may have seen the foundation of the old cider barn on the property; it will be restored by Mississauga Parks to be an interpretive site and an outdoor classroom. Our trees will be part of the ongoing educational activities on the site.

We planted native trees because they belong here, they are suited to the climate, and they are resistant to the local bugs and tree diseases.

There are many people who will never visit the great forests we have in this province and won't have the opportunity to see these trees in their natural setting. We can showcase the trees and that setting right here in the community.

Many of these trees have played a significant role in the development of Canada by providing food to eat, such as maple sugar, hickory nuts and cherries; and timber to build our homes whether they were the log cabins of the early settlers, like the Leslie Log house or the more modern homes most of us now live in.

The other reasons for planting trees are to protect the environment and that includes us.

Trees improve air quality, the leaf surfaces are able to trap and absorb noxious gases and particulates. This helps towards lessening air pollution. Trees store carbon dioxide reducing greenhouse gases.

Trees reduce temperature extremes by shading buildings and releasing cooling water vapor into the air. They can reduce your energy bill with the shade they create in the summer and by acting as wind breaks in the winter.

They reduce storm water runoff, which reduces the possibility of flooding and the cost of building storm water management systems.

Trees and natural areas have been shown to promote psychological well-being leading to many community benefits including reduced crime rates and road rage, and faster healing times.

What else does all that and looks great too?

by Monica Ross

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### **REFRESHMENTS**

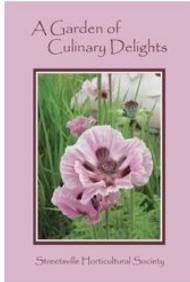
The Board of Directors will provide refreshments for the December meeting.

Thanks to all of our members for the delicious finger foods that were contributed for our AGM. They certainly were delicious and literally flew off the table into the hands of those who were attending the meeting.

Mary Hachey, Refreshment Chair

**NEED A STOCKING STUFFER OR HOSTESS GIFT???**

Our cookbook, "A Garden of Culinary Delights" is just the thing for a stocking stuffer or host/hostess gift for the holidays. Available at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for just \$12 each, tax included. (cash or cheque)



**AWARDS**

The following awards were presented at the AGM held in November.



↑ Photo Contest Chair, Henry Schouten presented **Shirley Boyes** with 'Photographer of the Year' for her picture in the "Kids and Nature" class.

**Other Entrants & Points Scored**

Grace Nelham	22 points
Monika Schouten	22 points
Mary Gilbert	17 points
Sue Harshman	17 points
Rob Harshman	13 points
Carol Ashford	13 points
Henry Schouten	12 points

Jean Barna	9 points
Eleonora Roberts	8 points
Deb Buckler	8 points
Ursula Evanoff	6 points
Joe Boles	2 points
Amgad Boles	1 point

We hope you will consider entering next year. Pick up a Photo Contest sheet at the Membership table.

Flower Show Awards: The 'Jean Kennedy Volunteer of the Year' Award was presented to **Lynn Merritt** by Eleonora Roberts. Lynn logged in over 400 volunteer hours to the Society. Well done Lynn! ↓



Debra Buckler presented the 'Elizabeth Colley Designer of the Year' and Highest Points to Nicky Hall ↓



'Novice of the Year' was awarded to **Amgad Boles** who unfortunately was not in attendance.

'Men's Only' Award was presented to **Greg Sereda**.

The 'Grow It and Show It' winner was **Ursula Evanoff**, who also was not in attendance.

Congratulations to all members who entered the various competitions and to the winners!!!

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### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014 – 15**

Sue and Rob Harshman, Co-Presidents  
Debra Buckler, 1st Vice President  
Eleonora Roberts, 2nd Vice President  
Sue Hutton, Past President  
Lynn Merritt, Secretary  
Christine McEwan, Treasurer  
Nicky Hall  
Dean Scully  
Monica Ross  
Mary Hachey  
Grace McElhinney  
Debbie Lemire  
Amgad Boles  
Carol Ashford  
Nigel Roberts



### **CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP – DEC. 9**

A fun evening is planned with hot cider, refreshments, Christmas music and a lot of creativity. Christmas Fairy, Nicky Hall, will be giving a short demonstration and will have examples of different arrangements on hand.

Fresh greenery dipped in a preservative will be supplied for a cost of \$10. The branches will have been cut to size for an arrangement.

Things to bring:

- ✓ Waterproof container for your centerpiece
- ✓ Oasis that has been soaked overnight
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ small knife for cleaning and pointing stems

Here are some ideas of things to embellish the centerpiece (but bring whatever you'd like to use!)

- Ribbon/bows
- Berries
- Christmas balls
- Fresh or silk flowers
- Pine cones
- Dried oranges/ fruit
- Cinnamon sticks
- Candles, etc.

**Pre registration is required** to ensure we buy and supply enough greenery. Cost will be \$10 for greenery. If you did not register at the November meeting please email or call Sue Harshman 905 607-2802 or [harshmandesigns@yahoo.ca](mailto:harshmandesigns@yahoo.ca) to register.

Two arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening.

### **MEN'S PROJECT: NATIVE BEE LODGES**

This year we have a project for the men! For those making the Native Bee Lodge, we ask for a \$5 donation that will be put towards further tree planting.

Phil Walker has kindly collected reeds and put kits together ready for assembly on the 9<sup>th</sup>.



**Please bring non-perishable food items for the Food Bank.**

## SERVICING YOUR MOWER

Winter is the best time to have your mower serviced. The chances are you won't bother once it is in regular use during the summer. You may prefer to have the servicing done professionally, which is often cheaper at this time than in spring, but you can do some of the simple tasks yourself.

The advice below should be followed in conjunction with your handbook.

1. Remove accumulated clippings and dirt from around blade housing of a rotary mower; being certain that any power supply is disconnected. Use an abrasive paper to clean metal blades.
2. Wipe the blade with an oily rag or spray with an anti-rust aerosol. If the blade is in poor condition, replace it with a new one.
3. If you have a gasoline mower, drain the fuel and oil before storing the machine for the winter.
4. Remove the spark plug and clean it and reset the gap if necessary. If the plug is in poor condition, replace with a new one.
5. Pour a tablespoon of oil into the cylinder and pull the starter to turn the engine over half a dozen times before you return the spark plug, thus coating the engine.
6. Brush or wipe away accumulated clippings from a cylinder mower. If the mower is electric, disconnect the power supply before you start.
7. Wipe the mower with an oily rag, or spray with an anti-rust aerosol, before you store it.
8. Oil the chain if your mower is fitted with one. You may have to remove the chain guard to reach it.

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## FEEDING THE BIRDS

In the spirit of holiday giving, why not remember the birds by installing a feeder and keeping it filled with food? Birds awaken us in the morning with song: they keep us glued to the windows with their antics; they reflect Nature's infinite substance and diversity.

To attract the widest variety of birds, plan on offering a smorgasbord in several different types of feeders. Filling feeders year-round makes our garden extra bird friendly, as does planting berry-bearing shrubs. Often the birds attracted to your

feeders will also eat insects when available and will help keep down the pest population in your garden come summer.

Sunflower seeds are a great favorite and, together with white proso millet, are the backbone of a good feeding program. Black oil sunflower seeds, which birds prefer to the striped kind, attract titmice, chickadees, nuthatches, grosbeaks, towhees, jays, finches, cardinals, grackles, juncos, wrens, woodpeckers and blackbirds. Sunflower seed works well in tubular hanging feeders as well as hopper style and platform feeders. White proso millet is a favorite of many ground-feeding species, including mourning doves, song, white crowned and white-throated sparrows.

Seed mixes are also a good option for attracting birds. Be sure to check the contents of mixes you buy, because cheap ones often contain large quantities of inexpensive seeds that birds will ignore. Avoid a mix that contains a high percentage of buckwheat, cracked corn, golden or German millet, rapeseed or wheat, which are less attractive than other types of seed. Good seeds to look for in mixes include red proso millet, gray or black striped sunflower and peanut hearts or kernels. Offer some seed on or near the ground to keep ground feeders like sparrows, cardinals, jays, juncos, and doves happy.

Suet, the tallow-yielding fat around beef kidneys and loins, is high in calories and invaluable for helping birds keep warm in winter. While woodpeckers are especially dedicated visitors to suet feeders, many other birds also relish the treat. Chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and several species of sparrows will all visit suet feeders. Butchers and supermarkets will sell suet or you can buy it in cakes, rendered and rehardened with peanuts, seeds and berries. Wire mesh suet holders affix easily to trees or hang on metal stands with other bird feeders. Or simply hang chunks of suet in mesh bags.

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Questions, concerns, ideas, want to volunteer??

Call:

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SHS website: [www.streetvillehort.ca](http://www.streetvillehort.ca)