



# Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca

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## Speaker's Corner

**Topic:** Landscapes that celebrate the natural heritage of southern Ontario

Paul O'Hara is a field biologist, landscape designer and native plant gardening expert. Since 1991, he has worked in a wide variety of horticultural botanical consulting ecological restoration and native plant gardening capacities in both the private and public sectors. Paul was an expert botanical surveyor for the Halton Region Natural Areas Inventory (2004), co-authored the *Flora of Halton Region* (2006) and has worked on numerous *Species At Risk* surveys and reports. Since 2004 he has been the owner/operator of Blue Oak Native Landscapes. His main business activities include designing and building native plant gardens and naturalization projects, habitat inventory, and working with *Species At Risk*. Paul's talk will focus on landscapes that celebrate the natural heritage of southern Ontario.



**NEXT MEETING:** February 14

## Streetsville United Church

**274 Queen Street South**

Doors open 7 p.m.

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

### Message from the President

Hello everyone, we have some news that is a big change. Streetsville Horticultural Society has a new home. Starting with our February 14 meeting, we will be meeting at the Streetsville United Church.

The church is located at 274 Queen Street South, on the northwest corner of Queen Street and Barry Avenue. There is a large parking lot behind the church on Barry Street. The entrance we will use is between the church and the church hall, as shown in the picture. We will post a sign to show you the way.

We are now halfway through winter. I don't know what the groundhog will say on February 2; an early spring would definitely suit me. One sure sign of spring is promotion of gardening events, offers and contests.



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Canada Blooms runs from March 10 to the 19 at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place.

The Hamilton District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society is presenting a free seminar called 'Summer in Winter: The Secret World of Dahlias Uncovered' on Saturday, February 18, 2017, 1:00 pm - 3:45 pm at the Dundas Museum and Archives, 139 Park Street West, Dundas, ON L9H 1X8. Further information is available at [www.dundasmuseum.ca](http://www.dundasmuseum.ca)

Humber Nurseries is offering 30 per cent discount coupons to members of Ontario Horticultural Societies. The coupons will be posted on our website and will also be available at our spring meetings.

The Brampton Horticultural Society and the City of Brampton present their fifth Annual Seedy Saturday and Garden Show on March 11, 2017, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Century Gardens Recreation Centre, 340 Vodden Street East, Brampton.

You could win one of 10 David Austin English roses grown on their own roots from Garden Making magazine. Check out the details <http://gardenmaking.com/rose-contest>

It's time to review last year's garden results and make plans for your garden 2017 edition Happy planning-Monica! ✂

**Monica Ross, President**

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## Plant Sale – May 27, 2017

With all this mild weather we have been having lately, I started thinking about this year's Plant Sale. I went to check where we had stored ALL of our pots for this year's sale and lo and behold, they were GONE!!

So, on that note, we are asking that you do



not throw out or recycle any pots you may have around your property. Please gather them up and bring them to the next

meeting(s) so we will have lots on hand for our sale on May 27.

We would like to have pots no smaller than 5 inches in diameter (or across the top of the pot). Of course, there will be lots of things to do for the plant sale and further information and sign-up sheets will be available in April.

Thanks for your help in this regard. ✂

**Carol Ashford and Monica Ross, Plant Sale Chairs**

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## Getting Ready for Spring – Sharpening your Pruners

No other gardening tool takes as much wear and tear as your hand pruners. We use them for regular pruning and we abuse them trying to cut branches much too big for them, confuse them for hammers and even expect them to cut twine and clip grass.



To keep your hand pruners in top shape, despite the abuse, you need to keep them clean, sharp and lubricated. That may sound intimidating, but hand pruners are actually very simple to clean and sharpen and goodness knows they probably need it.

Here's what you'll need to get the job done:

- Steel Wool
- Medium to Fine Sand Paper
- Rat tail or mill bastard file or honing or whet stone

To do the job properly, you'll need to separate the blades of your pruners. Don't panic, it's just a bolt or a couple of screws. The actual process will vary depending on the make of your pruners, but they are all basically made the same.

Remove the nut or screw holding the two blades together and separate the two pieces. There may be multiple screws on the pruner, but you only need concern yourself now with the one in the center of the two blades.

Once the blades are separated, the spring coil between the handles will slip off.

There really aren't many separate pieces, once you get your pruners disassembled. However it's a smart idea to work on a towel or keep the pieces together in on a plate or in a bucket, so that one doesn't roll away unnoticed. And count the pieces, so you know how many there should be when you go to put your pruners back together.

The next step is a good cleaning. Wash the pruners with warm soapy water and a small, stiff brush. An old toothbrush works well. Pay

particular attention to the nooks where dirt can be trapped.

When you're satisfied they are clean, wipe them well with a dry cloth.

Any resistant soil, rust or plant sap on the blades can be removed with some steel wool or sand paper. You can also use a cleaning solvent, if necessary, to remove any hardened plant sap. Just make sure your tools are clean of all dirt and plant sap before you move on to sharpening.

Sharpening is the intimidating step, but even a less than perfect sharpening job is better than not sharpening at all. And you'll get better at it each time you do it. To start, find the beveled or angled edge. Anvil pruners, with a single blade that comes down on a flat plate, tend to be beveled on both sides, like a knife, and will need to be sharpened on both sides of the blade.

By-pass pruners have only one beveled edge, that slides over the solid bottom half of the pruners.

To sharpen, take your file or stone and lay it almost parallel to the blade, on the beveled side. With pressure on the outer edge of the blade, file all the way around the blade in one direction, away from you, lift and repeat. Don't go back and forth.

Do this a couple of times and you'll start to notice the edge getting nice and shiny and you'll be able to see that the cutting edge has been restored.

Now for the hold your breath part, reassembling the pruners. Simply slide the two

parts back together, position the spring and replace the nut or screw. Test the pruners to be sure you haven't over tightened and that the blades move correctly.

Once the pruners are reassembled, give all the moving parts a spray of lubricating oil. Also coat the blades, to prevent rust. Wipe off the excess. And that's it!

You should clean and sharpen all your garden tools at least once a year, at the end or beginning of the gardening season. It would be even better if you did this monthly, especially for tools you use regularly, like pruners. The more you do it, the easier it becomes and the less time it will take. And I promise you you'll notice a big difference when you go to use your sharpened tools. ✂

*Excerpt gardening.about.com*

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## From the Membership Desk

Despite the awful weather for our January meeting, we still had a respectable number of members (48) show up at our temporary location. We would also like to welcome back Ted Robicheau to the Society.

A big thank-you to my usual suspects **Pat** and **Mike Salisbury** for helping at the front with **Christina Anonychuk**. They did a wonderful job! Also, a shout out to **Enza Lafratta** for offering to help. I may have found someone to take over the desk. It has not been confirmed yet, so stay tuned.

We will be at a new venue in February, so make sure you get there with ample time as we

have no idea how our set-up will be and may need help.

I have already had a volunteer for February, but please if you get in a little early, there is always something to do.

See you in February... It is Valentine's Day so let's try and wear red or pink.....! Not an official request but won't that be nice! ✂

**Grace McElhinney, Temporary Membership Chair**

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## Focus on Volunteers

Volunteers fill many roles within our society; some take a lot of time others as little as one hour per month.

Our society is listed on many websites such as those of our local councillors, our local MPP, the Streetsville BIA, city of Mississauga, Region of Peel and others.

We need a volunteer to make sure the information about SHS meeting locations and times is correct and to post information about our Open Houses, Plant sale and other events. The amount of time involved is 8-10 hours per year. Contact a board member if you are interested. ✂

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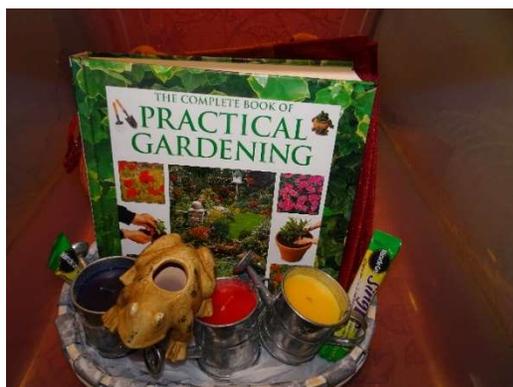
## From the Raffle Table

Although our turnout was smaller than usual, we still made \$48.00 on the raffle table. I have some beauties for the next meeting, so bring your toonies!

I am accepting donations to get us through the remainder of the year, so please feel free to bring them with you in February. I am ok with

baskets, but could use gifts that are garden themed if possible.

I will be away in March at the Philadelphia Flower Show, so I will have someone else on the raffle table that day. See you at the new venue in February. I can be reached at [gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com](mailto:gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com). ☞



#### Grace McElhinney, Raffle Table Chair

## Provincial Flower Quiz

All 10 provinces and 3 territories have a floral emblem.

Can you identify the plant from the description and the province it represents? Answers on page 8. No peeking!

1. This flower was chosen in 1906. An early spring flower, it is often seen pushing through the last snow. The flower, which ranges from light lavender to bluish purple in colour, has an outer coating of hair to protect it from sudden changes in temperature.

2. This plant is one of Canada's most common orchids. It blooms in late May and June and grows in shady and moist woodlands. The orchid gets its name from the shape of its petals which form a pouch somewhat like a slipper.

3. This shrub is known for its white blooms, in April and May, brilliant red berries and bright foliage in the fall. It prefers moist, organically rich, acidic soils in part shade.

4. A very hardy plant and one of our showiest native wildflowers, attracts hummingbirds. All parts of the plant are edible. It is a tall plant with magenta pink blossoms on a long spike that blooms from mid-summer until the first frost. It grows in loose moist soil in full sun.

5. This plant was chosen in 1941. It can grow in a variety of moisture levels as well, ranging from excessively drained sand dunes to saturated meadows in sun to partial shade. It grows to 12 inches tall with orange flowers in June and July. ♂



## Steps to a garden redesign



No garden design is ever finished. Plants fail, tastes change, and weather is unpredictable. Your original design may not have been created on paper and it probably didn't follow all the gardening design basics. We all have grand schemes and the best of intentions, but impulse buys are common to all gardeners and we're all guilty of tucking a plant in a "temporary" spot and never returning to move it.

You've probably heard the saying "The first year they sleep. Second year they creep. Third year they leap.", about perennials. What they don't go on to say is that it only takes about another three years for it to grow completely out of control. So if there's one thing a gardener can count on, it's having to re-evaluate their garden on a regular basis.

The first step is very simple. Think about what you like and what you dislike about your garden. Do you always wait for when the daylilies are in their glory? Do you dread having to deadhead or that period in late May when nothing seems ready to bloom? Go with what pops into your mind quickly. Once you have those thoughts, take a look at some of the photos you took during the year, to jog your mind a little more. Did the iris flop over as soon as they bloomed? Did the coreopsis and poppies make a particularly nice combination. Look over that list of disappointments and make notes of what not to plant next year or what can be removed and given away to the plant sale.

As for that list of plants you love, you now have a shopping list for next season.

Now that you've reviewed what worked and what didn't, take a moment to consider what

plants will be happy in your garden's natural conditions. A healthy plant is better able to withstand diseases and pests, and the plant will be healthiest in growing conditions that suit them.

Before you can look at the suitability of a plant, you need to assess your site.

Is it full sun or partial shade? A site that started out as full sun could now be shaded by a growing tree. Or a shady garden could now be in baking sun because a tree was removed.

How's your soil? I hope you've been amending it regularly with plenty of compost and other organic matter. But if it is still mostly sand or clay, you'll have to work with that. Sand will drain very quickly and needs drought tolerant plant choices. Clay can get bogged down and soggy, which requires a whole different type of plant.

Then there's soil pH. It's no one's favorite gardening topic, but it is vital to plant health. It only takes a few moments to have your soil tested to see if it is acidic or alkaline.

And finally there's your general climate to consider. What growing zone are you in now? It might have changed. How long is your growing season? Is it long enough to actually see the goldenrod bloom? Is spring so short it's not worth adding more ephemerals? Is rainfall so sparse succulents are all you can grow well? Now that you know what your plants will have to deal with, you can start to think about what plants you want.

Even if you plan to shop locally, a good catalog is a great place to research plants that are suited to your garden.

And finally, ensure the plants you choose at the nursery are healthy and ready to start thriving in your garden. ✂

<http://gardening.about.com/od/howtobasics/ss/10-Steps-to-a-Garden-Redesign.htm#showall>

## Streetsville Blooms

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Contact Monica Ross at 905.824.7283 or at [thegardenlady@psstnetwork.ca](mailto:thegardenlady@psstnetwork.ca)

Article suggestions; please contact Debbie Lemire at [debra.lemire@gmail.com](mailto:debra.lemire@gmail.com) or 416.268.4348.

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P.O. Box 42048, 128 Queen St. S. Mississauga, ON L4M 4Z4

## Jobs for the month of February

### General

- Firm plants after frost heaving;
- Order seeds.

### Trees and shrubs

- Continue to protect plants from frost and drying winds.

### Lawns

- Get mower serviced, sharpened, and repaired.

### Fruit

- Dormant spray tree and bush fruit;
- Prune fall-fruiting raspberries.

### Vegetables

- Start some vegetables and flowers indoors.

### Flowers

- Start slower growing flowers indoors.

## Forced Bulb Photos

Please send in your pictures of your forced bulbs, such as amaryllis, paper whites, narcissus, mascari etc. during January and February to be posted in the March edition of **Streetsville Blooms**.



ANSWERS TO THE PROVINCIAL FLOWER QUIZ  
1 = E, the prairie crocus Pulsatilla ludoviciana, the provincial flower of Manitoba; Plant 2 = D, the lady's slipper, provincial flower of Prince Edward Island; Plant 3 = A, the pacific dogwood, provincial flower of British Columbia; Plant 4 = B, fireweed, the flower of the Yukon Territory; Plant 5 = C, the western red lily, provincial flower of Saskatchewan