



# Streetsville Blooms



Volume 23, Issue 1

Streetsville Horticultural Society  
*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*  
[www.streetsvillehort.ca](http://www.streetsvillehort.ca)

January 2016

**Next meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

**COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH**

Doors open 7:00 p.m.

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.



## Speaker's Corner

**Topic:** Growing and using edible flowers and herbs

In the depths of winter, enjoy a warming, interactive presentation to get into the mood for the growing season. This multi-media presentation will share information about some of the best edible flowers and herbs to grow and enjoy in the kitchen, complete with growing tips and culinary tricks. There will be a demonstration to share how to harvest, preserve, and cook with some delicious flowers and herbs. Sampling and recipes will be provided.

Glenn Brunetti is a professional herb and food educator – having developed and presented hundreds of gardening and culinary programs for audiences across Ontario and the U.S. including the Royal Botanical Gardens, Mohawk College, Canada Blooms, First Canada Place and other venues. Glenn has been in demand as a speaker, food demonstrator, and guest with various media outlets promoting the growing and using of herbs and different cuisines.

## President's Message

Happy New Year to all! I hope your holidays were full of love and laughter but not too noisy!

During the growing season, my garden clients often ask 'What do you do in the winter?' My answer is always 'Clean the house' and after the house is clean and tidy again I have time for armchair gardening. Armchair gardening can be done all year round but it is most often a winter activity. You need an armchair, hopefully a fireplace, a cup of tea or something stronger, and the most important ingredient, a stack of garden catalogues. They could be for seeds or bulbs, perhaps for perennials, roses, or garden tools.

Even though a paper catalogue is not very environmentally friendly this process works better if they can be touched, flipped backwards and forwards, left in a heap open at the right page or the corners turned down while you eagerly check out the next one. Trying to do this online is just not the same.

Old catalogues can be a marvelous source of inspiration; the pictures and information in them last forever. I even have catalogues from companies that no longer exist like Cruikshank's and Garden Import bulb houses. Stoke's seed catalogues are packed with useful information.

## Index

Speaker's Corner...	1
President's Message...	1
From the Draw Table ...	2
Christmas Workshops ...	3
From the Refreshment Desk...	4
Choosing Seeds for Next Year ...	4
Winter Gardening ...	5

Armchair gardening can also include reading garden books. Some of my favourites, all of which are written by Canadian author and probably most of them are out of print, are Crazy about Gardening by Des Kennedy published 1994, The New Ontario Naturalized Garden, by Lorraine Johnson published 2001, The Year Round Vegetable Gardener, by Niki Jabbour published 2011 and one of the most inspirational garden books I have read, Designing a Garden, published in 1992 by Allen Paterson, a former director of the Royal Botanical Gardens. If your local library doesn't have them ask about an interlibrary loan.

It's easy to have a great looking garden in summer, with all the flowers and interesting foliage disguising problems which are horribly obvious in the winter. This is the time when the holes and gaps are most noticeable; adding a shrub or tree with an interesting shape or coloured bark will improve the appearance of your garden in both summer and winter.

Marjorie Harris describes a similar activity called creative staring but suggests it is best done while sitting in the shade on a hot summer day, while sipping something cold.

Have fun learning!

**Monica Ross, President**

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## From the Draw Table

Welcome to a new year at Streetsville Horticultural Society! I look forward to some fun chatter at the draw table in January!

Moving forward I ask that any members who have received any gifts they would like to re-gift after Christmas donate them if they wish to be used as part of our fundraising efforts for our society. In addition, if you have any gently used items that you feel would suit our table please feel free to bring them in as well. I am also looking for any baskets and/or filler for the baskets.

If anyone has any suggestions for improving our draw table, please feel free to email me at

[gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com](mailto:gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com). We want

this to be fun while at the same time earn funds for the society. Remember, all these monies help to keep our society running, without the extra monies raised our fees would have to rise. If everyone spent just \$2 at the draw table every meeting we could raise approx. \$120 every meeting or \$1200 for the year! Wow!



I look forward to seeing everyone on January 12, 2016!

**Grace McElhinney, Draw Table Chair**

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**Highlights include:**

- 25 gardens
- 6 professional floral artists
- International competitors
- 100's of hours of seminars, workshops, and presentations
- New books
- Rain garden
- Garden market place
- National Home Show

<http://canadablooms.com/>

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*Carol Zarb and her beautiful greenery display.*



*Earl Nelham finished a water-tight wren's house for his backyard.*

## Christmas Workshops



*Many delicious items were donated to the Silent Baked Goods Auction.*



*Mary Hachey is caulking her wren house to make it nice and warm for this spring's hatchlings.*

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*Nicki Hall inspires us all with a variety of centre-pieces.*

Applewood Garden Club is happy to announce THREE GARDEN DIVAS are coming to Mississauga on January 28, 2016. Streetsville Horticultural Society is invited to join Applewood for this special evening.

For additional information, please visit <http://applewoodgardenclub.org/>.

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## From the Refreshment Table

Just wanted to say thank you for all my helpers and to all the people who supplied all the great treats throughout the year. May everyone have a great holiday season and see you all in the New Year.



Mary Hachey, Refreshment Chair

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## Choosing Seeds for Next Year

It's that time of year again. The last of the Christmas decorations are packed away and we look with trepidation to the long, dark, cold months of January and February. Fortunately, January brings us seed catalogues filled with delicious fruits and vegetables and fragrant flowers. The offerings are many. But how do you choose what to order? Do I order hybrids or heritage seeds?

The first step to decide what you want to order is to decide what you want to grow next season and what seeds do you have in stock?

There is usually more than enough seed in a packet for more than one year. If you

kept last year's surplus of seeds in a cool, dry place, out of direct sunlight, there is no reason why you can't use them this year. However, check the expiry date on the package.

## What to buy

Do you want to grow heritage varieties or modern ones? There are good reasons for both of them:

- Heritage varieties usually taste better;
- Heritage are better suited for the home gardener as vegetables ripen little by little throughout the season;
- Unusual varieties may be found;
- People who grow heritage plants and seeds are often the kind of small, ethical business we want to support;
- Growing heritage varieties helps keep the genetic diversity going.

On the other hand:

- Modern varieties have a higher yield;
- They may have been bred for resistance to specific diseases;
- We are more familiar with how to grown hybrids.

Should you use hybrids? Some people think they mean "genetically modified". They are not. It simply means that two strains of the same vegetable or flower have been grown by inbreeding and then cross-bred with



each other to grow an F1 generation, which is the seed that you plant in your garden. The advantages of hybrids are they often have qualities their parents lack and that the cross-breeding gives them extra vigour.



The disadvantage is that you cannot save the seed to plant next year because it doesn't grow true in the next generation.

### Where to buy

- Buy local, close to where you live. It is best if they are in the same climatic zone as you and sell to your area;
- Buy from a reputable dealer that tests all seeds for germination and vigour each year;
- Buy from a dealer who has been in business for a long time and have many clients who offer testimonials;
- Ask your fellow gardeners who they use.
- Buy organic instead of conventional seeds. Organic have not been treated with chemical fertilizers, fungicides and pesticides.
- Avoid companies who describe their seeds as, "does best in a warm, sheltered microclimate", well worth the extra time", harvest promptly for best quality."
- Look for seeds described as, "germinates quickly," "consistently high producer," "excellent quality even at large sizes".

- Check Days to Maturity. If seeds are grown in the same climate zone as you, the seeds should do well in your backyard.
- Write down any name of successful plants so you can find the seed again next year.

Happy seed shopping!

Excerpts taken from

<http://www.permaculture.co.uk/>,

<http://www.nwedible.com/>

**Debra Lemire, Newsletter Chair**

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## Winter Gardening

January marks the beginning of a new year, full of promise in the garden. Despite the low temperatures and short daylight hours, there is much to do. Where the ground is unfrozen, you can still plant roses and hardy bare-root deciduous shrubs and trees. This is the time of year when a heated greenhouse has great appeal, especially when the weather is too bad to work outside.

The warmth of a heated frame or greenhouse or a sunny window indoors enables you to sow those half-hardy annuals which need a long growing season. Roots of favourite herbs, lifted and brought indoors, will provide fresh shoots and leaves for winter flavour, and the long evenings will give you plenty of time to browse through the new seed catalogues.

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## Streetsville Blooms

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Questions, concerns, ideas, or would you like to volunteer for a position on the Board?

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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### Jobs for the month

#### 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 indoors.

