



Streetsville Blooms



Volume 23, Issue 3

Streetsville Horticultural Society
Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association
www.streetsvillehort.ca

March 2016

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH

Doors open 7:00 p.m.,

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.



Speaker's Corner

Speaker: Wolfe Bonham

His talk is entitled, "Creating Spaces that Resonate with our Souls" and will reveal to us the elements that we each may desire in our own gardens.

Wolfgang Bonham is an admitted garden addict. He worked for renowned landscape designer Sean James of Fern Ridge Landscaping, and was a former manager for Terra Greenhouses before deciding to branch out on his own to launch Peace, Love, and Landscaping.

In his life before gardening, he was a jewelry designer and an audio engineer. As such, his entire life has been centred around artistic endeavours. His knowledge and artistic sense is influenced by his years of study, both formally at Mohawk College where he received certificates in Horticulture Studies as well as Landscape Design, and his travels to experience gardens all over the world.

President's Message

Spring is on the way! The compulsion to be in the garden in early spring is primal. It is more than the warmer temperatures it is the smell of the soil coming back to life and the fragrance of spring flowers. We reconnect with the earth and are invigorated and energized. We wander in circles looking down at the soil apparently doing nothing, looking for the first signs of new growth. I call it the gardener's walk.

We will need lots of energy this spring. April 12 is our Open House. We will have flyers and guest passes available at the March 8 meeting. These documents will also be posted on our website so friends, neighbours, colleagues and acquaintances will be able to print their own invitation and guest pass. We need new members and their skills to help our society grow and prosper.

We now have more details about the District 15 AGM. It will be held on Saturday, May 7th, at the Trinity Hall Banquet and Conference Centre, 1245 Eglinton Ave W., Mississauga and hosted by the Streetsville Horticultural Society. Our presenter will be Bill Andrews and his topic will be "From Meadow to Forest in 45 years, – An Ecological Journey". The registration for the day will be \$30.00 per person. This fee includes a continental breakfast, morning coffee break and lunch with dessert.

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The registration forms, flower show schedule and entry forms will be available at the March 8 meeting. The photography category will be a People's Choice.

Please contact Lynn Merritt at 905-826-3281 or lynn.merritt@sympatico.ca to register.

Other late April events will include planting two serviceberry trees at Rotary Park. The funding for these trees came from the Ralph Faustino memorial fund. We also plan to have a litter and trash pickup at the Leslie Log House as soon as the weather allows.

Help Wanted: Our treasurer Christine McEwan will be finished her term in the fall. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering as our new treasurer, we can get you off to a good start with a pre-transition treasurer in training period.

Monica Ross, President

From the Membership Desk

A warm welcome is extended to new members who joined our society in December – **Sandra Jensen** and **Belynda Thomas, Maureen Morrison** who joined in January, and **Shayla Harbridge** in February. Be sure to say a special 'hello' to these new members and make them feel comfortable and included in our meetings!

Thank you **Pat** and **Mike Salisbury** for coordinating the *Baked Goods Silent Auction* in December, and **Shirley Boyes, Heather Tregaskes, Diana DiBiase, Janice Ward, Sharon Pancott, Elizabeth Sbrocchi, Eleonora Roberts** and **Martha Witney** for their assistance with handing out Christmas greenery and helping on the membership desk in December, January and

February. Thanks to **Heather Walker** for her assistance with the snack table in February.

We could use one additional person to help on the Membership Desk in April to ensure all our guests register in order to win prizes during the Open House. Please sign up.

Two volunteers are needed to help **Mary Hachey** set up and clear up the snack table each month in April and May. Please sign up.

Five more volunteers to bring snack foods to the April 12 Open House are needed. Please sign up.

Lynn Merritt, Membership Chair

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Open House

When: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Community Christian Reform
Church of Meadowvale
2630 Inlake Court, Mississauga

Angie Allen from Pathways to
Perennials speaks on
***"Weed Free, Water Free, No Mow
Gardening = Water Wise Success"***

Join us for the evening and find out what our Society is all about. Enjoy refreshments provided by Streetsville Horticultural Society.

Congrats to **Deb Buckler**, SHS member, for triumphantly biking across Central America in support of WaterAid.

Deb travelled nearly 500 km from San Jose, Costa Rica to Managua, Nicaragua all in support of clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Ten days biking through jungles, around volcanoes and over croc-infested rivers, she helped to raise nearly \$45,000.



**Are you a
vendor?**
**Reserve a table
today!**



Vendor tables are available May 7, for the Ontario Horticultural Association District 15 Annual General Meeting for \$35.00.

For further information, please contact Mary Hachey at 905.858.8897 or e-mail her at mary.hachey@gmail.com.

Herbs in the Spotlight

Rosemary is a woody perennial herb with blue flowers that originates from the Mediterranean area. It is steeped in myth, magic and folk medicinal use.

Family: *Rosmarinus officinalis*



Zone: 8

Propagation: To grow from seed successfully, it requires bottom heat. The easiest way to propagate is by cuttings or by layering the branches.

Cultivation: Requires well-drained soil in a sheltered sunny location. It is frost hardy to 0 degrees Celsius.

Pests and diseases: Aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, mealy bugs and many fungus diseases.

Harvest: Rosemary is evergreen and fresh leaves can be picked all year round.

Companion planting: Plant near carrots to repel carrot fly. It is also beneficial to sage.

Container planting: Grows well in pots and is the preferred way to grow in cold areas.

Culinary uses: Rosemary is one of the most useful of culinary herbs, combining with meat, lamb, casseroles, tomato sauces, fish, rice, salads, egg dishes, apples, summer wine cups, cordials, vinegars and oils.

Medicinal uses: The essential oils in rosemary have antibacterial and anti-fungal properties. It helps poor circulation if rubbed into affected joints. It can be used as an Insect repellent. It is an excellent remedy for headaches if applied directly to the head.

Rosemary tea makes a good mouthwash and a good antiseptic gargle. Drunk in small amounts, it reduces flatulence and stimulates the smooth muscle of the digestive tract and gallbladder and increases the flow of bile. Put a

teaspoon of chopped leaves into a cup and pour on boiling water; cover and leave it to stand for five minutes.

An antiseptic solution of rosemary can be added to bath water to promote healthy skin.

Cosmetic uses: Rosemary is used in many herbal shampoos and hair tonics.

WARNING: the oil should not be used internally. Also, extremely large doses of the leaf are toxic, possibly causing abortion, convulsions, and very rarely, death. ☞

Rosemary Potatoes



Preheat oven to 400°C.

- 1 ½ lbs of small red or white skinned potatoes
- 1/8 cup good olive oil
- ¾ tsp. of kosher salt
- ½ tsp. of freshly ground pepper
- 1 tbsp. minced garlic (three cloves)
- 2 tbsp. minced fresh rosemary leaves

Cut potatoes in half or quarters and place in a bowl with the olive oil, salt, pepper, garlic and rosemary; toss until potatoes are well coated. Place the coated potatoes on a baking sheet in one layer; roast in the oven for at least one hour, or until browned and crisp. Flip potatoes

twice with spatula during cooking to ensure even browning.

Remove potatoes from the oven, season to taste, and serve.

Potato recipe can be sealed in a double layer of tin foil and roasted on the barbeque.

Debra Lemire, Newsletter Chair



We are looking for gift donations for the Ontario Horticultural Association District 15 Annual General Meeting. Re-gifting is good too.

Please contact Lynn Merritt before March 28 at 905.826.3281 or e-mail

lynnc.merritt@sympatico.ca



*Thus came the lovely spring,
With a rush of blossoms and music
flooding the earth with flowers...*

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

10 Neat things about how insects survive winter

1. Die or pause? No, diapause.

To survive the brutality of freezing winters, many insects enter a state of suspended animation known as diapause. This can occur at any stage of development from egg to pupa to even adulthood in some species. Metabolism essentially ceases and the entity condition persists until some natural event trigger renewal of development. The trigger could be light, temperature, or some other factor that we haven't yet identified.

2. Hidey-holes.

Overwintering insects have all sorts of hideouts. Aphids like to lay their eggs in the scaly buds of woody plants. Tent caterpillars lay eggs in protected masses on tree branches, native ladybug hide out in herds under leaves and overwintering vegetation (the Asian one choose warm places such as your house). The evil emerald ash borer freezes solid tucked into the bark of the tree it is invading.



3. Snow bird insects.

We all know about the monarch butterfly and its heroic flights between Northern climes and Mexico each fall, but did you know that some 50 species of the 5,200 species of dragonflies also go south? Strangely, we haven't identified any Canadian species with this hedonistic habit yet.

4. Speaking of snow.

Your mother told you not to eat the snow and unless you enjoy ingesting bugs, here's

one reason why.



Snow fleas, otherwise known as springtails, although not technically insects, relish winter. You

can see their dark blue bodies in the snow, looking for all the world like specks of pepper. They eat fungi, leaf litter, and moss.

5. The good earth.

Many insects bore into the earth to spend the winter in warm and cozy quarters that are heated to above freezing by the molten core of the earth. They might rest in the form of grubs or as larva ready to continue to their next stage as soon as spring comes.

6. Cocoon.

Many insects overwinter in snug cocoons behind shutters or behind mailboxes or under the eaves of your home. Others sleep in a chrysalis attached to some convenient location.



7. Just resting.

Adult mosquitoes enter a state of quiescence - not quite as deep as diapause - resting in a sheltered place until it's time to get active. Three of their development stages, however, are lived in water as egg, larva, and pupa, and in cold climates, these stages enter diapause, waiting for spring before continuing on their developmental journey.



8. Frozen bugs.



Some insects just turn on the antifreeze, allowing their whole bodies to become little lumps of ice. These insects produce antifreeze proteins and glycerol - a sugary alcohol - that super cools their liquid parts to a solid state. Some can survive temperatures to -50 C or even lower. Freeze-tolerant insects include many moths, butterflies, beetles, and wasps.

9. Wintering in water.

Some insects, such as dragonfly nymphs, overwinter at the bottom of the pond, staying active in the water that is "heated" by the earth. If the pond freezes over completely, they may enter diapause to eke out the rest of the season, becoming reactivated in spring.



10. Summer bee, winter bee.

Would you rather be a summer bee or a winter bee? And what is the difference? A summer bee lives four to six weeks; a winter bee lives four to six months. They survive in the hive eating honey. The bees congregate in a cluster shivering their flight muscles to generate heat to keep the hive warm.



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Remember to lug your mug!



Advertising space for sale

Have you got something garden related you want to sell? Or do you want to advertise your home business?



Do you know you can advertise in our newsletter?

For further information on sizes and cost of ads, please contact Amgad Boles at 647.933.3808 or amgadg@rogers.com.

Wanted for plant sale



- Pots (nothing smaller than 5")
- Trays
- Venetian blinds for labelling.

Please bring them to March meeting.

Plant Sale – May 28

May 28 sounds a long way off, but in reality spring is just around the corner. What a crazy winter we have had and since we have had little snow I have been out checking my garden regularly to make sure none of my perennials have heaved out of the ground. I have already decided which of my plants need to be split to improve their flowering.

That said, plans are already underway for this year's plant sale to be held on **Saturday, May 28 at the Leslie Log House**. I am extremely grateful that Dean Scully and Grace McElhinney have offered to assist me with this huge undertaking. The biggest problem is finding an appropriate place to pot up – not everyone wants all that mess and activity on their driveway and so we have asked former SHS President Sarah Pengilley if we could use a corner of her property to do the job of dividing and potting up the plants.

We will be looking for four or five members to “babysit” the plants after they are potted and placed in trays – in other words, to keep them in a shaded spot on their property and to water them when needed.

Of course, we will also need members who are willing to let other members drop off plants (undivided, labelled and in plastic bags) at their homes so we can take them to Pengilley's to be divided and potted.

We will need volunteers to make labels, distribute posters (stores, libraries, community centers etc). And we will also need volunteers to do the potting up which will be held in Churchville (Churchville Road south of Steeles) on Saturdays and Sundays. We will also need

volunteers to put up signs the night before the plant sale is on and volunteers to work the day of the plant sale moving plants to the site, setting up, helping sell, etc. etc. etc.

Guess I am really giving you all a heads up that we will need **each of you** to do ‘something’ for the sale – whether it is donating plants, potting up, making labels, putting up signs, working the day of the plant sale. If every member donated 10 plants we would have over 1,000 plants!! Sign-up sheets will be handed out at the next few meetings. Start thinking about your garden and what possibly can be divided and donated.

The Plant Sale is our biggest fundraiser and without it we could not enjoy our great speakers, or hand out premiums to our members in May, or do the community work of planting trees and maintaining Rotary Park and the Leslie Log House gardens. Thanks in advance for your anticipated participation! ✂

Carol Ashford, Plant Sale Chair



VOLUNTEERS Required for Plant Sale

Start thinking about what you can do to help:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Dividing & Potting up | Signage |
| Watering | Digging up |
| Making Labels | Setting up |
| Publicity | Selling |
| Pricing & Labelling | Cleaning up |



Don't forget to submit your volunteer hours! All that time spent digging up plants or potting up for the plant sale count as volunteer hours. Submit hours to Eleonora Roberts at gattescohouse@rogers.com.

10 Gardening Mistakes

1. Improper plant selection/placement.
 - a. Not considering plants needs (sun, shade, moist, dry, air circulation)
 - b. Overusing plants most likely to have pests or problems
2. Lack of attention to soil preparation and care
 - a. No soil tests
 - b. Not regularly replacing organic matter, such as compost
 - c. Failing to determine drainage conditions
3. Improper planting practices
 - a. Planting at the wrong depth
 - b. Not slicing matted root systems of container-grown plants
4. Insufficient post-transplant care
5. Improper irrigation practices
 - a. Watering late evening instead of early morning
 - b. Frequent shallow watering instead of less frequent deep watering
6. Improper mulch applications

- a. Allowing the mulch to touch stems or trunks of trees
7. Improper pesticide use
 - a. Using a pesticide without reading the whole label
 - b. Using a pesticide without knowing the pest, plant, time to spray
8. Improper pruning techniques
 - a. Not leaving branch collar intact
9. Ill-timed programs
 - a. Incorrect pruning and fertilizing programs
10. Not consulting reliable resources for information ☞

Barbara J. Bromley, Mercer County Horticulturist 07

From the Draw Table

A new year is well under way at the Streetsville Horticultural Society! Congratulations go out to the winners of our January and February gifts. The draw table brought in just over \$70.00 in revenue for the month of January and \$74.00 in February! What a great way to start the year. If at all possible please try and have correct change. A big thank – you to last month's speaker, Cathy Nesbitt for donating the sprout package, it was a big hit!

I will be including next month's draw baskets in the newsletter every month and the descriptions will be announced before every meeting. You know even if you win and you don't want the gift you can re-donate it back to me to use again!

I would like to extend a thank-you to those members who brought in some baskets and some gift items for the table in January and February. I appreciate your donations. Going forward throughout the year please feel free to bring in items for the table at any time.

If anyone has any suggestions for improving our draw table, please feel free to e-mail me at gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com. So far I have made things very simple by just going with one price for three tickets. This way for \$2.00 you have tickets for each gift. We want this to be fun while at the same time earn funds for the society.

I look forward to seeing everyone on March 8, 2016! ☘



Grace McElhinney, Draw Table Chair

Vesey's Bulb Spring Fundraiser



Vesey's catalogues will be distributed to members at the March 8 meeting.

Orders must be handed in at the April 12 meeting and completed orders will be ready to pick up at the May meeting. ☘

Tips to Starting Seeds Indoors

1. Sow your seeds according to the directions on the back of the packet. Most seed packages recommend starting seeds six to eight weeks before the last frost date.
2. Use fresh, sterile seed-starting mix that is light and fluffy to hold just enough moisture or use compressed coir pellets.
3. Purchase sterile propagation kits from a hardware store or nursery centre, or clean and sterilize used potting containers with a solution of nine parts water to one part bleach.
4. Seedlings need lots of sunlight or special lights for 12 – 18 hours per day. ☘



Here in the Northern Hemisphere spring arrives on March 20. On this day (vernal equinox), the Earth's tilt is exactly sideways to the Sun, so day and night are of equal length at all points on the Earth's surface.

Streetsville Blooms

President: Monica Ross

Vice president: Marg Rowan

Secretary: Marg Rowan

Assistant Secretary: Arlene Crothers

Past president: Sue Harshman

Treasurer: Christine McEwan

Editor: Debra Lemire

Webmaster: Nigel Roberts

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

Article suggestions; please contact Debbie Lemire at debra.lemire@gmail.com or 416.268.4348.

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Jobs for the month of March (Zone 6)

General

- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above ground level.

Trees and shrubs

- Continue to protect plants from frost and drying winds;
- Prune late-flowering climber and deciduous shrubs;
- Plant roses, trees and shrubs weather permitting;
- Check supports for existing climbers.

Lawns

- Rake and brush over lawns once dry;
- Top-dress the lawn with compost if there is no snow.

Fruit

- Continue spraying against pests.

Vegetables

- Start some vegetables, like tomatoes and peppers indoors;

Flowers

- Start slower growing flowers indoors, like zinnias, marigolds, under lights;
- Late in month, transplant pansies outdoors and sow seeds for nasturtiums and sweet peas. ✂