



# Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

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

Volume 25, Issue 7

www.streetsvillehort.ca

March 2018



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**NEXT MEETING: MARCH 13, 2018**

## Streetsville United Church

**274 Queen Street South**

Doors open 7 p.m.

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

### President's Message

Robin Williams once said 'Spring is nature's way of saying let's party!' It's time to start planning your 2018 garden party. What was missing from your garden last year? Do you have a sequence of blooms throughout the growing season?



If an area is great in the spring but then so-so for the rest of the year, consider adding annuals to add colour. We all know that annuals have taken a back seat to perennials over the past 20 years but they are usually inexpensive and are the only plants that will provide constant colour from spring to fall. The other big bonus is you can change the colours every year if you want.

You can even put a pot full of annuals into a gap in a flower border; the flowers will really stand out because the pot raises them over the foliage height

of other non-blooming plants. If you partly bury the pot it won't dry out as quickly.

In shady dry areas under large trees such as Norway Maples, pots of shade loving plants will do much better than trying to plant them in the ground, you can even rotate the pots in and out of dense shade to encourage more blooms.

If you need additional perennials think carefully about colour, location and bloom time. Look for plants that bloom in early summer or later in the fall. Most of us have lots of bloom in the spring, and again in mid-summer or later, think of all the Echinacea and Rudbeckia many of us have in our gardens. Humber Nurseries has a marvelous bloom time calendar on their website.

What else do you need? Tools need replacing after many years of wear; sprinklers and hoses have a nasty habit of becoming non-functional at the exact time they are needed most. Planning ahead will give you time to sit back and enjoy your garden.

As always Happy Gardening!

Monica Ross,

President

P.S. Usually I can't imagine having pink plastic flamingos in my garden, but if I had a white picket fence..... maybe!

#### REFRESHMENTS FOR MAR

The following members have brought refreshments to the March Meeting.

Maureen Dodd

Lorena D'Arsie

Andrea Vertolli

Monika Schouten



#### COMING EVENTS

##### **Spring Open House-Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Volunteers are needed to distribute Open House invitations, flyers and our publicity postcards to local libraries, community centres and Streetsville stores. Time commitment 2-4 hours; please sign up at our March meeting.

##### **DISTRICT 15 AGM**

This year's Annual General Meeting is being hosted by the Chinguacousy Garden Club on April 21, 2018, at the Gore Meadows Community Centre, in Brampton. The complete package with details, registration form, flower show schedule, etc. will be posted on our website by March 1<sup>st</sup> [www.streetsvillehort.ca](http://www.streetsvillehort.ca) and available at our March Meeting.

##### **OHA ANNUAL CONVENTION – JULY 27 – 29, 2018.**

Information about the convention is now on the Streetsville Hort website. This year's host is District 3 and the location is the Ambassador Hotel & Conference Centre in Kingston. If you have never attended an OHA convention, please consider taking a mini-vacation this year. There are wonderful things to see and do, along with marvelous speakers and interesting bus tours. You will enjoy yourself enormously with the added bonus of meeting so many like-minded individuals that will remain friends for life.

There will be flower, photography and art show/competitions. The art competition has 11 classes including drawing, painting, embroidery, carving, fabric art, stained glass and jewellery. Some of the competitions have early submission dates, so check out the details at

[www.streetsvillehort.ca](http://www.streetsvillehort.ca)

##### **PLANT SALE – MAY 26**

This year's plant sale will be held on Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> at Leslie Log House. Start thinking about what you can contribute.

**MILESTONES**

We have received the sad news that Arlene Baker Drew has passed away after a short battle with cancer.

Arlene was the sister of Bill Baker, the young man for whom the Baker Memorial Fund was donated and has been maintained by District 15. Arlene has attended many of our AGM's to present the Youth trophies and prizes, and was very supportive of District 15's involvement with youth. We will certainly miss her at our upcoming AGM. Arlene indicated her son, Bob, will continue to attend District 15's AGM's to present the youth awards, so the Baker family will be represented at our future AGM's.

Barb O'Malley, District 15 Director

***SPEAKER'S CORNER***

Our March 2018 speaker is Jennifer Mark from Sheridan Nurseries.

Jennifer has spent 20 years in the Horticultural industry. She will share her knowledge and expertise to teach us the various methods for propagating plants. This will range from starting from seed to dividing our overgrown perennials (a necessary skill for our annual plant sale).

Jennifer's presentation will involve display material and hands-on demonstrations. I'm sure there will be plenty of techniques and solutions revealed.

***PHOTO CONTEST – MARCH MEETING***

At our March meeting we will have a member judged photo competition. The rules are:

- Photos must have been taken by the entrant
- They may not have been entered in any previous SHS or OHA photo contests
- They must be garden or nature related
- You may enter two 4 X 6 inch photos
- Please put your name on the back of your photos

Think of your entries as my "best" or my "favourite" picture.

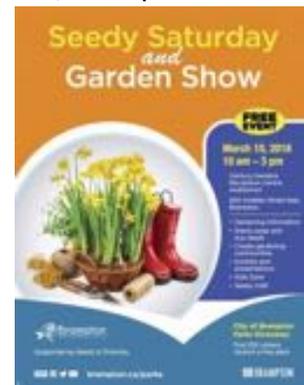


**OTHER GARDENING EVENTS**

**Stratford Garden Festival** Mar. 1 – 4  
Admission \$10 Speakers & Marketplace  
[www.stratfordgardenfestival.com](http://www.stratfordgardenfestival.com)

**Canada Blooms** March 9 – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Enercare Centre, Toronto  
Adults \$20 Seniors \$17  
[www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

**Seedy Saturday & Garden Show** March 10  
10:00 – 3:00 Admission Free  
Century Gardens Recreation Centre,  
34 Vodden St. E., Brampton



## GETTING READY FOR SPRING

### ***CLEAN UP***

Throughout the fall and winter, your garden can be exposed to the elements and what's left behind from storms. You want to first start by clearing all of your garden beds and lawn of broken branches, leaves, and other debris that have collected. It's important to start these chores quickly, as your spring bulbs and plants should be popping out of the ground any day now. The sooner you clean out the beds, the less chance you have of stepping on the growing plants and damaging them."

The same cleanup method applies for your trees and bushes. To prep for spring, trim off any broken or dead branches, now is also a good time to prune and shape trees.

### ***PREP YOUR GARDEN TOOLS***

Pull out those tools that have been sitting around all winter. It's almost time to use your tools again, so you want to make sure they are ready for the job. Clean off the tools with soap and water, and use **mineral spirits** on wood handles. The mineral spirits will help prevent the wood from splintering. You should clean your tools every spring and fall, or if they are especially dirty.

### ***GIVE YOUR SOIL SOME TLC***

Make sure your soil is ready for planting. To start, turn the soil over with a pitchfork and rake it out, clearing any weeds that may have grown. Add fresh compost from your compost bin—if you don't have one, use store-bought compost or manure to add nutrients to the soil. You'll want to add compost or manure a couple of weeks before planting something, so it has time to mix well with your soil and won't burn the roots of your new plants.

### ***MAKE A PLAN***

Consult your [zone](#) to see which **flowers and vegetables** are best for your location. You can also head to your local nursery to get planting recommendations from local experts. Planning your garden is the most important part. Plant so that you get color blooming throughout the season—so mix perennial flowers with some annuals as this will help keep color in your yard longer. It's also good to plant according to height, making sure that taller plants don't block the sun from shorter ones.

### ***AND DON'T FORGET TO MAINTAIN IT***

Upkeep during the whole season is key. "Once your flowers start blooming you will have to deadhead to promote more flowers (depending on the species), and it's a good time to plant annuals to supplement your perennial flowers," says Lambton. Deadheading is when you cut off the drooping or fading flowers from the rest of the green, healthy stem. "The late spring is also a good time to put down a nice layer of mulch on the garden," he says. "This will help hold down weeds while keeping in water for those long hot summer days ahead. It also will break down over the fall and winter and help add nutrients to the soil."

For more gardening ideas, check out [9 must-know tips for beginners](#).



This year we will hold our plant sale at the Leslie Log House on **SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2018**. For those of you who are new, (and just to remind the veteran members) the plant sale is SHS's biggest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds of the sale pay for speakers, Judges for Flower Shows, Premiums, Rental of meeting room etc. Last year we made just over \$6,000 ... this is a lofty number to meet or exceed so every member needs to help make this sale successful!

We will be looking for volunteers to help with this event. Start thinking what you can do to help. Volunteers will be needed to dig plants from their gardens, labeling, potting-up, caring for plants until the sale, transportation, set up, selling and giving plant information, clean up and more. Sign up sheets will be circulated at the March meeting.

Again, as last year, we ask you to donate old garden ornaments you no longer need or want; e.g. signs, lanterns, statues, birdhouses, feeders etc. We will again have a sale area for these items.

**NEEDS LIST:**

- Volunteers
- Plants
- Clean pots NO smaller than 6" in diameter
- Volunteers
- Garden ornaments etc.

Start thinking about what **YOU** can do to help. Go through your garden pictures and if you have plants you no longer want, or plants that have grown too large and need to be split we will count on you to donate some to the sale. **We are again counting on you to make this years' sale a resounding success!**

*"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something!"*

## MOSS – LOVE IT OR NOT



We have all seen pictures of Japanese style gardens, with a Japanese maple and moss on old lanterns or planters. Most of us have probably seen moss growing in forests, and sphagnum moss in boggy areas. These scenes look very green and peaceful, soft and sometimes almost luxurious.

But how we feel about moss in our gardens, that it seems is a completely different topic. I have moss in my garden, I like it in my pebble path in the woodland garden, I like it on the rocks around the garden pond, I'm not pleased with it growing in the flower beds.



To understand why we have moss in the lawn and garden, it helps to know something about the plant. There are thousands of different types of moss. Most of them prefer a site that offers them a cool, shady, moist soil that is slightly acidic. A healthy patch of moss will tell you that you have one or more of the following conditions: the soil is very acid-very unlikely in our area-, the soil is very moist, the soil is poor nutritionally, the area is very shady or the soil is very compacted. All of these conditions favor moss and all of them inhibit turf grass. What to do? In our area most of the soil is clay based and easily compacted, which creates poor drainage. To improve the drainage you could one or all of the following: aerate the lawn, or spread a layer of compost or good quality top soil on top of the lawn, this raises the surface level making it drier and less hospitable for mosses to grow and fills in any low spots. Moss grows in areas with poor soil nutrition, lawn grasses need much more, so fertilize the mossy areas, this will encourage lawn grass growth. Last evaluate how much shade trees and bushes create, a careful thinning or pruning will increase the amount of sun, and discourage moss growth.

In garden beds you can just scrape the moss off the soil, and perhaps move it to areas where you would like to see moss. But just removing it will not stop it coming back; the same conditions that encouraged the moss in the first place are still there. To improve the drainage you will need to dig over the area and add organic matter, compost or a good quality soil with organic matter already in the mix, you don't want to add more clay based soil!

Think carefully about the amount of watering you do in the garden, the soil should not remain wet or damp. This is the problem in the area of my garden where moss grows very well, it doesn't get over watered, but it is on the shady side of the fence and the plants in that area are tall meaning the soil surface stays damp, just perfect for moss growth. In the past I have dug it up and transplanted it to the pebble path, now I think I will dig over the area and improve the drainage.

If you want to grow moss on planters or rocks there are instructions on many websites.

### **Waiting for Spring**

Bundled up all winter long  
Waiting for that sweet spring song  
Tired of the dark and cold  
Craving colours, bright and bold.

Flowers hiding under snow  
Soon to blossom up and grow  
Animals huddled in a swarm  
Eagerly awaiting for the warm

Whipping winds hit my face  
I'm longing for those sweet spring days  
I close my eyes, here comes the sun  
The cold is over .... Spring has begun



### **Volunteer Hours**

Remember to submit ALL your volunteer hours to Eleonora Roberts email [gattescohouse@rogers.com](mailto:gattescohouse@rogers.com)

What are volunteer hours? Time spent working at Rotary Park or the Leslie Log House, making refreshments for the meeting, setting up or taking down chairs for meetings, digging up or potting up plants for plant sale, etc.

Your hours are important – we need them to receive our grant from the OHA!

## HARDINESS ZONE

A **hardiness zone** is a geographically defined area in which a specific category of [plant](#) life is capable of growing, as defined by climatic conditions, including its ability to withstand the minimum temperatures of the zone (see the scale on the right or the table below). For example, a plant that is described as "hardy to zone 10" means that the plant can withstand a minimum temperature of -1°C (30.2°F) to 3.9°C (39.0°F). First developed by the [United States Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) as a rough guide to landscaping and gardening, the use of the zones has been adopted by other countries.

Temperature scale of hardiness zones, showing the average annual **minimum** temperature or yearly extreme low in degrees Celsius. The main factors determining average minimum temperature are elevation, latitude and proximity to the coast.

If you live south of Derry Road you are in Zone 5b and north of Derry Road is Zone 5a. You should therefore look for Zone 6 or lower when purchasing plants for your garden. This information will be on the grower's tag in the pot.

Zone	°C
11	+10
10	+4
9	-1
8	-7
7	-12
6	-17
5	-23
4	-29
3	-35
2	-40
1	-45
	-51



## Streetsville Blooms

**President:** Monica Ross

**Vice president:** Marg Rowan

**Secretary:** Marg Rowan

**Past president:** Sue Harshman

**Treasurer:** Martha Witney

**Editor:** Debra Lemire

**Webmaster:** Nigel Roberts

Flower Show Chair: Janet Shaw  
[hotfive7@yahoo.ca](mailto:hotfive7@yahoo.ca)

**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.

**URL:** [www.streetsvillehort.ca](http://www.streetsvillehort.ca)

**E-mail:**  
[streetsvillehort@hotmail.com](mailto:streetsvillehort@hotmail.com)

**OHA Website:**  
[www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)

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

### FROM THE DRAW TABLE

Thanks for all who participated in last month's draw. The table made \$56.00. We had some beautiful gifts with a Valentine's Day theme and we had very happy and sexy winners!

So for March we are getting back to our gardening theme and I have some wonderful items that would look great at your place. Please get your toonies ready for our upcoming draw. You can't win if you don't play!

See you in March! Cheers!!

Grace McElhinney



**Happy St. Patrick's Day!!**