



Streetsville Blooms



Volume 23, Issue 5

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

May 2016

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 2016

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH

Premium Night

Doors open 7:00 p.m.,

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.



Speaker's Corner

Speaker: Steven Biggs

Our visiting speaker for May 2016 presents " **Edibles in Urban Landscapes**" Steven is a journalist and author specializing in gardening, farming, and food production. As a life-long gardener, he has gardened wherever he's lived, planting allotment gardens, container gardens, indoor gardens, and gardens in the overgrown backyards of rental houses. Along with studying horticultural science at the University of Guelph, he has worked in greenhouse and nursery production, plant propagation, biological controls, horticultural supplies, and farm marketing. Steven's book *No Guff Vegetable Gardening*, co-authored with Donna Balzer, is a Canadian bestseller. Other books are *Grow Figs Where You Think You Can't* and *Grow Gardeners*. *Kid-tested Gardening with Children* written with his nine-year-old daughter.

President's Message

We are heading into a very busy time of year for Streetsville Horticultural Society. We have many things happening. Our May 10 meeting will be *Premium* night when all members in good standing present will receive a free plant. We will also have our first flower show of the year. The flower show schedule was published in the April and May newsletter and is posted on our website.

Last year, as many of you will remember, we asked our members to fill out a membership survey. The results of that survey were very useful. We knew what topics interested our members and we could plan speakers who were experts on those topics. We knew who amongst our members were interested in volunteering for particular events or being involved in particular projects. Best of all we found out the incredible range of knowledge our members possess allowing us to ask those knowledgeable people for help and advice. The survey also has space for any other comments you may want to make.

This year's survey is on the last two pages of this newsletter. It is also

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available on our website; please print it and bring it to our May meeting. If you are not able to print it, there will be copies available at the May meeting. A completed survey will be necessary to receive your premium plant.

Our Plant Sale is on Saturday May 28 at the Leslie Log House property as it has been for the past two years. The Historical Society will be providing food and drinks for our guests, and the house will be open so that Plant Sale volunteers can have a break if needed. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year and provides the money we need for everything the Society does. Preparing for that day as well as the work on plant sale day takes many hands and hundreds of volunteer hours. How can you help? First, we need plants. Now that it is finally spring, do the gardener's walk and see what is extra in your garden. Please look at the signup sheets at our May meeting to see where you can help with the preparations or on the day of the sale.

The gardens at Rotary Park in Streetsville and at the Leslie Log House are maintained by SHS members. If you have time available, please contact Jon Eldridge to volunteer at Rotary Park, or Carol Ashford to volunteer at the Leslie Log House.

Our garden tour will be held in July and I'm sure our members would be thrilled to see what is in your part of the garden world.

If you are a new member and aren't sure what activities suit you best; talk to

any of our members or one of the Board of Directors.

As always Happy Gardening! 🌿

Monica Ross, President

Streetsville Horticultural Society wishes to thank the following for their generous donations for our May 7 D15 AGM:

Sheridan Nurseries – carry bags;
Councillor George Carlson – 160 pens and 10 Mississauga pins;
Scott's Canada – Miracle Grow plant food (single use);
Burt's Bee's – 166 tinted lip balm and 160 sensitive eye cream;
Credit Valley Conservation – educational material;
Riverwood Conservancy – winter calendar of events (1 sheet);
Canadian Tire - 2 Fiskars pruners, 1 Leaf-Pactor Leaf Compactor, 2 complete garden-3 veggie kits;
RE/MAX - glass pitcher with 4 glasses;
Lowe's – 120, 5L bags potting mix;
Urban Nature Store – \$25 gift certificate;
Peel Police – Stickers and fridge magnets;
TJX Canada – \$25 gift certificate

Lynn Merritt, D15 AGM Registration Chair

Herbs in the Spotlight

Coriander

Coriander is a native of southern Europe and the Middle East. It was a popular herb in England up until Tudor times. Early European settlers in America included seeds among the beloved items they took to the New World, as did the Spanish into Mexico.

Coriander has been cultivated for over 3000 years. Coriander was brought to northern Europe by the Romans, who, combining it with cumin and vinegar, rubbed it into meat as a preservative.

Family: *Coriandrum sativum* 'Cilantro' and 'Coriander'

Zone: 8

Propagation: Coriander is grown from seed. Thinly sow its large seed directly into the soil in shallow drills. Lightly cover with fine soil or compost and water. Seedlings should germinate between five to 10 days. Seed sowing may be carried out as often as required between early spring and late autumn. Sowing seed into trays is not recommended because the plants do not transplant well once the taproot is established. If the coriander gets upset, they bolt straight into flower missing out the leaf-production stage.

Cultivation: Coriander grows best in a light, well-drained soil, a sunny position, and a dry atmosphere. In fact, it is difficult to grown in damp or humid areas and needs a good dry summer if a reasonable crop is expected.

Plant out in cool climates when there is no threat of frost. Make sure it is planted nowhere near fennel, which seems to suffer in its presence.

When the plant reaches maturity and the seeds set and begin to ripen, the plant tends to loll about on its weedy stem and needs staking. On ripening, they develop a delightful orangey scent and are used widely as a spice and a condiment. The

flavor of homegrown seeds is markedly superior to those raised commercially.

Pests and diseases: being a highly aromatic plant, coriander is usually free from pests. In exceptional circumstances, it is attacked by aphids. If so, spray with plain water gently and shake the plant gently to remove excess water on the leaves, or use a liquid horticultural soap.

Harvest: pick young leaves any time. They should be 10 cm in height and bright green. Watch seed heads carefully as they ripen suddenly and will fall without warning. Cut the flower stems, as the seed smell starts to become pleasant. Cover bunches of about six heads together in a paper bag. Tie the top of the bag and hang it upside down in a dry, warm, airy place. Leave for roughly 10 days. Store the seeds in an airtight container. Coriander seeds keep their flavour well.

Container planting: Coriander can be grown in containers inside with diligence or outside on the windowsill or patio. But for a confined space is it not the best choice for, until the seeds ripen, the plant has an unpleasant smell. Also, as an annual, it has a short growing season. The only successful way to maintain it in a pot is to keep picking the mature leaves. If you do grow coriander in the container ensure good drainage with plenty of chippings or broken pot pieces; use a bark, peat potting soil; and do not overwater in the evening. Like many herbs, coriander does not like wet feet. ✂

Salsa

- ½ cup cilantro leaves, minced
- ½ cup tomatoes, diced
- ½ cup red onion, sliced thinly
- Lime juice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Jalapeno pepper, diced (optional)

Blend equal parts of cilantro leaves, tomatoes, and red onion and lightly dress with lime juice. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Jekka's Culinary Herbs, a guide to growing and using herbs for the kitchen.

From the Membership Desk

Kudos to *Superstars* **Marlene**

VandenHelm and **Lorena D'Arsie** for their work collecting registration fees for the D15 AGM during the April meeting in my absence.

Thanks also to the following volunteers who assisted at the membership table and as greeters in April: **Andrea Vertolli, Marlene VandenHelm, Vicky Pavao, Janice Ward, Martha Witney, and Nel Padt.**

Appreciation goes to snack table helpers for **Mary Hachey – Wendy Arrighi, Renate Wust and Joan Chin.**

Snacks donations were supplied by **Wendy Arrighi, Barb Umphrey, Martha Witney, Marg Rowan, Christine Anonychuk, and Anita King.**

We had a busy night on the desk in April since it was *Open House* night, but it went off without a hitch. We had 22 guests for

our special night and 10 new members joined our Society immediately. Their names are **Sandra Bashford, Maureen Dodd, Mary Gattesco, Cheryl McDougall, Liz Menard, Suzanne Palummieri, Anna and John Raftery, Ted Robicheau, and Vasuki Senthilnathan.** Please welcome them into our Society and help them to feel comfortable.

A warm welcome also to returning members **Sabbas D'Souza and Dionne Lemay.** ☺

Lynn Merritt, Membership Chair

What are you growing?



Janice Ward's Siberian squill (Scilla siberica) enjoys a snowy day.

Plant Sale

The nice weather is upon us and we are busy potting up plants for the Plant Sale. ***But, we need help!!!***

Plants are required – please dig up your plants – place same variety in a plastic

grocery bag along with a note indicating name of plant, shade or sun, colour of flower. Drop off those bags of plants to any of the following addresses:

Carol Ashford 1750 Melody Dr.
Monica Ross 6978 Chilcot Court
Dean Scully 6592 Eastridge Road
Janice Ward 3157 Alfresco Terrace
Grace McElhinney 1623 Summer-
grove Cres.



We will pick up your bags of plants and take them to **7767 Churchville Road**, Brampton for division and potting.

Potting Up Dates at 7767 Churchville Road are:

April 30 8:30 a.m.
May 1 10:00 a.m.
May 7 8:30 a.m.
May 8 10:00 a.m.
May 14 8:30 a.m.

If you have a couple of hours on a Saturday or Sunday morning, please come

and help pot up. Volunteers are also needed in other areas – pricing, making labels, digging up plants, signage etc. If you can help and you have not signed up, please give me a call at 905 858-0748.

In order to provide great speakers, rent for our meeting room, premiums, awards, community plantings at Rotary Park and Leslie Log House and tree planting, money is required. Help make our Plant Sale a big success and ensure our Society continues to thrive and expand!!

WE NEED PLANTS!!!

Carol Ashford, Plant Sale Chair

From the Draw Table

We had lots of action at the raffle table last month! I would like to welcome our new members to our Society and congratulate a few of them on winning at the table in April. So many members won a variety of goodies thanks to the bonus prizes. Thank you so much for all your participation. Together we have raised \$350.00 for our club this year 2016, and last month was terrific with \$128.00 raised! I could not do this without your participation. The baskets are a great value for a \$2 opportunity to win, so please keep playing!

I have attached pictures of May's baskets and they are wonderful. This month you will have from four different baskets to choose from. You know even if you win and you don't want the gift you can re-donate it back to me to use again!

Please hold off on any donations until our first meeting in September.

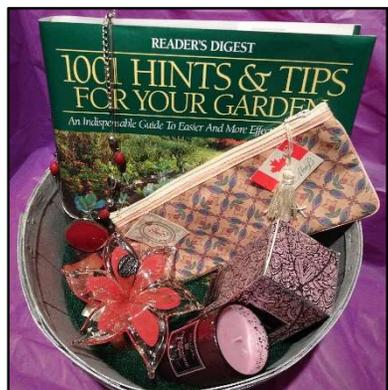
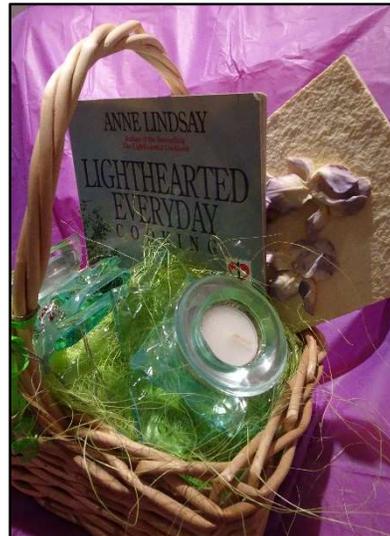
If anyone has any suggestions for improving our draw table, please feel free

to e-mail me at gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com. We want this to be fun while at the same time earn funds for the Society. This month is Premium month, one of the wonderful reasons to join the Streetsville Horticultural Society and one of the events made possible through fundraising.

I look forward to seeing everyone on May 10, 2016! ☘

Grace McElhinney, Gift Table Chair

Gift Table Baskets



Vesey's Fundraiser



Get ready to plant! Vesey's orders will be available for pick up at the May 10 meeting.

What do you mean by 80-day or 60-day varieties?

Vegetables are all rated for “days to maturity” and these numbers are shown in every good seed catalogue and on the package.

A “day to maturity” figure depends upon the number of heat units a plant requires to ripen. This heat-unit number is translated into the number of days based on the average number of heat units in a summer’s day.

You will quickly figure out that, as the weather changes (from week to week and season to season) this heat unit per day figure is going to change. If a plant requires 80 “days” to mature, it might do this in 75 calendar days one



year or it might take 95 calendar days, the next to produce a ripe fruit. It all depends on the weather. You get more heat units on bright, sunny days and fewer on cloudy days.

We treat the days to maturity rating as a rough guideline. In this way, a 65-day tomato will ripen before an 80-day tomato. But, the actual number of calendar days required for maturity is not a mathematical certainty.

The colder your zone, the shorter the day-length (number of hours of daylight) you want to choose when selecting specific vegetables for success. ✂

A Guide to Canadian Vegetable Gardening

Flower show schedule

May 10, 2016

Design Theme: Spring's Many Firsts

Class 1: First Robin – a design incorporating red

Class 2: New Shoots – Foliage design – foliage must predominate

Class 3: Tiny Buds – Fresh miniature

Novice

Class 4: Rainbow – a design

Cultural Schedule

1. Apple/crab-apple – 1 branch cut to 36” or less
2. Bouquet of small spring flowers, no foliage branches allowed
3. Branch, other flowering shrub – cut to 36” or less
4. Bulb, corm, tuber, other than already listed – 1 stem
5. Dicentra (Bleeding Heart) – 1 stem
6. Iris – 1 stem
7. Muscari (Grape hyacinths) – 3 stems same variety
8. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup, yellow – 1 stem
9. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup, other colour – 1 stem
10. Narcissus, other cultivar – 1 stem
11. Polygonatum (Solomon seal) – 1 stem
12. Primula (primrose) – 3 stems
13. Syringa (Lilac) – 1 truss
14. Tulip, single red – 1 bloom
15. Tulip, single pink – 1 bloom
16. Tulip, single other colour – 1 bloom
17. Tulip, ruffled or parrot – 1 bloom
18. Tulip, other cultivar – 1 bloom
19. Viola (Pansy) – 3 stems with own foliage
20. Any other perennial not listed – 1 stem or bloom

Cash for Trash

Sure wish there was some cash for all the trash we picked up at the Leslie Log House on Saturday, April 16th!! We found the mother-lode in and around the property. There is also still a very large pile of garbage on the property, which we believe was perhaps the original dump for the farm. We will work on whittling it down.

Thanks to members: **Monica Ross, Robb Dod, Anita and Alex King, Debbie and Dean Scully, Enza and Nick Lafratta, Eleonora Roberts, Mary Bernier, Lorena D'Archie, Andrea Vertolli, Debbie Webster, Joyce Rolston, Martha Whitney, Heather Walker, Grace Nelham, and Paul Morrison** for gathering beer bottles, metal sheeting, paper, untold number of Timmy's cups, branches, plastic bags etc. etc.



Great Job Gang!!!

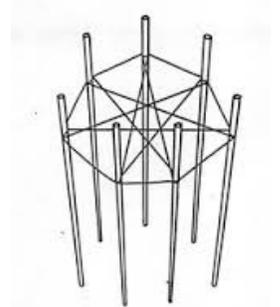
Carol Ashford, Leslie Log House Chair

Staking

Tall and fragile perennials may need stakes to support them, particularly in windy situations. Insert stakes early in the season, since staking is harder to do and more likely to cause damage when growth is more developed. Push the stakes deeply into the ground so that they can be raised in stages as the plant grows.

For delphiniums and other tall, single-stemmed perennials, use sturdy stakes that are two-thirds of the stem's eventual height. Push a stake firmly into the ground near the base of each shoot, taking care not to damage the roots. Secure the stem to the stake with figure-eight twine ties as it grows.

To support plants with many stems, it may be easier to use a number of stakes placed at intervals in a circle around the plant. Loop twine around the stakes at about one-third and two-thirds of the plant's height. Clump-forming plants such as peonies (*Paeonia*), may also be supported with commercial devices such as ring stakes and link stakes, or similar homemade supports constructed from large-gauge wire mesh fixed to stakes. Stems grow through the support and eventually hide it.



There are two other unobtrusive methods of staking. Push several twiggy stems, or pea sticks, into the soil next to the young shoots and bend them toward the centre of the clump to form a sturdy cage that will soon be covered by the plant as it grows.



Alternatively, insert one stout stake in the centre of a small group of plants or stems and radiate ties out to each stem. ☞

How to Propagate Perennials by Division

One advantage to growing perennials is over time they increase in size. Some perennials in your garden will benefit from being divided, and in most cases, spring is the best time to do it.

We divide perennials for a number of reasons:

1. Clumps have started to die out in the middle;
2. Flowering performance has declined;
3. Soil nutrients have been depleted around the clump;
4. Perennial weeds have infested the perennial clump;
5. We want more of our favourites to increase our supply, or to share with friends.

One rule of thumb for dividing is if the perennial blooms in early spring to mid-June, they are best divided in the fall. Perennials that bloom after mid-June are best divided in the spring.

Three plants that should be divided later are peonies (in August), Oriental poppies (in July or August when they are dormant), and true lilies (mid to late fall).



To divide perennials

1. Lift the plant to be divided, taking care to insert the fork far enough away from the plant so that the roots are not damaged. Shake off surplus soil.



2. Separate plants with a woody centre by chopping through the crown with a spade.
3. Divide the plant into smaller pieces by hand; retaining only healthy, vigorous sections, each with several new shoots.



4. Cut back the old top-growth and replant the divided sections to the same depth as before, firm in and water thoroughly.
5. Divide fibrous-rooted, herbaceous plants using two forks back-to-back.

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
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Article suggestions; please contact
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www.gardenontario.org

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Jobs for the month of May (Zone 6)

General

- Plan and plant a flower border;
- Attend to container-grown plants.

Trees and shrubs

- Remove faded flowers from rhododendrons, lilacs, camellias, azaleas and pieris;
- Clip hedges and begin training topiary plants.

Lawns

- Increase mowing and deal with weeds.

Vegetables

- Continue sowing vegetables in succession, including winter cabbage, carrots, turnips, lettuce, spinach, rutabaga, salad cucumbers, zucchinis, pumpkins, squash and marrow;
- Set out tender plants once all danger of frost has past;
- Continue earthing up potatoes.

Flowers

- Pinch the growing points from the stem tips of mum plants when they get to be 3 – 4 inches tall;
- Plant annuals among waning spring bulbs;
- Continue sowing annuals;
- Harden off seedlings outside as the temperature improves;
- Mulch to conserve moisture and control weeds;
- Control weeds while they are small. ✂



2016

Streetsville Horticultural Society Member Survey

To make our Society better we need information about what our Society members want, what activities interest you, your gardening expertise and other skills you have to contribute. You can help us improve by answering these questions.

Your name

Contact information

My main reason for joining the Society is:
Speakers To learn To volunteer To meet other Gardeners

My job is now or previously was:

Do you regularly read our newsletter? _____

Do you read it on our website? _____

Do you download the newsletter? _____ or print it for future reference? _____

What kind of information or stories would you like to see in the newsletter?

Streetsville Horticultural Society is a volunteer-based organization that relies on the participation of all its members to help with our programs and activities.

You can participate by donating your time, skills and knowledge, in our activities, as a member of a committee or on the board of directors. In the column's overleaf please check off everything that interests you now or might be of interest in future.



Activities

- Participate in Community Plantings
- Maintaining Community Gardens
- Donations to Refreshment Table
- Donations for the Draw Table
- Set-up & clean-up at meetings
- Membership desk check-in
- Donations to the plant sale
- Preparation for plant sale
- Volunteer at Plant sale
- Garden Tour Host
- Set up and clean up at flower show
- Participate in flower show
- Participate in photo competition

Skills and Knowledge

- Advertising and Marketing
- Audio/visual
- Desktop publishing
- Event management
- Excel, Word, PowerPoint
- Web Design
- Floral Design
- Finance/Accounting
- Garden Design
- Graphics
- Horticultural expertise
- Photography
- Seed starting
- Woodworking
- Other _____

Services to the Society

- Finding guest speakers
- Flower show coordinator
- Fundraising
- Maintaining the archives
- Marketing and publicity
- Newsletter editor
- Organizing community plantings
- Soliciting donations for community plantings
- Organizing garden tours
- Organizing plant sales
- Organizing regional meetings
- Refreshment coordinator
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Volunteer coordinator

What topics interest you? To be presented by a speaker, in the newsletter, on our website or at a special workshop

- Annuals
- Bulbs
- Lawns
- Perennials
- Trees and shrubs
- Vines
- Garden design
- Garden Do's and Don'ts
- Garden education
- Pests and Diseases
- Garden maintenance through the year
- Garden ponds and fountains
- Water-wise gardens
- Composting
- Soil amendments
- Plant propagation, starting seeds and cuttings
- Fruit and vegetables
- Horticulture as therapy
- Native plants
- Garden photography
- Indoor gardens/tropical plants
- Christmas and seasonal floral design
- Floral design for exhibiting
- Personal gardening stories

Events you would like added to our activities

- Seed exchange
- Workshops
 - Instead of a speaker
 - In addition to a speaker
- Speaker-conducted workshop
- Society member presentations or workshops

Other suggestions and Comments:
