



Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca

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NEXT MEETING: November 10

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner starts 6:30 p.m.

Members are asked to bring a dish

Meeting starts 7:00 p.m.

Please bring a canned item for the food collection bin for our Annual Christmas Food Drive

President's Message

Our next General Meeting is the AGM for our Society. This AGM is another milestone for us because it marks the end of a very busy year. We have had a series of excellent speakers, an amazing garden tour, major tree planting projects where we have planted over \$5,000 of trees to help beautify Mississauga. In addition we have been involved in several important community garden projects. In the past year we have also seen overall growth in our membership as well as an increase in the number of people participating in all aspects of our activities.

Our AGM also marks the beginning of a new year when a new Board of Directors will be elected. It is always exciting to see a new group enter into the leadership of our Society. We are sure you will give them as much support as possible.

Since this is the last Co-Presidents' message we will be writing for the Newsletter, we want to thank you for all your support over the last two years. A special thanks goes out to those who put in so many extra hours working in our community. Once again it has been you, our volunteers who have helped to make our job so rewarding. These two years have passed by very quickly and they

have been a challenging and exciting time for both of us. We want to make special mention of and thanks to our Board of Directors who have worked behind the scenes so effectively to ensure that our Society operates with excellence. We wish you all the best in the coming year.

Sue and Rob Harshman, Co-presidents

Composting is easy!

We have all seen complicated diagrams showing almost mathematical formulas for composting, you must measure layers of twigs, leaves, grass clippings and kitchen waste, and then turn the heap at least once per week. This approach suggests that you need to spend hours calculating formulas and probably have some sort of science background. All of these charts, diagrams and formulas overwhelm many home gardeners.

Some of us may have childhood memories of a compost pile in someone's garden. I know I do, it was a pile of grass clippings, deadheaded flowers, fruit and vegetable leftovers, etc. It was about three-to four-feet wide and about three feet tall, sometimes it was turned over with a fork other times no one touched it at all.

So let's look at the basics of composting. It is the ultimate in recycling. With very little effort and almost no expense, you can change vegetable and fruit peelings, grass clippings and garden waste into dark, rich, crumbly compost that adds organic material to your garden, saves you money on purchased soils or fertilizers and reduces the amount of waste your household produces.

What do you really need? Many advertisements convince composting novices to believe that an enclosed bin is essential. They come in many shapes and forms and can cost from \$21.85 for a black plastic composter from the Region of Peel to hundreds of dollars for complicated rotating drums. If you intend to compost outside you don't need an enclosed bin, you can just build a pile on the ground. Water it occasionally so the pile doesn't dry out,

and if you feel inclined, turn it or stir it up with a garden fork every six to eight weeks.

However, if you want your pile to be tidy, or if an open pile may upset neighbours an

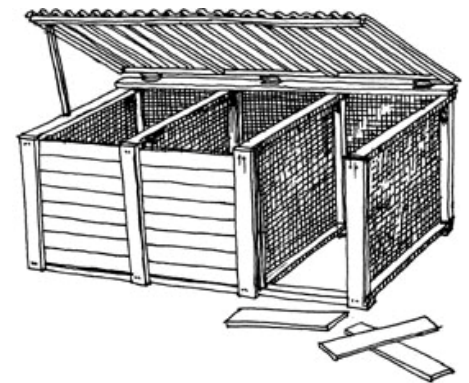
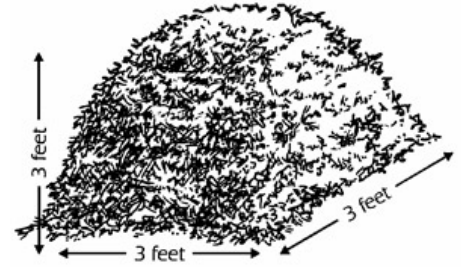
enclosure or bin is more presentable. So what choices are there?

You can use the ordinary black plastic cone; they don't work well for several reasons. They are plastic and degrade quite quickly making the plastic quite brittle and prone to damage from tools used to add or remove material.

Second; they are too small, raw materials break down very slowly in small spaces; Third; the small opening at the top makes it difficult to add raw materials and almost impossible to stir or turn the contents. Fourth; removing finished compost through the tiny door in the bottom is very awkward.

Rotating drums do work and quite well; however, they are quite expensive, removing finished compost is difficult and they work best if the entire container is filled at the same time. This means that you need another location to store any materials that don't fit.

I have composted in my garden for 20+ years. I use an open two-bin composter much like this picture of a three-bin model. A lid is not necessary, but does add tidiness to the appearance. The boards on the front do need to be removable. The use of wire mesh for



the other sides does reduce cost, but every time you put your fork in to stir up the compost I can guarantee that the tines will get stuck in the mesh.

What to put in your composter? All of your garden waste, grass clippings and leaves, small twigs, weeds but not those with flowers or seeds, all of your fruit and vegetable kitchen waste, egg shells and shredded newspaper.

What not to put in your composter? All forms of protein, meats, fish, bones plus fatty foods such as cheese, butter and cooking oils. Diseased plants or those that have been sprayed with herbicides or pesticides don't belong in a composter. Annual or perennial seed heads that germinate easily can be put in the compost but you may find them popping up all over your garden in future years. I don't put rose clippings in my compost because I always end up with thorns in my fingers.

How to compost? I add garden waste as it is produced so one day it may be grass clippings, another day deadheads, stems from cut back plants or fall leaves. Kitchen waste is added when my kitchen compost container is full, it doesn't have to be buried but if there is a lot of fruit debris you may find it attracts wasps or flies. Adding different types of material to a compost pile in varying proportions and layers is only possible if all of the materials are on hand at one time. Of course after you stir up or turn the compost it all gets mixed together anyway.

When Poinsettias drop their leaves, stop watering and put them in a cool place to rest.

With a two-bin composter, one side is usually empty by the fall. Over the winter any kitchen waste is put in the empty side. I turn my compost in the spring when it is thawed and all I do is shovel it in to the empty side. New material added over the winter is put in the previously full side plus any undecayed material from the previous year. Sometimes I turn the compost in mid-summer, I always turn it in late fall after the leaves drop and all garden waste has been added. If you want to see a two-bin composter at work, we use one at the Leslie Log House.

I do have red wiggler worms in my outside composter. In winter they all clump together in a ball and keep each other warm.

Vermicomposting uses worms to do the work—you just need to bury your food waste under moistened bedding material. The bedding is made from shredded paper, dead leaves, or straw. It is an excellent option for those living in apartments or other small spaces. In southern Ontario, vermicomposting must be done inside.

Red wigglers are best suited for home composting. They are comfortable living in an opaque box filled with bedding material, and will reproduce and happily eat your food waste. Worm castings are a rich, desirable amendment for everything in your garden.

There are several options for harvesting the finished compost. One of the simplest methods is to move all of the contents to one side of the bin, adding fresh, moistened bedding material and fresh food waste to the empty side. The worms will migrate over to the newer bedding over a period of several weeks, and you can harvest the finished side—worm-free. When

vermicomposting, however, you'll need to keep all food scraps buried to keep fruit flies from becoming a nuisance.

These links provide more information on vermicomposting:

<http://www.cathyscomposters.com/> and
<http://www.wormcomposting.ca>

If you want more information on backyard composting just come and find me at a meeting.

Excerpts on vermicomposting come from Fine Gardening, Issue 130, 2009

Monica Ross

Tree Planting 2015

On Saturday, October 24, 20 volunteers planted 25 trees on the Pinchin farm/Leslie Log House property donating 51.5 hours of volunteer time. A huge thank you goes out to all who participated. We planted five varieties of native trees, sugar maple, red maple, bur oak, red oak, and white pine. These trees would all have been present on this land before it was settled in the 1820s.




For the past week most of us had been keeping an eye on the weather forecast as it changed almost daily from sun, to all day rain to

rain in the afternoon only. At 8.30 a.m., when the trees were delivered it wasn't raining.

By 10 a.m., we were ready to plant; we dug the holes, planted the trees, mulched and staked the trees, watered them, and re-mulched the 40 trees we planted last year. It started to drizzle in mid-morning; we were just about finished by noon when it started to rain heavily. The group picture had to be taken inside the Log House due to the rain.

Many of us enjoyed the hot dogs, snacks and hot chocolate provided by the SHS and prepared by **Carol Ashford, Grace McElhinney, and Mary Bernier**. Pictures were taken by **Grace Nelham**. Tree planting crew was **Dean Scully, Debbie Scully, Marg Rowan, Kathleen Hayward, Martha Witney and granddaughter Ashlynn, Anita and Alex King, Henry Schouten, Asoke Bera, Rob and Sue Harshman, Monica Ross, Robb Dods and Eleonora Roberts**.



Annual Christmas Workshops

Make an arrangement for your table or mantle or front door or you can build a birdhouse.

Workshops are \$10 each to purchase the greens or the materials for the project.

Please bring your \$10 (cash or cheque) to the November AGM meeting as we need to have the orders placed that night.

If you don't pre-order there is no guarantee extra materials will be available.

Thanks also to **Bob Baker** of Baker Forestry Services for his advice and detailed demonstration of how to stake a tree.



Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Original Version:

Article VI

1) The Board of Directors shall include ten (10) elected Directors.

Proposed Version:

1) The Board of Directors shall include a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of ten (10) elected Directors.

Original Version:

2) At each Annual Meeting the members shall elect from among themselves five (5) Directors for a term of two (2) years.

Proposed Version:

2) At each Annual Meeting the members shall elect from among themselves a sufficient number of Directors to make up the determined number of Board members. Each Director will be elected for a term of two (2) years.

Original Version:

1) The Board of Directors (henceforth referred to as “the Board”) shall consist of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer and the ten (10) elected Directors.

Proposed Version:

1) The Board of Directors (henceforth referred to as “the Board”) shall consist of the President (or Co-Presidents), Vice President, Past President, Secretary (or Co-Secretaries), Treasurer, and the elected Directors.

Article VII – OFFICERS

Original Version:

1) The members shall elect from among themselves at the Annual Meeting a President, 1st Vice –President and 2nd Vice-President to be known as the officers of the Society.

Proposed Version:

1) The members shall elect from among themselves at the Annual Meeting a President (Co-Presidents) and Vice President, to be known as the officers of the Society.

Older Adult Program

Audrey Portelli coordinates a monthly Older Adult Program at the Streetsville Library and would like someone from SHS to come in and give a talk/presentation. We did this last year and it was a big hit. Their program runs every last Wednesday of the month, from 11 p.m. – noon and attracts between 12 – 20 members. She is now booking speakers from the community for 2016. So far all months are open, except January and August.

Audrey can be reached at 905.615.4785 or audrey.portelli@mississauga.ca.

Vesey's Spring Bulb Sale

Our Vesey's Spring Bulb fundraiser had a huge boost from SHS member **Pam Blair** by bringing in an order of \$550 from her workplace co-workers.

Annual Reports 2014 - 2015

President's Report

This last year has been a very busy one for our Society. We started off with a very successful fundraiser where we sold fall bulbs from Vesey's. Our Society was able to raise over \$1,300 towards our programs and activities for the coming year between this sale and the sale of poinsettias before Christmas.

We had also two successful Friend Days – one in October and one in June. Both were great opportunities for our Society to reach out to the community and spread the word about who we are and what we do. Throughout the year, including our Friend Day activities, we acquired 18 new members for a total of 164.

In November we spearheaded the planting of 40 native trees on the Leslie Log House property. On a very cold and blustery day many of our members and friends as well as a Brownie pack helped to make the day special. The trees have adapted to their new home and have grown well over the last year. We planted almost 30 native trees in late October during our second annual tree planting. It was also on the Leslie Log House property.

At our December meeting we had a workshop where many of our members made Christmas wreaths and table centrepieces. Nicky Hall led that workshop. Others worked to construct native bee houses, which encourage pollinators to stay in our gardens. Phil Walker did the organization and design for these bee houses. Our food drive at this meeting was highly successful and gave a boost to the local food bank.

Over the next few months, we had a series of excellent speakers who presented on topics as varied as photography and garden planning. At most of our meetings, we also had visual presentations on gardens from around the world submitted by our members. Thanks to Nigel Roberts who organized the photos into beautiful presentations.

Our annual plant sale in May was highly successful and was the major fundraiser for our Society. Our members gave hundreds of hours to growing, potting, transporting and selling these plants. Hundreds of visitors came to the sale at the Leslie Log Property to purchase a variety of perennials. Many thanks to Debra Buckler for this, her fourth year of heading up the plant sale.

Membership Report

We had a very good year on the membership desk. We had great help on the desk from **Shirley Boyes, Marie Kothari, Diana DiBiase, Elizabeth Sbrocchi, Pat and Mike Salisbury, Heather Tregaskes and Janet Shaw.**

These members helped pretty regularly with our yearly sign-up and other front desk activities, such as "Bring a Friend Day". Our membership has grown since I took over the front desk from 105 single and family memberships to 146 members and 18 life members. We have an average attendance of approximately 75 members at each meeting.

Members have embraced the name tags being handed in at the end of each meeting.

We initiated this procedure in 2014. Names are divided up in alphabetical order in boxes to make the process smoother.

Our sign-in procedure has changed slightly. In September, we no longer required that the members fill out a questionnaire. This will now be done on premium night in May as that is generally our best turnout. Members will need to fill in the questionnaire in order to receive their free gift. Most members did a more complete job in filling out the form at this time since there wasn't as much involved, being no monies were involved at this time. This also sped up the sign up procedure in the fall. New membership cards were produced for this year as well.

I have initiated an information board that is up at all meetings for upcoming information and sign-up sheets. We will now be posting the minutes from the past meeting up for members who do not have e-mail to read.

Moving forward into 2016, we have a number of members who have not renewed. E-mails were sent Bcc to all of them with the present President, Co-President, secretary, and future president Cc'd in. If members have not paid by November they will be taken off the membership list and will no longer receive our newsletter.

I also noticed a number of members who have not renewed as of the September meeting participating in the September and October flower shows.

We ask that all members who wish to participate in workshops or shows please ensure their membership is current.

Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

Archive Report

The Archives consist of binders full of pictures and newspaper clippings of events that have taken place since our re-establishment in 1972. Pictures are taken at various events and meetings and placed in the binders so we may look back and see how our Society has grown and see our members at work in the community or how they participate in our plant sales, flower shows, garden tours, community work and workshops.

The photo albums are usually on display at various functions such as our AGM, Bread & Honey Festival and Plant Sale. Please take the time to browse through them at the AGM in November to familiarize yourself with our activities and also put names to the many faces of our volunteers.

Having taken over this responsibility at the AGM October 2013, I have been busy taking

pictures and will have 2015 - 16 pictures and clippings on display at the AGM in November. Should you have any photos taken at our events we are happy to include them in our binder; they should be given to anyone on the Executive or to me at any general meeting.

Grace Nelham, Archive Chair

Leslie Log House Report 2014 - 2015

Even though the summer was hot, dry and humid, the gardens at the Leslie Log House looked great! The white peonies were stunning when they bloomed in June bordered by the purple salvia. The daisies and iris made an outstanding show when they were blooming. The Echinacea were going full force over the summer along with the cosmos, zinnias and phlox.



In the spring we dug up the 65 Echinacea we had overwintered in the raised bed, potted them up and sold them at the plant sale.

The garden was in pristine condition for the potluck following the garden tour and was in great shape for the "Shakespeare in the Park" on August 14. Two wedding parties were spotted having their photos taken in the gardens over the summer – what a backdrop!

Thanks to the following volunteers who have made the job of tending these gardens so

much easier and fun: **Janet Shaw, Debbie Webster, Martha Witney, Lorena Pitz, Christina Anonychuk, Andrea Vertolli, Grace Nelham, Janice Ward, Eleanore Minnes, Sheila Cruickshank, Suzanne Moradian, Marg Rowan, Wendy Arrighi, Carrol Newcombe, Mary Bernier, Michelle Bettig, Enza Lafratta, Terry Boughtner, Linda Bush, Dean Scully and Monica Ross.**

Some came once and others volunteered every week. Three cheers to all of you!!! Also thanks to **Ursula Evanoff**, who donated two trays of home grown zinnias that added to the colour.

Our last day working on the beds was October 7, and the Museums of Mississauga treated the volunteers to a lovely luncheon, which was much appreciated by all who attended.

From May 27, 2015 through to Oct. 7, 2015 our volunteers logged a total of 263 ¼ hours working at the Leslie Log House property.

Carol Ashford, Leslie Log House Chair

Flower Show Report

Streetsville Horticultural Society had five Flower Shows this year.

The purpose of the Flower Show is to give our members a place to share their garden knowledge and interests while viewing different horticultural specimens and providing a creative outlet in design classes. The shows always strive to encourage learning.

Show Time

We continue to provide a large number of cultural classes because the categories are well represented throughout the length of the growing season.

Our schedules conform to the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (OJES) 2003 edition, prepared by the Ontario Horticultural Association and Garden Clubs of Ontario, and every judge follows these rules when making their decisions.

Exhibitors would benefit by owning an OJES, which can be purchased at the membership table at our meetings for only \$6.00. It provides all the information needed when preparing for a show, and the point scales used by the judges in cultural, floral design, vegetables, etc., are clearly laid out so members can choose their exhibit to give themselves a greater chance of winning.

Judges

We continue to use a number of different of OHA judges. We used two judges for our large shows in June, September and October. This helped shorten the judging time and allowed the design exhibitors to receive written feedback on their exhibit and longer viewing time for our members.

We continue to receive positive feedback from our judges for the quality of our shows.

I have been told by members, even those who do not enter the show, that they really enjoy getting to view the show after the judging.

Looking Forward

I have been the Flower Show Convener since 2009 along with Debra Buckler as the Show Clerk. Both of us will be stepping down as of November, 2015.

Streetsville Horticultural Society is hosting the District 15 AGM on May 7, 2016. Because the Flower Show Convener and Show Clerk have not been replaced and the schedule and judging needs to be organized over the next 6 months, Debra Buckler and I will be coordinating the AGM Flower show.

My thanks to the members who filled the classes with all the wonderful cultural plants from their gardens, and the designers who have always been so creative. Congratulations to all of you who made this year's Flower Shows such a great success!

Nicola Hall, Flower Show Convener

Newsletter Report

"*Streetsville Blooms*" was published ten times over the course of 2014 – 2015 and distributed to our membership in a timely fashion (usually a couple of weeks prior to the next meeting).

The information contained in our newsletters is received from various committee chairs and others who wish to have pertinent articles included in the issue. All submissions from our membership are welcomed for inclusion including gardening tips, recipes, poems, events members may be interested in, timely articles on pruning, seed starting etc.

Please continue to submit information to us for the newsletter so we can keep it informative and newsworthy.

There are now less than 20 of our members receiving it by “snail mail” which is a far cry from the 80 or more who were receiving it in that fashion a couple of years ago. It was motioned and passed at a 2014 meeting that those with email who wanted to still receive the newsletter by snail mail would have to pay an additional \$10 to cover postage costs.

This newsletter editor is happy to hand over the reins to the new Newsletter Editor, Debbie Lemire, who has taken over the newsletter effective Sept. 2015. Those interested in submitting articles etc., should contact her at debra.lemire@gmail.com.

Carol Ashford, Newsletter Editor

Publicity and Fundraising Report

Accomplishments;

- Expanded the Event calendar entries for our Monthly Meeting and Plant Sale in SNAPd, iCan Garden, Mississauga News, Garden Making, Mississauga Life Magazine, Garden Central Grapevine, Mark Cullen e-news and E-newsletter Ward 11(George Carlson).
- Created an advertisement for the Plant Sale that was published in the Mississauga News.
- Worked with SNAPd’s editor to send a photographer to our Annual General Meeting, Christmas Workshop, Plant Sale, Friend Day Meetings and Community Tree Planting. Pictures were published in SNAPd’s monthly newspaper and on their website along with an article about the events.
- E-mailed an advertisement to MZ-Media for our Plant Sale and Friend Day Meetings with details about both events and for “Charlie Dobbin” to

endorse on her Saturday morning program.

- Spearheaded and administered two Fund Raising Campaigns:
 - **“TERRA” Poinsettias;** working with TERRA’s order desk and receiving the campaign package, informing members about the campaign details, collecting and putting together the total order, counting funds, inputting the order online, receiving and packaging orders for each member, and delivering orders to purchasers for Christmas.
 - **“Vesey’s Spring Bulbs”;** receiving campaign package from Vesey’s, informing members about the campaign details, collecting and putting together the total order, counting funds, inputting the order online, receiving and packaging orders for each member and delivering orders to purchasers.

These two Campaigns generated \$1,077.00 for Streetsville Horticultural Society.

- Planning Committee Chair for the “District 15 Annual General Meeting in 2016” which will be hosted by Streetsville Horticultural Society.
 - Located a Venue for the event.
 - Liaised with the District 15 Director and their Board of Directors.
 - Consolidated SHS’s requirements for the event and discussed with the venue’s Executive Director during meetings

- Organized the meeting with the District Board to view and approve the venue for the event.
- Negotiated the final contract, event date, menu, cost, setup, floor plan and all other requirements.
- Arranged the venue final booking and issued down payment for the event.
- Prepared the Volunteer signup sheets for the required Committees.

Amgad Boles, Publicity and Fundraising Chair

Premiums Report

140 premiums were purchased from Connon Wholesale for the May member's meeting and given out to 89 members in good standing. Total cost was \$552.57 at an average cost of \$3.95 per plant.

Seven of the remaining premiums were sold at the May meeting for a total of \$35.00 and the balance was taken to the plant sale.

Monica Ross, Premium Chair

Tree Planting Report

Tree planting at Leslie Log house- Pinchin farm property

On Saturday November 1, 2014, 53 volunteers planted 40 trees on the property, donating 87.5 hours of volunteer time. A huge thank you goes out to all who participated.

I arrived in the snow at 8 a.m., to meet the tree delivery truck. Next the refreshment crew arrived including Carol Ashford and Grace McElhinney. By 9:45 a.m., it had stopped snowing and we were ready to plant. We dug holes, planted the trees, mulched and staked

the trees, then watered them all and by 11:45 we were done. Just in time as the weather turned much colder and windier. Nicky Hall kindly lent us her 500 ft., hose which made watering easy. Many of us enjoyed the hot dogs, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate donated by SHS members.

We planted eight varieties of native trees: sugar maple, red maple, bur oak, white oak, basswood, bitternut hickory, black cherry and white pine. These trees would all have been present on this land before it was settled in the 1820s.

Total cost was \$ 2,707.77

Monica Ross, Community Planting Chair

Member's Education Report

The end of 2014 and beginning of 2015 brought the completion of a three-part series on how to design a garden. Hands-on displays were accompanied by published articles in *Streetsville Blooms*. Articles, such as, *Elements of Design* which included the use of colour, texture, form, line, and scale and proportion and *Choosing a Focal Point*, to get your garden that extra notice by framing plants and using background plants like a professional.

Shooting Flowers like a Pro focused on camera settings, rule of thirds, and photography techniques.

Additional topics covered this year included *Pruning Fundamentals* and *Sowing Seeds*. After harvesting seeds in the fall, a how-to on starting plants from scratch. Displays were comprised of planting mediums, types of containers to use, green houses, lighting and temperature.

Currently the 2015 – 2016 year is looking for someone to continue on the Member's Education table. It is a fun volunteer position that takes less than 10 hours a month of your time.

Debra Lemire, Member's Education Chair

Tecumseh Townhouse Judging Report

This past spring, I was informed by the Board of the Tecumseh Townhouse Co-operative that our judging services would not be required with regret. The reason for this decision was because of the Emerald Ash Borer and they were in the process of having all their Ash trees removed from the complex.

They thanked us for judging over the many years and donated an honorarium in the amount of \$200. I thanked them on behalf of the Streetsville Horticultural Society.

We will resume judging their property in the summer of 2016.

Dean Scully, Tecumseh Townhouse Judging

Draw Table Report

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone and my time as your Draw Table Chair is coming to an end.

I wish to report that due to the generosity of the members donating items and buying raffle tickets, we have had another tremendously successful year. Your support helps fund speakers, premiums, community planting and the society.

On a more personal note, I would like to take a moment to thank all of you who have made my time as the Draw table Chair such a

wonderful experience these past few years. I have enjoyed meeting new members and chatting with you all in between selling tickets. I look forward to spending more time with you all over a coffee during break.

Thank you all again for your tremendous support to the Draw Table.

Mary Bernier, Draw Table Chair

Plant Sale Report

This was the second year we held the plant sale at The Leslie Log House. Another beautiful day with a great turnout!

As in the past 3 years, sales were consistent, reaching almost \$4,500.

New this year, we sold draw tickets for donated items which brought in \$300.

Items donated for the draw came from Terra Greenhouses, Lees, van Dongen's and Jade Garden.

Thanks to Phil Walker who built a bunch of bee houses to sell. Unfortunately they weren't as popular as we had hoped.

As always, our volunteers made it happen. Thanks to all who helped by accumulating 480.25 volunteer hours.

I've had a great time organizing the plant sale the past four years and learned a lot about the plants we sell. It is now time for me to turn the sale over to someone new. Anyone interested in taking it over, please contact me and I will be more than happy to walk you through the process. Please remember, our plant sale accounts for more than 50 per cent of the Society's income.

Debra Buckler, Plant Sale Coordinator

Children's Program Report

Fostering the love of gardening in children

Children are the gardeners of the future and what better way to instil the love of gardening by meeting with children in their early years to experience gardening hands-on.

We visited with schools and libraries and met with children of all ages teaching them about garden care, bees, seeds and how to attract birds to the garden and more.

This year our society was committed to increasing our volunteer hours in the community with respect to youth activities. How many of you remember gardening with your parents when you were young? I know my own parents' love of gardening definitely shaped my interest in it. Children enjoyed stories about gardening, non-fiction, interactive readings about seeds, leaves and stems, butterflies, bees and ladybugs.

New this year were two visits to the Mississauga library. Sue Harshman and I visited Sheridan Mall library for a drop-in informal talk and family oriented potting-up of pansies and forget-me-nots. We met with 10 children and two parents.

I conducted a registered program at Erin Meadows library entitled "*Gardening Fun*" reading stories and doing an interactive talk of garden-related themes including how to attract birds to the garden. Sixteen children attended. We potted up fragrant herbs at this summer program.

Mary Hachey and I returned to Plowman's Park Public School last May to share garden stories, rhymes, songs and an interactive potting-up activity with children four to seven. The school generously donated \$50 to Streetsville Horticultural Society in support of this initiative. We visited with six classes and met with 122 children altogether.

A thank you goes out to the Brownies and their parents and leaders for coming out in the fall of 2014 for our tree planting day. A total of 13 hours of time was generously donated that day by this enthusiastic group.

Thank you to everyone involved in fostering the love of gardening in children. We are already booked for events for the new 2015/16 season. I'm looking forward to it.

Eleanora Roberts, Children's Programming Chair

Volunteer Convenor Report

Congratulations everyone for contributing to 2581.25 hours from September 2014 to August 2015.

On behalf of the Streetsville Horticultural Society, as your volunteer convenor, thank you for volunteering your time to make our society strong and diverse in its pursuits and ever growing and changing.

Eleanora Roberts, Volunteer Convenor Report

Photo Contest Report

The photo contest for 2014-15 had a very poor turnout. We had only 9 people submit photos comparable to last year, when we had 14. I hope that next year we have more than 9 participants.

I don't believe there is anyone in our society who does not thoroughly enjoy viewing the nature photos submitted each year. We tend to look closer at our beautiful surroundings when we have a camera in hand. We hope more people enter in 2015-2016, because the quality of photos each year becomes increasingly better.

We have entered basic photo tips in the years' monthly newsletters, which should be helpful to members in their quest for a better picture.

The cost to run the photo contest averages \$110, for fiberboard, judging by Robert McCaw, trophy plate, frame for winning photo and money for entering.

Our photo contest is not a photo club, and none of us is professional, who enhance and Photoshop a picture into something unreal, the single reason why our photo contest is still fun, educational and rewarding!

Henry Schouten, Photo Contest Chair

Garden Tour Report

This year the Streetsville Horticultural Society's Garden Tour was on July 12, 2015. The tour featured seven beautiful gardens. **Margot Wood, Monika and Henry Schouten, Joe DaCosta, Gary and Mary Rutledge** (non-members), **Grace McElhinney and Luiza Gubernat** all had their gardens featured on the tour this year.

The gardens were marked once again with the pre-printed garden tour signs, making the gardens easy to identify. Programs were printed with directions to each of the gardens being featured and were available to members

who checked in and any guest who paid their fee. Bottled water was given to each participant.

The Leslie Log House property on Mississauga Road was the seventh garden on the tour and was chosen to highlight the work of our SHS volunteers at the site.

Using the Leslie Log property required a permit from the city for a nominal fee (this will be an item for discussion with the city next year). The potluck was also held at the Leslie Log property. Tents were set-up in advance on the Leslie Log property to ensure that the food was covered.

The treed area near the parking lot worked well for people to set-up chairs and pop-up tables as the ground was relatively flat.

Michelle Bettig, Garden Tour Coordinator

Speaker's Report

This past year, we've enjoyed listening to a fantastic group of quality speakers who spoke on a wide range of topics and kept us entertained. The many benefits of the speaker series, have given us confidence, knowledge and the tools required to try new horticultural techniques and to make improvements in our gardens.

We started the new program season in September with Dugald Cameron who spoke on "*Spring Flower Bulbs: Planting in the Fall.*" At the meeting in October, Jack Kent spoke to our membership on "*Peonies.*"

Our AGM was held for the first time in November where we celebrated another successful and exciting year.

Streetsville Blooms

Co-presidents: Rob and Sue
Harshman

First Vice president: Debra
Buckler

Second Vice president: Eleonora
Roberts

Secretary: Lynn Merritt

Treasurer: Christine McEwan

Editor: Debra Lemire

Web Master: Nigel Roberts

Questions, concerns, or
ideas, contact Rob and Sue
Harshman at 905.607.2802.

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

URL: www.streetsvillehort.ca

E-mail:
streetsvillehort@hotmail.com

OHA Website:
www.gardenontario.org

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

In December, our own Nicky Hall demonstrated the art of making Christmas Holiday centrepieces for your home.

Marilyn Cornwell was our speaker in January. She spoke to us on "*Explorations with Garden and Flower Photography.*" At our February meeting, Shari Lyn Safir spoke on the "*A to Z of Growing Roses.*" In March, Sid Baller came to our meeting and spoke on "*Pruning Techniques.*"

At the April meeting, Marshall Rodgers spoke to us on the devastating "*Emerald Ash Borer.*" In May, Diane Greenfield spoke to our society on "*Living Life as a Gardener.*" Our last meeting in June, **Bring a Friend Night** saw the entertaining gardener Edel Schmidt's presentation on "*All About Hydrangeas.*"

Cost for the speakers this fiscal year totalled \$1500.
Dean Scully, Speaker's Program Chair

Refreshments's Report

We had to buy a new percolator but I was able to get a deal on one at this year's District 15 AGM's silent auction for \$22.00. Everyone seems to enjoy the assortment of treats at the refreshment table.

I have been trying a calendar for volunteers because I do feel that a lot of the same people bring in the refreshments for meetings. I am very grateful for volunteers that help me because it is a lot of work having the refreshments in a different room during flower shows.

Expenses for the year totalled \$55.91, but we received \$122.65 in donations from members for their tea/coffee and refreshments.
Mary Hachey, RefreshmentChair

Treasurer's Report

Streetsville Horticultural Society
Income Statement
Year ended August 31, 2015

REVENUE	
Plant Sale	\$4,501.60
Fundraising	3,164.80
Membership	1,799.00
OMAF Grant	1,000.00
Workshop	478.00
Donations	457.75
Cook Book Sales	120.00
Garden Tour Income	100.00
Refreshment Table	122.25
GIC Interest	94.38
Magazine Sales	34.75
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>11,873.43</u>
EXPENSES	
Community Planting	2,990.78
Fundraising (Plant Sale, Garden Tour)	2,213.26
Program (Speakers, Education, Children)	1,553.61
Church Rental	1,500.00
Flower Shows	763.60
Misc. (Memberships, Photo Contest, Workshop)	721.73
OHA Dues	604.25
Premiums	552.57
Newsletter	419.74
Board Expense	303.49
District 15	260.10
Post Office Box Rental	194.36
Bank Charges	94.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>12,171.53</u>
TOTAL NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>(298.10)</u>

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Balance Sheet
As of August 31, 2015

ASSETS		
Cash		\$6,742.12
Accounts Receivable		
Investments	GIC	<u>5,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>11,742.12</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable		<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>0.00</u>
EQUITY		
SOCIETY'S EQUITY (TOTAL ASSETS – TOTAL LIABILITIES)		<u>11,742.12</u>

Streetsville Horticultural Society
Statement of Reconciliation
For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2015

Cash beginning of year	\$12,040.22
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(298.10)</u>
Cash end of year	<u>11,742.12</u>
Cash as per Balance Sheet	<u>11,742.12</u>