



STREETSVILLE BLOOMS

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 19, Issue 5

February 2013

NEXT MEETING: TUES., FEB. 12

**COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORM
CHURCH**

2630 Inlake Court

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Liz Primeau

Topic: "Garlic Reborn"

Speaker Bio: Liz has a very distinguished career in the world of gardening. Some of her career highlights are: Founder Editor of Canadian Gardening Magazine, former Host of HGTV's Canadian Gardening Television. A popular speaker at garden shows and meetings, she is also the founding President of the Applewood Garden Club. She is an author of many books. Her most current are "Front Yard Gardens: Growing more Than Grass" and "My Natural History: The Evolution of a Gardener".

Liz will enlighten us on all things Garlic: some history, growing it, fables, medicinal uses, storing etc. Don't miss it!

Sue Harshman, Program Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to **Irene Boon, Raheleh Shabani** and **Harry Hoogkamp** who joined SHS as new members in December. What a great way to start membership with the exciting December workshop!

Be sure to introduce yourself to these new members as well as others that you might not have met yet. Remember to wear your nametags so that you can associate the name to the new faces that you encounter. Promote the friendly atmosphere of SHS!

Adele Gibbins, Membership Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Everyone looks for a tonic at this time of year just to survive the last few weeks of early spring deprivation. After four long months of bleak to white landscapes, horticulturalists, collectively, must be looking for an infusion of color, starting with green. Desperately seeking that spring awakening, I pine for the splendid, almost luminous green of grass that is starting to grow under snow and ice. I miss pounding rainstorms that would replace howling winter winds.

Most gardeners can credit their horticultural passion to learning from previous family generations. Over the years, you tend to pick up things, conversations, tips handed down along the way. At some point in this process, you find yourself sharing more than receiving. You are now proficient. In the same way, horticultural societies fulfill this role offering opportunity for passions to be explored and developed.

I'm eager for the meetings and speaker sessions to start up. No matter how much I read up on a topic, there's always that garden magazine cover beckoning – pitching something innovative or that 'must have' garden tool or new hybrid. I have to reign myself in though. I freely admit to having aspirations of tackling ambitious and dramatic gardening projects. I hang on every article and photo lay out designed to inspire and motivate. In February, I live for it. I don't think I'm alone.

Sue Hutton, President

THANKS

Thanks to all who contributed items to our December Bake Sale; without you it would not have taken place. SHS also wishes to thank **Diane Barnett** and **Joanne Druhan** for their assistance during the Bake Sale Auction. Their help was greatly appreciated by Lynn Merritt.

SHS ON THE OHA WEBSITE

We have set up a new website page for Streetsville Horticultural Society and would like to fill it with interesting articles, pictures, and happenings. If members have any pictures, email them to Lynn Merritt, lynnc.merritt@sympatico.ca for posting. The website also has the current newsletter posted to it. To view the website go to:
<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/streets>

Be adventurous and sign up with Facebook at www.facebook.com and stay up-to-date with other SHS members and current information. We also need fresh photos and articles for our Facebook page and don't forget to "LIKE" us.

Our SHS Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/StreetsvilleHorticulturalSociety>

SLOW COOKER VEGETABLE SOUP

Prepare and refrigerate the ingredients the night before, and then start them in the slow cooker in the morning for a healthy, hearty soup. Offer some grated Parmesan cheese to sprinkle over the bowlfuls.

Servings: 6 to 8

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 each carrots and stalks celery, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 can (28 oz/796 mL) diced tomatoes
- 2 cups (500 mL) sodium-reduced chicken stock
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) cubed salami
- 1 can (19 oz/540 mL) red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 sweet green pepper, diced
- 1 small zucchini, chopped
- 1 cup (250 mL) frozen corn kernels
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped fresh parsley

Preparation:

In slow cooker, combine onion, carrots, celery, garlic, bay leaves, oregano and salt. Add tomatoes, stock, 3 cups (750 mL) water, salami and beans. Cover and cook on low until vegetables are tender,

about 6 hours.

Add green pepper, zucchini and corn; cover and cook on high until tender-crisp, about 20 minutes. Discard bay leaves. Stir in parsley.

Submitted by Lynn Merritt

REFRESHMENTS

Thank you to our SHS executive who provided the refreshments for our December meeting. We enjoyed both savory and sweet – all in the Christmas spirit.

Members who would like to commit to bringing goodies to upcoming meetings, please contact our refreshments organizer, Eleonora Roberts at 905-302-4491 or gattescohouse@rogers.com

SIX AIR PURIFYING HOUSE PLANTS

Any houseplant produces oxygen, as well as adding to the beauty and coziness of your home. These plants are especially good at being "air filters" which is great for someone with asthma or allergies.

1. Bamboo Palm: According to NASA, it removes formaldehyde and is also said to act as a natural humidifier.
2. Snake Plant: Found by NASA to absorb nitrogen oxides and formaldehyde.
3. Areca Palm: One of the best air purifying plants for general air cleanliness.
4. Spider Plant: Great indoor plant for removing carbon monoxide and other toxins or impurities. Spider plants are one of three plants NASA deems best at removing formaldehyde from the air.
5. Peace Lily: Peace lilies could be called the "clean-all." They're often placed in bathrooms or laundry rooms because they're known for removing mold spores. Also known to remove formaldehyde and trichloroethylene.
6. Gerbera Daisy: Not only do these gorgeous flowers remove benzene from the air, they're known to improve sleep by absorbing carbon dioxide and giving off more oxygen over night.



WEATHER SUMMARY: NOV. '12 - OCT. '13

Winter temperatures will be slightly colder than normal, on average, with the coldest temperatures in mid- and late December, early January, and early and mid-February. Precipitation will be above normal in the east and below normal in the west. Snowfall will be near to above normal in Southwest Ontario and below normal elsewhere. The snowiest periods will be in early January and early to mid-March.

April and May will be slightly cooler than normal, with precipitation below normal in the east and above normal in the west.

Summer will be cooler and rainier than normal, with the hottest temperatures in early to mid-July, late July, and mid-August. September and October will be warmer and drier than normal.

Excerpt: Farmers Almanac

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Thanks go out to all of you who volunteer to the SHS. Please remember to send Eleonora Roberts your volunteer hours for the month. Email your totals and activity to gattescohouse@rogers.com or contact by phone 905-302-4491.

XMAS FAERIES WORKSHOP RECAP

Approximately twenty people attended this years' Christmas Workshop, including the welcome addition of three new members! The workshop cost \$10 per person so that we could supply greenery, which was purchased directly from a wholesaler with the help of Sue Harshman. This gave us access to very fresh, high quality greens for our designs. To prepare for the workshop I had previously cut and treated the branches with a silicone base wash to enhance the color and longevity of the greenery - This is something that you can do at home to make your displays longer lasting too!

Eight designs were made prior to the workshop to demonstrate some visual ideas like traditional, Hanukkah, terrarium, modern as well as a few others. The workshop covered tips on how to cut and prepare the stems and a short

demonstration on how to do the base design. Once the designs were completed, we provided a white board so that attendees could take individual photos of their finished masterpieces.

Everyone did a great job and made a wonderful creative centrepiece to take home and enjoy throughout the holiday season.

I made three different arrangements that were given away at the end of the fun evening.

Thanks to all those who attended for helping to make this event a success!

Nicky Hall

SEEDY SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23rd

Seedy Saturday Mississauga will be held on February 23, 9:30 am – 4 pm at the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga, 84 S. Service Rd. (east of Hurontario). Free admission.

Bring seeds to share at Seeds of Diversity Garden Seed Exchange. Buy heritage and organic seeds from vendors. Receive free gardening advise from Mississauga Master Gardeners. Attend one or more free workshops and enjoy organic specialties at the all day Café.

Workshops:

- 9:30 Your Green Yard
- 10:30 Backyard Farming
- 11:30 Cold Frames
- 12:30 Fusion Landscaping
- 1:30 Don't Throw Out the Weeds
- 2:30 Windowsill Farming
- 3:30 A Winning Front Yard Garden

Given how popular this event has been the past few years, we are expecting 200-300 people.

This event is co-sponsored by Seeds of Diversity, the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga and Greening Sacred Spaces.

For more information contact Brenda Poland 905-338-0725 or bpoland@cogeco.ca

There is nothing in the world more beautiful than the forest clothed to its very hollows in snow. It is the still ecstasy of nature, wherein every spray, every blade of grass, every spire of reed, every intricacy of twig, is clad with radiance.

William Sharp

DRAW TABLE

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you have enjoyed a wonderful holiday with your friends and family.

If you are like me, you are starting to get the itch. The itch to get outside and get back into the garden, feel the soil in your hands and the sun in your face. Well, we know that isn't happening anytime soon; however we can all dream and before you know it we will be up to our elbows in dirt.

I am sure that you are looking forward to our February meeting as much as I am. It will be a great opportunity to reconnect with fellow friends and gardeners and get some great tips and ideas on planning our spring projects.

A special thank you to those members whom I have had the pleasure to get to know this past year, and for the support and generosity of those who not only have purchased tickets, but who have donated some fabulous prizes to be added to the Draw Table. Without your generous donations, we could not put together those fabulous gift baskets and bags!

We have had tremendous success this past year, and ticket sales have far exceeded expectations. I am looking forward to presenting you with some great prizes, baskets and mystery bags over the next few months. Please take the time to stop by the Draw Table to visit me! I love meeting and talking to all of you as you patiently stand in line waiting for your tickets!

Marylyne Brown, Draw Table Chair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter Walk: Have you ever wondered how to identify trees once their leaves have fallen? Or noticed what interesting bark some trees and shrubs showcase during the wintertime? What plants are useful for wildlife, especially those winter visitors from the north? If yes, then this is the walk for you. What's better it's FREE. Join the Etobicoke Master Gardeners at the Humber Arboretum for a Winter Wood Walk. *February 2nd* at 10 a.m.

Bird Watch Hikes 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, *Feb. 12, 26, March 19 & 26*. Join renowned birders Luc Fazio and Dan Salisbury for winter bird watching hikes. Bring binoculars. Great for

families, new birders and experienced ones alike.
Location: J C. Saddington Park (foot of Mississauga Rd. in Port Credit)

The International Home and Garden Show will take place *February 21 to February 24* at the Toronto International Centre. Explore over six acres featuring garden design ideas and gadgets. Choose from over 50 seminars featuring a celebrity roster of experts.

Seedy Saturday – *Feb. 23*. See page 3

Welcome spring at the **Stratford Garden Festival** *February 28 - March 3* at the Stratford Rotary Complex. Enjoy nine beautiful display gardens inspired by the theme Reflections. Check out the Marketplace featuring fabulous "must haves" for the gardener. Learn from gardening gurus such as Frank Ferragine, Paul Zammit, Carson Arthur, Sean James, Steven Biggs and more as part of the ongoing Speaker Series. \$9/adults, kids free. For more information, visit the Stratford Garden Festival website or call The Lung Association at 519-271-7500.

Canada Blooms, March 15 to 24. Celebrate the magic of spring at the Direct Energy Centre. For more information, visit the Canada Blooms website.

Tune Into Nature Workshop: This workshop is designed to give parents the confidence to not only get their kids outside but to inspire them to get in touch with the natural world themselves. The Tune Into Nature Workshop is full of great crafts, games and activities that focus on tuning into nature, whether in the backyard or a sprawling green space. The future of Mother Nature is in the hands of our children. Price - \$10.00 (per person) *Saturday, March 30, 2013* - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Humber Arboretum

District 15 AGM - *Saturday April 27th* hosted by Cloverleaf Garden Club at the Nissan Corporate Centre, 5290 Orbitor Drive in Mississauga. Breakfast provided and hosted by Streetsville Horticultural Society. More details to follow.

Q: What do you call fifty penguins in the Arctic?

A: Lost! REALLY lost! (Penguins live in Antarctica.)

FEBRUARY GARDENING TIPS

*Order perennial plants and bulbs now for cut flowers this summer. Particularly good choices are phlox, daisies, coreopsis, asters and lilies.

*Check stored bulbs, tubers and corms. Discard any that are soft or diseased.

*Don't remove mulch from perennials too early. A warm day may make you think spring is almost here but there may be more cold weather yet to come.

*Order gladiolus corms now for planting later in the spring after all danger of frost has passed. Locate in full sun in well-drained soil.

*Branches of forsythia, pussy willow, quince, spirea, and dogwood can be forced for indoor bloom. Make long, slanted cuts when collecting the branches and place the stems in a vase of water. Change the water every four days. They should bloom in about 3 weeks.

*Late winter is the time to prune many deciduous trees. Look over your plants now and remove dead, dying, or unsightly parts of the tree, sprouts growing at or near the base of the tree trunk and crossed branches.

* If bird feeding has been a favorite activity this winter, order trees and shrubs, which provide cover and small fruits for your feathered friends. Consider species such as crabapple and hawthorn, which can help lure hungry birds from cultivated fruits, if planted on the opposite side of the yard.

*Check any vegetables you have in storage and dispose of any that show signs of shriveling or rotting.

*This year plan to grow at least one new vegetable that you've never grown before; it may be better than what you are already growing. The new dwarf varieties on the market which use less space while producing more food per square foot may be just what you're looking for.

*Send off seed orders early this month to take advantage of seasonal discounts. Some companies offer bonus seeds of new varieties to early buyers.

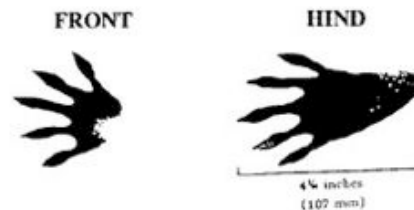
*Don't start your vegetable plants indoors too early. Six weeks ahead of the expected planting date is early enough for the fast growth species such as

cabbage. Eight weeks allows enough time for the slower growing types such as peppers.

RACCOONS

Looked out my window the other evening and lo and behold there were two raccoons eating beneath my bird feeder. I thought raccoons hibernated so decided to find out more about them. So here is a list of the top 10 raccoon facts you may not know. Some of these are absolutely amazing. Some frightening!

1. Raccoons are capable of achieving **body masses made up of 50% body fat**, but it is mostly the animals in the cooler regions that achieve this.
2. Their **tails can make up 52% of their length**, up to 405 mm.
3. **Raccoons do not hibernate**. During extremely cold periods raccoons have been known to sleep for long periods, but do not hibernate.
4. These critters **climb with great ease** and are not bothered by a drop of 35 to 40 feet! This is one of the truly amazing raccoon facts!
5. As well as being agile climbers, these animals are also very **strong swimmers**, although they are often reluctant to enter the water because without waterproof fur, swimming forces them to take on extra weight.
6. **Raccoons have a highly developed tactile sense**. Their human-like forepaws (complete with 5 fingers) are used to pick up food with their front paws before putting it in their mouth. Just like you do. Here are some raccoon tracks.



7. **These animals can live up to 16 years in the wild**, but most don't make it past their second birthday. Did you know that a captive raccoon was recorded living for 21 years! Another of the truly amazing raccoon facts!

8. **Raccoons generally have one litter per year**

that typically consists of 4 babies. Although they can have 3 to 7. Sexual maturity often occurs in females before they are one year old! (*No wonder there is so many of them around!*)

9. Raccoon pelts have been harvested since the colonial period. Although demand has diminished greatly, **the pelts may still be sold as imitation mink, otter, or even seal fur.** (Did you know that raccoons are also eaten by some cultures? Ugh!)

10. **These critters carry many diseases,** the worst of which is a microscopic parasite known as raccoon roundworm. It has been known to cause death and blindness in humans.

If you've had one of these animals in your attic you need to get it disinfected to protect you and your loved ones. When raccoons get into your home they leave droppings behind. Its just nature at work. Contained in those droppings is a microscopic parasite. That's the roundworm.

What happens when those droppings "dry-out" is that the microscopic roundworm eggs begin to get airborne? Anything can cause it: if someone steps on it while putting decorations away in the attic, if the furnace kicks on it can travel through the vent, or even the kids playing. It just gets "stirred-up". And that's the issue; these invisible diseased parasites get into your lungs when you breathe.

From there raccoon roundworm gets into your bloodstream, travels throughout your body and can reside in your intestines for up to two years.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), it can cause abdominal pain, Diarrhea, Lung problems, and in severe cases, they can even block the intestines. In certain instances, death and even *blindness* have been documented in infected by raccoon roundworm!

Once again, this is not meant to scare you, just to inform you so that you can take action.

If you've ever had these pests in your attic, there is virtually no avoiding it. You really need to get it cleaned-out and have your home restored by a professional. Since attics are commonly used as storage areas, roundworm can be a real threat when items such as Christmas decorations and baby booster seats are brought into the home after having contact with raccoon droppings.

Just think back on how many times you crawl in and out of your attic, basement crawl spaces and other areas of your home to get your kids toys, or fetch those decorations!



WINTER TIME

Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.

Before the stars have left the skies,
At morning in the dark I rise;
And shivering in my nakedness,
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.

Close by the jolly fire I sit
To warm my frozen bones a bit;
Or with a reindeer-sled, explore
The colder countries round the door.

When to go out, my nurse doth wrap
Me in my comforter and cap;
The cold wind burns my face, and blows
Its frosty pepper up my nose.

Black are my steps on silver sod;
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad;
And tree and house, and hill and lake,
Are frosted like a wedding-cake.

Robert Louis Stevenson, 1885

Questions, concerns, ideas, want to **volunteer** call
President: Sue Hutton (647) 638-1269
Editor: Carol Ashford (905) 858-0748
Email: streetvillehort@hotmail.com
OHA website: www.gardenontario.org
SHS website: gardenontario.org/site.php/streets