



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 26, Issue 5

January 2019



Index

President's Message	... 1
Refreshment Table	... 2
Christmas Workshop	... 3
Speaker of the Month	... 4
From the Raffle Table	... 4
How birds stay warm during The Canadian winter?	... 5
Feeding birds in Winter	... 7

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2019

Streetsville United Church

274 Queen Street South

Doors open 7 pm

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

The President's Message

The short, dark, cold days of January send my mind wandering ahead into spring, counting the days until I see green shoots poking through the soil. However the reality is that January is far too soon for those dreams. Instead I look for garden inspiration and education anywhere I can find it on line, in libraries, on television, and gardening related movies.

Attached with this newsletter is a document called Winter Distractions that contains a multitude (8 pages) of on line sources of garden inspiration and education, take some time to look it over you will be surprised at what is available.

Local Events: Canada Blooms will be held this year from March 08 - 17, at the Enercare centre; The Green Living show will be held at Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building from Friday, March 22: 12:00pm – 9:00pm to Sunday, March 24: 10:00am – 6:00pm.



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 26, Issue 5

January 2019

Events at the Royal Botanical Gardens,

<https://www.rbg.ca/events>

Winter Exhibit: Spiders Alive! January 19 to April 14; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;



The eight-legged exhibition!

RBG Centre: We've invited spiders and their arthropod friends to crawl on over for a visit this winter. Explore amazing adaptations and behaviours of spiders and other many-legged creatures in two interactive exhibits and daily programs for all ages

Mini-Exhibit: Seeds in Disguise, The Biology and Lore of Ornamental Seeds; November 17 to January 13; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; RBG Centre

Seeds are all around us: we eat them; we plant them; they parachute from dandelions; they catch in the dog's coat or on your socks; they drop from the trees; and sometimes they even hang around your neck.



This exhibition features ornamental seeds "disguised" as beads in jewellery, trinkets and ornaments. Seeds, like people, have many interesting facets to their complex biology. Travel, chemistry, medicine, and industry are part of the stories of the

ornamental seeds in this exhibition. Beware – some seeds are dangerous!

Back To Nature Hike-Free Guided Hike Each Sunday; September through May: 2 p.m.

Each Sunday of the month our volunteer Back to Nature hike leaders offer free hikes through the vast ecosystems of RBG's lands, allowing people to familiarize themselves with the area so they can

continue to explore with their friends and family. Every Sunday (including holiday weekends), September through May, 2 p.m.; for further information including hike locations; <https://www.rbg.ca/hike>

The RBG offers over 200 courses and workshops for families, kids and adults in the areas of gardening, nature, botanical arts and wellness; <https://www.rbg.ca/publicprograms>

NEW! Advanced Pruning course; Saturday, March 30 and April 6, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Many gardeners are hesitant to prune their trees and shrubs for fear of altering the appearance or even injuring the plant. A certified arborist teaches pruning techniques and helps build your confidence. Learn to prune for desired structure, reduced maintenance and long-term plant health, and avoid common mistakes. Fee: \$60 (Members 10% off) Pre-register by March 23.

Monica ✂

From the Refreshment Coordinator

A huge thank you to our Board of Directors for providing a wonderful variety of food enjoyed by all the workshop participants and other members who attended the Dec. meeting. There was a bit of a glitch when one of the coffee pots died. Is there anyone who has a coffee urn (35 to 42) cup range who would be happy to donate it to the society. Please call me at 905-822-7752 or email me at phil.walker@bell.net. Also a big thank you to those who helped clean up. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. ✂

Refreshment Coordinator, Heather Walker



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 26, Issue 5

January 2019

Christmas Workshop

Mary Hachey gave a demonstration. We had 15 participants, some new faces looking around learning from the expert ones.

Design by Kathy Hansen, first time attending workshop.



Design by new member Bob Smale



Design by Ursula Evanoff, winner of the SHS 2018 design award in November.



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 26, Issue 5

January 2019

We collected two boxes of food to be donated to the food bank



Council. Currently Elizabeth is Flower Show Chair for the Burlington Horticultural Society and an active member in numerous other horticultural and specialty societies. In her free time, she enjoys many hobbies including photography, gardening, travel, jewellery crafts and Book Arts.

From the Raffle Table



The annual silent auction fundraiser was a huge success!

A total of 30 items were auctioned plus a Raffle Table with approximate 15 prizes. A big thank you to our generous donors.

Speaker of the Month

"Copenhagen Adventures" by Elizabeth Schleicher.



Elizabeth is an accredited judge of horticulture and design. Her lifelong passion for roses inspired her to become an accredited Canadian Rose Society rose judge. She is past president of the Canadian Rose Society, the Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society and has just completed a six-year term as Secretary on the executive of Garden Clubs of Ontario, Judges'

January Raffle





Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



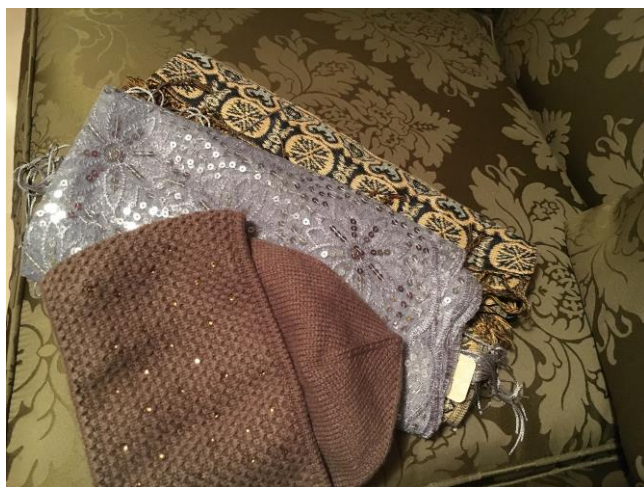
Volume 26, Issue 5

January 2019

Beautiful plate with an English cottage painted by the famous painter of light Thomas Kinkadee and pretty flowers



A wool blanket and a warm story with book holders



Scarves and cap for cold winter days

and more on the day. Please come and see our raffle table and buy tickets to support the society. ☞

Thank you,
Asma and Franca

How birds stay warm through Canada's cold winters

For humans, winter is the perfect time to hibernate inside and fatten up on holiday baking. Wildlife has to come up with their own strategies for surviving the brutally cold season. Birds have three options when it comes to adapting to temperatures well below zero: "migrate, hibernate, or tolerate."



Chickadees ride out the winter by eating as much fatty foods (like sunflower seeds) as they can, before huddling together in a winter roost at night. On the coldest nights when it gets really frosty they enter a nightly hypothermia, their body core temperature drops and they tolerate it by allowing themselves to chill down.

When the temperature drops below -30°C , some birds even tuck away in shelters beneath the snow. Geese and ducks have a built-in feature that prevents their feet from freezing to the ice when tucking them under their body just isn't enough: a counter-current blood-warming system.



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 26, Issue 5

January 2019



But these birds have nothing on the Arctic Redpoll, a tiny finch that's developed some extreme cold-weather tricks. "They can survive up to 20 hours without access to food, even if temperatures drop to -54 C," Redpolls have specially designed esophageal pouches that allow them to hold on to seeds, then later slowly digest them to provide them with energy to maintain their core at a balmy 40 C — "Their internal temperature can be 73 degrees warmer than the surrounding air, with the two extremes being separated by less than a half a centimeter layer of feathers."

Feeding Birds in winter

Feeding birds in winter can be rewarding and enjoyable in the midst of chilly weather. The most common winter birds include finches, sparrows, titmice, jays, woodpeckers, chickadees, and cardinals, though there are always other birds that may appear at full, enticing feeders.

Characteristics for Winter Bird Feeders

Tis the season for feeding birds all across North America, especially in those regions where it gets mighty cold and snowy. If you are a veteran bird feeder, you've probably gained lots of insight into the foods your backyard birds prefer. Perhaps you've learned through trial and error, or perhaps you did your homework and read up on the subject.

➤ Covered to Protect Seed

A wide cover over feeding ports, perches and dispensing trays so seed is not buried during snowfalls or storms. Fly-through platform feeders are especially good designs for winter bird feeding. The cover should extend several inches over the edge of the feeder to ensure protection from all but the most serious storms. If a favorite feeder doesn't have a built-in cover, wide baffles can be added to keep snow and ice away.

➤ Good Shelter

Placing feeders closer to the house will be effective and will help keep the birds visible for indoor bird watching. At the same time, feeders should be placed near protective cover such as hedges or a brush pile to offer birds safety from predators.



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 26, Issue 5

January 2019

Larger Capacity

For birders' convenience, large capacity feeders are preferred for winter feeding because they do not need to be refilled as frequently and seed is protected from moisture, otherwise it may grow mold or fungus before it is consumed.



Cleanliness

Will minimize mold, mildew and other unhealthy conditions that could foster disease among backyard bird populations. When cleaning, discard soggy seed or seed encased in ice, and let the feeder dry before refilling if possible. Be sure to wipe down perches, poles and other parts of the feeder as well.

<https://www.thespruce.com/winter-bird-feeding-tips-386586>

Uses for Your Dead Christmas Tree

Whether to buy a real Christmas tree or artificial is an age-old question filled with lots of debate. Critics on both sides argue why one tree is better than the other. Naturally, artificial is the safer option, after all you're allowing real trees to live where they belong, in the forest, and using an artificial one that can be used year-after-year, right?

Not quite, in fact, almost all real Christmas trees are grown on farms, like crops, for the specific purpose of being harvested as Christmas trees. Without the demand for the real trees, these Christmas tree farms (and the ecosystem benefits their trees provide) wouldn't exist. Additionally, the trees sold on these farms are replanted every year. Very few Christmas trees are actually removed from forests. Real trees are more sustainable because they are biodegradable, unlike plastic trees which fill landfills and can take more than 400 years to decompose, causing more harm than good to the environment.

If you had a real Christmas tree this year you can extend its life and use beyond the home. Here are some ways to reuse your Christmas tree for other purposes



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 26, Issue 5

January 2019

Streetsville Blooms

President: Monica Ross



Vice president: Marg Rowan

Secretary: Marg Rowan

Treasurer: Martha Whitney

Editor: Debra Lemire

Webmaster: Nigel Roberts

Flower Show Chair: Debra
Lemire
debra.lemire@gmail.com

**Questions, concerns, ideas, or
would you like to volunteer for
a position on the Board?**

Contact Monica Ross at
905.824.7283

Article suggestions; please
contact Nury Garzon at
nurygarzon@yahoo.ca or
647.658.5114.

URL: www.streetsvillehort.ca

E-mail:
streetsvillehort@hotmail.com

OHA Website:

Protect your Garden

Cut the branches off your tree and use them to protect your garden. By laying them on your garden you're giving your plants a more constant temperature through the winter, think of them as an extra layer of mulch. The boughs will protect your plants from winter freezes and spring thaws, by trapping leaves and snow. Sturdy branches can be used as a wind break around tender plants. The trunk and limbs also work well as garden edging.

Wildlife habitat

Simply by placing your old Christmas tree in the yard, you're providing birds and small mammals with good winter shelter and a refuge from predators. You can always chop your old tree up in the spring. You can prop the tree against a fence or stand it upright by tying it with ropes to other garden structures. Fill bird feeders and hang them from the branches or drape the tree with a swag of cones coated with peanut butter

Inspired by information from the Arbor Day foundation