



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca

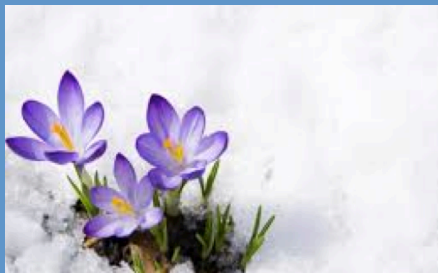


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NEXT MEETING: December 10, 2019
Streetsville United Church

274 Queen Street South

Doors open 7:00 p.m.
Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

The President's Message

It always seems to creep up on us, no matter how we plan on being better prepared than last year!! The holiday season is upon us again, with all of its joys and accompanying stresses.

Thanks to our members for the delicious dishes contributed to our AGM. It was truly a marvelous buffet!!

The Board of Directors will provide refreshments for our December meeting. If you are not participating in the workshop, please come anyway and socialize with fellow members, chat about gardens, ask our master gardener (Monica) questions, and bid on the silent auction.

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season. ✂ Marg Rowan, Co-President

December Meeting Events and Happenings

Our December meeting will include: the Christmas floral workshop, a silent auction and bake sale, the silent auction bid sheet is on the last page.

We have donated seeds available at no charge, all of these seeds are hardy and do not require starting inside, they can be sprinkled on bare soil now.

We also have some gardening books available at great prices.





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Christmas Arrangement Workshop

Make an arrangement for your table or mantle or a wreath for the front door

Cost of greens: \$20

If you were not at the November meeting and want to participate in the workshop at the December meeting, please contact: Martha Witney mjwitney@bell.net 905 813 7740 to arrange payment for the workshop supplies. If you don't pre-order, there is no guarantee extra materials will be available

Pre-paid supplies. We will be providing cedar, fir, white pine branches, and red dogwood. Prices and availability of greens have increased considerably this year. If you want other premium varieties in your arrangement, please bring it with you.

Bring your supplies

For the floral arrangement you will need:

- Box to take it home in
- Waterproof container for your centerpiece, approximately 8" diameter round or oval (anything larger may be too large to finish during the workshop if you're a novice).
- If you decided to use oasis, **soaked overnight**; the oasis should be about 1 inch above the rim of the container
- Secateurs, wire cutters, wire on a spool or straight, sharp knife, florist tape, and scissors
- Gloves if it's easier for you.
- Accessories of your choice such as pine cone, baubles, berries, silk poinsettias, ribbon, favourite things... etc.
- If you choose to add some fresh flowers, carnations are a good choice, as are roses, mums etc.

If you are refurbishing your wreath from previous years and the wreath will be hung outdoors, make sure your berries/fruit etc. are weatherproof. If they are not, they will "pop" like popcorn and you'll have white spots all over your finished wreath after a cold spell. Please do not bring soil as it makes a mess that is very difficult to clean up.



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December Silent Auction

We have 26 items for auction this year, beautiful baskets packed to be a gift to a family or yourself. Donations are very welcome, all funds are for SHS, please join us in this great fundraiser.

1. Please bring your donations of baked goods, preserves or other items. (craft, decor etc.)
2. Food items must include a label with ingredient list due to possible allergies. (Remember no nuts allowed in the church)
3. Print & fill out attached form, on the last page of this newsletter, one form per item. (forms will be available for those without a printer)
4. Estimate the value of the product. (Food items: Minimum bid should be approx. cost of ingredients)
5. Bids will then go up by \$1 unless stated on form.

Be generous and don't forget your \$\$\$\$. Thanks. ✂ Asma and Franca





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46th Annual General Meeting and Awards night November 12, 2019

The meeting was supervised by Barb O' Malley, District 15 director and Asna Black assistant director responsible for Streetsville Horticultural Society. **Reports** on society activities and finances were presented to the membership for their approval, awards were presented and election of a new board of directors conducted.

Board of Directors 2019-2020



Left to right:

Steve Fenech board member, Kathleen Hayward Secretary, Martha Witney Treasurer, Monica Ross past president, Maureen Dodd Volunteer Chair, Marg Rowan co-president, Nury Garzon newsletter chair, Asma Iftikar Vice president, missing Janet Shaw co-president



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Monica Ross presents The Horticultural Service Certificate to Dean Scully.

The Horticultural Service Certificate is awarded to a member who:

1. Has been an active member in a horticultural society for ten or more years.
2. Has served on society committees, contributing time or effort to civic improvements and beautification of public planting projects.
3. Has encouraged membership in a society by participating in drives or canvassing for new members.
4. Has strived to give inspiration and leadership to any horticultural effort by other community groups, or to an individual.
5. Has shown, by involvement, sincere interest in the objectives of a horticultural society.

Jean Kennedy Outstanding Volunteer Award

The volunteer of the year award is presented to a member who donates more than their time. The recipient makes a significant, positive impact on the society, pitches in without having to be asked, and has been involved in several Society activities. Heather is a valued member of the plant sale committee, and was refreshment coordinator for 2016-2019.

Maureen Dodd presented the Volunteer of the year award to Heather Walker.





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The Strong Roots Award

Over the past year the board of directors discussed the creation of an award to honour the contributions of long term SHS members. Recipients of this award have done far more than pay dues. They have been members for a minimum of 25 years, they have been involved in multiple society activities, have given freely of their time and

talents. They have made a major contribution to the continuing existence of the society.

The award states: *A tree's beauty lies in its branches, but its strength lies in its roots.*

A horticultural society is the same. To grow enduring and resilient roots,

It must be nourished by people with a strong commitment to the organization.

The first recipients of this award are Mary Gilbert; join date 1974 and Grace Nelham; join date 1993.

Mary and Grace received a certificate and an engraved trowel.



Flower show awards

Elizabeth Colley Award for most points in the design category was presented to Debbie Lemire



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Joe Boles Award for Horticulture was awarded to both Janet Shaw and Anita King who had the same number of points awarded, missing from picture Janet Shaw

Highest points for combined design and horticulture categories was awarded to Anita King



Photographer of year award was presented to Grace Nelham by Carol Ashford



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From the Membership Desk

Welcome everyone!!!

49 members enjoyed an exciting evening of pot luck delicacies, the Annual General Meeting, and the presentation of our 2019-2020 Board of Directors.

We hope you enjoyed such a busy and informative evening.

September/October was the time for your membership renewal in the SHS, and if you haven't renewed yet, please take the few minutes to complete the renewal form, and bring it along with you, or mail it in to the address on the form. The renewal form can be found on the SHS website.


Every member is encouraged to complete the survey section on the back of the form. The executive uses this valuable information to make decisions about the future direction of all aspects of the society. Situations change and you may wish to volunteer for different activities this year. Please make sure we have your most up-to-date email address which is only used to communicate SHS information.

Please remember to wear your name tag at all times while at our meeting... it will make it much easier for us to get to know one another. Pick up your name tag when signing in at the desk, and return it at the end of the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at the December meeting!

 **Viv Holmes, Membership Chair**

Rotary Park

Our last work party was November 7th when we had a final clean-up, just as the snow was starting! My annual report was omitted from the November newsletter. Very briefly it said that we had a good year at Rotary park, making several improvements and we hope to continue to do this in 2020. Most importantly I wanted to thank the people that made this happen and in 2019 they were: Nick & Enza Lafratta, Asoke Bera, Debra Lemire, Steve Fenech and Anita & Alex King. Many, many thanks and I hope to see (some of) you there again in the Spring!  **Jon Eldridge**

Lug a Mug

Thank you to everyone who has made a concerted effort to Lug A Mug to our meetings.

Thanks to the following members who supplied wonderful goodies for the October meeting (better late than never!)

Anita King, Asma Iftikar, Shelly Dodd, Faulene Hopkins, Kathleen Hayward, Lorena D'Arsie, Renate Wust, Eleanor Minnes, Sue Palummieri, Liz Menard, Nury Garzon and Mahasen Ibrahim.

Wow! Many hands make good treats!



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The Pot Luck in November was a super success with everyone contributing to the feast. It's great to share favorite foods with others. I Pot Lucks!

As they say; take a little time to enjoy whatever view you may come across and don't forget to breathe. ✂ Cathy Clipperton.

A few statistics regarding polystyrene (Styrofoam):

Styrofoam is non-biodegradable and non-recyclable. Styrofoam takes 500 years to break down so anything in our landfill is there to stay.

Styrene leaches into food and drinks served in Styrofoam; containers can cause skin irritation, eye sensitivity, respiratory tract, and gastrointestinal problems. Manufacturing of Styrofoam releases large amounts of toxins into the atmosphere causing respiratory and environmental issues. ✂ Cathy Clipperton.



Floral Design Tips

There are a number of other alternatives to floral foam – the most viable of which is simply the use of green foliage. Other solutions which have decreased in popularity include glass domes, paper, test tubes, sand, marbels, straw, clay and plasticine. or longer periods where the water can be regularly changed, there's no reason not to consider green foliage as a potential base.

Get a couple of bunches of a nice deep red color and the closest to white cream you can find and

arrange them randomly in a vase for the instant seasonal style.

The traditional Christmas plant the poinsettia is most commonly seen in red, but you can get white varieties too so why not go for a festive double whammy by creating a classic color combination using the ultimate Christmas bloom.



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If you found you had to trim your Christmas tree a tad to balance out its shape, put those trimmings aside and slot them into your flower display or take some from your garden. Think about what bushes in your garden could use an end of year pruning - euonymus, juniper, boxwood, yew – and bring some for your own use and a few friends.



Pine cones are another quick and easy festive extra that you can nestle between flower heads or place at the base of a plant pot.

Candles often appear at this time of year, providing cozy winter atmosphere as well as delicious familiar scents. Arrange some flowers around one or more candles for a Christmas centerpiece that can be as unique or traditional as you desire.

<https://www.serenataflowers.com/pollennation/4-tips-christmas-flower-arrangements>

<https://londonflowerschool.com/journal/the-world-before-floral-foam>

Christmas Plants

Why do people decorate their home with plants at Christmas? Today there are lots of reasons, some are obvious it may be grey and miserable outside, but you can fill the indoors with scent and colour. Many plants play an important role in varied traditions both new and old that celebrate the season that surrounds the Winter solstice.



Winter solstice, occurring on or around December 21st, is the first day of winter, the shortest day and the longest night of the year. For early cultures, the Winter solstice was a day of both apprehension of the cold, dark winter and celebration of the promise of longer, warmer days to come. The use of plants as part of rituals for the Winter solstice was a promise of that new and continuing life. The Christian celebration was superimposed on the ancient rituals linked to the celebration of the Winter Solstice, one of the major religious events in the Celtic world.



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Various plants used during these ancient rituals have found their place in modern celebrations. Many varieties of holly and ivy have an almost magical ability to remain green year round; the bright red berries of some holly plants are cheerful spots of colour. Evergreens such as pine, spruce and fir were also a part of winter festivals. Today evergreens boughs are used in wreaths, centerpieces, and the trees are brought inside and decorated. Wreaths, which traditionally represent the circle of life, are commonly used to dress up the front door and give visitors a cheery welcome.

We have many plants that are used as decoration at Christmas, some of the most popular are:

Poinsettia-In Canada this is perhaps the houseplant most associated with Christmas. Its rich red star shapes are often mistaken for flowers. But look closely – they are bracts or specialized leaves. Their bright colour is to attract insects to the small yellow flowers that lie in the middle. Poinsettias are easier to grow than many people think. Protect the foliage from cold winter winds as you take the plant home and keep it warm but not hot. Allow the soil to dry out between watering and then give it a good soak with warm water.

Holly and Ivy- The ancient Romans associated holly with Saturn, the god of agriculture and harvest. Whether you choose to hang garlands of holly from the roof, the walls or the mantelpiece, it's guaranteed to add Christmas cheer and a little colour to your home. A simple wreath made from ivy, holly, red ribbons and other greenery will add vibrancy and colour to your home.

Mistletoe has been part of winter traditions for centuries: In early European cultures, people believed the plant brought good luck and would ward off evil spirits. Mistletoe is a plant that is parasitic; it lives on and gets its nutrition from the tree it grows on. It's become a popular tradition all around the world, along with having a Christmas kiss underneath it!



Volunteer opportunity

We are looking for interested in Table starting in If you are creative, for you. Please Asma, Franca, or member if you'd more. Lots of play around with you can put your



someone(s) running the Raffle January next year. this should be fun speak to any Board like to know opportunity to different ideas as own stamp on it.



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December Silent Auction

Item: _____

Estimated Value: _____ Opening Bid: _____

Donated By: _____

NAME	\$\$ BID



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