



# Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*

[www.streetsvillehort.ca](http://www.streetsvillehort.ca)

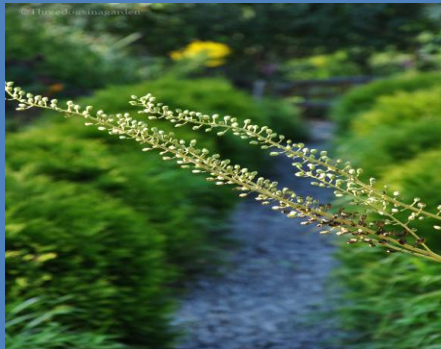


Volume 27, Issue 4

January 2020

## Index

President's Message	1
Christmas Workshop	2
Give away seeds	3
Membership Desk	4
Speaker of the month	4
Lug a Mug	
New Year Zero Waste Resolutions	6
Gardening Questions	8
Sweet Dreams	8



**NEXT MEETING:** January 14, 2020

**Streetsville United Church**

**274 Queen Street South**

Doors open 6:45 p.m.

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

### The Presidents Message

After the rush and intensity of Christmas preparations and the Holiday season, I always feel a "lift" once all the decorations are packed away and January arrives; the house seems brighter and more spacious which I find invigorating.

As the days become longer, and even though spring is several months away, I enjoy my colourful geraniums blooming in the bay window, and start thinking about which seeds I will start indoors, when I will place my bulbs and tubers in soil for an indoor head start, and the garden changes I plan for the spring. I expect many of you have similar gardening thoughts and to help you through the winter! And of course, we have our monthly meetings exchanging ideas and information and speakers who provide us with valuable information, to look forward to.

Wishing all our SHS members Health and Happiness in 2020, and much gardening enjoyment in the coming year. ✂ Janet Shaw, Co-President

To start the new decade, we will be trying something new in January: a monthly pre-meeting Gardening question and Answer Session. This will run from 6:45 to 7:15. You can bring your horticultural questions to our experts, SHS members who have accumulated horticultural wisdom. If your question is about a specific topic such as lawn care you may email your questions ahead of the meeting so that we can have the right person available to provide answers.

[streetsvillehort@hotmail.com](mailto:streetsvillehort@hotmail.com)

✂ Monica Ross



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## Christmas workshop

The December workshop was a resounding success. Fifteen members brought their pruners and varied ornaments to create their own masterpieces from the bunches of fresh greens that were available. Many thanks to Sue Harshman for picking them up from the distributor. Bird houses were available for painting and Gary Clipperton did a lovely job with one of those.

Many other members came to enjoy an evening of camaraderie, snacks provided by the Board of Directors, and a wide selection of items available at the silent auction. Several bargains were had and a few last minute gift items purchased.

Thanks to all of the members who came out and contributed to a fun evening for everyone. ✂ Marg Rowan, Co-President

< Gary Clipperton and his painted birdhouse

Marg & Janet, Co-Presidents >



Debbie & Liz with their designs





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## Give away seed event

Kudos for Monica! She took the time to select, organize, pack, and label 96 seed envelopes to give away. Seeds were collected from the Leslie Log House gardens and Monica's garden. Each packet had a picture tag including the name and growing instructions.

Also, she provided seed preparation

information. I took home: Rudbeckia hirta Indian summer, Rudbeckia tribola, Cleome pink queen, Platycodon fuji blue, Aquilegia Vulgaris Pink and Primula Japonica Millers' Crimson.

Let's see how my garden grows in 2020! ✂ Nury Garzon

## From the Membership Desk

There were lots of evergreen boughs everywhere.... Glue, ribbons and decorations as members got together to create some very beautiful centerpieces. Other members grappled with paint to decorate the wooden birdhouses.... Talent and creativity abound! I love our workshop days.... the air just buzzes with happy chatter that gets us into the festive season.

46 members and 2 new members attended our Christmas workshop.

A warm welcome to Suvrajit and Urmi Sikdar. We hope you enjoyed your first evening with us.

Please remember to wear your name tag at all times while at our meetings. 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.

If you took your name tag home with you, remember to tuck it back in your pocket for our up-coming meeting in January.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year! ✂ Viv Holmes, Membership Chair





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## Speaker of the month

Our speaker for January is Medhi Mosallah. Mehdi is the owner of Treelocate, a tree relocation business based in Halton.

Medhi is a graduate of Guelph university and will present on what he has learned about the nature of trees through his varied projects.

## Lug a Mug

A big thank you to our board members for the yummy food they shared with us at our December meeting. Why is it that everything someone else makes tastes sooooo good?

The Lug a Mug initiative has gone very well. Thank you to everyone who takes a moment to bring a mug. We are almost out of disposable cups so please try to remember to LUG A MUG.

Every meeting we have coffee grounds and tea bags that would enrich someone's compost rather than adding to the garbage. I'll have bags available for anyone who would like to take this rich compost material home. First come first served!

All the best to you and yours for a happy, healthy year to come. ☕ Cheers, **Cathy Clipperton**.





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## New year Zero waste resolution

Being a zero-waste consumer is difficult but attainable. Just, don't try to do everything at once, just do your best. Here are some tips that can help.



- Take a "no new clothes" pledge. Fast-fashion items are poorly-made on purpose to get you running back for more once your old ones fall apart. It's a vicious, wasteful cycle, and you have the power to not be a part of it by going through your wardrobe, donating or selling items you don't wear or need anymore, and begin making new outfit combinations with what you already have. And if you do find throughout the year that there are holes in your wardrobe, shop for items second-hand.
- Nix single use plastic water bottles and single-use coffee cups. Getting yourself a reusable water bottle and coffee cup is one of the simplest zero waste changes you can make. Plus making coffee at home and taking it in your cup with you, or filling up a bottle of water for free instead of buying a new bottle each time you're thirsty, will save you lots of money in the long run.
- Eat less takeout. Most takeout food comes with plastic takeout containers, plastic cutlery, unnecessary single-use napkins, little packets of sauce, etc.
- Revamp your hygiene routine. Switch to a bamboo toothbrush, which has a compostable handle. Use 100% natural floss that comes in a refillable container.
- Switching to an all-metal safety razor with recyclable blades. Not only do you still get a close, clean shave, the cost for refill blades is a fraction of what you'd pay for plastic razor refills.
- Vow to never use a single use plastic bag again.
- About 365 plastic bags pass through the hands of a single consumer each year. By switching to only reusable bags, you can make a huge impact.
- Grocery shop zero waste.
- Focus on unpackaged items like fresh fruits and vegetables, and skip the plastic produce bags in favor of bringing along your own cloth or net bags. Also, certain items like bananas, oranges or anything with a hard rind or skin truly don't even need to be put in a bag.



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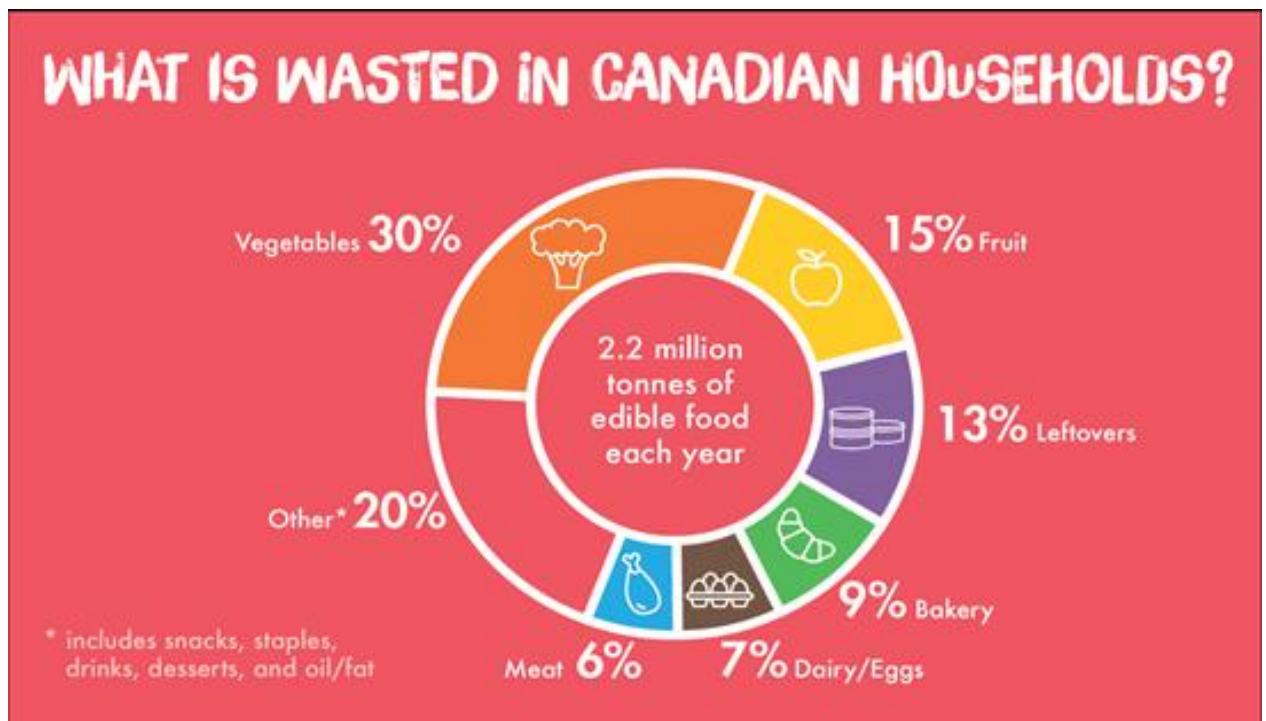
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Volume 27, Issue 4

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- Some stores let you bring along some mason jars or cotton produce bags for bulk items like pasta, legumes and nuts. And if you do need to get some packaged items, look for items packed in glass and metal, like a jar of pickles, that is 100% recyclable.
- Grocery shopping zero waste also might mean making extra trips, like getting your meat from a local butcher that wraps it up in paper rather than buying pre-packaged chicken breasts that come in Styrofoam and plastic. But you'll feel exponentially better knowing that your purchases 1) are supporting a local business and 2) are better for the environment.



- Make your own all-purpose cleaning products.
- Many store-bought cleaners are filled with chemicals that we think we need to “kill germs”, when in reality, there are great natural alternatives that aren’t harmful to your body, but kick bacteria’s butt. Buying your ingredients in bulk, or in the largest containers you can find, mixing them up yourself and filling up a reusable glass spray bottle will also cut down on the amount of plastic spray bottles you’d normally go through by buying products from a store.
- Stop buying paper towels. Paper towels are one of those items that most of us have grown accustomed to, but are completely unnecessary. Get yourself a stack of reusable and washable rags to do the dirty work. You can even make your own cleaning rags by cutting up old t-shirts or bath towels that are too stained use anymore. If you use paper towels in your bathroom to dry your hands, simply replace it with a hand towel.





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- Learn to let your fridge get empty. Losing track of the perishable food in our refrigerator is a big contributor to our individual food waste. Here's a trick, don't buy new food until you've eaten almost everything perishable in your fridge. Rather than thinking about what you want to eat and buying food based off that, look at what you currently have and figure out what you can make with it that sounds appetizing. Less trips to the grocery store also means less money is spent on food.
- Skip the plastic straw. They are completely unnecessary! Next time you're eating at a restaurant, before you order anything, inform your waiter that you're straw-free table. Or get yourself a reusable bamboo or stainless steel straw if you like to sip from one, or get a cold drink to-go
- Learn to say "no". One of the easiest ways to join the zero waste movement? Just say "no". Say "no" to unnecessary purchases, say "no" to free gifts with purchase that you don't actually want. So much of going zero waste is just learning what waste you're creating through habits you've become accustomed to in your life, but don't actually need.

Feeling inspired? Share your zero waste resolutions.  **Nury Garzon**

<http://trashisfortossers.com/13-easy-zero-waste-resolutions-you-can-make-for-2018/>

<https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/canadas-dirty-secret>

(If the links don't open, copy and paste them directly into your browser.)

## Coming events at the Royal Botanical Gardens



### Winter Exhibit: Wildlife Rescue

January 18 to April 13, 2020, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; RBG Centre

Enter the fascinating world of Wildlife Rescue, an eye-opening, inspiring and wildly interactive exhibit for all ages!

Step into recovery efforts and "meet" the people who dedicate their lives to saving and releasing endangered animals. Take a simulated flight to guide young whooping cranes along their first migratory route, learn the methods used to milk Lake Sturgeon and reintroduce them to the Great Lakes, then journey to Africa and Indonesia to witness efforts to successfully raise and release young elephants and orangutans to the wild. Every day is filled with family activities and weekends feature live animal guests from local wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centres.



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## Some New Year Sweet Dreams

(To the tune of Sweet Dreams 1983 by the Eurythmics)

Sweet dreams are made of these  
A stable climate and healthy seas  
Hope for the future, who could disagree?  
Think-ing global, act-ing local  
Everybody's looking for something

Some of you want to plant trees  
Some of you have soil health pleas  
Some of you want to save money  
Some of you want to reduce flooding

Sweet dreams are made of these  
Clean clear water and healthy trees  
Thinking ahead and making the changes we need  
Think-ing global, act-ing local  
Everybody's looking for something

Some of us want to teach you  
Some of us want you to find projects to pursue  
Some of us want to help you  
Some of us want to learn from you

Sweet dreams are made of these  
Healthy wetlands and a diversity of bees  
If we all work together it'll be a breeze  
Think-ing global, act-ing local

© Credit Valley Conservation





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## December Workshop Survey

1. For those who did not attend the December meeting, why?  
What would encourage you to come next year?
  
2. For those who attended AND made a centerpiece:
  - What worked well?
  - What could we do differently/better next year?
  
3. For those who attended but did not make anything, why not?
  
4. Any other suggestions for next year's meeting?

Please bring your feedback to the January meeting. Thank-you.