



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 28, Issue 4

December 2020

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Next Meeting

Tuesday December 8th

Zoom Virtual Meeting 7:30pm



President's Message

Here we are in December and what an interesting year it has been! Looking back to the first quarter of 2020 and our last in-person meeting on March 10, 2020, no-one could have anticipated the long-lasting extent of the COVID-19 situation, locally and worldwide, on our day to day lives!

With the inability to hold in-person meetings, our monthly Newsletter has been our focus to try to bring all members together through our common interests in gardening and all things related. This will continue for the foreseeable future, as the rising number of COVID cases in Mississauga and Ontario, make it unlikely that we will be able to have in-person meetings again until sometime in 2021.

We do have some good news!

OHA Awards: Each year at the OHA Annual Convention, awards are presented on the Saturday night to deserving individuals or groups who were nominated by their peers. The recipients of these awards have been selected from nominations sent from every area of the province.

The Community Improvement Award was awarded to **Carol Ashford** of the Streetsville Horticultural Society in District 15. The Community Improvement Award is a plaque provided by the Ontario Horticultural Association. It may be given to an individual, organization or company that, in the estimation of the Awards Committee, has enhanced the beauty of the landscape and/or added to the quality of life of a community with a horticultural project.

This link is for the OHA Autumn 2020 newsletter with the details of Carol's accomplishments at the Leslie Log House on page 40. <https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-autumn-trillium.pdf>

Well done Carol!



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SHS Volunteer of the Year Award for 2019-2020.

The Board of SHS is pleased to announce that this year's Volunteer of the Year is Nury Garzon. As you all know, Nury is the editor of our newsletter and does a great job each month gathering information and articles, getting everything into newsletter format and ready for distribution. Nury is also a member of the Board of Directors, and volunteers at Leslie Log House when she can get away from work for an hour or so. Thank-you Nury, for your enthusiasm and commitment to the Society. Your efforts are truly appreciated. We cannot have a formal trophy presentation this year, we will be delivering the trophy engraved with Nury's name to her home for her to enjoy during the coming year.

December meeting

In November we started ZOOM speaker presentations for our members. Dugald Cameron presented on *"The Fragrant Garden"* and we had 36 members tune in to his interesting presentation.

It's regrettable that we are not able to hold our usual December Christmas workshop and social gathering this year. Instead, on December 8th we will host our second ZOOM speaker Dave Taylor, who will be presenting on *Galapagos: Climate Change's Ground Zero*. Dave presented on Birds and Blooms in February 2020. **The December ZOOM meeting is OPEN to friends and family should you wish to invite them; just share the link that will be sent to all members.**

Membership Renewal

We encourage you to show your ongoing support to the continued success of Streetsville Horticultural Society. The OHA has reminded the executive of all societies that the OHA constitution and bylaws states that, by definition,

'a "member" is "an individual who pays an annual fee to an Affiliated Society/Club according to the Act". This means that for an individual to be considered a member of a Society/Club, that person must have paid something. There must be a handover of funds to the Society/Club.'



The executive of SHS has decided that all membership fees must be submitted and received by December 31, 2020 for a person or family to be considered a member of Streetsville Horticultural Society. If you have not yet submitted your annual membership renewal form and fees, and wish to remain a member, please do so by the end of December 2020.

You can mail your form and cheque to: **Membership, 128 Queen Street South, Box 42048, Streetsville, Ontario L5M 1K8**. Alternately you can send an email with your information to streetsvillehort@gmail.com



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and pay by e-transfer to **SHSmembership@bell.net**. Thanks to all of you who have already renewed your membership!

We all know that this Christmas will be very different from the ones we are used to and would like to have! Despite the limitations the presence of COVID-19 imposes on us and our families this festive season, we extend our very best Christmas and seasonal wishes to all our members for a healthy and happy holiday.

✂ **Marg Rowan and Janet Shaw**, Co-Presidents

Announcements -Membership Chair

Viv Holmes is stepping down from this role effective January 1, 2021 to pursue other interests. Viv has done an outstanding job and we thank her for her dedicated and efficient service.

We are very happy to announce that Shelley Dodd has offered to take on the role of Membership Chair ! Welcome Shelley, and thank you for your support.



Speaker Chair: Janet has been filling this role for two years in addition to acting as Co-President and is looking for a replacement.

Please consider volunteering for this position, there is lots of assistance available to get you started!

Speaker of the month

Galapagos: Climate Change's Ground Zero by Dave Taylor

Containing several beautiful photos of endemic species, *Galapagos* focuses on the impacts of climate change and what we can learn about evolution in order to survive.

Dave has travelled throughout the world capturing nature with his camera. He frequently visits Tanzania where he guides wildlife safaris and where his Tanzanian drivers have given him the nickname "The



Professor".

After teaching science and geography for more than 30 years and teaching nature photography and writing for more than 25 years, Dave is currently the Educational Program Director/Consultant for The Riverwood Conservancy, a non-profit group that provides activities for all ages at Riverwood in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada



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In the past, he has worked with The Wild Bird Clinic (Project Eyes) and has met with a variety of organizations on wildlife issues and outdoor education programming. He is a wildlife photographer and the author of more than 40 books and several magazine articles on wildlife and ecology. As a highly regarded wildlife photographer, Dave also focuses his efforts on producing educational videos and material about wildlife for school curriculums.

✂ Janet Shaw

2020 Plant Premiums

As you all know we were not able to hold our May meeting which usually includes the distribution of a free plant to our members which of course could not happen.

After thinking about it since May, we had an idea!

No, we're not going to tell you all the details, however don't be surprised when a Streetsville Hort member shows up at your door between December 8 and 11, with a present.



Leslie Log House

At the present time there are two archeological digs taking place on the Leslie Log House property. The smaller dig is situated at the bottom of the trail from the Cider Barn. The larger dig is situated beside the metal roof storage building at the south end of the property. The dig is being done by a Pipeline company as they are putting a pipeline from Brantford through to wherever and must check all land to ensure they are not encroaching on indigenous burial grounds.

I spoke with Chief Steve Maracle, who is observing this site, representing the indigenous people of the Six Nations. He indicated that some animal bones

had been found and a few ceramic pots etc., but no human bones. Should they find human bones, the pipeline would have to detour around that area as Chief Maracle indicated they have "no ceremony for removing people from the ground, only ceremonies for burying them."

Chief Maracle also told me he had spotted an eight-point buck and two does in the valley below the dig. You just never know what is happening at the Log House property! ✂ Carol Ashford. Log House Chair





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Christmas Traditions

Christmas 2020 I'm sure will be the one we will always remember. Many of us will not be able to celebrate the way we always did with our family and friends. Let's not dwell on the sad things, instead let's take a trip back in history and see where all our wonderful traditions come from.

The Christmas Tree. Fir trees decorated with apples were first known to be put up in homes in Strasbourg, Austria in 1605. There are many legends as to where the Christmas tree as we know it first started. One legend states that Martin Luther, a German Protestant leader on Christmas Eve cut down a fir tree. He took it home and placed lighted candles on the branches which stood for the stars in the sky above Bethlehem. This tradition spread all over Europe. Oliver Cromwell banned Christian celebrations in 1642. In 1660 King Charles 11 revived the Christmas holiday.

In 1841 Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband celebrated the birth of their first son with a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle. The first Christmas tree in North America appeared in Sorel Quebec, just north of Montreal on December 24th 1781. It was in the early 1900's that the Christmas tree became a common sight in most homes.



Christmas Tree Ornaments. The first ornaments were fruit and nuts. The first known glass ornaments were made by German craftsmen. The colourful glass balls replaced the fruit, nuts and paper decorations that were used for many years. In early North American homes children strung popcorn and cranberries, and made paper chains and stars to decorate their trees.

Mistletoe. The first use of mistletoe goes back hundreds of years where it was believed that it would protect people from death. The Druids, at their winter solstice cut mistletoe to wear or hang to ward off evil spirits. The hanging of mistletoe remains a part of Christmas in many home today. Today it is a tradition to give or receive a kiss under the mistletoe.

The Christmas Manger. For Christians today Christmas is the celebration of the Birth of Jesus. In the Middle Ages when the Church service was held in Latin, many people were at a loss, so to tell the story for everyone to understand, small figures of the Baby Jesus, Joseph and Mary, were set up in a small stable along with the Kings and some animals. Today this tradition is still carried on in many homes and Churches.



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Christmas Cards. In the early days in England, schoolboys would write Christmas letters to their families in the hope that they would get a very large and expensive gifts. It's recorded that William Egley designed the first card and one of his cards is in the British Museum. Around the same time a card was designed by J.C. Horsley and his friend Sir. Henry Cole. In 1874, a German immigrant Louis Prang began printing cards in Roxbury, Massachusetts. In the late 1900's Hallmark Cards was one of the Canada biggest suppliers of greeting cards.



Advent Calendars. They have 24 openings. One to be opened each day starting on the 1st of December. The calendar was created by a Munich housewife in the 19th century. It is recorded that she got tired of having to answer when Christmas would come. The first commercial calendars were printed in Germany in 1851.

Hanging up Stockings. Legend has it that the tradition of hanging up stockings was introduced by St. Nicholas, the Patron of children. The story goes that one night Nicholas secretly dropped a bag of gold down a man's chimney knowing that the man would never accept the gift willingly. The gold slipped into a stocking that was hanging to dry over the fireplace, thus, the man could now afford gifts for his daughters, and the legend of Santa and the Christmas stocking was born. While many still speculate about the origin of the Christmas stocking, this story is widely accepted as the humble beginning of what is now an essential tradition.

the fireplace, thus, the man could now afford gifts for his daughters, and the legend of Santa and the Christmas stocking was born. While many still speculate about the origin of the Christmas stocking, this story is widely accepted as the humble beginning of what is now an essential tradition.

Santa Claus. It is believed that St Nicholas and the bag of gold is where Santa Claus started. It was the Germans that first transformed Nicholas into Father Christmas. In 1809, writer Washington Irvine, described him as "a chubby little man with a jolly smile drawn by a team of reindeer" In 1822, Dr. Clement Moore of New York wrote a poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas", which starts "Twas the night before Christmas, when all



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through the house". This poem appeared in a newspaper in Troy, New York in 1823. Santa is known around the world by many names, but here in Canada we all know the jolly fellow as Santa Claus.



Christmas Parade. The first Canadian Santa Claus Parade was sponsored by T. Eaton Company held in Toronto in 1905. The first Streetsville Parade was in 1935.

I'm going to close with a quote from John Wesley who wrote, "*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can.*"

Reprinted Courtesy of the Streetsville Historical Society

Memories from the Streetsville Horticultural Society Archives: December 2019 Christmas Workshop.

A delicious pot luck supper was provided by the members. Many of the interesting items available: Seeds, stones, Silent Auction and Archival photos.





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Co-presidents, Marg Rowan and Janet Shaw.

Some creative members: Gary Clipperton with his painted Bird House,



Debbie Lemire and Liz Menard with their Christmas arrangements.

Monty Dons's American Gardens



Is there such a thing, and if so, what does it look like? In this three-part series, on TVO **Monty** Don travels across this vast continent in search of answers.

[Monty Don's American Gardens - Episode 1](#)

[Monty Don's American Gardens - Episode 2](#)



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*Excerpt from: "Through a Century with Streetsville" – published in 1959
– a souvenir of the Centennial Celebration*

STREETSVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

No doubt our forefathers took an interest in gardens, flowers, shrubs and trees, but it was during the latter half of the century that the society was organized for civic beautification.

At a public meeting held in the Odd Fellows' Hall January 14, 1914, the following minutes were taken:

Moved by W. J. Graydon, seconded by R. H. Greig, that C. H. Falconer be secretary pro tem. Carried. Officers elected—president, C. E. Darker, barber; first vice-president, Miss Eliza Lawson, teacher; second vice-president, Robert H. Greig, hardware merchant; secretary-treasurer, H. Q. Burns, merchant. Directors—J. P. Dunn, farmer; W. J. Graydon, manager Metropolitan Bank; Rev. T. O. Curliss, rector Trinity Church; Miss L. McKenzie, teacher; Miss S. Allen, teacher; Miss N. M. Hicks, teacher; Chas. Arch, gardener; H. W. Graydon, customs officer; William Kemp, teacher-principal high school; H. E. Burton, farmer, Churchville; Rev. Mr. Scott, Methodist Church.

There was a membership of one hundred and a government grant of seventy-five dollars. Shade trees were planted at the public school. Premiums were given as: one Gruss au Teplitz hybrid tea rose, six gladioli bulbs, one ounce each of nasturtium and sweet peas seed, three boxes annuals, one copy of the Canadian Horticultural Monthly. Meetings were held twice a month in the Town Hall, Burn's Store, Greig's Store, the Metropolitan Bank.

Some of these members still living are: Mrs. W. Faulkner, Toronto; Mrs. H. Cook, Mrs. F. Broadbear, William Switzer, Dr. Smith, J. P. Dunn, A. E. Pope, Arthur Berrill, Arthur Steggall, Frank Reid, C. F. Adamson, Rev. T. O. Curliss, Stanley Hall.

This society carried on until 1918, leaving a bank balance of \$4.28. Then about 1922 it was re-organized under the late Dr. D. V. Reed and the late Rev. Captain Frank Vipond. This society left a bank balance of \$121.40, which is evidence it had a pretty active existence.

In 1936 the society was again re-organized by John F. Clark, Department of Agriculture fieldman, at a meeting in the high school April 3, 1936. Mr. Clark spoke on "Roses." President, Frank Broadbear; first vice-president, A. B. Bruce; second vice-president, Arthur Berrill; secretary, Mabel Graydon; treasurer, O. R. Church; auditors, R. Langmaid, H. W. Gerhart, were elected.

There were eighty members, and it was decided to make the ground in front of the fence at the cemetery on Queen Street the project for civic beautification. Mr. William Couse had the ground prepared for planting and in 1937 under plans outlined by Mr. Clark and a landscape man from Connors Nurseries, Waterdown, shrubs, bulbs and roots were put in to the value of ninety dollars, members also making donations from their own gardens. Mrs. Lundy and Mr. Broadbear did a great deal of work keeping this border in order for several years. To create interest floral displays were placed in store windows throughout the village.



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Native Corner: Shagbark Hickory – *Carya ovata*

The time of year has come when the plants have finally retreated, and the only leaves left on the trees are those on the young beech. But alas, trees in the winter can be just as interesting as in any other season –



we just have to put our thinking caps on and use a few more clues to identify them. The lack of leaves and buds sometimes makes it difficult to identify trees during the colder months, but the bark and branch arrangement are sometimes all we need to make an identification.

One of the easiest and most historically fascinating trees in this area is the Shagbark Hickory. Ages ago, this hardy tree grew all over Europe, until glaciation scraped that continent clean of much of the forest cover. From then on, it grew only in North America and China. It is seldom found in pure stands and lives on dry slopes or well-drained lowland areas, where it mixes with oaks. *Carya Ovata* grows 60 to 90 ft. tall. The alternate, pinnately compound leaves (with five leaflets) are 8-16" long. It is monoecious – both male and female flowers grow on the same tree. The males are three-branched catkins, 3-4" long, coming from the tips of the previous year's wood or leaf axils; the females, on short terminal spikes, are on shoots from the current year. They bloom in spring just as the leaves unfurl completely.

The distinctive feature of this species is the bark, which is dark grey, shaggy and peels off in long strips. When the tree is young, the bark drops off in strips, creating a litter in which seeds can germinate safely. During the winter, the dormant seeds lie on the forest floor; in the spring they sprout vigorously. Hickories can survive, and in some cases bear seeds, for up to 300 years, though the best seeds are produced between the ages of 60 and 200. The fruit, actually a nut, is 2" in diameter, and varies from 1-2.5" in length. The husk is green until it ripens in September or October, when it turns brownish-black and splits open to expose the brownish-white nut. During a mast year (a year when a tree produces an unusually large quantity of nuts), a single tree can produce 70 lbs.(!) of nuts. This may happen every two or three years, and when it does, black bears (and I'm sure squirrels in this area) tend to produce more young the following year. Many animals not only eat the nuts but also distribute them, including red fox, gray fox, mice, chipmunks, ducks, woodpeckers, and yellow-bellied sapsuckers. Being the survivors that they are, if a fire hits a hickory stand with trees over 10" in diameter, chances are that the stumps will either sprout or send out suckers.



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Shagbark hickory nuts were a staple food for many tribes. The Iroquois used the hickory to treat arthritis, worms, and headaches by placing small shoots on hot stones and inhaling the steam. They also used the nutmeat oil on their hair or mixed it with bear grease to rub on their skins – protecting them from mosquitos and the sun. The Dakota, Pawnee, and other peoples made soup with the nuts and sugar from the sap. It is thought that isolated stands near Georgian Bay and Lake Huron may have originated from nuts carried there by Native peoples.

While the close-grained, sturdy heartwood is a reddish-brown, the sapwood is nearly white. The colonists used the wood to make long-lasting fences, furniture, door hinges, ramrods, and hoops for pork barrels. Settlers also found that the dense wood made excellent fuel wood and charcoal (a cord produces almost as much heat as a ton of anthracite coal!), as well as pleasant smoke for curing meat. In the early 20th century, hickory wood was even used to make the first automobiles.

As always, never dig up plants from the wild, and don't buy from nurseries that do. ✂ Heather Marchment

Christmas Cactus

Schlumbergera (Christmas Cactus) is a small genus of cacti with six to nine species, found in the coastal mountains of south-eastern Brazil. Plants grow on trees or rocks in habitats that are generally shady with high humidity, and can be quite different in appearance from their desert-dwelling cousins. In the Northern Hemisphere, they are called **Christmas cactus**, **Thanksgiving cactus**, **crab cactus** and **holiday cactus**. Most species of *Schlumbergera* have stems which resemble leaf-like pads joined one to the other and flowers which appear from areoles at the joints and tips of the stems. Their beautiful flowers, long bloom time in pink or lilac colours, and easy care requirements make them a wonderful easy to grow houseplant. Christmas cacti can live for decades.



Given its home climate, it is no surprise that Christmas cacti thrive in indirect light and humid conditions. Growing your Christmas cactus in a north, or east-facing window is ideal. Christmas cacti grow best and usually produce more flowers when they're snug in their containers. Christmas cactus plants like soil that consistently has more moisture than the soil preferred by most other succulents. In general, water a Christmas cactus when the top inch or two of soil is dry. To help increase the humidity around your plant, fill the pot saucer with pebbles and add water to just below the tops of the pebbles (the pot shouldn't be sitting directly in water). The air will become more humid as the water evaporates.



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In order to give you those gorgeous blooms for the holidays, Christmas cacti need to have regular, feeding from the time they finish blooming all the way into fall—that's how they store up enough energy to produce the next round of flowers.

To get a Christmas cactus to bloom, you need to give it 6 weeks of "short days" (meaning 13 to 16 hours of total darkness) and low temperatures. Here's an easy way to do this: In the fall, move your plant near a window (but out of direct light) in a cool room (55 to 60 degrees F) that doesn't get used at night. Keep the door shut and the lights off, stop feeding, and cut back on watering. After 6 weeks, bring the temperature in the room up to 65 degrees F and allow the plant a little more light. As soon as you see flower buds starting to form at the ends of the stems, move your Christmas cactus where it belongs: center stage for the holidays!

To keep your plant full and bushy, you'll want to prune it once it finishes blooming. Don't worry—it's a really simple process. Just remove 2 or 3 stem sections per branch on about half the plant by giving the stem a quick twist between segments. (You can prune the other stems next year.) If branches start breaking off because the plant is so large, trim it a little more.

Instead of tossing those pruned sections into the compost, why not root them to make more lovely Christmas cacti for your friends? Dip each cutting in rooting hormone and stick it into barely moist potting mix. (You can root several cuttings in a single container—just make sure it has drainage.) Let the cuttings sit for a few weeks, keeping the potting mix just slightly moist, and then check to see if they have roots. Once they do, you can water them a bit more. As they grow, move your new Christmas cactus babies into their own pots.

Christmas cacti are pretty easy to grow, but they do have some common issues worth knowing about.

- **Blooms drop off before opening.** The culprit here is usually a sudden change in light, drafts of cold or hot air, or large swings in moisture level. Move the plant if it's in a draft, even out your watering, and if you recently moved the plant into more (or less) light, try leaving it alone for a while to recover.
- **Leaf-like pads are red.** This means the plant is getting too much light, so move it to a new spot or farther away from the window.
- **Areas of the plant have turned black and slimy.** If this happens, it's likely that your Christmas cactus has a fungal or bacterial disease. Unfortunately, the best course of action usually is to throw out the plant and start over.

Base of the plant looks woody or corky. This is normal and simply means that you've had the plant long enough for it to begin aging—and that's a wonderful thing. Congratulations! ✂ Janet Shaw



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Granny Annie's Fruit Cake

This is my mother's recipe; it can be made up to 6 weeks ahead of the date required and as little as 3 weeks ahead. It will keep for up to a month at room temperature, for up to 3 months in the fridge wrapped in parchment paper and aluminum foil. It can be stored in a freezer for 12 months.

You need a deep 9 inch round cake pan for this recipe. A springform pan where the bottom can be removed is much easier to use. Don't be tempted to rush the cooking time long, slow cooking gives this cake its flavour. **Most quantities are weight not volume.**

Fruit

450 grams (16 ounces) of currants

225 grams (8 ounces) of dark raisins

450 grams (16 ounces) of light raisins(sultanas)

120 grams (4 ounces) of glace cherries **not** maraschino cherries, halved

280 grams (10 ounces) of additional dried fruit, your choice of any of the above or a combination of the three dried fruit listed above.



Other ingredients

8 eggs

285 grams of margarine

285 grams of castor sugar, (fine) sugar sometimes called berry sugar or regular sugar will be satisfactory

2.5 teaspoons baking powder

340 grams (12 ounces) of flour

Pinch of salt

.5 teaspoon mixed spice

1 tsp lemon juice

A little milk-about a tablespoon

Instructions

Warm the margarine slightly, cream with the sugar until soft and light.

Break eggs separately into a bowl, beat lightly and add one by one to creamed mixture.

Beat each egg in thoroughly before adding the next one. The mixture should be light and fluffy.

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl and add the dried fruit.

quantities gradually into the creamed mixture, this will take time and is better done slowly, do not use high speed on your mixer. Fold small

Grease the cake pan with butter or margarine and then line it, sides and bottom with parchment baking paper.

The mixture should be a stiff dropping consistency, put the mixture into the lined cake pan.

Bake at 350 F for 2 hours, then reduce the temperature to 300 F for 2.5 -3 hours. When the cake is sufficiently browned cover with a double layer of parchment paper and continue to cook until done.

You can complete the cake with marzipan and royal icing, and decorations as you wish.

✂ Monica Ross



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Submission deadline for articles for the January newsletter is December 15, 2020

Please send your gardening and plant related tips, how to's, stories including photos that are about garden or nature related vacations, plus poems, articles, memories, quotes

Please send your contributions to Nury, nurygarzon@yahoo.ca and cc Monica, thegardenlady@bell.net

