



# 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 8

May 2020

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## MAY MEETING CANCELLED

**NEXT MEETING:** June 9, 2020

**Streetsville United Church**

**274 Queen Street South**

Doors open 6:45 p.m.

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

## The president's Message

*"March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers."* This is a proverb my mother used to recite, which dates back to 1886 and possibly, a shorter version, to the 1500's. After the unusually cool April this year, and the unsettling COVID-19 situation worldwide, I know we are all looking forward to warmer and sunnier days, and the cheery "lift" that beautiful spring flowers and working in our gardens imparts.

Community gardens have been deemed essential in many communities; the soothing calm and healing properties of the mind and spirit that cultivating a plot of land can have, are well acknowledged and documented.

In the words of George Bernard Shaw *"The best place to seek GOD is in the garden. You can dig for him there."* Wishing you all a safe and restful May. ✂ Janet Shaw, **Co-President**

## Passing the quarantine

This is my fifth week at home. With a lot of time to think, I remembered the unique event that took place in Colombia, "The Gaviria Hour", in 1992.



Due to an extremely dry season, the dam's reservoirs used to provide water for activities such as irrigation, human consumption; industrial use, aquaculture, and navigability were empty. As a result, the government decided to cut off electricity for up to eight hours daily in the entire country and the clock was moved one hour ahead.



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Consequently, work schedule changed, businesses were forced to buy power batteries and after six p.m. the streets were dark and empty; also, a curfew was imposed in Bogota. But most importantly, this changed our way of living. I remember how people used candles as light; due to the lack of TV programming we relied in these old battery radios to listen news, soaps and music. At home, we moved dinner time and once finished we play board games, chatted or just rested. However, what I remember the most now is how we had to change our behavior. There was more family time than ever, the best radio shows were created in this time; there was a big campaign to save water, "close the tap". Another important event happened the same year: my daughter was born; so, her birth certificate states that she was born at 7am but in reality was 6am.


Today, we are living in "the coronavirus time" obviously; there is not a comparison but I just want to reflect in these kinds of events that change lives forever. The pandemic has forced the entire world to stop, or at least to live in slow motion, giving us time to appreciate, to feel, to listen, to enjoy, and to reflect.



I complete one month at home. It is stressful and boring, yes. Too much time for home chores; I cannot go to my yoga classes; I can't use the public library or go window shopping. Keeping physical distance is easy for me, but changing routines and habits, not so much.

However, at the same time, I am grateful for how COVID-19 has changed my life. Why? Because, I am forced to learn or improve my e-skills. For instance, Mississauga's public library gives users the opportunity to borrow materials online <https://www.hoopladigital.com> so, now I read e-books, with no fines for late returns and I watch movies for free!

Secondly, my daughter is here working from home, she isn't thrilled, but I am. Family is very important; having loved one's close gives relief and peace of mind. Also, I have been in touch with friends, coworkers and relatives that I usually don't call but now we are keeping in touch using various video conferencing platforms.

I also notice that people are more grateful with front line workers that provide the services that have been keeping us healthy, nourished, clean and connected. Finally, Due to the coronavirus outbreak's impact on travel and industry, many regions experienced a drop in air pollution that possible reduce both climate change and COVID-19 risks.  **Nury Garzon**



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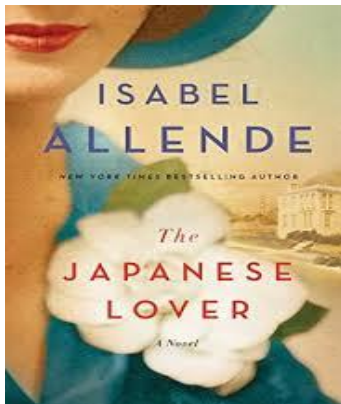
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**Quarantine reading?** Check these out. I found them interesting and entertaining, plus you can borrow them from the public library

## **The sisters Chase. Author: Sarah Healy**

Mary, Hannah, and their mother, Diane, have been making a living by running a tiny seaside motel that has been in the family for generations. When Diane dies in a car accident, Mary discovers that the motel is worth less than the taxes they owe, and her finely tuned instincts for survival kick in. With the money left from the insurance she purchased tickets to visit a rich cousin. The visit lasts less than a week's tickets but ten thousand dollars are now in Mary's pockets, enough to buy a car to begin a cross-country journey in search of a better life, she will stop at nothing to protect Hannah. But Mary wants to protect herself too, from the secrets she promised she would never tell but now may be forced to reveal and the weight of unbearable loss.

## **The Japanese lover. Author: Isabel Allende.**



Alma Belasco is sent to San Francisco, USA when Poland falls under the Nazis. Ichimei Fukuda is the son of the Belasco's Japanese gardener. Alma and Ichimei love each other but following the Japanese pearl Harbour attack, Japanese Americans are forcibly relocated in internment camps. Life continues, and now, Alma is living in a nursing home. Her grandson is writing a book about his family ancestry but with no results until Alma hires a new personal support worker as her assistance and cupid darts hit again...



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A living playhouse-for your kids or grandkids or a vegetable trellis for yourself!

Do you have a patch of lawn you don't use? Are you planning to grow beans, squash or cucumbers this summer? This is a way of combining food production with a children's play space.

## What You'll Need:

- 8–10 long bamboo canes (6–7 feet minimum)
- A packet of runner bean seeds
- Some gardening string (a cable tie or something similar will work)
- A spare area of garden (perhaps on a nice patch of your lawn)

Push your bamboo canes into the ground in a circle, and form a large pyramid or tent shape. Be sure to leave a large gap between two specific canes for the entrance. Secure the tops together with garden string, cable tie, twine or wire.

Dig a hole at the base of each pole, about 6 X 6 inches and 4 inches deep, drop a seed in each hole, keep moist but not wet until the seeds germinate. If any of the plants fail to find the bamboo canes on their own, you can carefully wrap the main shoots around the first part of the bamboo canes until they begin to climb naturally.

You can also use morning glories, moon flowers or other vining vegetables; you may need to use a support sling of some sort if you grow heavier vegetables.







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You can grow tomatoes or peppers, or herbs in hanging baskets and window boxes.

You can use an existing trellis or arbor.

A sloping trellis provides a sunny space for vining veggies to grow and a shadier space for shade tolerant lettuces to grow underneath.

✂ Monica Ross







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## OHA Community Improvement Award

This award is given to a person 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.

For a person these are the requirements:

- 1) Should be a member of a Horticultural Society with at least fifteen years of service to one or more Societies.
- 2) Should have made a contribution of horticultural service to the community, District, or Association or in the development of horticultural practices.
- 3) Should have given outstanding service at the Society and District level.
- 4) Nominee must be in good standing.



Carol Ashford was nominated for the 2020 award for her work at and her dedication to the gardens at the Leslie Log House. On March 9, 2020 we were notified that Carol was selected as this year's recipient of this OHA award. The award was to have been presented at the OHA convention in London, Ontario, on July 18, 2020. As this event has been cancelled due to Covid-19, we invite all our members to send congratulations to Carol on this significant award.

**✂ Monica Ross**





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## PLANT PORTRAIT: *Primula Vulgaris*

The common primrose is a species of flowering plant in the family *Primulaceae*, native to western and southern Europe, northwest Africa, and parts of southwest Asia.

The primrose is one of the most familiar signs of spring that bloom with flowering bulbs when the earth is reawakening. Typically found in woodlands and beneath hedgerows, it thrives in damp shade in a variety of situations. It provides an early source of nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators and is used as a

caterpillar food plant by several species of moth. It will fill the evening air with a sweetly scented *perfume*.



Grow *Primula vulgaris* in a cool, shaded spot such as a woodland border. It associates particularly well with [daffodils](#), which flower at the same time. Allow plants to self-seed and naturalize around the garden. Mulch annually with well-rotted manure or compost.

*Primula Vulgaris* its 2<sup>nd</sup> year in my garden. This one has a lovely subtle fragrance.

✂ Grace Nelham

*Various sources*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primula\\_vulgaris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primula_vulgaris)



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## News

- The 2020 Ontario Horticultural Associations Convention scheduled for July 17-19, 2020 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Ontario declares community gardens essential source of fresh food. The province of Ontario has re-opened community gardens and declared them an "essential source of fresh food" for people, including those who are facing food insecurity, during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The City of Mississauga is donating approximately 1500 pansies, ranunculus and primrose as a gesture of thanks to hospital workers and health care providers at Trillium Health Partners. "Plant materials for the City's spring planting program, typically used in planters and gardens across the City, are ordered eight months in advance and could not be cancelled. Our parks and forestry staff are preparing for the onset of spring which includes litter pick up and the mowing of turf but horticulture is not an essential service. Rather than dispose of this plant material, a proposal was developed at the request of Mayor Crombie to donate the plants to hospital workers and health care providers at Trillium." <https://web.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/news/city-of-mississauga-donates-spring-flowers-to-health-care-professionals/>
- Sheridan nurseries in Georgetown is open to the public for in person shopping.
- Zomers nursery is a wholesale nursery on the Milton 8<sup>th</sup> line north of Britannia and south of Derry Rd; <https://zomersgreenhouses.com/> they are open to the public for curbside pickup of their annuals, hanging baskets and planters





## Awakening Spring

She rouses from her slumber,  
Stretches wide her arms.  
She's anticipating showing us  
All her glorious charms.

Daffodils and tulips  
Nod their sleepy heads,  
Dancing, swaying to and fro  
They rise from winter beds.

Little girls don pretty frocks,  
Chase butterflies and giggle.  
Robins hopping here and there  
Catching worms as they wiggle.

Young boys fly majestic kites,  
Go fishing with eyes aglow,  
Laughing, joking, wrestling  
As down the road they go.

Yes, she's had quite a nap  
Through the cold months of the year.  
And we welcome her warmly, eagerly  
Beautiful spring is finally here.

Author unknown

