



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 28, Issue 10

June 2021

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 8th

Zoom Virtual Meeting

**“How to layer foliage for interest
in every season”**

Speaker Jackie Morra

Meeting starts 7:30pm

Co-President's Message

Hello everyone, we were going to talk about the lovely warm weather and early spring we have been having, but yesterday Friday May 28th was a game changer. At my house (Monica) it snowed. I knew it was going to be cold and rainy. I covered my vegetable bed with a floating row cover on Thursday night and kept my fingers crossed. The morning was cold and wet, but by noon it started to snow, very small fine flakes; however, as the afternoon progressed the flakes got bigger. By mid-afternoon there was about 1cm on top of the floating row cover, the peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes looked okay. I was still worried, by Saturday morning all still looked okay, I will have to wait for a few days to make sure.

A news item, southern Ontario is now officially in a state of moderate drought. Other than some quick bursts in May, which accompanied isolated thunderstorms, rainfall totals across southern Ontario have been well below seasonal throughout the spring season, with many places reporting near-record dry conditions during May.

What else is happening? The OHA 2021 Convention will be held virtually July 16, 17, and 18th hosted by District 10. This is the link to the OHA website with all the information: <https://gardenontario.org/convention/>. There are many competitions that anyone can enter. For full details of these competitions, Arts, creative writing, flower shows and photography. Scroll down the page to Convention Showcase of Talent 2021.

As an example, Arts includes: a Painting, any medium, that nature has inspired, a Stained or Painted Glass Creation of a bloom, Jewelry, a piece of jewelry made from natural elements, Fabric Art, a fabric art creation. It may be needlepoint, embroidery rug hooked, etc., Garden Art, a garden art item made from recycled materials.

Are you looking for gardening related places to visit once the lockdown ends? Dundurn Castle in Hamilton has a wonderful heritage vegetable garden.

The Royal botanical gardens in Burlington and Hamilton <https://www.rbg.ca/> has many wonderful gardens and hiking trails, be sure to check out their website for information on what is in bloom now, and a trail map.

We hope to see you soon and be careful! ✂ Carol Ashford and Monica Ross, Co-presidents SHS



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Speaker of the Month



Our speaker for the June 8th meeting is Jackie Morra and her talk is entitled "how to layer foliage for interest in every season".

Jackie is a popular speaker at garden shows and events across Canada and has been featured on various media such as Breakfast Television, the morning show on Global TV, City TV, plus the Toronto Star and Globe and Mail. Her web-site is <http://www.plantinginspiration.com>.

✂ Jon Eldridge

Rotary Park





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There has been lots to do at Rotary Park, mainly pulling up weeds but also enjoying the tulips and daffodils and our new Japanese flowering cherry which was really lovely in bloom. We haven't got the water yet that was promised by the City - they blame it on the lock-down, but I am hopeful we will get the promised water very soon, especially as it's been so warm.

I believe there are members of our Society that still don't know where Rotary Park is. It's on Queen Street just North of the library and Tim Horton's and you can park behind the library. The gardens are at both ends of the parking lot and please pull a weed or two while you're there!

Small actions can also build to create larger change that can span across cities, states and countries!

✂ Jon Eldridge



The foods we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet habitable all come from nature.

To care for ourselves we must care for nature.

This is our moment.

We cannot turn back time. But we can grow trees, green our cities, rewild our gardens, change our diets and clean up rivers and coasts. We are the generation that can make peace with nature.

Let's get active, not anxious. Let's be bold, not timid.

Join [#GenerationRestoration](https://www.healthierwork.act.gov.au/event/world-environment-day/)

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Ticks, Testing & Trenches

All of the above are taking place at the Leslie Log House since the summer weather has arrived.



Even though summer has not officially arrived, the **ticks** are out in full force this year as it was a fairly mild winter. Ticks are commonly encountered in tall grass and wooded areas, and it's important to make sure that you protect yourself and your family. Ticks are not insects, although they are often mistaken for them. Ticks are actually classified as arachnids, or relatives of spiders, scorpions and mites. If you look closely at a tick when identifying it, it kind of resembles a spider with its four pairs of legs and lack of antennae.

Ticks are mini, real-life vampires. Ticks require blood for sustenance. Blacklegged ticks, for example, primarily feed on the blood of white-tailed deer, but they will also bite mice, small wild animals, birds and humans. They don't jump or fly. Instead, they crawl up low brush or grass to find a host. Then, they clasp on with their back legs and reach their front legs out to grab onto a passing animal or human. This process is called questing. Sometimes, they even drop from their perch and free fall onto a passing host. Unlike many other biting pests, ticks are adapted to feed for long periods of time. They bury their curved teeth deeply into the skin of a host, so they can remain securely attached for days on end to eat. It's important to note that ticks typically require 24-48 hours of feeding before they can successfully transmit infections like **Lyme disease**, so prompt removal is crucial. So, if walking at the Leslie Log House or any other property, be sure to check your clothing for ticks when you return home.

The Archeological crew is back digging on the Leslie Log House property again, **Testing** the soil for old bones, arrowheads or Indigenous graves. There is always a person on site with the crew from the First Nations people monitoring what they uncover. Archaeologists often use stratigraphic excavation to remove phases of the site one layer at a time. This keeps the timeline of the material remains consistent with one another. Artifacts are

spot dated and processed through methods such as sieving or flotation.

Afterwards, digital methods are then used record the excavation process and its results. When speaking to the crew they are always quite secretive about what they have uncovered so who knows exactly what they have found on the property.





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Meanwhile at the front of the Leslie Log House property, the City is digging a **trench** to replace the existing water mains. Our brand new sidewalk, which was installed only last summer has had two or three sections dug up at the edge of the front garden and the crew is busy trying to dig out the old pipe. Hopefully this will all be over and done with shortly!

So, who knew all this excitement was taking place at the Leslie Log House??? Always an interesting walk, no matter what time of year!

✂ Carol Ashford, LLH Chair

Serviceberries are yummy!

Serviceberry trees and shrubs are Canadian natives, there are several different species, the trees are often multi-trunked. They have many attractive features, white blooms in spring, dark purple black fruit and bright red fall foliage.

The fruit attracts many birds, especially robins and cedar waxwings. the edible berries are similar in size to blueberries and can also be substituted for cranberries. They can be eaten raw, used in jams, jellies, pies, muffins and quick breads. They freeze well. They can be dehydrated like raisins; the juice can be simmered to make syrup for use on pancakes or waffles. They are also a significant source of antioxidants.

Over the past 20 years they have been widely planted in parks and along walking trails and greenbelt paths throughout Mississauga. The tree forms are a good feature in a front garden as they grow to 15-20 feet and cast light shade. In the prairie provinces they are often called Saskatoon berries.

There are many serviceberry shrubs planted along our local greenbelt path. Over the past several years we have made it an annual event to walk the greenbelt and pick the berries. Two years ago, we picked several litres and froze them for later use. We did have to explain to puzzled passersby that the berries are very tasty and are not poisonous. Some people were brave enough to taste them.

The berries usually ripen in mid-June, sometimes earlier or later depending on the weather.



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Some things to remember if you intend to pick the berries.

1. Walk through your local parks and trails to identify where the shrubs are.
2. Walk the route at least twice a week so that you know when the berries are ripening, this is important because once the berries are ripe, the robins and waxwings can eat all the berries over 2-3 days.
3. Take wide baskets or containers to collect the berries, deeper narrower plastic bags or containers don't work well as the weight of a lot of berries will squash the ones on the bottom.
4. Rinse the berries and let them dry on an open plate or tray before freezing.



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Pie-A successful pie requires you to cook the berries and provide a thickening agent, so the pie holds together. Berries can be used frozen in a pie.

Ingredients for berry mix

- 3 1/2 cups berries
- 3/4 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 Tablespoons flour
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice

Easy Serviceberry Jam-makes about 2 cups

- 1 1/2 pounds service berries
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

Put all ingredients in a pot and bring to a boil, stirring often. The naturally occurring pectin in the berries combined with the sugar and lemon juice will help it set; no additional fruit pectin needed! When the jam has reached the setting point, about 220F, let it cool slightly and pour into sterilized mason jars.



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Native Corner: Yellow Lady's Slipper -*Cypripedium pubescens*



What a true gift I was given by Mother Nature this week! During one of my regular hikes, the honour of seeing this rare beauty was bestowed upon me – and it was well worth the plethora of mosquito bites I received in return! All of our native plants have something wonderful to offer. They're all unique and far from mundane, but this was something special to say the least. I've seen and been involved with some pretty cool things, but this was right up there with some of the most memorable.

This is one of the largest and most attractive orchids in Ontario. It is more abundant than most species of orchids, although by no means common. While the flowers are in bloom, it is easy to identify this plant because of the slipper-like lower petal. The only other species that it can be confused with, Small Yellow Lady's Slipper, has similar flowers that are smaller in size.

The lateral petals of the smaller flowers are less than two inches long, while the slipper-like lower petal is about $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ " in length. The flowers of this species are more likely to be fragrant. The Small Yellow Lady's Slipper usually has a pair of leaves toward the base of the central stem while Yellow Lady's Slipper usually has three to five leaves along its central stem. When the orchid is not in bloom, it can superficially resemble Solomon's Seal and similar species in the Lily family. However, the central stem of this orchid and the upper surfaces of its leaves are pubescent (downy), while the latter plants have stems and upper leaf surfaces that are waxy and glabrous (smooth).

This perennial orchid is 1-2.5' tall and usually unbranched. The central stem is round in circumference, rather stout, and densely covered with hair. Three or more leaves alternate along this stem. These leaves are up to 6" long and 4" across; they are oval-ovate to ovate, smooth along their margins, and pubescent. Parallel veins are readily observable along the upper surface of each leaf. The base of each leaf clasps the stem. The colour of the foliage can vary from dark green to yellowish green, depending on growing conditions and the maturity of the plant. The central stem terminates in one or two flowers. Each flower is held above the foliage on a long stalk that has a single leafy bract behind the flower. This bract resembles the leaves, but it is smaller in size and lanceolate in shape. Like other orchids, each flower has three petals and three sepals. However, because two of these sepals are fused together, there appears to be only two sepals.



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The lower petal is in the shape of a slipper or pouch with an opening on top; it is bright yellow, shiny, and 1 1/2 to 2" in length. Within the interior of this petal, there are frequently reddish-brown dots. The two lateral petals are very narrow, more or less twisted, and 2 to 3 1/2" in length.

These two petals vary in colour from greenish yellow to brownish purple and they have fine veins running from their bases to their tips. The sepals form an upper hood and a lower hood. They are broader and shorter than the lateral petals, otherwise their appearance is similar. Both the lateral petals and sepals are more or less pubescent. The

reproductive organs are located toward the posterior of the slipper-like lower petal. The blooming period occurs from late spring to early summer and lasts about three weeks. There is usually no noticeable floral scent. If a flower is successfully pollinated by insects (often this doesn't occur), it will form a seedpod. When this seedpod splits open, the fine seeds are easily carried aloft by the wind. The root system consists of a tuft of fleshy fibrous roots. When several plants occur together, they are often clonal offsets of the mother plant.

The native Yellow Lady's Slipper is an uncommon plant that is widely scattered across Ontario. Habitats include moist to dry deciduous woodlands, sandy woodlands and savannahs, thinly wooded bluffs along rivers, wooded slopes, and forested bogs. The size of local populations can increase in response to fallen trees from windstorms, or occasional wildfires, as this reduces excessive shade from woody vegetation.

The showy flowers attract mostly small bees and various flies. In North America, Honeybees, Carpenter bees, Mason bees, Halictid bees, and Andrenid bees visit the flowers. The showy flowers are deceptive because they induce insects to explore the flowers in the expectation of reward, but they contain no nectar, and their pollen is unavailable to them.

I hope someday you all are as lucky as I was to spot this rare fleeting beauty. And if you do, take only pictures, and wish the same good fortune on to the next worthy person.

Happy spotting!

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

✂ Heather Marchment





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THE MISSISSAUGA VALLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Five years ago, I moved to Mississauga. I was looking for opportunities to make new friends, to engage with my community and be part of my surroundings. Back then, I had no access to a car, but was lucky enough to have a Community organization at walking distance. That first summer, I volunteered helping with kids and working a few times in the Iceland Teaching garden. When I expressed my interest to have my own plot, I was told that there was a waiting list. "No problem" I said. When I asked how long was the wait, the other person answered: "waiting times could go to five years" I signed anyways.

When the harvest season finished, I was looking for another organization to volunteer with but this time was clear for me that I wanted to learn how to grow food. I found the Streetsville Horticultural society and I joined just for the name. At same time and without experience I was creating my vegetable garden spot.

Trial and error are my best tool. Armed with what I remember from my uncle's farm, a course in high-school and my mother's ways of working plants, I started.

Last year when visiting my daughter in Ottawa, I saw the beauty of a community garden close to her place. It is located in a public space, looked like a school. What surprised me the most was the number of vegetables growing! The place was plenty of tomatoes: small, big, different colors and varieties. I dreamed to have something like that in my neighborhood.

Suddenly, last month, I got a call informing that there was a plot available: number 36. I was happy and scared. Community gardens had always amazing me. I like to see how each plot is unique and how the owners take care of them like their own

children. I was afraid that I do not have the experience and green thumb to grow enough to justify the effort. But then, I realized that life was given me what I asked for.



"Community gardens attract many different individuals who have a diversity of reasons for choosing to become involved in neighborhood food production. Some reasons may be very personal – to grow food to feed themselves and their families, to save money on their weekly grocery budget, and to reconnect with nature or relieve stress.



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Other reasons that people may choose to garden include opportunities to develop better relationships with their friends and family or their friends and family or their neighbors, to meet new people, and to learn new skills.”

Community Gardening programs use community food growing spaces as sites to increase community engagement and provide hands-on learning opportunities about local food and sustainable food production.

In 2006, ECOSOURCE partnered with the city to open the MISSISSAUGA VALLEY GARDEN located at 1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd. With approximately 40 plots the garden offers an opportunity not only to grow food but also teaching, learning and volunteering opportunities.

Nowadays, the city of Mississauga runs eight Public Community Gardens across the city and is developing an urban agriculture strategy.



Urban agriculture includes growing fruit, vegetables and herbs for personal consumption, for commercial sale, for educational purposes and to promote community health and wellness. Examples of urban agriculture practices include community gardens, urban farms, hydroponics and farmers markets. ✂ **Nury Garzon**

https://ecosource.ca/wp-content/uploads/Community-Garden-map-Accessible_r.pdf



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PHOTO GALLERY

by

Grace Nelham

