



Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 29, Issue 3

www.streetsvillehort.ca

November 2021

Next Meeting Tuesday, November 9 Zoom AGM Meeting Social Chat at 7pm, Meeting starts 7:30pm

Co-President's Message

Hello Everyone, **Some great news, our December meeting will be in person! There are rules, all people attending must be fully vaccinated and provide either a QR code on your smart phone, or a vaccination record, masks must be worn. Further details will be provided as soon as possible.**

We have lots of planning to do, we are asking all of you, our members to let us know if you will be attending the meeting. Also, we would like to know what type of activities you would like to have at the meeting.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on ZOOM on Tuesday November 9, 2021, at 7pm.

At this meeting, as is usual at our AGM, we will be asking our members to vote to approve our reports and records for the 2020-2021 year. This includes our financial records. All the reports except the financials are included in this newsletter. We will email the ZOOM details to everyone prior to the AGM.

We are required to have a quorum to approve our records; that is a minimum of 20 members in attendance at the AGM, otherwise we cannot proceed with the current year's operations. Please do not assume that your attendance will not be needed.

At the AGM we will also be electing the new BOD. We ask all our members to participate in our AGM meeting and support the continued operation of our society. A District 15 representative will be joining us via Zoom.

We will:

- Approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM which was held 23 February 2021 by Zoom.
- Receive, consider and approve committee reports, the financial statements and report of auditors.
- Hold elections to replace departing officers
- Appoint Auditors
- Transact any other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

A reminder that you do not have to have a specific job or significant responsibilities to sit on the Board. There are other roles that are important too, that can be done without being on the BOD. Please consider volunteering in an area of your interest, even for a few hours.

Annual reports start on page 6.

These reports are not included for the past year; Plant Sale report, Flower Show report, Photo Contest report, Raffle Table report, Refreshment report, and the Publicity report, we all know why, these events did not happen.

Marg Rowan's Maples

The trees are in my garden, both red maples. The city planted one and the other came up on its own. There are a lot of maple trees in the area, some more than 100 years old, so there are thousands of maple keys blowing through the air this time of year. It's always beautiful, and many people walking through the neighborhood stop to take pictures.  **Marg Rowan**



Janet Shaw's Passion Fruit



Passion fruit are cultivated commercially in tropical and subtropical areas for their sweet, seedy fruit.

In Colombia and Costa Rica, it is one of the most important fruits, especially for juices and desserts.

It is widely available all over the country and three kinds of "maracuyá" fruit may be found.

The fruit is a pepo, a type of berry, round to oval, either yellow or dark purple at maturity, with a soft to firm, juicy interior filled with numerous seeds. The fruit is both eaten and juiced, the juice often added to other fruit juices to enhance aroma.



Membership Desk

Fall is the time for membership renewal in the SHS, as our fiscal year runs from September 1, 2021, until August 31, 2022. In October, 16 members renewed bringing the total membership to 62. There are 21 members who still need to renew.

Welcome to new members Judi Kokis and Ron Esposti who joined in September. If you haven't renewed yet, please take a few minutes to complete and sign the renewal form, and either drop it off at a Board of Director's house or mail it to the address on the form.

✂ Shelley Dodd

Coffee Club

Thirteen members attended our final Fall coffee club on October 4th. The weather co-operated and the Thanksgiving décor made it feel festive, as we gathered to discuss our plans for the holiday. Mike & Pat Salisbury celebrated their 64th Anniversary with those who attended.

✂ Shelley Dodd



La Suculenta. (The succulent)



The most amazing one was the “Black succulent” or ‘Black Prince’ This beautiful echeveria has gorgeous dark green, purplish and almost black leaves. Upon closer inspection, you will catch a tinge of yellowish green in the center of the rosette which spreads outward to the tips of the leaves. The dark color intensifies and darkens with more sun exposure. It produces dark red flowers which provide a striking contrast to its dark foliage. Echeveria ‘Black Prince’ is a hybrid of two plants: Echeveria shaviana and Echeveria affinis. The planter is an art of pottery. Isn’t it?

The second beauty is Aloe juvenna “Tiger Tooth Aloe” is a beautiful Aloe with white spots. The spiked leaves stack and form a rosette. When “happily stressed,” green leaves turn reddish-brown.



I was just in Colombia celebrating my mother’s 80th birthday. When there, I had the opportunity to meet “La suculenta”. It is a house with succulents everywhere. The most amazing succulents that I have ever seen.

The succulent. It is located in “la Calera” a town near Bogota, the capital city of the country.

The house itself is beautiful. The walking path is adorned with succulents, and it has a nice view over a reservoir. Inside, the house is decorated with vintage style items and is also home to a collection of antique scales.

Succulents can be found inside pots in old treasure boxes as household plants. Or outside.



Dracaena trifasciata is also found, native to tropical West Africa from Nigeria east to the Congo. It is most commonly known as the snake plant, Saint George's sword, mother-in-law's tongue, and viper's bowstring hemp, among other names.

The word succulent comes from the Latin word *sucus*, meaning 'juice', or 'sap'. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Succulent_plant

✂ Nury Garzon

Annual Reports

President's Report 2020 - 2021

Well, this certainly was the year that was or that wasn't. Since September 2020, your Board has committed to continue to keep Streetsville Horticultural Society operating as best we can. Our plan was to keep members informed through the use of our newsletter and zoom meetings. We were unable to hold our AGM in November 2020 due to the rising Covid numbers and we started our zoom meetings in December. Of course, our usual Christmas workshop was cancelled as well, which was a disappointment to all!

SHS volunteers distributed Poinsettias as premiums to all of our members in December and they were a welcome gift to brighten up the dull days of winter. Our AGM (normally held in November) was held via Zoom in February 2021 with our District Director Barb O'Malley participating. The new Board was elected.

In March the Board told SHS members that in 2022 we would be celebrating our 50th Anniversary and we are looking for some creative ways to celebrate this occasion. All members suggestions are welcomed. We have updated our Facebook page and members are participating on it. The Streetsville Horticultural Society website (streetsvillehort.ca) is keeping us abreast of all things SHS! You can go there to see previous newsletters, get gardening tips, read about flower show preparations etc. It is a good source of information for our membership.

Although we had no in-person meetings over the course of the year, no flower shows, no photo contest, etc., we still managed to continue with our community gardening at the Rotary Park and Leslie Log House. We had excellent speakers at our Zoom meetings and had a fairly good representation of members for those meetings. The speakers were informative and interesting, and members were able to ask questions at the end of their presentations. We are pleased that some of our members are submitting articles for the newsletter. We all have ideas, suggestions, experience etc. and it is wonderful when we share them.

We had some lovely coffee meetings at the Leslie Log House over the summer which was a great opportunity for members to get together casually and get to know one another better, exchange and purchase plants. It was wonderful "seeing" each other in person after so long an absence.

SHS hopes that we will soon be back to meeting in person in the near future. It's a 'wait and see' game at the moment. Check out page one of this newsletter! We hope we have provided you, the membership, with information and fellowship over this past year. It was the best we could do under the circumstances.

 **Carol Ashford & Monica Ross, Co-Presidents**

Membership Desk Year-End Report 2020-2021

This year, 2020-2021 saw our membership decrease by 15% from prior year (2019-2020). June membership at year end 2020 numbered 82. There were no in person meetings held due to the on-going Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions on social gatherings.

Three new members joined SHS throughout the year, and 2 guests participated in our virtual Zoom monthly meetings. 29 memberships were not renewed.

Membership participation in Zoom presentations averaged 31 members per evening. Coffee Clubs were held throughout the summer and fall and averaged 17 members in attendance.

 **Shelley Dodd Membership Chair**

Leslie Log House Report 2020 - 2021

The garden was put to bed in October 2020 and in January 2021 a new addition to the log house property in the form of a Chimney Swift Chimney was installed. Although I have never seen a Chimney Swift, it is hoped that some will come to nest at this site. A new wrought iron bench has been placed in close proximity to the chimney for easy viewing.

In April we did our usual Trash Clean Up on the property with the help of Robb Dods, Monica Ross, Viv Holmes, Anita King, Alex King, Dean Scully, Debbie Scully, Enza Lafratta and Nick Lafratta. Still can't believe so much trash can spring up now that we have gone to covered garbage and recycle cans.

The City installed new storm sewers up Mississauga Road in the spring and that required the end of our 'new' sidewalk to be ripped up for a couple of months. It still needs to be filled in on either side where there is a nice drop off for someone to break an ankle.

We had a summer with lots of rain and so the Phlox, Echinacea, Sedum Autumn Joy, Peonies, Salvia, Daffodils, Verbena bonariensis, Cleome, Morning Glories, Amaranthus etc. were full and vibrant. The garden was so full, the only annuals we purchased was a flat of Zinnias.

Once again, an oil Pipeline is being replaced under the Credit River and the topsoil has been removed to the south of the parking lot and pallets installed to keep the heavy machinery from sinking into the soil. Hopefully this project will all be done by spring so we can have our plant sale once again on this property.

Our last day for work at the log house was October 13th when 5 of us took the entire garden down to the ground and put all the plant material near the compost bin.

Without the help of our wonderful, dedicated volunteers the gardens at the Log House would not be possible. Those who worked on the gardens this year are Viv Holmes, Dean Scully, Grace Nelham, Monica Ross, Judi Kokis, Nury Garzon, MaryAnn Brown, and Shelley Dodd. Three cheers for all the hard work they did to make this a beautiful place to visit.

A total of 247.75 hours were accumulated for the year at the Leslie Log House.

 Carol Ashford, Leslie Log House Chair

Rotary Park Annual Report 2021

The gardening year has passed very quickly at Rotary Park. We meet every other Thursday morning and there were a few mornings when the weather didn't cooperate and a few when the number of volunteers was less than we would like, caused by circumstances beyond their control usually. So, we didn't make as much progress this year as I had hoped but there were some real positives:

The City provided a water connection at the west end of the park. They also ran the irrigation system for us and changed the frequency and duration of the sprinklers and finally they gave us keys to the compound where the controls and hoses are stored. This should have happened years ago but now we can provide water to all areas of the park.

The City has also agreed to grass over one area that was almost impossible to keep tidy and they have done some pruning of trees where we asked them to. Relations with City employees are better than they have ever been since I took over and this is mainly due to Jason Bertrand, who I hope will be with us for a long while.

The ornamental tree (Japanese flowering cherry) planted in October was beautiful in the Spring and continues to look very healthy. We didn't get many new plants this year but have been cutting back many of the overgrown older ones, so we have more room for new plants next year.

Our volunteer gardeners were Nick & Enza Lafratta, Anita & Alex King, Asoke Bera and Martha Witney. Many thanks to them for all the hard work and good company. I would love to get a few more volunteers to join us next year, so that we can make this little park even better.

Jon Eldridge, Rotary Park Chair

Speakers Report 2021

I took over introducing speakers in March 2021 and obtaining speakers from May 2021, so there may be some overlap with the report by Janet Shaw.

March 9th, 2021: Denise Hodgins holds a diploma in Landscape design from Fanshawe college and Ontario diploma in horticulture from the University of Guelph. She has wide experience in many areas of the horticulture field. Her subject was "Prune away" and she gave us many good tips on pruning hedges, flowering shrubs, Lilac, Dogwood, Spirea, Roses, Evergreens and grasses. We all found her advice very practical and well presented.

April 13th, 2021: Julia Dimakos started growing food after having children and moving to the country, and she fell in love with it. Her subject was Vegetable Gardening. She has 25 acres on the Niagara escarpment and a 7000 sq. ft. vegetable garden, growing new and unusual vegetables as well as the more common ones. She uses raised beds, lots of compost and mulch, maintains consistent moisture, employs wigwam style bamboo stakes, 'A' frames and cattle panels. Intensive planting + pollinators. As well as working on her garden, she writes about it, teaches it, blogs and is on YouTube. She was very good but made some of us feel quite tired!



May 11th, 2021: Kevin Kavanagh holds a BSc. From McGill, M.Sc. from York and post graduate research from U of Toronto. He is a master gardener, on the board of Niagara Rhododendron Society and owns South Coast Gardens and Consulting. His topic was "Successful culture of Rhododendrons and Azaleas in Ontario" Kevin discussed the varieties of Rhodos and Azaleas and some of his favourite cultivars. Then he talked about how to protect them from the North winds in winter, how to avoid frozen roots, how to dead head, the best types of soil and compost, fertilising etc. He was very knowledgeable and obviously loved his subject.

June 8th, 2021: Jackie Morra spoke to us on the subject "How to layer foliage for interest in every season". She is a popular speaker at garden shows and events across Canada and has been featured on tv and in newspapers etc. She has a smallish garden packed with mainly non-flowering plants in a variety of foliage colours and textures. The pictures she showed were really impressive and we were amazed at the amount of time it must have taken to arrange and maintain them. It did teach us that bright flowering plants are not always necessary to make a beautiful display.



 **Jon Eldridge, Speaker Chair**

Archive Report for the year September 2020-August 2021

The Archives consist of binders full of pictures and newspaper clippings of events that have taken place since our re-establishment in 1972. Pictures are taken at various events and meetings and placed in the binders so we may look back and see how our Society has grown and see our members at work in the community or how they participate in our plant sales, flower shows, garden tours, community work and workshops.

The photo albums are usually on display at various functions such as our AGM and Plant Sale. Please take the time to browse through them next time they are on display to familiarise yourselves with our activities and also put names to the many faces of our volunteers.

I have taken a few pictures this year and have been sending some to the Newsletter and will have 2020-2021 pictures and clippings entered in a photo album. Should you have any photos taken at our events we are happy to include them in our binder.

 **Grace Nelham, Archive Chair**

2020-2021 Volunteer Report

This past year has been different, and COVID-19 had a huge impact on the total number of volunteer hours, as we had to cancel our annual Plant Sale and in person meetings.

Overall, we contributed a total of 1,369.5 hours between September 1st, 2020, and August 31st, 2021, which is more than last year and about half the usual amount.

Thank you to all those volunteers who kept up the garden beds at Pollinator Garden, Rotary Park and Leslie Log House, with over 524 hours of gardening related duties completed!

Thanks also to the Executive, Board members and other members who contributed to the administration and running of the Society with more than 845 hours.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, regardless of the number of hours – every hour helps.

 **Grace Nelham, Chair of Volunteers since April 2021**

Newsletter Report

Ten editions of Streetsville Blooms were published for 2020-2021 year. Every month the newsletter is e-mailed to our active members (approx. 80). Six printed copies are mailed to members that pay a fee \$10 per year to offset the cost of mailing. One printed copy is kept for our records.

Total net expenses for the newsletter were \$28.24. I have used our prepaid printing card at UPS in Streetsville, we still have 1921 pages of printing left on our UPS card.

The content of our monthly issues is submitted by different committee chairs and readers of the newsletter. Big thanks to everybody for helping with articles, pictures and stories about your gardens, and recipes; and to Monica and Carol, our co-presidents, for approving the final edition and helping with the quality assurance. Monthly issues can be also found in our website.

 **Nury Garzon, Newsletter Editor**

Premiums Report

As we were unable to hold a meeting in May when we usually give out premiums to our members, we decided that our members needed a Christmas present. Poinsettias were ordered from Zomer's Greenhouses on the 8th line Milton. The total cost was \$424.88, less than we usually spend for plant premiums in the spring.

Several members Carol Ashford, Janet Shaw, Steve Fenech, Jon Eldridge, Martha Witney plus Rob and Sue Harshman volunteered to deliver the poinsettias to members homes.



Native Corner Witch Hazel – Hamamelis Virginia

The brisk mornings and cool days of Autumn are certainly here! The beautiful colours, the crunch of leaves underfoot, and the familiar aromas of pies wafting through the air always hold a special place in my heart. Mother Nature provides during every season, and in the Fall, when many of our flora are dying back, I know that the Witch Hazels are just gearing up.

In February all through its range some species of Witch Hazel brighten up the whole winter scene by bursting forth with intensely coloured flowers, like a surprise visit of butterflies in the snow. They hang on for weeks and weeks, sometimes the only colour around in the north. This native species, however, is different- the flowers appear in autumn.

Despite the name, this shrub has nothing to do with witches and is not a hazel. The first part of the common name actually comes from wych, meaning a pliable branch - they either were used or looked as if they could be used by water diviners for dowsing. Opinions seem to be divided on this point. The second

part of the name refers to the leaves, which resemble those of the hazelnut tree (*Corylus americana*).

The scientific name comes closer to the mark. Hamamelis is a compound of two Greek words meaning "apple" (or fruit) and "at the same time," because the fruit and the flower appear together on the plant in autumn. Although this sounds biologically impossible, in fact, the previous year's seed capsules mature as the current year's flowers emerge. Virginia, is, of course, a reference to the state of Virginia - a rather arbitrary choice, since the plant is found all through eastern North America.

One of the interesting features of this understory tree is the way it seeds disperse with a resounding pop. The mature capsules eject their shiny, hard, black seeds with violence; the tree, which seldom grows more than 20 feet high, can send its seeds



much farther - up to 30 feet away(!), depending on the prevailing winds. The viability of these little missiles is high, and thus the wintry-blooming Witch Hazel, of ancient geologic lineage, is still today well able to maintain itself.



The leaves are oval or almost round, two to six inches long, with wavy edges and are often hairy underneath. The flowers have narrow yellow petals less than one inch long. It ranges from Nova Scotia to southern Ontario and southeastern Minnesota, south to Texas and northern Florida.

Most people associate the name with those bottles of vile smelling liquid found in many medicine chests. It can be used as an astringent to improve the look of the skin or applied to bruises or mosquito bites to ease the swelling. Its healing properties have been known for hundreds of years. The Osage used the

bark to treat sores and ulcers of the skin much as we do today. The Potawatomi and the Menominee used the twigs, either placed on hot rocks in a sweat lodge or boiled in water, to soothe aching muscles. The Mohegan used a decoction of the leaves for cuts, bruises, and insect bites.

In the 1840s, Theron T. Pond of Utica, New York, started marketing a distilled liquid made with the bark and twigs of Witch Hazel. The industry he founded (Pond's skin care products) is still flourishing.

Today most of the Witch Hazel sold in North America is harvested and processed in Connecticut. However, the commercially available Witch Hazel does not contain all the active substances present in the tree. The bark contains tannin, which contributes to its anti-inflammatory and analgesic qualities (and may even be antiviral), yet the tannin is largely lost during distillation. The European form of Witch Hazel, which is created by steeping the bark and leaves in a combination of water and alcohol, retains more tannin. Some herbalists make their own extract from the bark and consider it more efficacious than the drugstore variety.

Happy spotting!

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

 Heather Marchment



What were we doing 7 years ago? Does this picture look familiar?

It was our first native tree planting at the Leslie Log House property. On Saturday November 1st, 2014, 53 volunteers planted 40 trees on the property donating 87.5 hours of volunteer time.