



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association



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www.streetsvillehort.ca

March 2024



Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Streetsville United Church

In Heritage Hall

274 Queen Street South

Set Up at 6:15 p.m.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Stephen Rice

Topic: Honeybees, Native Bees &
Urban Gardens

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¹ Blue Jay, courtesy of Pexels.com

Co-Presidents' Message

The room was abuzz as the members attended the first meeting of 2024 and discussed their successful amaryllis blooms. Not only did their size and beauty brighten our overcast winter, but some are bringing a second round of joy by blooming yet again! I'm sure after following Monica's care suggestions to bring them outside and fertilize monthly they will provide us with blooms in 2025.



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Melissa Creasey from the Credit Valley Conservation Society discussed birds in the garden and reminded us that they are an indicator of environmental health, help with pollination and seed dispersal, and are great at assisting with pest control. Some of the reasons she cited for the decline in birds were invasive species such as the European Buckthorn (laxative), window collisions that kill 25 million birds per year, and cats who account for over 200 million bird deaths. Lastly Melissa suggested some landscaping ideas we can implement to help the bird population. She suggested, making windows more visible by adding dots (<https://www.featherfriendly.com/residential>), using native plants which provide a variety of food and water sources (<https://cvc.ca>), and creating layers for shelter and protection.

Preparations for our May 25th Plant Sale are underway with Carol and Monica at the helm. They are looking for plant sale apprentices to mentor and teach the ropes of our biggest event/fundraiser of the year. We are also looking for "Garage sale" garden related items. Wooden chairs that can be repurposed, gently used garden equipment, decorative pots, and bird feeders, just to name a few, are all welcome. Last year Carol got a donation from a neighbour who was moving and no longer needed the items where she was living. Lastly, we are looking for someone to plant-sit canna lilies that we start early and sell at the plant sale.

Does anyone have experience with graphic design? We are hoping to redesign some of our publicity material (postcards, flyers, ...) perhaps using a program like Canva which has some predesigned templates that can be modified. Send us an email if you are interested in taking on this project.

Lastly, don't forget to bring your 4 x 6 photos to our March meeting for the member judged contest. One colour and one black & white photo per member can be submitted, keeping in mind that "Nature" is the theme.

Happy hunting through the seed catalogues and planning your garden. Spring is only 19 days away!

Maureen & Shelley

² Amaryllis, courtesy of Anne Hudson's efforts from the bulb planted at our December workshop

Native Plants

I've been asked to write a monthly column on Native Plants. There's no way I'm an expert on this but I did spend a few years propagating them at Riverwood and for every batch of plants I produced, I kept one plant for my garden. So I have quite a few and will write about one each month. Most of them are woodland plants and we don't tend to have woodlands in our gardens but after the recent talk by the lady from CVC, some of us could be adding trees and shrubs and native plants would fit right in!

BLOODROOT

I love the way this plant shoots out of the ground in late April, in full flower. My plant grows under a deciduous tree (Seven Sons) which provides no shade in April but reasonable shade in the summer. If the bloodroot was in the woods the flowers and leaves would likely appear at the same time. The leaves are multi lobed and quite distinctive and the seeds ripen in June. It will self seed

but not enough to be invasive.

The root is a rhizome and that and the leaf stems have bright red sap so wear gloves if you cut them or you'll scare your children or partner.



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Jon Eldridge

Membership Desk

Our February meeting had 57 members attending, including 2 new members. Welcome Diane D. and Joanne J. We also had one guest, Toni C., who came with Enza L. Word of mouth from current members is a great way to increase our membership. Did you know that guests are welcome to attend one meeting for free, EXCEPT for the November AGM?

If you happened to take your nametag home, please remember to bring it to the next meeting.

Thanks to Sandra J. and Karen N., for their help at the desk, it was a very busy night!

Faulene Hopkins

³ *Bloodroot, courtesy of Jon Eldridge*

Member Judged Photo Contest

Our member judged photo contest will take place at our upcoming meeting on March 12th. The classes for the contest are:

- My favourite Nature Photo in colour
- My favourite Nature Photo in black and white

It's a fun contest that will be judged by our members present at the meeting.

Here are the contest rules:

- Photo size 4" x 6".
- Photo to be taken by competitor.
- One entry in each class per membership.
- Two entries per class in a family membership but the photo entries must be taken by different people.
- Print your name on the back of your photos.

There will be a table set up for the contest and you can give your photos to me.

Christina Anonychuk

Raffle Table

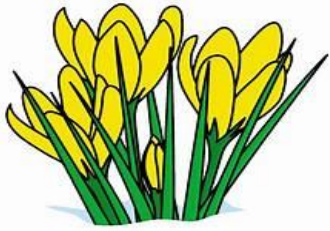
Get ready for Spring and gardening season with some garden goodies. We have a well made, sturdy carry-all tote, a pair of basket brackets for hanging baskets, a pot with a pair of watering bulbs and a beautiful bamboo frame along with a gorgeous pink scarf and jewelry to brighten up a gloomy spring day. Please stop by the raffle table and get your tickets. They are \$2 each or three for \$5.

Thank you to all who participated in our raffle table draw last month and those who donated gifts for the table. If you have something new and unused that you would like to donate, please drop it off at the raffle table. It goes to a good cause. Hope to see you all at the raffle table!

Judy Castelino



Refreshment Table



Thank you to our members who donated to the February refreshment table: Rosemarie B., Shirley B., MaryAnn B., Judy C., Rick D., Judy K., Liz M., Eleanor M., Marcia S., Janice W., Martha W. We were overwhelmed with delicious donations at our last meeting.

Please report your hours to our volunteer co-ordinator, Grace Nelham.
Thank you to Marcia Spear for coming early and staying late to help with the set up and cleanup!

If I missed thanking you (thank you) for your contribution, please make sure that you sign the sheet when you drop off your goodies.

Martha J. Witney

Full Snow Moon

February's Full Snow Moon gets its name from the fact that it occurs in the midst of winter for the Northern Hemisphere, and February can often be the snowiest month for many parts of North America.

February's Full Snow Moon will occur while the moon approaches its farthest point from Earth in its orbit, known as apogee. That means the full moon will appear up to 10% smaller in the night sky — not enough for most of us to notice, but seasoned moonwatchers might be able to tell the difference.

Pictures taken by Shirley Boyes show the Full Snow Moon over Lake Huron early morning Sat. Feb. 24/24.



On A Sad Note

EARL NELHAM – Obituary

SHS Life Member Earl Nelham passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 91 on February 14, 2024.

Earl joined Streetsville Horticultural Society in 1994 and during his membership he served on the Board, was Newsletter Editor for a time, and played the piano at many meetings and AGM's. He also designed the Streetsville Horticultural Society logo that we use today!



Earl worked for the City of Mississauga for over 30 years, lastly in the position of Secretary Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustments. He was a founding member of the Mississauga Music Council, Musician of the year in 1991 and a church organist for over 50 years.

Streetsville Horticultural Society extends its sincere condolences to his wife Grace. A Celebration of Life with a light lunch after will be held on April 13th at 11:00 a.m. Cooksville United Church, 2500 Mimosa Row, Mississauga, ON L5B 1P7.



May your memories be a blessing

Celebrations

March's birth flowers are the daffodil and the jonquil, which are both part of the *Narcissus* genus. These early spring bloomers are thought to signify rebirth or new beginnings with their colourful blooms bringing joy! Wishing Pat Salisbury, Sandra Bashford, and Joanne Joel, who are celebrating a birthday this month, a happy and healthy year ahead! Congratulations to Carol Zarb who is celebrating her wedding anniversary this month!



Time to start those Canna Lilies!



Spring is coming! If you'd like to have some of those lovely tall canna lilies in your pots or garden this summer, now is the time to get started.

It may seem rather early, but the plants are slow to start so if you want flowers through the whole summer then you need to get the plants started indoors. If you wait until it's safe to put them outside they will be late blooming (September) or may not bloom at all. I know this from experience.

I take my canna rhizomes in after the first frost, clean as much soil off as possible, dry them, and leave them packed in paper in my cold cellar for the winter. I try to remember around the end of February to bring them out. The plants will grow a lot over one summer giving lots of opportunity to split and share the next season.

A deep 6-inch pot is a good size for starting cannas. By the time they fill the pot it will be time to move them into their permanent location for the summer. They will spread a lot so don't put them in too small of a pot or they will be very difficult to get out without breaking the pot come fall.

The rhizomes can be cut with clippers or a knife, and make sure each piece that your pot has an eye or two showing. Place each piece with the "eyes" pointing up. Cover the rhizome lightly with soil, not deep. Water and keep from drying out until shoots start to appear. I keep mine in the basement. It takes 2-4 weeks for the shoots to appear. Then it's time to move the plants to a sunny, warm place to grow. I usually try to move my plants outside for a few hours a day once the weather warms up but I don't leave them outside at night until we are into double-digit temperatures.

Of course it all depends on the weather; if we get an early spring then the cannas may bloom by July, but no guarantees. It also depends on the quality of your canna rhizomes. Deadhead the flowers as they finish and the plant will continue to send up new stalks all summer.

If you don't have any cannas from last year, you will have an opportunity to pick one up at the SHS plant sale in May!

Marg Rowan

⁴ *Canna Lily*, courtesy of Pixabay

Gardening News & Happenings

- **[Sustainable Balcony Gardening](#)**: City of Mississauga Drop-In program. Learn about the inspiring beauty and practical benefits of gardening on your balcony, with a focus on native plants and edibles. Leave with the know-how to bring your small outdoor space to life. Presented by Toronto & Region Conservation Authority. Malton Library, 3540 Morning Star Drive, Mississauga. **Saturday March 2nd 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm.** Drop-in.
- **[The Riverwood Conservancy](#)**: is offering numerous workshops during March including: Winter Waterfowl at Lakefront Promenade (March 4th), Astronomy Course: Explore the Night Sky (March 5th, 19th, and 26th), Winter Birding (March 8th), Birding with the Expert at J.C. Saddington Park (March 9th and 20th), March Break Activities (March 11th to 15th), and Women's Full Moon Ceremony (March 25th). The cost of each workshop varies but most are between \$5 and \$15. See their website for full details.
- **[Blooming Boulevards 2024 Presentations](#)**: Blooming Boulevards is offering two free 1-hour webinars this month! Design Your Own Pollinator Garden **Saturday March 9th 10:00 am – 11:00 am.** Goodbye Lawn! **Saturday March 23rd 10:00 am – 11:00 am.** Sign up online at least two days before the event.
- **[Mississauga Seed Library](#)**: If you missed the anniversary & launch celebrations on February 24th, you can still fill out a form to order free seeds to plant! As well, Mississauga Seed Library are offering two free programs this month: Sustainable Balcony Gardening at Malton Library on **Saturday March 2nd 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm.** The Buzz on Bees at Port Credit Library on **Saturday March 9th 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm.** Drop-in.
- **[University of Guelph Arboretum](#)**: is offering numerous in-person and virtual workshops during March. In-person events include Constellations, Milky Way, and Telescopes on March 12th; and The Art and Practice of Pruning on March 18th. Virtual workshops include Virtual Travels with a Nature Geek: Six Continents of Life on March 1st, 4th, 6th, and 8th, and Virtual Bird Sounds Series March 11th, 13th, 18th, 20th, 25th, and 27th. Virtual workshops cost between \$8 and \$10 each. In-person workshops cost between \$12 for evening programs and \$65. See their website for full details.
- **[GardenOntario \(formerly Ontario Horticultural Association\)](#)**: maintains a calendar of virtual and in-person events offered by Horticultural Societies across the province. Most virtual presentations are free. See the calendar listing on the GardenOntario website.
- **[GardenOntario 50/50 fundraising draw](#)**: GardenOntario is holding a fundraising 50/50 raffle with 50% of the proceeds supporting the Keep Ontario Beautiful program. Tickets prices start at 10 for \$10. Draw #8 takes place on Saturday March 16th. Tickets are available at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>
- **[Royal Botanical Gardens WinterTide](#)**: Experience the brilliance of Canadian white winters like never before as the Rock Garden turns into the season's most elegant indoor and outdoor jazz lounge experience! RBG, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington. **Thursdays to Saturdays, February 8th to March 16th between 5:30 pm and 9:00 pm.** Tickets start at \$18 and must be pre-purchased. See website for ticketing details.

January Speaker – Honeybees, Native Bees & Urban Gardens



Stephen Rice was born in 1953. Raised in Streetsville, and, apart from some absences due to travel, resided there until 2021. Educated at University of Toronto, McMaster University and York University, in psychology and philosophy (still working on the PhD - all but dissertation, as the saying goes).

Having loved being on my grandparents' farm growing up, I was drawn to farm life when I began beekeeping 32 years ago, and worked on a farm in Cheltenham. In 2011 my wife and I bought 50 acres in Grey county (a little south of Owen Sound), where I currently have 25 honeybee colonies, stands of trees and fields of flowers, and a lot of wild bees.

I've done some urban beekeeping in Streetsville, and in 2015 I and some other enthusiasts founded the Mississauga Beekeeping Association. You may find more about us on Instagram under that name, or on Facebook (as Big City Bees). My work in this area consists of connecting beekeepers with information from the Ontario Beekeepers Association, or with directives from the provinces Apiary program, and in helping novice beekeepers learn the ropes. I enjoy doing environmental advocacy and am sometimes called in to advise local companies, or for example, the city of Mississauga in its recent efforts to address urban food production.

As a beekeeper I operate Steve's Bees Apiaries, in which I specialize in producing raw honey and pollen. I sell this at local markets (eg, the Streetsville Summer Market, and the Bread and Honey Festival).

Tucson Tohono Chul Garden

Monica Ross is travelling in Tucson and has sent these pictures for us to enjoy. They were taken at the Tohono Chul garden which they visited on February 21/24. For more information on the Tuscon garden, visit <https://tohonochul.org/nature/>



Book & Jigsaw Puzzle Sale



Do you have jigsaw puzzles or books which you have completed and are looking to give a new home? Bring your donations to our April "Open House" meeting and Nury will be setting up a table to sell them at. They will be sold 1 item (book or puzzle) for \$2, or 3 items for \$5. Not only will you bring joy to the recipient, but the money collected will be used to offset our recent S.H.S. purchases, such as our new banner and vests.



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Plant Sale



Our Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 25th at 8:30 a.m. Sign up sheets for various jobs such as potting up, labelling, minding plants, delivering plants etc. will be available at the March meeting. Please start thinking about how you can help us make this another successful event and be ready to sign up. Thank you.

Carol Ashford

District 15 AGM

We have just received word that the District 15 AGM will be held on Saturday, April 20th at 2 p.m. via Zoom. Societies were asked if they wanted to host and with no one agreeing to take on the task, it was decided to hold the AGM virtually. The winners of the publication contest, awards, and in Memoriam names will be announced, as well as the possibility of a guest speaker. If you are interested in receiving the link to virtually attend the AGM, please email your name to Maureen or Shelley before March 19th.

OHA Convention 2024

This year's convention will almost be held in our own backyard with Guelph being a mere 45 minutes away from Mississauga! The convention is being held at the Delta Hotel and runs from July 12-14th with Districts 7 & 8 co-hosting. You can book a room for the conference at a reduced rate now if you are interested in staying overnight. A typical day starts with official OHA business like our AGM meeting, then a speaker, followed by either a tour or seminars.



There are vendors, a silent auction, as well as a banquet. There are several competitions held at the convention. These are: 1) Flower Show 2) Arts 3) Publications 4) Youth 5) Photography 6) Creative Writing. Refer to the trifold display which will be at the March general meeting for more specific details about the competitions. Registration has not opened yet and the fee has not been published.

⁵ Jigsaw Puzzle, Book & Flower pictures courtesy of Pixabay