



Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

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www.streetsvillehort.ca

April 2024



Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 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: Elizabeth Schleicher
How to Grow Beautiful Roses

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¹ *Daffodil with Lady Bug, courtesy of Pixabay*

Co-Presidents' Message

Spring is officially here, but the weather doesn't feel like spring at all lately! April is an exciting time for gardeners as we see our first spring ephemerals² begin to emerge. Whether it be snowdrops, crocuses, or bloodroot these delicate blossoms are a sign of hope and life anew!



It is also the time when we might be tempted to clean up our yard and gardens. Stephen Rice, our March speaker, reminded us that leaf litter and perennial stems provide shelter for many pollinators, such as honeybees, and we should wait until the weather warms up and awakens them before doing our spring cleaning.

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April is also full of many special events, such as the Solar Eclipse happening on the 8th, Plant Appreciation Day on the 13th, and Earth Day on the 22nd! It will be interesting to see and hear how plants and animals are affected by the solar eclipse. If you are interested in recording your observations, you can visit iNaturalist where you can observe an organism before, during, and after the eclipse. The link below will provide you with more information about the project. <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/life-responds-total-solar-eclipse-2024>

We are actively starting to plan for our plant sale, which will be held Saturday, May 25th. It is a wonderful team building and learning opportunity. You can start now by taking a garden walk to determine what plants you can donate and toward the end of April you can dig them up. The volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at the next general meeting or you can contact Monica or Carol, our plant sale coordinators.

Lastly, our April meeting will be an "Open House" where we will be having a book & puzzle sale, and our guest speaker will be discussing how to grow beautiful roses. Please invite someone you know to attend our Open House and learn about our Horticultural Society!

We are looking forward to a very busy spring and we encourage you to help wherever you can.

Shelley & Maureen

² An ephemeral plant is a plant with a very short life cycle or very short period of active growth, often one that grows only during brief periods when conditions are favorable. Several types of ephemeral plants exist. [Wikipedia](#)

³ Bloodroot courtesy of Pixabay

Streetsville Horticultural Society & The Leslie Log House Property

On **Thursday, April 11th**, Streetsville Horticultural member, Carol Ashford, will speak at the General Meeting of the Streetsville HISTORICAL Society. The presentation will be "Streetsville Horticultural Society and the Leslie Log House Property". Many historical facts about both Streetsville Horticultural Society and the property will be presented and over 200 photographs of wildlife, flowers and SHS events will be shown.

The Historical Society general meeting will take place at 7:30 at the Streetsville Legion Branch 139, 101 Church Street, Streetsville. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served.

If you want to know more about our Society and the log house property, come out and enjoy the evening.



November 1 2014 - Twenty volunteers planted 40 trees on the Leslie Log House property.

Celebrations



Daisy, which is part of the Aster family and Sweet Peas, which are part of the Fabaceaa family are the April birth flowers. While both prefer to be grown in full sun, sweet peas are annual climbers and daisies are perennials.



Happy birthday to Cynthia A., Martha W., and Faulene H., who are celebrating a birthday in April.

Happy Anniversary to Brett and Faulene! Wishing you a year ahead filled with many garden surprises and delights.

Garbage Pick Up – Leslie Log House

Save the date - April 20th

Volunteers will once again be needed to collect trash at the Leslie Log House. We will commence this project at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 20th.

It is amazing that even with the new garbage bins provided by the city just how much trash blows in to the Log House property. There are 40 acres of land here to scour for garbage so many hands will make light work.

As in the past, garbage bags will be provided. Please wear suitable clothing and gloves and comfortable shoes/boots. Rain Date will be Sunday, April 21st at 10:30 a.m.

Thanks in advance for your help!!

Carol Ashford



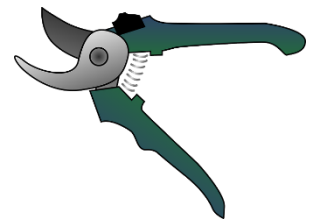
Fun Group from April 18, 2016

Rotary Park Clean Up

I'm pleased to announce that we will "clean up" Rotary Park on Thursday 18th April which is just before Earth Day.



I always think there won't be too much to clean up but then we fill 20 bags or so, but this year will be different. The city picked up the garbage 2 weeks ago and they mowed and mulched most of the leaves in the fall and blew the mulch onto the beds. Please bring lawn-rake and pruners if you have them and we shall have a fairly easy and fun time, I'm sure.



If you haven't worked at Rotary Park before you are very welcome to join us. The park is on Queen St just North of the library and Tim Hortons. We start at 9.30 am and meet every other Thursday during the season.

Jon Eldridge

Native Plants

Mayapple

This is a very unusual plant, in fact nothing looks remotely like it.

A single stem branches into 2 leaf stems with a flower in the axil.

The flower is small and white /cream coloured, but is almost invisible until you part the overhead leaves and look down or lay on the ground and look up.

Leaves are furled initially like a closed umbrella and they unfurl when the stems get to full height (12" - 18"). There are 2 leaves, each about 8" across that put the ground around the plant in deeper shade, so that other plants don't encroach.

They spread by rhizome and form a colony which can be quite extensive - see picture below.

In my garden the Mayapple is still single, after 4-5 years. Maybe this year?

If pollinated the flower is followed by a small green "apple" that ripens to golden and is edible when ripe.

The plant prefers partial or full shade and you can often find a colony at the edge of woodland or at the side of a path. They appear in early Spring and go dormant in mid to late summer. I have never noticed the dormancy with my one plant though if I had a sizable colony there would be a big bald patch in late summer..... But I don't expect to have this problem!



Jon Eldridge



Native Plants but Native to when or where

Many people recommend using native plants in residential gardens. However, there are several important questions to answer. One of the reasons given for choosing native plants is that they are adapted to the local area.

A native plant “is often defined as a plant growing here before European settlement”. That definition is not very helpful when you think about how many different types of climates and soil types there are in Canada. Native plants are adapted to the conditions that existed before settlement.

Here in southern Peel County, we need to think about what was growing here when the first settlers arrived. The answer is trees, millions of trees, trees as far as they could see.

What did the original settlers of this area have to do on their land before they could begin to farm? They needed to cut down trees. The crops they absolutely needed to grow so their families had food to eat did not and do not grow in the shade. The plants that grew in the shade under the trees are ephemerals, defined as plants that grow in the spring sun that is only available before trees leaf out.

These plants include trilliums, blood root, Virginia bluebells, Dutchman’s breeches, trout lilies, mayapples, tiarella or foamflower, and other spring blooming plants.



Ask yourself what grows in the shade of a maple and beech woodland, or an oak and hickory forest in the summer. The answer is very little is growing, trilliums are dying back, mayapples are dying back, plus some native geraniums and ferns are surviving.



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Many of the plants that we are encouraged to grow in our gardens are not native to southern Ontario, they are often native to the prairies, where bright sun is available most of the year. These prairie plants include echinacea or purple coneflower, various species of rudbeckia or black/ brown eyed Susan, liatris, monarda and others. They are well suited to the open sunny conditions of many suburban gardens and park areas.

There are plants that are happy growing on the edge of a woodland or in an open area, these include milkweed, goldenrod, false sunflower, cup plants, ironweed, fall asters, some ferns and many others.

Plants to beware of are often what are called nativars, they are cultivars of native plants. They have been bred from a native plant that has been edited often by using tissue culture and sometimes have additional genes from other plants.

Cont't.....

⁴ *Trillium and Virginia Bluebells* courtesy of Pixabay

Many of us will remember the huge range of new echinacea varieties that became available several years ago, they had a wonderful range of colours, some with unique flower shapes. They were not cheap, but we thought echinacea always come back and self seed and these new ones are worth the \$20 + cost. They were wonderful in year one, in year 2 they were good, in year 3 they were dead. We all wondered what we had done wrong. Then we found out, they were bred by tissue culture and designed not to produce seed. Most of us are not aware that echinacea are a short lived perennial, we did not realise that the plant that came up in the spring was not always the one that had been there the previous year. Yes, it was in about the same place as the previous one, but it was not the same plant, it was a self seeded plant.



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If you want to create a 'native' garden, you need to pick plants that will flourish in the conditions you have at your home. The plants may not be native to this area officially the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Forest region but they will flourish in your garden.

Stay away from nativars as they will cost a significant amount and will be short lived.

One of my professors at the University of Guelph was a previous head of horticulture at the Royal Botanical Gardens estimated that as much as 60% of native plants are mis-labelled: many are non-North American species that are similar to the North American plants, and many are nativars labelled as natives. For example, there are Solomon's Seal plants that are native to parts of Asia or Europe, they are grown overseas in many places, but they are not hardy here, because their ancestors grew up somewhere else!

Finally, there are many plants that will grow well in your garden, so pick the ones that don't need specialized care, that will survive Canadian weather both summer and winter. If your ideal plant requires cool, moist, acidic, perfectly drained soil, and winter temps no colder than -5C, you need to move as it will not survive here.

Monica Ross



⁵ *Echinacea and Wood Anemone* courtesy of Pixabay

Speaker – How to Grow Beautiful Roses

Elizabeth Schleicher
Brief Biography

Growing up on the family farm in Southern Ontario, Elizabeth was always surrounded and fascinated by plants and nature.

The love and interest in gardening certainly influenced her desire to become an accredited Judge of Horticulture and Design with the Royal Botanical Gardens and Garden Clubs of Ontario respectively. Elizabeth also holds an Ontario Horticultural Association Judging certificate.



Her passion for roses inspired her to grow roses in her home garden and to learn more about her favourite flower she joined the Canadian Rose Society (CRS) and her local rose society, Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society.

After a few years she earned her judging accreditation with the CRS, become President in 1999- 2001 and is also a rose consultant with both the CRS and American Rose Society (ARS).



She held the position on the Board of the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) as Chair of the Standards Committee and now is a Board member of the Manhattan Rose Society.

Currently Elizabeth is the Chair of the Judges' Committee of the CRS and has organized a judging school both virtually and in person.

This love of roses takes Elizabeth and her husband, Helmut, to many parts of the world to attend WFRS conventions and conferences of other related organizations.

Closer to home she is very active in her home rose society, Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society and the Burlington Horticultural Society as Editor of both newsletters and Flower Show Chair for both organizations.

In her free time, Elizabeth hosts Zoom meetings for the various organizations where she holds memberships and continues to enjoy her hobbies of photography, gardening, travelling, jewelry crafts and Book Arts.

Refreshment Table



Thank you to Christina Anonychuk, Liz Menard, and Liz Roesler for their contributions to the March refreshment table.

For the April 2024 meeting Rosemarie Bera, Jill Davies, and Ursula Evanoff have signed up to contribute.

Please remember to bring your own drinking mug to the meeting.

Thank you, Jill Davies and Marcia Spear, for your tremendous help in setting up and cleaning up of the refreshment table.

Thank you, Jon Eldridge, for his help in taking refreshment bins, etc. to our cars.

We serve coffee, tea, water, if you have any suggestion(s) we would love to change up the menu a bit, please contact myself.

Martha J. Witney

Fall Photo Contest 2023 – 2024

Class 1	Fall Harvest
Class 2	Explosion of Colour
Class 3	Cloud & Sky (only)
Class 4	Your Best Photo (not black & white)
Class 5	Spring Blossoms
Class 6	Winter Delight



All categories are **NATURE RELATED**

Suggestion: Keep this list in your camera case, your wallet, or your pocket for reference when you are taking photos.

Photo Contest Rules

- Closing date for photos is August 31, 2024.
- Photos are to be submitted at the September 2024 meeting.
- All pictures must have been taken by a current member
- Photos should be nature related.
- Coloured photos, unless otherwise specified, no larger than 4" x 6".
- One entry per class per single membership.
- Two entries per class, one per person in a family membership.
- The photo will be rejected if it does not meet the category.
- Previously submitted photos not allowed.
- Photos are to be taken between September 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024.
- Assign a class # to each photo and put them in an envelope with your name on it and bring them to the September 2024 meeting.
- Winners will be announced at the November AGM 2024 meeting.

Have fun!

Member Judged Photo Contest Winners

In the Nature Colour Category, Carol Ashford's photo of a mockingbird was a clear winner.

There was a tie in the Nature Black and White Category. Ursula Evanoff and Carol Ashford were voted the winners. Ursula's entry was a beautiful winter scene of her backyard and Carol's winning photo was a lovely song sparrow.



Congratulations to Carol and Ursula and a big thank you to all who participated.



Shirley's Boards



These lovely boards are still available. Hand painted by Shirley Boyes. Any one of them would make a cute and unique gift for that special friend, relative or someone who just needs a little cuteness in their garden.

These are just a few of the boards that will be available for purchase at our April General Meeting.

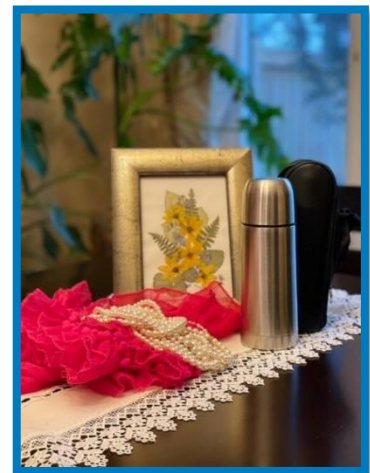
All proceeds will go towards The Plant Sale.

Raffle Table

Our raffle table this month will have prizes for some warm weather entertaining. We have a beautiful ice bowl set with an ice cream scoop and floral serving spoons, a beautiful glass bowl to display fresh fruit and produce from the garden and a lovely picture frame, scarf and set of pearl jewelry to complement any spring outfit. Please come by the raffle table and get your tickets. It's \$2 for one ticket or \$5 for three.

We are also in need of prizes for next month's raffle table. If you have something you would like to donate please bring it by the raffle table at the next meeting. Thank you to all for your generous contributions and participation in the raffle table. It all goes to a worthy cause.

Judy Castelino



Membership Desk

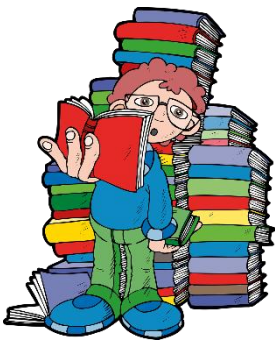


The room was buzzing with excitement as 56 members and 1 guest awaited the presentation by guest speaker Stephen Rice.

The membership table was festively decorated with green St. Patrick's Day items. Faulene and Karen welcomed new members Toni, Suzanne, and Klara.

April is our Open House so first time guests may attend for free and memberships for May/June are only \$10. Bring a neighbour, colleague, or relative and help grow our society. Our membership is currently standing at 105!

Book & Jigsaw Puzzle Sale (Reminder)



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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⁶ *Cartoon image courtesy of Pixabay*

streetsvillehort@gmail.com

Grow your own Birdhouse

Lagenaria siceraria is a species of gourd that grows in interesting shapes. They are not edible but are wonderful for craft projects such as creating decorative homes for the birds.

Seeds can be ordered from multiple seed sources and they are not expensive, depending on the supplier, they range from \$5-\$8 per packet of 10-25 seeds.



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This picture was taken at a friend's cottage, there are many small birds that have made homes in them.

How to information is available here <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/visual-guides/creating-a-gourd-birdhouse> And on many other websites.



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⁷ *Gourd Birdhouses courtesy of Birding Insider*

⁸ *Gourd images taken from Incredible Seed Company*

Gardening News & Happenings – April 2024:

- **Get set for the Solar Eclipse on April 8th but make sure you get your solar eclipse viewing sunglasses ahead of time.**
- **[Celebrate Earth Day with the City of Mississauga](#)** on Saturday April 20th | 11:00 am Hazel McCallion Central Library. Drop-in.
- **[Mississauga Seed Library](#)**: You can request up to 5 types of seeds for free from the Seed Library! Fill out your online form now. 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.
- **[The Riverwood Conservancy](#)**: April is full of ways to connect with nature, from learning how to plant your own pollinator garden, to stargazing at our Astronomy Night, to reading up on wildlife at the launch of Dave Taylor's latest book! [Evening Talk: Design Your Own Native Pollinator Garden](#) April 4 | 7:00 pm; [Spring Birding](#) April 11 | 9:00 am; [Astronomy Night](#) April 16 | 8:30 pm; [Forest Bathing at Riverwood](#) April 19 | 4:30 pm; [Birding with the Expert at J.C. Saddington Park](#) April 20 | 8:30 am; [Earth Day: Tree ID and Planting](#) April 22 | 4:30 pm; [Women's Full Moon Ceremony](#) April 23 | 6:00 pm; [Birding with the Expert at J.C. Saddington Park](#) April 24 | 8:30 am; [Dave Taylor Book Launch and Evening Talk](#) April 25 | 7:00 pm. 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! Wildflower All-Stars for Sun or Shade **Saturday April 6th 10:00 am – 11:00 am**. Native Plants for Tough Plants **Saturday April 20th 10:00 am – 11:00 am**. Sign up online at least two days before the event.
- **[GardenOntario 50/50 fundraising draw](#)**: GardenOntario is holding a fundraising 50/50 raffle with 50% of the proceeds supporting the Keep Ontario Beautiful program. Ticket prices start at 10 for \$10. Draw #9 takes place on Saturday July 14th. Tickets are available at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>