



STREETSVILLE BLOOMS

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 20, Issue 3

NOVEMBER 2013

NEXT MEETING: TUES., NOV. 12

CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH
2630 Inlake Court

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Heinke Thiessen

Topic: "Four Season Gardening"

Speaker Bio: Heinke Thiessen owns and operates Perennial Pleasures Landscape Design, specializing in perennial garden design, rejuvenation and maintenance, as well as unique seasonal containers.

She has taught in the Horticultural Program, (Continuing Education Dept.) at Sheridan College in Oakville since 1998. She is a Past President of Credit Valley Hort. Society, a Horticultural Judge accredited by the Royal Botanical Gardens, a founding member of Mississauga Master Gardeners and a member of Landscape Ontario, the Perennial Plant Assoc., and the Ontario Hosta Society.

Her garden has been featured in Ontario Gardener magazine and on garden tours. With her long-standing interest in various aspects of horticulture, Heinke has lectured and given workshops on many topics.

Come and join us on November 12th for an enjoyable presentation on "Four Season Gardening".

Dean Scully, Program Chair

WE'VE BEEN SNAPD!

Pick up a copy of the latest issue of Snapd Mississauga to catch up on pictures from our AGM. Copies of Snapd are free and available at local banks, McDonald's etc.

President's Message

Our Society has been built on the work of volunteers. In fact all we have done over the last 41 years has been the effort of dozens of volunteers working many hours. We have created and maintained gardens, planted trees, spoken in schools, organized plant sales and garden tours, to mention only a few of our accomplishments. Most of our members work quietly behind the scenes, not asking for any public recognition, just the feeling of a job well done.

This year our members have logged 1637 volunteer hours in our city on various projects. Since our foundation we have logged tens of thousands of volunteer hours! All of this has helped make Mississauga a greener and more beautiful city.

Just this past week we drove past the Leslie Log House on Mississauga Rd. and were impressed once again with the beauty of the gardens. They look good in all seasons thanks to the efforts of SHS. Rotary Park is another example of a garden we maintain. Over the course of a year hundreds of people enjoy the quiet beauty of this site on Queen St. in downtown Streetsville.

Our members also work hard not only maintaining their own gardens but providing labor, plants and advice for neighbors' and friends' gardens in Mississauga and beyond. One of the things that originally drew us to Streetsville Horticultural Society was the willingness of its members to help others, share plants and advice. This is what volunteerism is all about.

We want to thank all our members for their work this past season and look forward to even more projects next spring.

Sue & Rob Harshman, Co-Presidents

DRAW TABLE

Many thanks to **Henry and Monika Schouten, Kristen Harshman-Best, and Monica Ross** for their contributions to the draw table. All donations are greatly appreciated..... Think about re-gifting to the Draw Table.

We are very happy to announce that **Mary Bernier** is returning to the Draw Table and we look forward to seeing her bright smile behind the table once again!

VESEYS BULBS FUNDRAISER

Thanks to our members who sold \$1,236 worth of bulbs to friends and neighbors. Streetsville Hort. Society will receive \$ 618.00 of that towards our fundraising.

Congratulations to **Michelle Bettig** who sold 11 products for a total order of \$163. Second was **Marg Rowan** who sold nine products for a total order of \$107. Well done!

Your ordered bulbs will be available for pick up at the November meeting.

PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

This year the photo contest had 15 members entering. The results of the contest are as follows:

Monika Schouten	26 points
Carol Ashford	18 points
Henry Schouten	15 points
Rob Harshman	15 points
Sue Harshman	14 points
Michelle Bettig	12 points
Grace Nelham	12 points
Ralph Bettig	12 points
Brad Buckler	8 points
Shirley Boyes	8 points
Debra Buckler	7 points
Doris Callahan	7 points
Debbie Lemire	4 points
Phil Walker	1 point
Mike Salisbury	1 point

'Best in Show' went to **Sue Harshman** with her entry of "Flower Close Up" receiving 20 points making her the "**Photographer of the Year**" with a total of 34 points. Congratulations Sue!!!



There probably are lots more of you out there taking pictures of the beautiful fall colors, or waterfalls, or flowers. Let's see if we can get 20 or more entrants this year!

OTHER AGM AWARDS:

Novice of the Year: Mary Hachey

**Elizabeth Colley Designer of the Year:
Greg Sereda**

Men's Only Award: Greg Sereda

Highest Points: Nicola Hall

Volunteer of the Year: Nicola Hall (over 300 hours)

President's Awards for exemplary service presented to **Adele Gibbins, Joyce Giddings, Carol Ashford** and **Lynn Merritt**

A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows he will never sit.





SHS Board of Directors 2013 – 2014 L to R
 Mary Hachey, Joyce Giddings, Nicky Hall, Lynn Merritt, Amgad Boles, Debbie Lemire, Dean Scully, Henry Schouten, Deb Buckler, Rob Harshman, Sue Harshman, Sue Hutton, Grace McElhinney and Monica Ross.

Absent: Carol Ashford & Eleanora Roberts.

BOARD:

Sue & Rob Harshman	Co-Presidents
Debra Buckler	1 st Vice / Plant Sale
Eleanora Roberts	2 nd Vice/Volunteers/Garden Tour
Sue Hutton	Past President
Dean Scully	Program Chair / Tecumseh Judging
Monica Ross	Premiums
Henry Schouten	Photo Contest
Grace McElhinney	Membership
Mary Hachey	Refreshments
Debbie Lemire	Education
Amgad Boles	Publicity / Fundraising
Nicky Hall	Flower Show
Carol Ashford	Leslie Log House/Newsletter
Joyce Giddings	Treasurer
Lynn Merritt	Secretary

CHAIRS:

Grace Nelham	Archives
Mary Bernier	Draw Table
Ruthanne Beehoo	Rotary Park

FINANCIAL EXAMINERS:

Margaret Rowan
 June Samaras

MY GRANDFATHER SAID

“Everyone must leave something behind

when he dies, my grandfather said. A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built or a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touched some way so your soul has somewhere to go when you die, and when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you’re there.

It doesn’t matter what you do, he said, so long as you change something from the way it was before you touched it into something that’s like you after you take your hands away. The difference between the man who just cuts lawns and a real gardener is in the touching, he said. The lawn-cutter might just as well not have been there at all; the gardener will be there a lifetime.”

Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451

HOW TO KEEP MICE OUT OF THE HOUSE

While we prep for cold weather, animals do, too. Fall is prime time for an increase in rodent activity in your home. While small, mice and rats can cause big problems. They chew on everything, causing property damage and potential fire risks when they gnaw on electrical wiring and build tinder dry nests in dark corners. They can spread disease, on their own, through the parasites they carry (their fleas carried the Black Plague) or through their droppings (such as hantavirus).

It’s probably more common to see mouse droppings or mouse damage before you see the mice themselves, as they are nocturnal.

Killum Pest Control offers an excellent online guide to interpreting rodent signs. Please visit their site for more information, but here are some brief comments on droppings and urine identification.

Droppings. Fresh droppings of feces usually are moist, soft, shiny and dark, but in a few days they become dry and hard. Old droppings are dull and grayish and crumble when pressed with a stick. The roof rat’s droppings are up to 1/2 inch long, spindle shaped and curved in contrast to Norway rat droppings which are about the same length but comparatively blunt. Mouse feces are small, averaging about 1/8 inch long, and are pointed on both ends.

Urine. Dried rodent urine will fluoresce bluish white to yellowish white. Commercial black lights often are

used to detect rodent urine, however observing fluorescence is not a guarantee that rodent urine is present. Numerous items will fluoresce under a black light, including optical bleaches found in many detergents and lubricating oil. For positive identification use a Brom Thymol Blue Urease Test. Place the suspected material on Urease-Brom Thymol-Blue test paper. Moisten with water and cover with a glass. If a bluish spot appears after 3 to 5 minutes, it is rodent urine.

Mice commonly mark their trails with urine so that other mice can follow their tracks to food sources. One source said that they produce 50-60 droppings per night – ewwww... Once you've found their way into your home, you need to block it, otherwise they be right back in via the pee track highway. They can climb, too – like mini rodent ninjas.

You may also find food stashes and nests in out of the way corners. Gnawing damage is another dead giveaway. My mom had a cardboard box of old cooking magazines inside a wooden cabinet, and the mini rodent ninjas still found their way in and chewed the edges of the magazines.

To keep these critters out and keep your family safe and your goods protected, follow these simple steps.

Remove Food Sources:

Bird food, pet food and other edible odds and ends (even cardboard) that tend to pile up in garages are like mouse nirvana. Crumbs under the couch are a gourmet treat, and a cookie lost by toddler is a mouse family buffet. Seal all food (for pets or humans) in solid containers, not just in bags. (Rats can and will chew through plastic bins, so be warned. You need to use metal containers to keep them out.) Plastic garbage cans or Rubbermaid tubs will generally keep mice out. Clean, clean, clean! Gaps between appliances like stoves or refrigerators and cabinets can collect crumbs where they are difficult for you to clean, but handy for mice to dine. Remember, if they can get their heads into a space, their bodies can get in,



too.

Seal Openings: This is the probably the toughest but most effective way to keep mice out – seal openings. As I mentioned above, if a mouse can get its head through, the body can go through as well. The little pests only need about a ¼ inch (0.6 cm) wide opening. They can jump – up to 18 inches (I told you – mini rodent ninjas), travel upside down, and crawl along an electrical wire (piece of cake). If you can stick a #2 pencil through a hole, a mouse can probably use it to get into your home. When you find holes, you want to try and seal them as strongly as possible. The Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management recommends: Steel wool, copper gauze, or screen wire packed tightly into openings is a good temporary plug. For long-term or permanent repair, mix a quick-drying patching plaster or anchoring such as Fixall® into a wad of Stuf-it® before pushing the material into the hole, and smooth over the outside. If steel wool is used, rust stains are likely to result. Holes 3 inches (8 cm) or more in diameter should be covered or backed with 1/4-inch (0.6-cm) woven/welded hardware cloth prior to filling with a good patching compound.

Reduce Outside Habitat: If possible, reduce the amount of mouse habitat outside your home to reduce the number of mice inside your home. Trim trees and shrubs away from the home. Clean up debris, brush piles, and other hiding spots where mice may take cover. Keep your compost bin(s) as tidy as possible (opossums and rats like to raid the compost, too). Some sites

recommend moving wood piles 100 feet from the house and raising them one foot off the ground.

TEN NEAT THINGS ABOUT MICE

1. Mouse alarm. Mice, working in four-hour shifts, have been used in Israel to detect the presence of drugs and explosives. They are more effective than dogs or x-rays. Don't laugh. It is predicted that the market for mouse detectors will be worth \$330 billion by 2020.

2. Are you a mouse or a man? It may not be as easy to tell as you might think. One of the reasons mice are so commonly used for drug testing is that their genome, which has been completely sequenced, is very homologous to humans. In many ways, we have common ancestors.

3. Fearless mice. Mice infected with the parasite, *Toxoplasma gondii*, are unafraid of cats - even after their infection has been cleared up. It appears that the parasites have a permanent effect on the brain. It has been estimated that up to one-third of humans have also been infected, a significant fact since the parasite has been linked to schizophrenia. Some scientists are suggesting that schizophrenics should be tested for anti-bodies as well as pathogens.

4. Fraidy mice. Mice are afraid of rats, and with good reason. Rats will kill and eat their rodent cousins.

5. Pinkies, fuzzies, crawlers and hoppers. The nicknames for the various stages of mouse development are quite cuddly. Not so cuddly is the way these critters can multiply. Consider that one pair can produce up to 140 pups a year (up to 10 litters of as many as 14 pups) and that each of the females from those litters can produce their own litters about 50 days after birth. The number of offspring and their descendants can easily reach 15,000 in one year.

6. Homebodies. Not only do house mice, *Mus musculus*, associate themselves with humans for food and shelter, they don't stray far from home. Their range could be as little as 30 feet and, being both color blind and having fairly bad eyesight, they quickly establish pathways and learn where the hazards are, so they can avoid them. This makes it easy to trap them.

7. Carriers. Sadly, as cute as they can be, mice can also carry fairly serious diseases. Such deadly afflictions as Murine typhus, rickettsialpox, tularemia and lymphocytic choriomeningitis can be inhaled from their faeces and urine. Yuck!

8. Keep them away. Even though an adult mouse is about 4.5 to six inches in length and weighs about 100 grams (3.5 oz.), they can squeeze through a hole the diameter of a pencil (about 3/8 of an inch). You need to plug all holes with something

impenetrable because they will gnaw their way through anything wooden.

9. The oldest mouse. Mice live only a couple of years on average, but in captivity life isn't very stressful. The oldest known mouse died at four years, 358 days.

10. Mouse house. In November 2012, CBC reported that a new homeowner just outside Winnipeg was shocked to find that her new \$1 million, 5,000-square-foot house was a giant mouse nest. When her contractor started opening walls to begin kitchen renovations, Carrie Forsythe discovered the mess. "All you see is just feces and urine, just puddles and piles," the homeowner said. "This was years in the making," said the pest control expert. The mice were inside the vapor barrier. -

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STREETSCAPE NEWS:



Also at the AGM Nicola Hall presented an award to **Grace Nelham** for representing Streetsville Hort. at Streetscape Mississauga for the years 2009 – 2011. Thanks for your hard work Grace!

The early bird may get the worm, but it's the second mouse that gets the cheese!



FALL BOUNTY

Autumn fills our baskets
With memories galore
To warm our hearts when winter
Comes tapping at the door.

Maple leaves turn scarlet –
Their shocking colors stun.
Pansies deck the gardens
And mums are bright as sun.

A bush turns flaming orange –
It's brighter than a torch.
Scarecrows guard the harvest
And pumpkins light the porch.

Autumn fills our baskets
With memories to last
Through many an ice and snow storm
Till winter weeks have passed.

Vivian Stewart

FALL 'TO DO' LIST

Final application of lawn fertilizer. Use fertilizer with slow release nitrogen for long lasting results. This is the most important application of the year as you are setting your lawn up for a long, cold winter.

Rake leaves off the lawn and on to your garden beds. If they are dry, hose them down with some water so that they do not blow over to your neighbor's place. Alternatively, run your **lawn mower over the leaves** on your lawn and rake the excess onto your garden.

Cut down high growing perennials that have finished seeding. Rudbeckia, monarda, Joe Pye weed etc. will only fall over with the weight of snow come winter, creating a mess for you to clean up next spring. Easier to do it now.

Do not sanitize your garden - a gentle clean up is helpful and more attractive, the leaves and seed heads of perennial plants are a helpful cover for the root structure of perennials and shrubs in your garden. As they break down, they provide organic fodder for healthy, living soil.

RIVERWOOD CONSERVANCY

BIRDWATCHING: Join renowned birder Luc Fazio for a series of birdwatching hikes at Riverwood Conservancy. All walks meet at the main parking lot. Bring binoculars. Great for new birders and experienced ones. Check website for time changes: www.riverwoodconservancy.org
Nov. Mondays 4, 11, 18 & 25 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Wed. 6, 13, 20, & 27 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

ASTRONOMY: Observe the night sky with members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Large telescopes will be set up to give you amazing views of the moon, the planets and more! Learn the name of the brighter stars and constellations. Join us on the lawn in front of Chappell House. Please note: the event will be held on the first date shown. The second date is a back up date in case the weather does not co-operate.
Tuesday, November 12 (13) 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.



AMERICAN SURVIVORS – DEER & COYOTE:

Tuesday Nov. 26 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Join resident naturalist Dave Taylor as he takes a somewhat sideways view of Riverwood's natural history and presents stories that are uniquely North American. Learn the surprising history of species that can trace their ancestry back to before ice ages began. Location MacEwan Field Station.

Questions, concerns, ideas, want to **volunteer** call
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