



# Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society  
*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*  
www.streetsvillehort.ca



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December 2017



**NEXT MEETING:** December 12, 2017

## Christmas Workshop

## Streetsville United Church

**274 Queen Street South**

Doors open 7 p.m.  
Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

*Please bring a canned item for the food collection  
bin for our Annual Christmas Food Drive*

### The President's Message

The Board of Directors will provide refreshments for the December meeting. Thanks to all of our members for the delicious finger foods that were contributed for our Annual General Meeting. They certainly were delicious and literally flew off the table into the hands of those who were attending the meeting.

Don't forget about the silent auction of baked goodies! Maybe you have a holiday favourite that you'd like to share? Package some up and bring it along. Or take advantage of the chance to pick up some special treats for the holidays while supporting our Society. Please label your packages with major ingredients for those of us who have to check for allergies, and remember, no nuts allowed in the Church. Minimum bids will be the cost of the ingredients, bid sheets will be provided. If you are not attending the meeting to participate in the workshop, feel free to attend and bid on some goodies. The auction closes at 9 p.m.



## Index

President's Message	... 1
Christmas Workshops	... 2
Night before Christmas	... 3
Membership Desk	... 4
Raffle Table	... 4
Photography Contest	... 5
Board of Directors	... 5
Awards Night	... 6
Christmas Décor	... 7
Winter tool care	... 9
Create a Centrepiece	...10



## Christmas Workshop

Sarah Pengilley will lead our workshop as she demonstrates how to put together a Christmas arrangement. Workshop participants must have registered and pre-paid for supplies. Please do not bring soil as it makes a mess that is very difficult to clean up.

If you are making a floral arrangement you will need –

Box to take it home in;

Waterproof container for your centerpiece, 8" diameter round or oval is the maximum size you should be using, anything larger will be too big to finish during the workshop;

Fill your container with wet oasis, soaked overnight, it should be about one inch above the rim of the container;

Secateurs, wire cutters, wire on a spool or straight, sharp knife, florist tape, and scissors;

Gloves if it's easier for you;

Accessories of your choice such as pine cones, baubles, berries, silk poinsettias, ribbons, favourite things... etc.;

If you choose to add some fresh flowers, carnations are a good choice, as are roses, mums etc.;

If you are refurbishing your wreath from last year, and the wreath will be hung outdoors, make sure your berries/fruit etc. are

weatherproof. If they are not the will "pop" like popcorn and you'll have white spots all over your finished wreath after a cold spell.

## Birdhouse project

If you would like to watch an instructional video on how to put your birdhouse together before the workshop, this is a link to the video on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHopGpF6HV8&t=8>

Please bring a hammer and some white glue, a piece of sandpaper if you have some, complete instructions are included with your birdhouse kit. ✂

Monica Ross, President



Birch wreathes will be available for purchase from past president, Sarah Pengilly. Perfect to use as candle rings, flowers in a vase or with greenery. They cost \$6 for small, \$8 for medium and \$10 for large. Get yours at our Christmas workshop.



## T'was the Night Before Christmas – Gardeners version



*Inspired by Clement Clarke Moore*

T'was the night before Christmas and all  
through the yard  
the branches were bare and the ground frozen  
hard;

The plants were nestled all snug in their beds,  
while visions of compost danced in their heads;  
The roses were mulched, the soil piled high,  
to protect the graft union so the plants  
wouldn't die

The tools were all hung in the garage with care  
a well-deserved rest now that the garden was  
bare

The gardener removed gloves and a worn,  
floppy hat  
to settle down for a long winter's nap  
When out in the flowerbed there arose such a  
clatter

the gardener sprang from bed to see what was  
the matter

Threw on a jacket, torn and grubby from wear  
and sturdy rubber boots to see what was going  
on out there!

When what to my wondering eyes should  
appear  
but a miniature wheelbarrow pulled by eight  
tiny reindeer

With a little old gardener so lively and quick  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick!

A bag full of gifts he had packed with great care,  
a bundle of good things all gardeners could  
share

Compost and dibblers, and pots big and small,  
secateurs, shears – he had plenty for all.

Tree ties and labels, and seeds for the spring,  
trowels and cloches, and big balls of string.  
To help with the weeds, a new hoe and a spade  
and gardening books to read in the shade  
Gardening catalogues filled with varieties of  
seeds

Plus everything else a gardener could need  
And last but not least, some well-rotted  
manure.

A green Christmas year round, these gifts will  
ensure."

Then jolly Saint Nick, having emptied his load,  
winked and stood tall,

I heard him exclaim "Merry Christmas," and  
Happy Gardening to all. ✂

My feelings exactly,  
Monica



## From the Membership Desk



This year, 43 members attended the Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner.

We welcome Cathy Lence. We look forward to seeing you!

Please remember to wear your name tag at all times while at our meeting. It will make it much easier for us to get to know one another. Pick up your name tag when signing in at the desk, and return it at the end of the meeting.

I'm looking forward to my first Annual Christmas Workshop! ✂

**Vivianne Holmes, Membership Chair**

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Anyways, as I said last month I will not be here in December and we are going to do a silent auction once again. I have some donations from my stash on the auction block and hopefully you, our members will bring in baked goods, preserves or some décor items you would like to place on the table as well.

Shirley Boyes will work on the set up and Anita King will be taking the money at the end, so bring some money to spend for a good cause!

Shirley has the paperwork to fill out when you arrive. Put the item up for bid at the top of the sheet and please place an opening bid in the first box. Bids should go up by \$1.00 as this is a fundraiser. Please be generous. Estimate what the value of the product is on the sheet as well, try not to undervalue your item.

## From the Raffle Table



This year has gone by so quickly and 2017 is almost over. I would like to thank all of you who have purchased raffle table tickets over the last year. What a fun way to fundraise! What's \$2.00 get you these days? A chance to take home something beautiful, that's what!

Thanks so much everyone and have fun! I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! ✂

**Grace McElhinney, Raffle Table Chair**

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## Photography Contest

Thank you to all the people who submitted photos for the 2016-2017 photo contest. We had some lovely photos on display this year.

We had 15 people who entered and the winner of the trophy for photographer of the year is Monika Schouten.

The Judge's Choice ribbon was awarded to Carol Ashford for her photo of a lovely display of blooming colours.

Get out your cameras and discover nature. Good luck for the 2017-2018 contest.

### Categories for 2017/18 are as follows:

- Class 1** "Glorious Autumn"
- Class 2** "First Snow"
- Class 3** "Hidden Gem"
- Class 4** "Spring Delight"
- Class 5** "Summer Giants"
- Class 6** "Last of the Summer Glory"

**Class 7** "Old and Forgotten"

**Class 8** "Critters in the Garden"

**Monika Schouten, Photo Contest Chair**



Remember to bring your baubles for the centerpiece workshop.

## Meet the Board of Directors



The Board of Directors for the 2017-2018 year. Left to right: : Michelle Wilson OHA District 15 Assistant Director; Dean Scully, Plant Sale Assistant Chair and Books and Magazine Chair; Kathleen Hayward, Awards and Grants Chair; Vivianne Holmes, Membership Chair; June Samaras, Financial Examiner; Debbie Lemire, Newsletter Chair; Marg Rowan, Vice President and Secretary; Jon Eldridge, Rotary Park Chair; Monica Ross, President; Martha Witney, Treasurer.



## Awards Night



Eleanora Roberts presents Monica Ross with Outstanding Volunteer of the Year 2016-2017 for all of her board work and work with the plant sale, Rotary Park, Leslie Log House and various other volunteer opportunities.



One name was drawn from the 2016-17 volunteer list by Eleonora Roberts volunteer chair, a lovely plant was given to Debbie Scully



Monica Ross presents Monika Schouten with Photographer of the Year.



Monika Schouten presents **Carol Ashford** with the Judge's Choice Award and a framed copy of Field of Flowers.

We hope that you will enter the Photography contest next year. The photo categories are also found on our website.





The *Joseph Boles Award for Horticulture* was awarded to **Anita King**. This award recognizes the most points collected over the flower show season for growing flowers, fruit and vegetables. She also received an award for the highest points award for combined Design and Cultural divisions in our flower shows.

The *Elizabeth Colley Designer of the Year Award* was won by Ursula Evanoff for her beautiful flower design contributions for 2016-2017. Ursula was not present at the AGM. ✂



## BAKE SALE

Members are asked to bring baked goods to the December 12 meeting. Contributions do not need to be home baked, but may also include preserves and candy, etc.

## Christmas Décor with Plants

Why do people decorate their home with plants at Christmas? Today there are lots of reasons, some are obvious. It may be grey and miserable outside, but you can fill the indoors with scent and colour. Many plants play an important role in varied traditions both new and old that celebrate the season that surrounds the winter solstice.

Winter solstice, occurring on or around December 21, is the first day of winter, the shortest day and the longest night of the year. For early cultures, the Winter solstice was a day of both apprehension of the cold, dark winter and celebration of the promise of longer, warmer days to come. The use of plants as part of rituals for the winter solstice was a promise of that new and continuing life. The Christian celebration was superimposed on the ancient rituals linked to the celebration of the Winter Solstice, one of the major religious events in the Celtic world.

Various plants used during these ancient rituals have found their place in modern celebrations.

Many varieties of holly and ivy have an almost magical ability to remain green year round; the bright red berries of some





holly plants are cheerful spots of colour. Evergreens such as pine, spruce and fir were also a part of winter festivals. Today evergreens boughs are used in wreaths, centrepieces, and the trees are brought inside and decorated. Wreaths, which traditionally represent the circle of life, are commonly used to dress up the front door and give visitors a cheery welcome. We have many plants that are used as decoration at Christmas, some of the most popular are:

Poinsettia – in Canada this is perhaps the houseplant most associated with Christmas. Its



rich red star shapes are often mistaken for flowers. But look closely – they are bracts or specialized leaves. Their bright colour is to attract insects to the small yellow flowers that lie in

the middle. Poinsettias are easier to grow than many people think. Protect the foliage from cold winter winds as you take the plant home and keep it warm but not hot. Allow the soil to dry out between watering and then give it a good soak with warm water. Holly and Ivy – The ancient Romans associated holly with Saturn, the god of agriculture and harvest. Whether you choose to hang garlands of holly from the roof,



the walls or the mantelpiece, it's guaranteed to add Christmas cheer and a little colour to your home. A simple wreath made from ivy, holly, red ribbons and other greenery will add vibrancy and colour to your home.

Mistletoe has been part of winter traditions for centuries: In early European cultures, people believed the plant brought good luck and would ward off evil spirits. Mistletoe is a plant that is parasitic; it lives on and gets its nutrition from the tree it grows on. It's become a popular tradition all around the world, along with having a Christmas kiss underneath it! ❧



## Winter Care for Garden Tools

**Hand tools (trowels, rakes, shovels, hoes etc.):**

Use a putty knife or a wire brush to remove stubborn, residual dirt and caked-on materials.

Do not use a wire brush on the painted surfaces or it will remove the paint and give rust a place to start. Use soap and water to thoroughly wash the tools. If rust has started to appear, use steel wool to remove.





### Mowers and trimmers:



Scrape remnants of grass off mowers and trimmers. Grass can react with the metal and cause rust

when in prolonged contact.

### Sprayers:

Empty chemical sprayers and properly dispose of leftover chemicals according to package instructions. Rinse the sprayers a minimum of three times with soap and water before storing for the winter.

### Disinfect:

Disinfect all tool surfaces that come into contact with the soil by dipping into a solution of one-part non-chlorine bleach to four parts water.

### Remove Gas:

Gasoline should not be held over the winter to the spring season. Drain your lawn mower and gas trimmers

### Sharpen Blades:



Sharp blades make cleaner cuts which heal quicker. Use a whetstone or a file and follow the

existing angle on the blade. Sharpen lawn mower blades in the fall to avoid the spring rush.

### Prevent rusting and cracking:

Sand down all wooden handles and apply boiled linseed oil to protect them from cracking. Wipe off any excess oil. Lubricate all tools with moving parts and springs with WD40. Pay special attention to wheels, axels and moving parts.

### Drain and Hang all hoses:



After the garden has one last, long drink, remove nozzles, drain and hang hoses away from freezing

temperatures. Turn off water supply systems at the main line to prevent freezing and cracking.

### Tighten up and Check for leaks:

Tighten up loose bolts and check for wear and tear. Check air pressure in wheelbarrows, garden carts and lawn mowers and check tires for any splitting.



### Proper Storage:

For safety, tools should be stored upright and off the floor using hooks, nails or wooden pallets. Dry chemicals should be kept dry and liquid chemicals should be kept from freezing.





## Streetsville Blooms

**President:** Monica Ross

**Vice president:** Marg Rowan

**Secretary:** Marg Rowan

**Past president:** Sue Harshman

**Treasurer:** Martha Witney

**Editor:** Debra Lemire

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 a position on the Board?**

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Article suggestions; please  
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## Steps to Create a Christmas Centrepiece



Creating your own centerpiece isn't as hard as it looks. Christmas greens fill in the overall design very quickly and even inexpensive flowers, such as carnations and chrysanthemums give it a full, lush appearance. Roses and lilies do not last as long and need to be replaced during the holiday season.

1. Use a clean, low centerpiece tray or container. Cut wet floral oasis to fit container.
2. Soak wet oasis overnight and affix with waterproof tape.
3. Add glass chimney, vase or globe.
4. Clean and sharpen the ends of assorted bulk greenery, such as fir, yew, holly, pine, seeded eucalyptus, boxwood, spruce etc. (Note: arrangements look better with a mix of greens rather than just one variety).
5. Add a personal assortment of ribbons, bauble, picks.
6. Keep well watered during the Christmas season. ✂