



Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca

Volume 24, Issue 5

January 2017



Speaker's Corner

Topic: Native plants for sun and shade

Our speaker for January is Melanie Kramer, residential outreach coordinator for the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's *Your Green Yard* program. This program promotes three types of activities: native plant gardening; environmental maintenance; and, green outdoor building. In the urban areas of the Credit River watershed, residential properties cover over 40 per cent of the land surface so there is a large potential for each of us to help restore a healthy environment. Melanie's talk will be "Native plants for sun and shade". You can learn more about this program by visiting

<http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/your-land-water/green-cities/your-green-yard/>

Sign up today for the Ontario Horticultural Association newsletter at www.gardenontario.org.



Eden United Church

3051 Battleford Rd, located at the North West corner of Winston Churchill Boulevard and Battleford Road

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

NEXT MEETING: January 10

Message from the President

By the time you read this it will be 2017. A new year very often brings changes. Many people make resolutions to do something new or different or perhaps make a lifestyle change.

We are all part of the Streetsville Horticultural Society, a volunteer-based community organization that relies on the participation of its members to help with our programs and activities. I encourage all of you to commit to donating a few hours each month to the society.

Your board of directors and the people who hold other volunteer positions all have commitments to their families and for some of us to a job. We can't do it all without some more help.

A New Year offer, W.H. Perron/ Dominion Seed House is a Canadian seed house who are offering a 10 per cent discount to Ontario Horticultural Societies. The company offers vegetable

Index

Speaker's Corner	... 1
President's Message	... 1
Christmas Workshop	... 2
Membership Desk	... 3
Raffle Desk	... 3
Bulb Photos Wanted	... 4
What is a Green City?	... 5
Choosing Seeds	... 6

and flower seeds for both heirloom and more recent varieties plus garden accessories. Their website is <https://www.dominion-seed-house.com/en/> to obtain your discount enter the OHA discount code on the order form on the line that says OHA or FSHEQ discount.

The number you need is 4633 and is valid on phone orders, internet orders and orders sent in by Canada post.

Happy New Year to all of you!

Monica Ross, President

Christmas Workshop

Here are a few candid pictures taken of our Christmas workshop.



Grace Nelham, Archives Chair

From the Membership Desk

Thank you for your co-operation in December as I left the membership desk free-standing as I was busy with the auction table and my own wreath. A big thank-you to **Mike Salisbury** who hung around to make sure everyone signed in and took their name tags! We had a pretty good turnout of 47 members all armed with their tools for the workshop.

Despite the fact that it was a sign-up kind of meeting to do our Christmas wreaths/centerpieces we still had one visitor and two new members joined our society. Please welcome **Sandra Bashford** and **Peggy Collins** into our society and let's make them feel at home during our next meeting!

Our next meeting is January 10 and still no one has stepped up to look after the membership desk. I need volunteers to man the desk for the rest of the year. I will do all the paperwork but I need people to step up to man it while other members arrive. I will be away for the March meeting, so I need someone to bring all the goodies in for me and someone to man the desk.

Please e-mail me if you can look after the desk for the remainder of the year. One or two volunteers per month should do the trick. E-mail me at gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com to sign up for the months of January thru till June.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ☺

Grace McElhinney, Temporary Membership Chair

From the Raffle Table

I decided to change things up a bit in December and run the silent auction/bake sale and I am proud to say that it was a success! I used my pre-made raffle table prizes as silent auction items and as promised they were awesome and the bidding was respectable. Many of our members provided baked goods, preserves and other items for the table and the bids were amazing.

Thank you to all who participated; I think everyone had a lot of fun and it was nice to see everyone participating. A special thanks goes out to **Anita King** who called me and offered her help in running the table with me!

We raised \$190.00!!!! Whoot, Whoot!

In January, I themed the baskets for Valentine's Day and things go back to normal!

Congratulations for all the past winners on the raffles over the past year and hopefully you have your toonies all ready for next year!





Grace McElhinney, Raffle Table Chair



Forced Bulb Photos



Please send in your pictures of your amaryllis, paper whites, narcissus, mascari etc. during January and February to be posted in the March edition of **Streetsville Blooms**. 🌷

What is a Green City?



All residents of Mississauga can participate in restoring a healthy environment. In the urban area of Credit River Watershed, residential areas cover 40 per cent of the land surface. Every yard makes a difference and a lot of yards can contribute significantly. Greening your yard can provide shade and cooling, help clean the air, protect native plants and animals, and keep our water and soils abundant.

What can you do?

Native Plant Gardening

- Plant a native woodland, prairie, or meadow garden
- Plant native plants along natural areas if you live adjacent to a natural area
- Consider planting edible plants, such as raspberry and service berry, for yourself and/or the birds
- Remove and avoid planting invasive species

Environmental Maintenance

- Use natural fertilizers such as compost to improve your soil
- Use natural mulch to conserve water and reduce weeds
- Collect rainwater in rain barrels to water plants

- Switch to a low-maintenance lawn or plant native groundcovers
- Use low-impact methods to remove weeds, insects and diseased plants

Green Outdoor Building

- Install permeable paving instead of asphalt, concrete or large pavers
- Use sustainably harvested wood and other environmentally friendly products
- Plant living fences and living walls
- Consider adding a rooftop garden to a new or existing building
- Consider adding other habitat features, such as bird houses or bat boxes to support local wildlife

Benefits of Ecological Landscaping

- Create an attractive, all-season, diverse yard
- Protect and restore native biodiversity
- Attract butterflies and birds
- Improve water, air, and soil quality
- Increase urban tree cover
- Reduce the impacts of global climate change and increasing urban temperatures
- Provide shelter from the wind and the sun
- Reduce flooding and conserve water
- Reduce long-term maintenance costs
- Restore important connections between natural areas



<http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/your-land-water/green-cities/your-green-yard/>

Streetsville Blooms

President: Monica Ross

Vice president: Marg Rowan

Secretary: Marg Rowan

Assistant Secretary: Arlene Crothers

Past president: Sue Harshman

Treasurer: Martha Whitney

Editor: Debra Lemire

Webmaster: Nigel Roberts

Flower Show: Janet Shaw
hotfive7@yahoo.ca

Questions, concerns, ideas, or would you like to volunteer for a position on the Board?

Contact Monica Ross at 905.824.7283 or at thegardenlady@psstnetwork.ca

Article suggestions; please contact Debbie Lemire at debra.lemire@gmail.com or 416.268.4348.

URL: www.streetsvillehort.ca

E-mail:
streetsvillehort@hotmail.com

OHA Website:
www.gardenontario.org

P.O. Box 42048, 128 Queen St.
S. Mississauga, ON L4M 4Z4

What to look for when buying seed from catalogues

- Buy local, close to where you live. It is best if they are in the same climatic zone as you and sell to your area;
- Buy from a reputable dealer that tests all seeds for germination and vigour each year;
- Buy from a dealer who has been in business for a long time and have many clients who offer testimonials;
- Ask your fellow gardeners who they use.
- Buy organic instead of conventional seeds. Organic have not been treated with chemical fertilizers, fungicides and pesticides.
- Avoid companies who describe their seeds as, “does best in a warm, sheltered microclimate”, “well worth the extra time”, harvest promptly for best quality.”
- Look for seeds described as, “germinates quickly,” “consistently high producer,” “excellent quality even at large sizes”.
- Check Days to Maturity. If seeds are grown in the same climate zone as you, the seeds should do well in your backyard.
- Write down any name of successful plants so you can find the seed again next year.

Happy seed shopping!

Excerpts taken from <http://www.permaculture.co.uk/>,
<http://www.nwedible.com/>

