



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 24, Issue 9

May 2017



Speaker's Corner

Garden Walk Buffalo

The guest speaker for May 2017 is Jennifer Arnott. Jennifer will introduce us to Garden Walk Buffalo, the largest garden tour in Northern America just a few hours' drive from here. The tour includes 400 small urban gardens open to the public and free of charge. She will share with us the whimsy and colour that denotes Buffalo gardens. Jennifer is a former resident of Streetsville, now living in Toronto. She is an enthusiastic lifelong gardener, and former president of the Roselands Horticultural Society.

NEXT MEETING: May 9, 2017

Streetsville United Church

'Premium Night'

274 Queen Street South

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

The President's Message

This is the time of year when everything gets very busy. Our May 9 meeting will be **Premium Night** when all members in attendance will receive a free plant. We will also have our May flower show. The flower show schedule was published in the March newsletter, as well as the May newsletter. The milkweed plants we ordered will be available for pickup.

Last year, we asked our members to fill out a membership survey at our May meeting. The information provided is very useful. This year, the survey was filled out at the April meeting, if you were not present that night, please pick it up at the membership desk and complete the survey at the May meeting.

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Our Plant Sale is on Saturday, May 27, at the Leslie Log House property as it has the past three years. The historical society will be providing drinks for our guests, and the house will be open so that Plant Sale volunteers can have a break. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year and provides the money we need for everything the society does. Preparing for that day, as well as the work on plant sale day, takes many hands and hundreds of volunteer hours.

How can you help? First, we need plants. Now that our gardens are springing to life, do the gardeners walk; it's easy put your head down and walk your garden paying close attention to what's happening at ground level. If a plant is too big, divide it and donate part of it, if it never really did what you wanted, give it a chance to thrive and donate it to the plant sale, someone else's garden could be better suited for that particular plant!

The gardens at Rotary Park in Streetsville and at the Leslie Log House are maintained by Streetsville Horticultural Society (SHS) members. If you have time available, please contact Jon Eldridge to volunteer at Rotary Park, or Carol Ashford to volunteer at the Leslie Log House.

If you are a new member and aren't sure what activities suit you best; talk to any of our members or one of the Board of Directors.

Gardeners always need more information, about how to do things, when to do them or whether to do some tasks at all. An amazing source of garden related information can be found on YouTube www.youtube.com with videos on almost every topic you may want to learn about. Topics include gardening basics,

how to mulch correctly, weeding, ergonomic gardening tools, new plants, do's and don'ts, and something I find more important as time goes on gardening techniques for older persons.

As always, happy gardening. ✂

Monica Ross, President

Rotary Park, Streetsville

Our first regular work party of the year will meet on Thursday April 27, from 9.30 onwards. Subsequent work parties will be every second Thursday - May 11 and 25 and so on. All are welcome to join us and if anyone needs transport to Rotary park, I'll gladly pick them up. If anyone else is interested, please contact Jon Eldridge at 905.542.7641.

Hope to see you there! ✂



Some of our members and teen volunteers from the library at the Spring clean-up on April 8.

Jon Eldridge, Rotary Park Chair

Plant Sale – May 27, 2017

The nice weather is upon us and we are busy potting up plants for the Plant Sale. ***But, we need help!!!***

Plants are required – ***PLEASE*** dig up your plants – place same variety in a plastic grocery bag along with a note indicating your name and phone number, name of plant, shade or sun, colour of flower. Drop off bags of plants to any of the following addresses:

Carol Ashford	- 1750 Melody Dr.
Monica Ross	- 6978 Chilcot Court
Dean Scully	- 6592 Eastridge Rd
Grace McElhinney	- 1623 Summer-grove Cres.
Grace Nelham	- 2576 Inlake Court

We will take your bags of plants and take them to **7767 Churchville Road**, Brampton for division and potting.



Potting Up Dates at 7767 Churchville Road are:

Wed. May 3	9:30 a.m.
Sat. May 6	9:30 a.m.
Sun. May 7	11:00 a.m.
Wed. May 10	9:30 a.m.
Sat. May 13	9:30 a.m.
Sunday May 14	11:00 a.m.
Wed. May 17	9:30 a.m.

If you need help digging plants, please call Monica or Carol at numbers below. We will come and dig your plants for you.

If you have a couple of hours on a Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday morning please come and help pot up. Volunteers are also needed in other areas – pricing, making labels, digging up plants, signage etc. If you can help and you have not signed up, please call Carol at 905 858-0748 or Monica at 905 824-7283.

In order to provide great speakers, rent for our meeting room, premiums, awards, community plantings at Rotary Park and Leslie Log House, Tree Planting, etc. funds are needed. ***Do your part and help make our Plant Sale a big success and ensure our Society continues to thrive and expand!!*** ☞

WE NEED PLANTS!!!

Carol Ashford & Monica Ross, Plant Sale Chairs



District 15, Annual General Meeting

A beautiful but chilly day for the District 15 AGM in Thornhill. MP Peter Kent welcomed us and OHA President Suzanne Hanna brought greetings from the OHA. Barb O'Malley was elected as new District Director.

Streetsville Horticultural Society was presented with an appreciation certificate for hosting the District 15 AGM last year.

Marion Jarvie was the guest speaker and gave an excellent presentation on "A Garden in Thornhill". See her website at www.marionjarvie.ca

Our members did very well in the Flower and Photography shows.



Photo by Carol Ashford.

Cultural:

Anita King 3 firsts, 1 third and 1 HM

Mary Gilbert 2 firsts and 1 HM

Design – Miniature:

Mary Gilbert 1 second

Ursula Evanoff 1 first and 1 second

Design:

Ursula Evanoff 1 first and 1 third

Photography:

Carol Ashford Best in Show and 1 second

Grace Nelham 1 First and 1 Second

Our Newsletter "*Streetsville Blooms*" captured a second place ribbon in its category. **Debra Lemire**, editor.

A good day was had by all 11 Streetsville Horticultural members who attended and we even brought home some prizes!!! ✂

Carol Ashford

Leslie Log House

We will once again start tending the gardens at the Leslie Log House on Wednesday, May 31.

Our little group of volunteers meets at 9:30 every Wednesday morning to pull weeds, fluff up the soil, water, move plants, tidy up, etc. We enjoy one another's company, share gardening stories, tell jokes, have coffee and all in all have a good time while making the gardens beautiful.

If you wish to join us any Wednesday morning – show up around 9:30 a.m., bring good work shoes, gardening gloves and a few hand tools etc. The Leslie Log House is located at 4415 Mississauga Road (on the east side of Mississauga Rd., south of Eglinton and north of the 403). Thank you!



Carol Ashford, Leslie Log House Garden Chair



The winner of Class 2, House Plant, 8 inches or less is Linda Bowman. Second place went to Christianne St. Aubin. Photo by Grace Nelham.

Winners from the April Flower Show



Janice Ward was the winner of Class 1, House Plant, nine inches or larger. Second place was Pam Blair and Christianne St. Aubin placed third. Photo by Grace Nelham.



Debra Lemire was the winner of the Class 4, Dish Garden. Second place went to Janice Ward. Photo by Grace Nelham.

Raffle Table

It was a very busy night in April as we welcomed many visitors and listened to the antics of Ken Brown. The raffle table brought in \$64.00 and we had some outstanding gifts! May promises to be a very busy time for all of us in our society as we gear up for our yearly plant sale and receive our premiums.

I have three lovely baskets for May, so please drop by and spend a toonie with a good chance of winning one of these beautiful baskets! Only one more month of our meetings left before we break for the summer! See you all on Tuesday, May 9.

Grace McElhinney, Raffle Table Chair



Grace McElhinney, Raffle Table Chair

Coming Events

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 3 | Potting up plants 9:30 a.m. |
| May 6 | Potting Up for plants 9:30 a.m. |
| May 7 | Potting up plants 11 a.m. |
| May 9 | Streetsville Horticulture Society
General Meeting – Premium
Night |
| May 10 | Potting Up plants 9:30 a.m. |
| May 11 | Rotary Park clean-up 9:30 a.m. |
| May 13 | Potting Up plants 9:30 a.m. |
| May 14 | Potting Up plants 11 a.m. |
| May 25 | Rotary Park clean-up 9:30 a.m. |
| May 27 | Plant Sale |
| May 31 | Leslie Log House clean-up
9:30 a.m. |

Vesey's Fundraiser

A big thank you goes out to eight members who sold \$732.00 worth of Vesey's bulbs. Our Society will receive \$366.00 towards our fundraising. The bulbs will be ready for pick up at our May 9 meeting.



Christina Anonychuh, Fundraiser Chair

Membership Desk

What an amazing evening! Our meeting room was filled to the rafters with 55 members AND 14 guests enjoying an evening of friendship, swapping garden news and listening to a most interesting guest speaker. I don't know about you, but I so wanted to run out immediately and buy bulbs, bulbs and more bulbs!

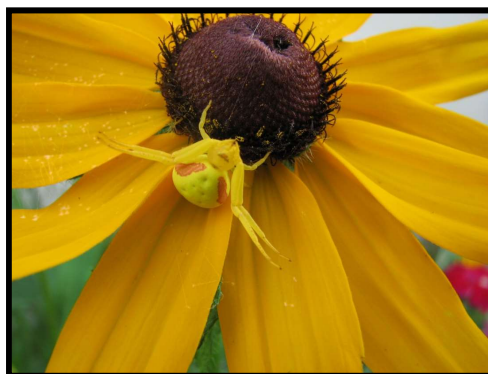
We hope our guests enjoyed our speaker, and found the meeting informative and our company pleasant.

Three new members joined SHS this evening We welcome **Bonnie Jaakkimainen, Veronica Kerr and Zina Marow.**

Please remember to wear your name tags 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. ✂

Viv Holmes, Membership Chair

Healthy Soil is your Best Defense against Disease



A garden with a foundation of healthy soil is the best defense against pests. The healthier the plant is, the more resistance they will have to illness, pests, or fungus. Begin with healthy soil.

Soil is composed of weathered rock, organic matter, water and air. Also hidden in the soil are organisms – small animals, such as, worms, insects and microbes – that flourish when all is in balance.

Minerals. Roughly half of the soil in your garden is made from weathered rock that has been broken down by the wind, rain, freezing, thawing and other chemical and biological processes. Soil is generally classified by the size of these inorganic soil particles: sand (large particles), silt (medium-sized particles) or clay (very small particles). The proportion of sand, silt and clay particles determines the texture of your soil and affects drainage and nutrient availability which influences how your plants grow.

Organic matter. It is made up of partially decomposed remains of soil organisms and

plant life, including lichens and mosses, grasses and leaves, trees and other vegetative matter.

Although it only makes up a fraction of the soil (10 – 15 per cent), organic matter is essential. It binds together soil particles to form porous crumbs which allow air and water to move through the soil. Organic matter also retains moisture (humus holds up to 90 per cent of its weight in water) and it can store nutrients. More importantly, organic matter is food for microorganisms and other forms of life.

You can increase the amount of organic matter in your soil by adding compost, aged animal manures, green manures (cover crops), mulches or peat moss. Because most soil life and plant roots are in the top six inches of the soil, concentrate on that. Learn to make compost.

Soil life. Soil organisms include bacteria and fungi, protozoa and nematodes, mites, springtails, earth worms and other tiny creatures found in the soil. These organisms are essential for plant growth. They help convert organic matter and soil minerals into the vitamins, hormones, disease-suppressing compounds and nutrients that plants need to grow.

Excretions from the organisms also help to bind soil particles into the small aggregates that make a soil loose and crumbly. As a gardener, your job is to create the ideal conditions for these soil organisms to do their work. This means providing them with an abundant source

of food (the carbohydrates in organic matter), oxygen (present in a well-aerated soil), and water (an adequate but not excessive amount).

Air. A healthy soil is about 25 per cent air. Insects, microbes, earthworms and soil life require this much air to live. The air in soil is also an important source of the atmospheric nitrogen that is utilized by plants.

Well-aerated soil has plenty of pore space between the soil particles or crumbs. Fine soil particles (clay or silt) have tiny spaces between them - in some cases too small for air to penetrate. Soil composed of large particles, like sand, has large pore spaces and contains plenty of air. But, too much air can cause organic matter to decompose too quickly.

To ensure that there is a balanced supply of air in your soil, add plenty of organic matter, avoid stepping in the growing beds or compacting the soil with heavy equipment and never work the soil when it is very wet.



Water. A healthy soil will also contain about 25 percent water. Water, like air, is held in the pore spaces between soil particles. Large pore spaces allow rain and irrigation water to move down to the root zone and into the subsoil. In sandy

soils, the spaces between the soil particles are so large that gravity causes water to drain down and out very quickly. That's why sandy soils dry out so fast.



Small pore spaces permit water to migrate back upwards through the process of capillary action. In waterlogged soils, water has completely filled the pore spaces, forcing out all the air. This suffocates soil as well as plant roots.

Ideally, your soil should have a combination of large and small pore spaces. Again, organic matter is the key, because it encourages the formation of aggregate, or crumbs, or soil. Organic matter also absorbs water and retains it until it is needed by plant roots.

Every soil has a different combination of these five basic components. By balancing them you can dramatically improve the health of your soil and productivity of your garden. ✂

<http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/building-healthy-soil/5060.html#sm.00001wijuekvl1emgw22fyh3ghw7x>

Garlic Mustard – Time to Remove It

Garlic Mustard is a non-native herb. It is a strong, invasive competitor with the ability to grow in low light conditions, produce many seeds, and spread rapidly. It thrives in both disturbed and undisturbed areas, and can

become the dominant forest groundcover within five to seven years of being introduced to an area. It is also common to find this invasive species in your own garden.



How Does Garlic Mustard Impact and Invade an Area?

- Garlic Mustard reduces forest ecosystem biodiversity;
- It begins growing in early spring and gets a head start on other flowering plants and tree seedlings;
- It takes resources away from native spring woodland plants such as Spring Beauty, White Trillium, Trout Lily, Sweet Cicely, and many others;
- Garlic Mustard appears to reduce habitat quality for several species of salamanders and mollusks by changing the composition and depth of the plants that decompose on the forest floor, on which these species rely;
- Garlic Mustard changes the soil and impacts important natural associations between plants and fungi by destroying the fungi;
- Insect communities are also impacted by its presence;
- Deer do not eat it, but will still graze on the remaining native plants (as is natural) and contribute to the spread of Garlic Mustard by

disturbing the soil and carrying seeds from one location to another;

- Seeds can remain alive in the soil for five years or more;
- Seeds sprout quickly in disturbed soil; disturbing soil that has Garlic Mustard seeds in it will cause more seeds to sprout;
- Roads and trails are prime passageways for Garlic Mustard invasion; transportation corridors, trails, parking areas, and recreation sites are known areas of early infestation;
- Further distribution is mostly by humans, pets, and other animals that accidentally carry seeds in shoe treads, or bike treads, or paws;
- Populations spread an average of 6,400 square kilometres per year in North America!

Appearance and Growth

- It is a cool-season plant with a two-year growth cycle; first-year plants appear only as a cluster of green leaves close to the ground. Clusters remain green through the winter and develop into flowering plants the following spring;
- Its leaves, which radiate from a main stem, are coarsely toothed and triangular to heart shaped; when crushed, particularly when new, the leaves give off an odour of garlic;
- Flowering plants of Garlic Mustard reach from 0.6 to 1 metre in height and produce button-like clusters of small white flowers, each with four petals in the shape of a cross;
- Beginning in May, tiny seeds are produced in erect, slender pods, and become shiny black when mature; when mature, the capsules burst open and can throw seeds several metres; In dense woodland stands, seed production can range from 9,500 to over 100,000 seeds per square metre per year.

Control and Removal

- The best approach is to limit the spread of garlic mustard in the first place;
- Awareness is key so help to spread the word about this invasive species;
- Restrain pets in invaded areas, and brush off any bits of mud or vegetation from clothing, boots, and paws before leaving infested areas;
- Never buy this plant at a nursery or plant it in your garden;
- Join an organized team to help remove this plant; the [Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network](#) **advises against removing this plant on your own (except from your own yard)**;
- On [International Biodiversity Day](#), May 22, approved groups follow strict protocols to be sure they are removing and disposing the right plants and in the right manner to control and eliminate the spread of Garlic Mustard;
- There are a number of approaches to removal and control, including cutting, pulling, and mulching Garlic Mustard, and planting native species;
- In controlled situations, experts may use fire or herbicides;
- Visit the [Ontario Invasive Plant Council's](#) website for [more information on control and removal of this and other invasive plants](#) found in Ontario. ✂

<http://www.conservationhalton.ca/garlic-mustard>

2017 MAY FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

Remember, entry forms are available to download from our website. Complete and print your entry form at home for faster registration.

Class	May 9, 2017
	HORTICULTURE
1	Apple or Crabapple – 1 branch 36” or less
2	Bleeding Heart (Dicentra) any colour - 1 stem
3	Columbine (Aquilegia)– any colour, 1 spray
4	Hellebore – 1 stem
5	Hyacinth - 1 stem
6	Iris – any variety, 1 stem
7	Lilac - any colour, 1 truss
8	Muscari – 3 stems, same variety
9	Narcissus, any other, - 1 stem
10	Narcissus, double, - 1 scape
11	Narcissus, small cup, - 1 scape
12	Narcissus, trumpet, large cup, - 1 scape
13	Polygonatum (Solomon’s Seal) – 1 stem
14	Primrose – any variety, 3 stems
15	Tulip - any other colour, or variety, 1 bloom
16	Tulip – single, red, 1 bloom
17	Tulip – single, yellow, 1 bloom
18	Viola – 3 stems with own foliage
19	Any other Bulb, corm, rhizome or tuber not listed – 1 stem
20	Any other Perennial not listed – 1 stem or bloom
	DESIGN Theme: Spring Forth
21	Greensleeves - a design using leaves
22	Blue Skies - a design
23	Fairies of Spring – MINIATURE Design
24	O Canada! - NOVICE design with Tulips

Streetsville Blooms

President: Monica Ross

Vice president: Marg Rowan

Secretary: Marg Rowan

Assistant Secretary: Arlene Crothers

Past president: Sue Harshman

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

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Jobs for the month of May (ZONE 6)

General

- Plan and plant a new border garden;
- Clean up the garden in preparation for the growing season ahead;
- Remove last year's dead plants and top dress beds with compost.

Trees and shrubs

- Remove faded flowers from rhododendrens, lilacs, camellias and azaleas;
- Plant roses, trees and shrubs weather permitting;
- Clip hedges and begin training topiary plants;
- Check supports for existing climbers.

Lawns

- Increase mowing and deal with weeds.

Vegetables

- Continue planting vegetables in succession, including carrots, turnips, lettuce, spinach, zucchinis, and squash;
- Set up tender plants once danger of frost has past;
- Continue to earth up potatoes.

Flowers

- Pinch the growing points from the stem tips of mum plants when they get to be 3 – 4 inches tall;
- Plant annuals among fading spring bulbs;
- Continue to sow annuals;
- Harden off seedlings as the temperature warms;
- Mulch to conserve moisture and control weeds;
- Control weeds while they are young. ✂