



Streetsville Blooms



Volume 23, Issue 4

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

April 2016

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH

OPEN HOUSE

Doors open 7:00 p.m.,

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.



Speaker's Corner

Speaker: Angie Allen

Angie Allen, the Boutique Garden Centre Manager at Pathways to Perennials. She is the daughter of Pathways' owners and has many years of garden experience. Her passion has always been healthy outdoor living. She and the Pathways team strive to promote outdoor living for all seasons while encouraging a healthy biodiversity in the gardens. Known for her infectious energy, Angie helps to make gardening an enjoyable activity and not a chore.

Her talk this evening is entitled ' **Weed Free, Water Free, No Mow Gardening - Water Wise Success**'. She will offer drought tolerant gardening tips including: how to choose water wise plants, efficient mulching practices and most importantly how to enhance your colour through all four seasons.

President's Message

It is spring! What's blooming in your garden? I have several dozen *Crocus tommasianus* in bloom. If you're not familiar with them, they are a species crocus with blue/violet flowers. They naturalize well, last for 10 or more years and their best feature is that for some unknown reason squirrels don't like them. My Christmas roses, botanical name *Helleborus niger* are also flowering about four weeks earlier than usual.

While you are busy tidying your garden after the winter, take some time to assess your plants. Are there plants that have never really performed the way you want? Which plants always grow too big too fast? What areas of your garden never seem to look right? Spring is the time to make changes. Some changes can be made immediately and quite easily by removal of plants or addition of new plants. Other changes will take more planning and time to implement. It may mean renovating a garden area will take several weeks or longer. Digging out unwanted plants takes time and locating their replacements can also be time consuming. Select your new plants carefully; there are many excellent websites that provide descriptions of plants and the growing conditions they require.

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Make sure that they are either Canadian or northern U.S. based. There is no point in reading about stunning plants that won't grow here. This one is one of my favourites <http://www.netpsplantfinder.com>. It is actually a tool for nurseries to use so they can provide information about the plants they sell. The site was created to provide information on thousands of plants that grow in 'colder climates.' One of their many customers is Connon nurseries in Waterdown <http://www.connon.ca/>

After you have decided what has to go, what has to be split and how things will be rearranged you will have accomplished two significant things. One, you now have plants to donate to our plant sale on May 28, and two, your rearranged garden will be in perfect shape to be featured on our garden tour in July.

Happy Gardening, ✂

Monica Ross, President

LITTER PICK UP
LESLIE LOG HOUSE
4415 Mississauga Road
SATURDAY, APRIL 16
9:30 a.m.



Well winter is finally over and the snow has gone. However, a lot of the snow

has been replaced with litter at the Leslie Log House and surrounding Pinchin property, especially along the edge of Mississauga Road.

We will be holding a garbage pick-up at the Leslie Log House on Saturday, April 16 at 9:30 a.m. Rain Date: Sunday, Apr. 17, 10:00 a.m. Bring boots (if ground is still spongy), gloves and small spade (if you want to pick up dog and coyote poop). Garbage bags will be provided. See you there!

Carol Ashford, Leslie Log Chair

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Open House

When: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Community Christian Reform
Church of Meadowvale
2630 Inlake Court, Mississauga

Angie Allen from Pathways to
Perennials speaks on
***“Weed Free, Water Free, No Mow
Gardening = Water Wise Success”***

Join us for the evening and find out what our Society is all about. Enjoy refreshments provided by Streetsville Horticultural Society.

Are you a vendor?
Reserve a table today!



Vendor tables are available May 7, for the Ontario Horticultural Association District 15 Annual General Meeting for \$35.00.

For further information, please contact Mary Hachey at 905.858.8897 or e-mail her at mary.hachey@gmail.com.

Herbs in the Spotlight

Sweet Basil (Genovese Basil)

Basil is native to India, the Middle East, and some Pacific Islands. It is a member of the mint family and is closely identified with Italian cooking. The aromatic leaves come in a variety of flavours ranging from slightly lemony-mint of sweet basil to cinnamon and licorice. Leaf colors span from rich green to deep purple, with smooth or crinkled leaves. The flowers are insignificant, but very popular with bees.

Family: Ocimum basilicum

Zone: 10, Basil is grown as a tender annual that lasts until frost.

Propagation: All basil plants can be grown from seed. Sow directly into pots in early spring and germinate with warmth. Avoid using seed trays because basil has a long taproot and dislikes being transplanted.

Cultivation: Grown in rich, moist soil, with full sun and shelter from cold winds. Sweet basil can be grown as a pot plant. Pinch out flowering shoots to extend useful life of plants, and root non-flowering side shoots in pots during the summer for the winter. Basil needs daytime temperatures of 21°C and nighttime temperatures above 10°C.

Pests and diseases: Aphids and whitefly may be a problem with pot-grown plants. Wash off with liquid horticultural soap. Seedlings are highly susceptible to damping-off.

Harvest: Pick leaves when young and always from the top to encourage new growth. If freezing to store, paint both sides of each leaf with olive oil to stop it from sticking to the next and to seal in its flavour.

The most successful course, post-harvest, is to infuse the leaves in olive oil or vinegar.

Companion planting: Basil is a good companion plant to tomatoes. When the seedlings are big

enough, plant them in between tomato plants.

Container Planting: Basil is happy on a kitchen windowsill for the winter and in pots on the patio during the summer.



Culinary Uses: Basil has a unique flavour, so use with discretion. It's one of the few herbs to increase its flavour when cooked. For best results, add at the end of cooking. Basil combines well with tomatoes, garlic, salads, and pasta sauces. If used for cooking, do not allow basil to flower as it turns it bitter.

Medicinal Uses: Leaves added to food are an aid to digestion and if you put a few drops of basil's essential oil on a sleeve and inhale, it can allay mental fatigue.

Other Uses: Keep it in a pot in the kitchen to act as a fly repellent, or crush a leaf and rub it on your shin, where the juice repels mosquitoes. ✂

Pesto Sauce

- 1 tablespoon pine nuts
- 4 tablespoons chopped basil leaves
- 2 cloves garlic
- 3 oz./75g Parmesan cheese
- 6 tablespoons sunflower oil or olive oil (not virgin)

Blend the pine nuts, basil and chopped garlic until smooth. Add the oil slowly and continue to blend the mixture until you have a thick paste. Season with salt to taste. Stir the sauce into the cooked and drained pasta and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Pesto sauce will keep in a sealed container in the fridge for at least a week. It can also be frozen, but it is important, as with all herbal mixtures, to wrap the container with at least two thicknesses of Saran Wrap to keep the aroma from escaping.

Debra Lemire, Newsletter Chair

From the Membership Desk

Martha Witney and **Debbie Lemire** were friendly and efficient greeters at the March 8 meeting, while **Enza Lafratta**, **Carol Ashford**, **Eleanor Minnes**, and **Marie Kothari** brought snacks for our members. **Enza** and **Eleanor** also assisted **Mary Hachey** with setup and cleanup of the refreshments. A big thank you to all for the generous donation of your volunteer time for this meeting.

We welcomed a new member, **Colleen Bell** at the March 8 meeting. Please make a special effort to make her acquaintance and share some of your experiences with SHS.

Please remember to wear your name tags at all times while at our meetings; it will make it much easier for us to get to know each other. Pick up your name tag when signing in at the desk and return it at the end of each meeting. If you have a personal "customized" name tag, please let me know so I can reconcile the returned tags with the sign-in sheets. ✂

Lynn Merritt, Membership Chair

Remember to register for the Ontario Horticultural Association District 15 Annual General Meeting Saturday, May 7, 2016.

Trinity Hall Banquet and Conference Centre (attached to the Coptic Orthodox Church) 1245 Eglinton Avenue West, Mississauga L5V 2M4.

Hosted by the Streetsville Horticultural Society.

The Registration Package and a separate Flower Show Schedule and Entry Form are available on our website at <http://streetsvillehort.ca/oha-district-15-agm/>

If you don't have access to a computer, contact Lynn Merritt at 905-826-3281 to get a hard copy of the Registration Package.

What are you growing?



Debbie Parker has started her geraniums for beautiful summer colour.



Luiza Gubernat experiments with growing wheat grass to use as a centerpiece for dinner parties.



Shirley Boyes sends us snowdrops peeking out from beneath the snow.



Phil and Heather Walker are enjoying their iris reticulata peeking out from beneath last summer's leaves. Below their garlic is making an appearance.





Grace Nelham found the first of the bees filling up on pollen.

Advertising space for sale



business?

Have you got something garden related you want to sell? Or do you want to advertise your home

Do you know you can advertise in our newsletter?

For further information on sizes and cost of ads, please contact Debra Lemire at 416.268.4348 or debra.lemire@gmail.com.

Wanted for plant sale



- Pots (nothing smaller than 5")
- Trays
- Venetian blinds for labelling

Please bring them to April meeting.

From the Draw Table

Thank-you for all the great comments on my raffle table baskets, I appreciate the compliments! I must say that participation has been excellent and again in March we made \$76.00. The baskets are a great value for a \$2 opportunity to win. I have made sure that all the items are either new or rarely used. So, congratulations to all our winners so far this year.

I have attached pictures of April's baskets and they are terrific. You know even if you win and you don't want the gift you can re donate it back to me to use again! Since it is an open house I also have a number of bonus gifts available.

Thank-you to those of you who have donated items for the baskets. At this time, I would like to ask if you could save anything you would like to donate until September. I have all the baskets ready for the rest of this season and don't have any more room. Remember if you win one and don't want an item I will gladly take it back or maybe another member would like it!

If anyone has any suggestions for improving our draw table please feel free to e-mail me at gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com. So far I have made things very simple by just going with one price for 3 tickets. This way for \$2.00 you have tickets for each gift. We want this to be fun while at the same time earn funds for the society.

I look forward to seeing everyone on
April 12, 2016! ☞

Cheers,

Grace McElhinney, Gift Table Chair

Gift Table Baskets



Vesey's Fundraiser



Vesey's catalogues were distributed to
members at the March 8 meeting.

Orders must be handed in at the April 12
meeting and completed orders will be ready
to pick up at the May meeting. ☞

I thought I had forgotten,
But it all came back again
To-night with the first spring
thunder
In a rush of rain.

Sara Teasdale

Streetsville Horticultural Society

**Join us for our Annual
Plant Sale**

**Perennials, Herbs, some
Annuals**

CASH ONLY

**Come early for best
selection**



Saturday May 28, 2016

8:30 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Leslie Log House

**Mississauga Rd south of
Eglinton**

Flower show schedule

May 10, 2016

Design Theme: Spring's Many Firsts

Class 1: First Robin- a design
incorporating red

Class 2: New Shoots- Foliage design -
foliage must predominate

Class 3: Tiny Buds- Fresh miniature

Novice

Class 4: Rainbow -a design

Cultural Schedule

1. Apple/crab-apple - 1 branch cut to 36" or less
2. Bouquet of small spring flowers, no foliage branches allowed
3. Branch, other flowering shrub - cut to 36" or less
4. Bulb, corm, tuber, other than already listed - 1 stem
5. Dicentra (Bleeding Heart), - 1 stem
6. Iris - 1 stem
7. Muscari (Grape hyacinths) - 3 stems
8. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup, yellow - 1 scape
9. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup, other colour - 1 scape
10. Narcissus, other cultivar - 1 scape
11. Polygonatum (Solomon seal) – 1 stem
12. Primula (primrose) - 3 stems
13. Syringa (Lilac) - 1 truss
14. Tulip, single red - 1 stem
15. Tulip, single pink - 1 stem
16. Tulip, single other colour - 1 stem
17. Tulip, ruffled or parrot - 1 stem
18. Tulip, other cultivar - 1 stem
19. Viola (Pansy) - 3 stems with own foliage
20. Any other cultivar (AOC) 3- 1 stem or bloom

June 14 2016

Design Theme: Celebrate Summer

Class 1: Garden Party - an arrangement incorporating a hat in the design

Class 2: Peony in Love - a design

Class 3: Splash - a design incorporating water

Novice

Class 4: Picnic in the park- a design in a jug or water pitcher

Cultural Schedule

1. Clematis - 1 large Bloom
2. Dianthus – 1 cultivar – 2 stems
3. Iris Bearded, any colour - 1 stalk
4. Iris miniature under 8” - any colour - 1 stalk
5. Iris Beardless e.g.: Siberian/Japanese - any colour - 1 stem
6. Peony - Single any colour - 1 bloom
7. Peony - Double any colour - 1 bloom
8. Peony - Semi Double any colour - 1 stalk
9. Peony, Tree any colour - 1 bloom
10. Cranesbill/Geranium - any colour - 1 bloom
11. Allium - small under 4” - 3 stems, same cultivar
12. Allium - large - 1 stem
13. Heuchera (Coral Bells) - 3 leaves same cultivar
14. Hemerocallis (day lily) – 1 scape
15. Hosta, variegated - 3 leaves, same cultivar
16. Hosta miniature - 3 leaves, small cultivar
17. Hosta - Blue leaf - 3 leaves, small cultivar
18. Fern - Japanese Painted - 3 fronds
19. Fern - any other cultivar - 3 fronds
20. Lavender – 3 stems in bloom
21. Lilium (Lily), any variety - 1 stem
22. Rose - Hybrid Tea - 1 stem
23. Rose - Floribunda - 1 spray
24. Rose - Modern Shrub, 1 bloom/spray
25. Any Other Perennial - 1 stem/spray

All cultural exhibits to be grown by the entrant and must have been in their possession for 90 days. All entries must be on the table by 7:30 p.m.

This document and the show rules are also available on our website. For other further information, consult the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Floral Design, or the SHS Flower Show Handbook on our website at www.streetsvillehort.ca.



Best Wishes

Our thoughts go out to **Lynn Merritt** who had an unfortunate accident and broke both of her ankles.

Streetsville Blooms

President: Monica Ross

Vice president: Marg Rowan

Secretary: Marg Rowan

Assistant Secretary: Arlene Crothers

Past president: Sue Harshman

Treasurer: Christine McEwan

Editor: Debra Lemire

Webmaster: Nigel Roberts

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

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Jobs for the month of April (Zone 6)

General

- Clean up the garden in preparation of the growing season ahead;
- Remove last year's dead plants and top dress beds with compost.

Trees and shrubs

- Plant roses, trees and shrubs weather permitting;
- Trim forsythias after they have bloomed to keep the bushes shapely.

Lawns

- Rake and brush over lawns once dry;
- Top-dress the lawn with compost if there is no snow.

Vegetables

- Once beds are prepared, plant cold-weather vegetables such as potatoes, peas, spinach and other leafy greens, as well as beets, turnips and carrots;
- Put up a trellis for peas as soon as they sprout.

Flowers

- Dig, divided and replant perennials, such as fall asters, Shasta daisies, chrysanthemums, and phlox;
- Plant transplants of pansies, forget-me-nots, foxglove, and other cool-weather flowers;
- Sow seeds for nasturtiums and sweet peas. ✂