



# Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*

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February 2025



*Cardinal photo taken by Grace Nelham*

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Streetsville United Church

In Heritage Hall

274 Queen Street South

Set Up at 6:30 p.m.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Tena van Andel

Topic: Houseplants, our Constant Garden

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## Co-Presidents' Message

As we step into February, we find ourselves on the cusp of spring—a time of renewal, growth, and boundless possibilities in our gardens. Though winter still holds its grip, the days are lengthening, and the promise of vibrant blooms and lush greenery is just around the corner.

Whether you're preparing for early sowing, pruning dormant plants, or simply dreaming up your garden's next masterpiece, February is the perfect time to lay the groundwork for a successful growing season.



At January's meeting, we were delighted by the adventures of Glen Smyth, co-founder of Appleflats. Glen shared fascinating insights about heritage crab apples, and we had the pleasure of tasting his delicious apple-based sodas—a treat that many of us thoroughly enjoyed! Additionally, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our members who donated books and puzzles. The sale raised \$129.10, and many of us found new treasures to enjoy during these winter months.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to announce that our February meeting on Tuesday, February 11th, will feature a presentation by Tena van Anandel from Toronto Master Gardeners. Tena will be sharing her expertise on houseplants—a perfect topic to brighten our indoor spaces as we wait for the outdoor gardening season to begin. It's sure to be an engaging and informative evening, filled with practical advice and inspiration for cultivating your indoor jungle.

As always, we encourage you to reach out, share your knowledge, and inspire one another as we continue to grow together as a community.

Wishing you a productive and inspiring February,  
Maureen Dodd & Shelley Dodd Co-Presidents

*Cardinal photo taken by Grace Nelham*

## Membership Desk

Our January meeting was such a delight! A wonderful speaker, very entertaining, who educated all of us about Crabapples! And the soda samples were delicious!

There were 57 members attending, and one guest, Rachel P, visiting from Calgary, daughter of Linda P. Word of mouth from current members is a great way to increase our membership. Did you know that guests are welcome to attend one meeting for free, EXCEPT for the November AGM?

If you happened to take your nametag home, please remember to bring it to the next meeting.

Thanks to Karen N., for her help at the desk, it was a very busy night!  
See you all at the February Meeting!

Faulene Hopkins, Membership Chair

## Celebrations



February's birth flowers are the violet (*Viola sororia*) and the primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). These two woodland perennial plants are tough because of their cold tolerance making them aptly suited to be February's chosen flowers! Violets provide early food for pollinators, such as the mining bee.



Wishing John D., Anna-Marie R., Sandra J., Toni C., and Lorena D. who are celebrating a birthday this month, a happy and healthy year ahead!

Congratulations to Asoke & Rosemarie who are celebrating their wedding anniversary this month

## Spring 2025 Photo Contest Reminder

Hard to believe we are talking about spring but it's uplifting and looking forward to it.

Our spring photo contest will take place at our [March 11, 2025](#) meeting. The categories are my favourite nature photo in colour, and my favourite nature photo in black and white. This contest is judged by members attending the meeting.



The contest rules are:

- Photo size is 4' x 6".
- Photo is to be taken by competitor.
- Photo can be taken any time, not just the current year.
- Photo may not have been previously entered into a SHS photo contest.
- One entry in each category per membership.
- Two entries per category in a family membership but the photo entries must be taken by each family member.
- Print your name on the back of your photos.

A table will be set up for the contest. Join in the fun – you've got nothing to lose!

Christina Anonychuk, Photo Coordinator

*Photos taken from Pixabay.com*

streetvillehort@gmail.com

## Hints and Tips for Capturing Floral Beauty

### 1. Light

Everyone thinks of gardens as the place to be on a sunny day, but this is rarely the best time to photograph them. The first important component of taking pictures is the light. The ideal time to take pictures is from sunrise to 10.00 am and 4.00 p.m. to sunset. Taking pictures in the garden is best done at these times or on an overcast day. On a sunny day wait for a cloud to pass over the sun, it will give out a soft white light and the picture will not be harsh as it would be in direct sunlight.

### 2. Subject Matter

If you are taking portraits of your flowers, hunt for the best blooms. Take time to focus, some cameras have a 2 stage shutter release button half way to focus, then press full down. If it's breezy use a screen to stop the flower moving. Bright sunlight rarely works well for shots of flowers, as the shadows over complicate the scene and obscure the colours.

2a. The subject. Look for contrasts in colour and a picture to fill the frame.

Your own personal choice of subject. We all have our favourite spots.

Compose the picture in the view finder, move around until you see the picture you want. You can take pictures in all seasons.



2b. A bed of dahlia's. It's high noon on a bright sunny day, not a good time for

taking pictures, top left hand corner is over exposed, the rest is shaded. Taken at Anglesey Abbey, in England. Try not to shoot all your pictures from normal eye level. Often you can improve the shot by getting down low or shooting from a high vantage point, say a balcony. Lay on your back whatever it takes, to get the right angle for your shot. It's all your choice.



### 3. Composition

Create balance and movement. The bend in this photo leads your eye through the picture. Catch a bloom just after a shower, or use a water sprayer to add attractive highlights on your favorite blooms.



### 4. Frames

Allow you to change the effective shape of your picture. Adds a feeling of depth to the shot. Frame the picture in the branches of a tree or an arbor. This picture was taken at King's College Chapel, Cambridge.



Happy shooting!  
Grace Nelham

*Pictures taken by Grace Nelham*



## Appleflats

Glen Smyth, CEO and co-founder of Appleflats, gave an informative and entertaining presentation at the January meeting. Upon completion of building their family home, Glen's family planted a crabapple tree to mark the occasion. Little did they know that this little tree, which produced a lot of fruit, would lead to a career in urban farming. In the beginning, they harvested crabapples and created jelly for personal use, but after a plentiful harvest they solicited local cheese shops to sell the surplus.



Through trial and error, they have perfected the idea of “Urban Harvesting”, a process that involves finding heritage crabapple trees in Southern Ontario, and harvesting them by shaking the tree, sorting it onsite, and transporting the fruit to be processed into jelly, soda, and cider. Their ingenuity to create a device to shake the tree to harvest the crabapples and a portable sorting machine were some of the interesting things Glen discussed. He encouraged others to consider taking up urban harvesting, when he noted that 1 million pounds of food is wasted annually in the GTA.

Appleflats which is located in Wellesley offers 90 minute tours to see the process up close.

## February Speaker – Tena van Anandel – Houseplants, our Constant Garden

Many people today feel that growing houseplants is boring and that the real glory in gardening is growing outside. Not so! Each new study shows that houseplants are important. Houseplants have always been a meaningful part of our homes. Learn about light, water, repotting, pests, propagation and yes, even reblooming. Learn all you need to know to care for your constant garden.

### Toronto Master Gardener: Tena van Anandel



Tena van Anandel has volunteered with the Toronto Master Gardeners 2003. She writes and lectures on everything and anything gardening, but if asked, her favourites are large trees and the exotic. Her latest adventures include rewilding a 19<sup>th</sup> century Northern Ontario farm and teaching a functional fitness class just for gardeners.

## Uninvited Guests at your Birdfeeder

If you have a bird feeding station in your yard you may run into problems with uninvited guests. These visitors fall into two categories — those interested in the seeds (squirrels & chipmunks, rats & mice, starlings & house sparrows), and those interested in a bird for dinner (cats & Hawks).

If you have trees you will get to know squirrels. You may marvel at their antics, until they take over your bird feeders. Then you'll either love them or hate them. Those who love squirrels tolerate their visits and may even encourage them with special squirrel toys and feeders.

When a squirrel is at the feeder, you're not likely to see birds. Squirrels will scare off the birds while they eat the seed, and sooner or later, they'll eat the feeder too. The simplest solution is the squirrel-proof feeder or pole and storing your seed in a metal garbage can.

Chipmunks, rats and mice can also become a problem where there's seed spillage under the feeder. Don't use mixed bird seed, and if you don't have a squirrel problem, add a feeder tray. Crows, house sparrows and starling problems can be eliminated by seed and feeder selection.



Cats are another story altogether. Feral cats and your neighbour's tabby are a serious threat to nestlings, fledglings and roosting birds. Too often, the presence of just one cat on the prowl near your feeder can take the enjoyment out of your backyard bird watching experience. When a cat sits drooling under your feeder, you're not likely to see any birds. You're bound to feel much worse when you find a pile or feathers on the ground.

If your neighbour is reasonable, suggest a bell collar. If that doesn't work consider getting yourself a dog. Birds don't seem to be bothered by most dogs, but cats and squirrels are.

If there are no cats in your neighbourhood and you find a pile of feathers near your feeder, look for a hungry hawk perching on a tree nearby. Don't get upset. Consider yourself fortunate to see one right in your backyard. Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks eat birds and play an important role in the natural community.

excerpt US Fish & Wildlife Service pamphlet "Homes for Birds"

Submitted by Carol Ashford

*Cooper's Hawk photo taken by Carol Ashford*

## Time to start those canna lilies!

Spring is coming! If you'd like to have some of those lovely tall canna lilies in your pots or garden this summer, now is the time to get started.

It may seem rather early, but the plants are slow to start so if you want flowers through the whole summer then you need to get the plants started indoors. If you wait until it's safe to put them outside they will be late blooming (September) or may not bloom at all. I know this from experience.

I take my canna rhizomes in after the first frost, clean as much soil off as possible, dry them, and leave them packed in paper in my cold cellar for the winter. I try to remember around the end of February to bring them out. The plants will grow a lot over one summer giving lots of opportunity to split and share the next season.

A deep 6-inch pot is a good size for starting cannas. By the time they fill the pot it will be time to move them into their permanent location for the summer. They will spread a lot so don't put them in too small of a pot or they will be very difficult to get out without breaking the pot come fall.

The rhizomes can be cut with clippers or a knife, and make sure each piece that your pot has an eye or two showing. Place each piece with the "eyes" pointing up. Cover the rhizome lightly with soil, not deep. Water and keep from drying out until shoots start to appear. I keep mine in the basement. It takes 2-4 weeks for the shoots to appear. Then it's time to move the plants to a sunny, warm place to grow. I usually try to move my plants outside for a few hours a day once the weather warms up but I don't leave them outside at night until we are into double-digit temperatures.

Of course, it all depends on the weather; if we get an early spring then the cannas may bloom by July, but no guarantees. It also depends on the quality of your canna rhizomes. Deadhead the flowers as they finish and the plant will continue to send up new stalks all summer.

If you don't have any cannas from last year, you will have an opportunity to pick one up at the SHS plant sale in May!

*Reprint from March 2024 Newsletter, submitted by Marg Rowan*

*Canna Lily photo taken from Pixabay.com*



## Refreshment Table



The February's Refreshment Table will have a Valentine's Day theme. So put your thoughts towards items that show how much we love the colours that Valentine's brings to mind. Yes, that means **RED or PINK**. Think how that cookie or cake would look so much better with a covering of Valentine red or pink.

Please remember to sign the sheet if you contribute and Martha will record the amount of time that you used to prepare, etc. as volunteer hours, with Amarin Tsujimura. Just a reminder the church is a nut-free facility.

## Raffle Table

There will be a Raffle Table at February's meeting. Please bring cash. Please come by the raffle table and get your tickets. It's \$2 for one ticket or \$5 for three.

## Broccoli Salad Recipe

*Sent in by Suzanne Palummieri and enjoyed at the November AGM*

### Ingredients

2 bunches of Broccoli, broke up  
1 lb of cooked bacon, crumbled  
½ cup of chopped red onion

### Dressing

1 cup mayonnaise  
¼ cup or less sugar  
1 tbsp vinegar  
Whisk together in a small bowl



In a large bowl, mix salad ingredients.

Just before serving, pour dressing over Broccoli salad mixture and toss well.



## Gardening News and Happenings – February 2025:

- [Southern Ontario Orchid Society](#): Will be holding their **Annual Orchid Show and Sale** at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto M3C 1P2. Saturday February 8 | noon to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday February 9 | 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. General admission \$10.
- [Toronto Botanical Garden](#): Is holding their annual **Horticultural Open House** with over 30 plant and garden-related vendors and exhibitors including local horticultural societies, garden clubs, and environmental organizations. Saturday February 22 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. FREE admission. (\$2 suggested donation).
- [The Riverwood Conservancy](#): Enjoy the winter wonderland!  
**Birding with the Expert** at J.C. Saddington Park on Saturday February 8 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and again on Wednesday February 19 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. \$5.  
**Forest Bathing** at Riverwood on Tuesday February 11 | 10:00 a.m. to noon. \$15.  
**Nighttime Nature and Tracking** in the main parking lot on Thursday February 13 | 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. \$10.  
**Family Day: Great Backyard Bird Count** at Chappel House on Monday February 17 | 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$10.  
**Winter Waterfowl at Lakefront Promenade** on Monday February 24 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. \$10.
- [Royal Botanical Gardens](#): Presents **Alice in Bloomland** a wondrous botanical experience where reality blossoms into a world of curiosity for all ages! Inspired by the pages of Lewis Carroll’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, this floral showcase weaves together the magic of horticulture, the whimsy of floral design, and the marvel of visual arts to create an enchanting indoor wonderland straight out of a dream, with over 25,000 real orchid blooms! Purchase your time-ticketed experience on Tuesdays to Sundays from Saturday February 1 to Sunday March 30 | 10:00 to 5:00. \$11.50 to \$19.50 from the RBG website.
- [Credit Valley Conservation](#): is inviting you to explore a brightly lit winter trail at Terra Cotta Conservation Area at their [Ignite the Night](#) on February 1, 8, 15, and 22 | 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Regular admission rates. Adults \$8. Seniors \$6.50. They will also be holding their [Annual Ice Fishing Derby](#) on Saturday February 8 | 8:00 a.m. to Monday February 17 | 3:00 p.m. \$10 - \$35.

## Streetsville Horticultural Society Newsletter Content Deadlines

Issue	Deadline Date	Issue	Deadline Date	Issue	Deadline Date
Dec '24	Nov 22/24	Jan '25	Dec 20/24	Feb '25	Jan 24/25
March '25	Feb 21/25	April '25	March 21/25	May '25	April 18/25
June '25	May 23/25				

Do you have any Society news, an interesting article of a horticultural nature, or a tasty recipe to share with our members. Please send it in. Articles should be in Word format with or without photos. If a photo is included, it should indicate where taken and by whom.