



Oakville Horticultural Society October 2019

Date:

October Monthly Meeting

October 7, 2019

Location:

Knox Presbyterian Church, 89 Dunn Street

Set-up Volunteers:

Hospitality Volunteers:

Flower Show Clerks:

Don Dusha and Rob Welsh

Dr. Larry Peterson grew up in Alberta and attended the University of Alberta where he received B.Ed and M.Sc degrees. He earned a PhD from the University of California and spent his career at the University of Guelph where he is currently a University Professor Emeritus. He has published over 200 papers in refereed journals, 20 book chapters, and has co-authored 3 books. His current book "When Is A 'Flower' Not A Flower and other intriguing Questions about Plants" (will be on sale for \$25.) is co-authored with Dr. Carol Peterson. Dr. Peterson received the George Lawson Medal from the Canadian Botanical Association for outstanding career contributions to Botany. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and has received two Teaching Awards from the University of Guelph. October 7th meeting's topic will be: **"The Fascinating Biology of Orchids"**.



Larry will discuss features of orchid biology that have led to a family that includes over 25, 000 species. Topics include pollination mechanisms, associations with beneficial fungi, adaptations to a wide range of terrestrial habitats, and how numerous orchid species have taken to the trees as epiphytes.



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October is here and the leaves are starting to fall in earnest. Soon enough we will be experiencing those cold November winds. Check out the Halton Master Gardeners Newsletter! This month's Newsletter (Cross Pollination for September and October –

<https://haltonmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/cross-pollination-2019-10.pdf>)

provides useful information and tips to help you put your garden to bed for the winter.

We started off the fall season with a bang. I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped make the District 6 Fall Breakfast a success. Thank you to all the early morning risers who arrived to help set up, to all those marvelous bakers providing a glorious selection of yummy treats and to those who kept us hydrated all morning long. Thank you! We were challenged and we tackled it like professionals.

October is the last month of this year to enter the flower show for 2019. So I encourage you to look in your gardens, vegetable or flower to find a cultivar to show us. This month there are also spots for houseplants so if the garden is not the place to find a special something how about inside. Remember a little healthy competition makes for a quality flower show.

The coming months are also busy ones with many decisions to be made that will affect the Society. We are looking for people to join a committee(s) and or work directly with the executive to help guide the society's future. Think about how you could be a part of this team and future!

Wendy Funk-Death

“Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits” Samuel Butler



Ella Daly, who was awarded OHS 2019 Scholarship, will be joining us at our October meeting and presenting her research program.



We Need Your Help



Help Needed - Junior Gardener Program

The OHS is very proud of our Youth programs which are recognized throughout the District as being progressive and inspiring. They are certainly key to meeting our overall mandate as a horticultural society.

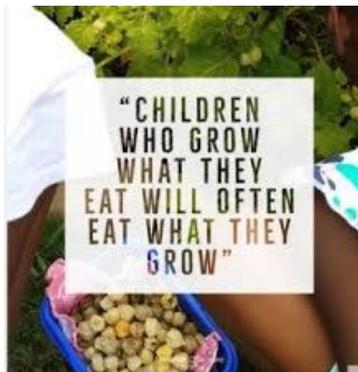
Do you want to help ensure that they are able to continue? The executive is asking members to consider volunteering for the following activities:

One or two people to co-chair the overall initiative – this commitment requires oversight from mid-March, when up to 12 families begin to apply, until the end of summer harvest and garden clean-up, with the busiest time occurring in May and June. Enthusiasm is a must - experience with growing veggies and working with kids would be advantageous, but not absolutely necessary.

Teams of two or three to help with other tasks as they arise – moving top-soil and mulch and weeding the perimeter perennial beds to name a few.

This is a really fun component of our overall calendar. Please consider getting involved in some way.

Please contact Paula (president.ohs@oakvillehort.org) or Helen (juniors.ohs@oakvillehort.org) if you are interested.





Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower.
Albert Camus

(As an aside, a letter to the Globe and Mail suggested that the as yet unratified trade agreement should be called CAMUS, for Canada, Mexico, and the United States.)

But it is easy to forget, or at least ignore, such mundane things when we see the glorious tapestry which Mother Nature unfolds each autumn.

Nature is clever though, and there is a lot of chemistry and biology going on before the beautiful result is achieved each autumn. The spring and summer green colour of the leaves is obtained from chlorophyll, which must be synthesized by the leaves throughout spring and summer in order to stay green.

(Another aside, do you remember when chlorophyll was commercialized as a breath freshener, which gave rise to the sceptics' rhyme "why stinks that goat on yonder hill when all he eats is chlorophyll?")

The shorter days and weaker sun slows down the production of chlorophyll. Bringing into prominence other pigments which are lurking there, but which have been masked by the chlorophyll. These pigments are yellow and orange. They are created by carotenoids, and give us the yellows of ginkgo, birch, aspens, ash, and locusts. Tannins are another pigment which gives rise to the brown of some oaks and beeches. If you are a wine maker you will know that oak chips are added during the fermentation of some full bodied wines to provide tannin. The carotenoids and tannins are present but hidden all summer long, and autumn weather has little influence on the contribution they make to autumn colour, but another pigment is responsible for the glorious red and orange of the maples, red oaks, sumac burning bush, and others.

This pigment is arthocyanin, and autumn weather has a significant effect on its production within the leaf, which does not begin until autumn and which is enhanced by sugar production. This is favoured by warm sunny days and retained by cool nights which minimize the burning off of arthocyanin.

What does this year look like? As I write this the yellows are in full colour, and the reds are showing promise. We have had warmer than normal days and lots of sunshine, but the nights have also been warm, so some arthocyanin will have burned off. When you read this you will know, but I suspect this will be a good year. The only thing which could throw a wrench in the works is a sudden hard frost which would stop cellular activity, and that doesn't seem likely.

Happy clean up.

David Marshall.



Spiraea Japonica MerloStar

did you know.....



Spiraea japonica 'DAVCOP01' MerloStar was one of the entries for the new plants competition Innovert 2018 of the French trade fair Salon du Végétal which was held the week (June 19-2, 2018). This selection of Spirea is characterized by the remarkable intense copper red colour of the young foliage, providing a contrast with the yellow foliage of the older wood. "This compact, cushion-shaped variety provides good coverage, making it ideal for large beds, as well as small spaces or even tubs. The yellow foliage copes well with the summer sun and is highly resistant to powdery mildew."

Spirea japonica 'DAVCOP01' is bred by Jean Paul Davasse. The breeder conducts "a controlled breeding program" in Angers, France. The goal of this program is developing new cultivars of Spirea that exhibits young foliage that is copper red in color combined with deep pink-red flowers. French agency Sapho is responsible for the royalty management of MerloStar.

more society news continued...



Membership Renewal Lottery!!!

Renew your membership in October or November
for a chance to win **\$100.**

at a local garden supply store!!!

Winning ticket to be drawn at the AGM in December!

Don't miss out!!!



Oakville Horticultural Society Hosts the District Fall Breakfast Meeting

Oakville Society members came out in large numbers to help with set up, refreshments, and anything else that needed to be done in order to get things set up before 8:00 am. Saturday, September 14. The meeting got underway at 9:00 with a variety of business agenda items being covered. Cat McGill chaired the meeting, Marie Decker, Secretary, made sure things ran smoothly and Barb Bell, District Treasurer provided an update on the District's current financial position.

A motion was passed to donate \$200 to the Ontario Invasive Plant Council in order to help fund the re-printing of their widely distributed and informative free literature on different topics including invasive species and alternative plant choices.

The topic of invasive species raised the issue of the proliferation of Phragmites grass along road side ditches and other wet areas. The D-6 executive agreed to draft a letter to share with societies which they would be able to use to write to various MPPs and other government officials asking that action be taken to control this invasive plant.

The Acton Horticultural Society will be hosting the District's Christmas Dinner. Liz Matheson is the night's special guest speaker. Societies are asked to collect from attendees (\$30 pp.) and then submit one cheque from the society to cover all attendees.

Societies were encouraged to post notices, information and photos on the revamped and relaunched Garden Ontario website. Our own Kathy Cavassalis demonstrated through her slide presentation how easy it is to navigate the website which is a wonderful resource for gardeners.

Once the meeting adjourned around noon, many attendees stayed to witness the planting of a Tulip Tree on the grounds of St. Simon's Anglican Church where our meeting had been held. You will recall that the District challenged each of its 20 societies to plant one tree a year going forward and Oakville was happy to do its part. This tree is the OHS' tree planting for 2019 and we look forward to doing this again in 2020!



district 6 news...



In March 2019, I had a 3 day date with Al Gore in Atlanta, Georgia. OK, there were 1,999 other people there with me but it was still thrilling, overwhelming and inspiring.

Al Gore, the former Vice-President of the United States, is a climate change activist. His work earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Al Gore is the founder and chair of The Climate Reality Project, which is a non-profit involved in education and advocacy. The Climate Reality Project addresses climate change through a network of about 10,000 grassroots Climate Reality Leaders. Climate Reality Leaders attend training sessions to learn to communicate and conduct effective advocacy events within their local communities. There are 2-3 training sessions held each year around the world. I attended the session in Atlanta and now am proud to call myself a Climate Reality Leader.

In Atlanta, we were exposed to Al Gore's impressive 2.5 hour thought – provoking presentation throughout which he had us engaged, horrified and inspired. The presentation covers the science, consequences and solutions at hand. We were also introduced to panels of climate experts, young and experienced activists, victims of environmental justice issues. We were coached in story-telling and political activism.

After the training, we are expected to perform acts of leadership. They include contacting influencers, writing letters and opinion pieces, attending and organizing events and delivering presentations. Our best resource is access to Al Gore's slide deck, over 600 referenced, professional quality slides. With these, we are expected to develop our own presentations, geared to the audience we are delivering to.

I have delivered about 10 presentations in the Oakville area. Each time, I learn more about my audience, their hopes and fears and the challenges of communicating a complex topic. I am privileged to be able to deliver this presentation to the OHS. I look forward to our date in January 2020.

Aki Tanaka



Church of the Incarnation Rain Garden

We are excited to announce one of the projects we worked on this summer, the rain garden located at the Anglican Church of the Incarnation in Oakville (1240 Old Abbey Lane, L6M 3Y4).

The rain garden at the Church of Incarnation will help catch run off water from their large parking lot, and will retain water before it reaches the stormwater drain. This will reduce run off and decrease the amount of pollutants entering their neighbourhoods creek. This project will also add to the impressive list of green initiatives the church community has become involved in, such as their new geo-thermal heating system, buckthorn removal in their properties forest, and rain barrels to water their community garden.

Before the garden was built the parking lot suffered from the pooling of water and mud after rainfall and thaw, causing inaccessibility for 2 parking spots for some months of the year. Capturing runoff water has improved the parking lot condition and helped clear those 2 parking spots.

The garden was designed by Sean James (landscape designer specializing in native species and rain gardens). A large number of community groups and organizations were involved and made this project a community success. The process included site assessments, volunteer training, garden design, site preparation and planting and mulching. Partners included Green Communities Canada, Halton Environmental Network, Halton Food Council, Fern Ridge Eco Landscaping, Harpski Landscaping, and Maple Hill Tree Services and the Anglican Church of the Incarnation and community volunteers. We are grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Scott's Canada who provided the necessary funding and grants to make the plan a reality.

Planting day at INCA!

On June 2019, Oakvillegreen delivered a presentation to members of the congregation to explain the importance of Green Infrastructure and Rain gardens, as well as describe the volunteer roles needed during the project.

On June 7th the site preparation was started with 3 volunteers and staff from the aforementioned landscaping companies which included removal of the sod and soil, and excavation to provide the correct gradient and slope to the garden. Scott's compost was added to help break the clay and loosen the soil.

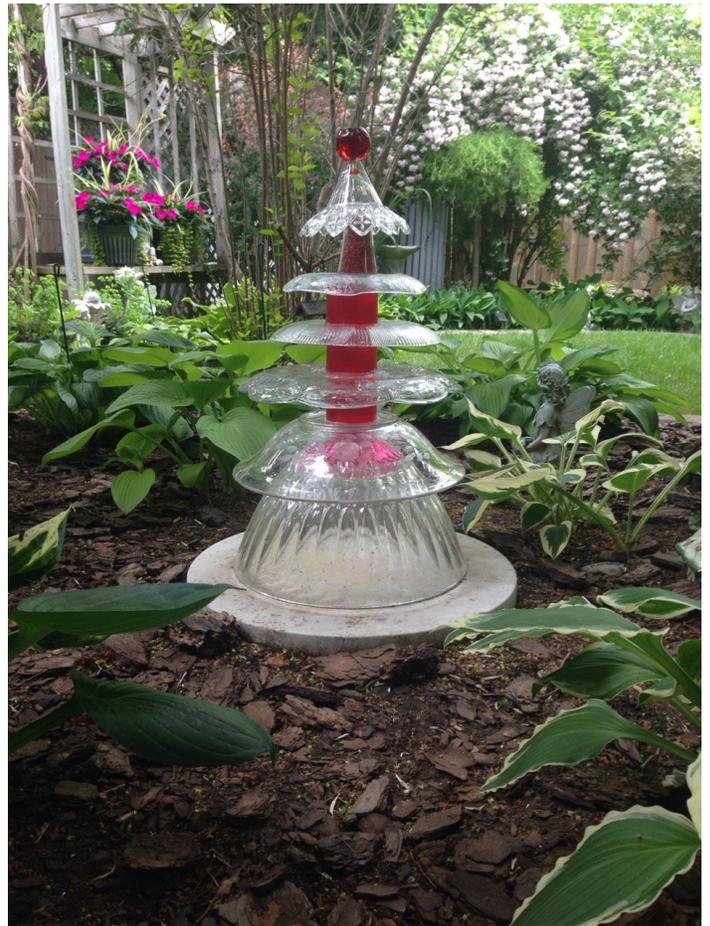
On June 13th with help from volunteers, the garden was finally planted. During the event, volunteers helped dig and plant native shrubs, flowers, grasses and sedges. Scott's mulch was then put in place.

Throughout the summer visits have been made by Oakvillegreen to remove weeds, water the plants, and monitor the gardens after rainfalls.

The Anglican Church of Incarnation is delighted with the garden they helped plant and the environmental impact it will contribute to their own backyard.



did you know...



Some beautiful Garden Ornaments!



Irish Sky Garden



Tucked away in the hills of the Liss Ard Estate in West Cork, there is a most remarkable place: a living sculpture carved into the Irish landscape, where the blue of the sky meets the green of the hills. Liss Ard draws its name from Lios Aird (“high fort” in Gaelic), which is fitting as the site once encompassed an ancient ring fort.

The Sky Garden is an installation by American artist James Turrell on the grounds of the Liss Ard Estate near Skibbereen. Turrell, who is famous for his work with light, land and structure, completed the work in 1992; it had been commissioned by the owner of the estate at the time, Veith Turske, a German art dealer.

The sky garden is just one part of a large natural garden / woodland estate. It is a place of peace and tranquility. It is not a garden of well laid out manicured flower beds; it is more a get back to real nature type of place. Access to the garden is via a wooded trail, which leads to a long, megalithic-style passage, which in turn leads to a narrow set of stairs that seem so ascend into the sky, bringing visitors into the garden.

The garden itself consists of an elliptical crater surrounded by trees. At the center sits the “Vault Purchase,” a monolithic stone plinth (reminiscent of ancient Celtic and Egyptian altars), where visitors are invited to sit or lie down and gaze up at the sky.

Turrell envisioned giving visitors an unparalleled view of the “celestial vault” of the sky above, whether during the day, with the clouds rolling past, or at night, with the stars shining above.

He said about the Irish Sky Garden: “The most important thing is that inside turns into outside and the other way around, in the sense that relationships between the Irish landscape and the Irish sky change.”

For more information, please visit: <https://publicart.ie/en/main/directory/directory/view/irish-sky-garden/c3d8dc7a8a615d82fb98988577463ede/>





did you know...

Passiflora x exoniensis, the **Exeter passion flower**, is a **hybrid** of garden origin between two **species of flowering plants**, *Passiflora antioquiensis* x *Passiflora tripartita* var. *mollissima* in the **family** Passifloraceae. It was hybridised in the **Veitch Nurseries** in Exeter, Devon, England, in the 1870s.^[2] The name *Passiflora x exoniensis* has yet to be resolved as a correct scientific name;^[1] nevertheless it is widely found in the horticultural literature.

It is a robust **evergreen climber** growing to at least 6 m (20 ft) with three-lobed leaves and pendent deep pink tubular flowers followed by egg-shaped yellow fruits. It is hardy down to about -1 °C (30 °F) so may be grown outdoors with shelter in mild temperate areas; alternatively under glass, for instance in an unheated greenhouse. It is hardy to zone (UK) 10 and is frost tender. It is in leaf all year, in flower from June to September, and the seeds ripen from September to November. The species is hermaphrodite (has both male and female organs) and is pollinated by Bees. The plant is self-fertile.

Suitable for: light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils and prefers well-drained soil. Suitable pH: acid, neutral and basic (alkaline) soils. It cannot grow in the shade. It prefers moist soil.

Passiflora x exoniensis has won the **Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit**.^{[3][4]}

Passiflora x exoniensis is an evergreen Climber growing to 5 m (16ft) by 5 m (16ft) at a fast rate.

Common Name	Passion Flower
Family	Passifloraceae
USDA hardiness	9-11
Known Hazards	None known
Habitats	Not known in a wild situation
Range	A hybrid of garden origin, <i>P. antioquiensis</i> x <i>P. mollissima</i> .



Three billion birds have been lost in North America since 1970

Due to habitat loss, pesticides, and more, North America's springs are more silent than ever.



You might not notice it while hiking through the woods or strolling through a city park, but according to a new study, bird populations across North America are in a state of quiet freefall.

In fact, compared with bird counts from 1970, scientists now estimate that the United States and Canada, which are home to 760 bird species, have lost around three billion birds.

The [study, published today in the journal Science](#), analyzed a combination of long-term population surveys as well as weather radar data to tease out the trend. Overall, the researchers discovered that birds found in grasslands—including well-known families such as sparrows, warblers, blackbirds, and finches—have been hit hardest, with their populations cut 53 percent over the last 48 years. ([Read why birds matter in National Geographic magazine.](#))

With nearly three-quarters of all grassland species experiencing decline, it seems these biomes, which include farmers' fields, are especially vulnerable to habitat loss and exposure to toxic pesticides. But plummeting bird numbers may also be linked to huge drops in insect populations—an important avian prey, the researchers say.

“We should take it as staggering, devastating news,” says study senior author Peter Marra, director of the Georgetown Environment Initiative at Georgetown University.

That's because birds are crucial to the healthy functioning of ecosystems. Not only do our feathered friends help keep crop pests and other insects in check, but they also play critical roles in distributing seeds, disposing of rotting carcasses, and even pollinating plants.

What's killing birds?

For the study, Marra and colleagues analyzed range-wide population estimates across 529 species of birds, some of which provided around half a century's worth of data. They also included biomass estimates from weather radar, which can actually detect birds as they take to the skies at night to complete their biannual migrations. This helped the team calculate how populations have changed in areas where on-the-ground monitoring is more sparse, like the far north.

Once all the changes were added up, it amounted to a loss of 2.9 billion birds since 1970—a total reduction of 29 percent. (Read about eight bird species that have disappeared this decade.)

Though North American birds are vastly diverse, there are some common drivers behind their demise. “You only need to fly across the country to see that we've drastically changed the face of the earth,” says Marra. “There's a lot of habitat that's just gone.”



did you know . . .



Three billion birds have been lost continued.....

The widespread use of pesticides has not only harmed insect populations, but the birds themselves: A recent study found that when birds eat seeds treated with certain neonicotinoid pesticides, they immediately lose weight, which in turn hinders their ability to migrate.

Other causes include collisions with glass windows, which may kill some 600 million birds each year, and house cats, which are estimated to hunt down between one and four billion birds each year.

Clearly, the hits are adding up.

It's not too late

Lucas DeGroot is the avian research coordinator for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, which runs one of the longest continually operating bird-banding stations in North America, out of Powdermill Nature Reserve in southwestern Pennsylvania. He says the new study is "not at all surprising." "We've been banding birds here since 1961, and across that almost 60 years, we're catching fewer birds in volume than we once did, and the species composition has also changed," says DeGroot. "So it's really great to see an analysis that puts some numbers to that."

Despite the magnitude of the findings, both experts believe that there's still time to reverse the trend. For instance, people "can make sure cats are kept inside, plant native plants, and minimize the impacts windows have," Marra says.

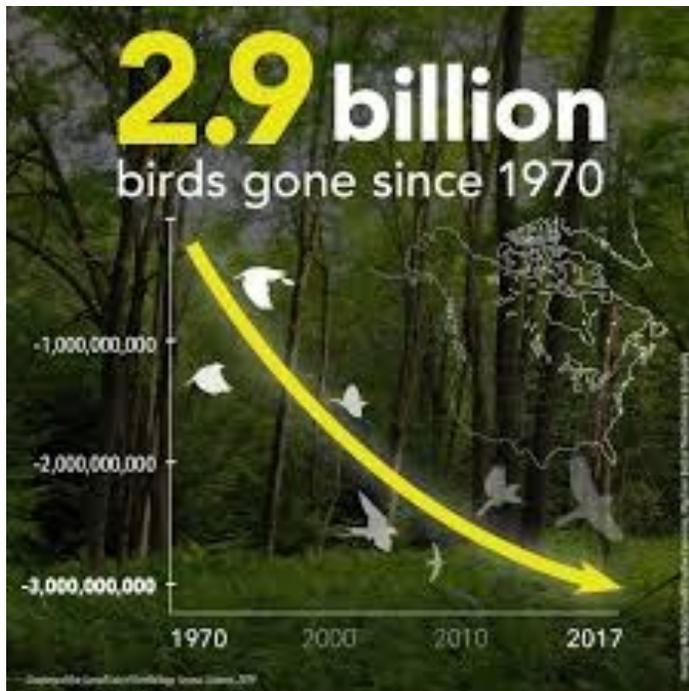
Adds DeGroot, "There's this saying, The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time to plant a tree is now."

In other words, the choices we make now will determine what happens next. "I think that level of optimism is needed for conservation," he says.

Attributed to: [Jason Bittel](#) is a natural history writer and frequent contributor to National Geographic.

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did you know (continued) ...



This infographic features a central image of a bird with its beak open. Surrounding the bird are seven circular icons, each with a text label: 'Do Citizen Science' (binoculars), 'Make Windows Safer' (bird and window), 'Keep Cats Indoors' (cat), 'Reduce Plastic Use' (plastic bottle), 'Use Native Plants' (plant), 'Drink Shade-Grown Coffee' (bird and coffee), and 'Avoid Pesticides' (spray nozzle). At the bottom, the text reads '7 SIMPLE ACTIONS TO HELP BIRDS'.



We won't have a society if we destroy the environment.
Margaret Mead





Bulb Sale & Auction October 6th 2019

Location: Royal Botanical Gardens Rooms 3, 4 and 5

When: SUNDAY OCTOBER 6th

Start Time: 1:00 pm for Sale, Auction at 1:30 pm.

Cash or Cheque

Interesting, rare, unusual! That's what we have for sale: large, healthy bulbs. No sitting in warehouses. We have an appreciation for great garden varieties, varieties for shade, long-lasting blooms, scented varieties, and more. Come and see for yourself and get some great bargains. Remember - no tax!

Here's a small selection of some of the unusual, one-of-a-kind varieties that will be in the sale/auction.

Kaveri
Licorice Stick
Time Zone
Twisted
Pearl Stacy

Friso (N.Carillon-Silk Road)
Torch (first introduced as Olympic Flame)
Tequila Rose
Strawberries Meghan's Golden Orb
Candy Floss (or Cotton Candy)



To subscribe to upcoming newsletters of Halton Master Gardeners, please subscribe [Here](#) and add your email when the form opens in a new window. You may unsubscribe at any time.



October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 3 Art of Bonsai **(RBG)**
- 5 Pruning and Maintenance of Shrubs and Trees **(RBG)**
- 17-18 Horticultural Therapy Basic Training **(RBG)**
- 19 Hydroponics and Gardening without Soil **(RBG)**

Halton Green Screens (HGS)

171 Speers Road, Unit 25 Oakville, ON 905 466 3939

Lee Valley Burlington (LVB)

Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG)

680 Plains Road West, Hamilton/Burlington 905-527-1158

The Riverwood Conservancy (TRC)

4300 Riverwood Park Ln, Mississauga, ON 905-279-5878



November

- Bird Hike with Luc Fazio and Dan Salisbury**
2, 6, 9, 13, 16 | 8:30-10 a.m.
- The Importance of Nature in Cities**
presented by Marc Johnson
5 | 7-8:30 p.m.
- Painful Endings: Preventing Bird Window Collisions**
presented by Paloma Plant
12 | 7-8:30 p.m.
- The Northwest Passage** presented by Christoph Richter
19 | 7-8:30 p.m.
- Knowledge Café: Building for the Future**
20 | 12 - 1:30 p.m.
- High Tea at Riverwood**
30 | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Calendar of Events

October 5	Fall Plant Sale
	Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Location: Port Credit Library 20 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga, Ontario. Organized by: Mississauga Master Gardeners Website: https://www.mississaugamastergardeners.ca/ Fall is a great time to plant! A wide range of bulbs, perennials, native plants, and house plants will be Available. Presentations: 11 am – Pollination and Growing Native Plants; 12 pm – Preparing Your Garden for Winter. Ask A Master Gardener: bring your gardening questions to us!
October 6	Bulb Sale & Auction
	Ontario Regional Lily Society invite your members of your society to the annual bulb sale and auction on October 6, 2019 in rooms 3,4 and 5 at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, Ontario. Start time is 1 pm on October 6. Auction will follow approx. 1:30. Arrive early for best selection. Cash or personal cheque.
October 6	Celebrating the Legacy of Thomas Baker McQuesten: A Symposium
	1:00 - 4:00 pm in the Rock Garden. Join us for an afternoon of informative presentations and lively discussions on the times, legacy, and many projects of the Hon. Thomas Baker McQuesten.
October 7	Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting commences at 7:30 pm
October 9	Burlington Hort Society presents Darren Heimbecker from Whistling Gardens - "What's New!"
	Time: 7:30 pm Location: Senior's Centre in Burlington, 2285 New St , Burlington
October 26	67th Annual Fall Flowers and Bonsai Exhibition
	12:00 noon - 4:30 pm Location: Japanese Canadian Cultural Center. Adults \$5.00 children under 12 free. Ikebana displays, Tea room, Demonstrations, Video, Sales. For more information please call Irene Foulkes (416-463-0517) or Mary Audia (416-636-5285).
November 3	Field Trip: Al Wormington Fall Bird Count
	8:00 am - 4:00 pm meet Bronte & QEW carpool lot, Oakville Coordinator - Mark Cranford. Call Mark for more information at 647-886-7203
November 11	Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting commences at 7:30 pm
November 15	RBG Speaker Series: Adam Shoalts Beyond the Trees: A Journey Alone Across Canada's Arctic
	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. - RBG Center. National Best Selling Author, renowned adventurer and explorer will talk about his newest book - Beyond the Trees: A Journey Alone Across Canada's Arctic. \$18.(\$6.for RBG members) preregistration required.



Bring your own mug and get one free draw ticket at 

