

photo by Carol Mathison



November  
2023

# GEORGETOWN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

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### President's Message

Happy November Everyone!

The past few days of above average seasonal temperatures for mid-November have been such a gift to me as we prepare to over-winter a few plant “gifts” that we recently received for the annual plant sale in May 2024. The rain and the ice pellets of a few weeks ago is a reminder of what is to come, but today at 15 degrees is a gift to enjoy.

One event that I really look forward to in October is the Hamilton Fall Garden and Mum Show that takes place at the Gage Park Greenhouse. This is an annual show celebrating the Chrysanthemum (it started in 1920 just like our Society!). There are over 20,000 square feet of indoor display space in the greenhouses and outdoor Civic gardens. The City of Hamilton greenhouse and horticultural staff created another wonderful show. If you have not seen this show, I would highly recommend it in your day trip schedule for 2024. The GHS was represented at the OHA-District 6 booth again this year.

I am seldom bored with our garden. There seems to be something new and exciting to see no matter what the season. I have been happy with the amount of fall cleanup that we have managed to do this year. It has been a nice balance of collecting and saving seeds for next year and leaving just enough to provide food and shelter for the birds and insects. Ask me again in the spring when I see how much cleanup there is to do!

Let's keep in touch.

-Carol Mathison

**Next Meeting-Tuesday, November 21, 7:30 pm**

St. John's Church, 11 Guelph St. Georgetown

Marion Jarvie

**“The Lovliest of Small Trees and Shrubs. Treasures for Any Garden”**

Marion has been involved with both the Toronto and International gardening communities. Marion is an accomplished photographer and enthusiastic educator. She teaches regularly at the Toronto Botanical Garden and has lectured all over North America and in the UK. Marion is a passionate plantswoman who has been gardening in Thornhill for over 40 years. She loves plants and invites any and all to her garden where you will find the hardiest of varieties side by side with plants from all over the world.





## **Make It + Take It Workshop - Tuesday December 5th**

### **Members Only**

Each year we have such a great time, that this may well become a tradition!

The plant material and containers are provided so bring the items listed below and let's get creative!!!

- ✎ This is a free workshop for members
- ✎ Goodies will be provided

### **Things to Bring:**

- ✎ Gloves
- ✎ Secateurs
- ✎ Scissors
- ✎ Any items you'd like to add to your creation

### **Please, please, please!**

Let us know if you will not be able to attend the workshop once you've signed up before the 28th of November.

We need to know the exact number of people attending to purchase materials. We need to keep costs down, as this is a free event, so please be considerate and let us know if you can't make it.

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

# Pumpkin Dessert Contest

## October Meeting



We were very fortunate to have chefs Lori Gysel and Gerry Kenner as our judges for the evening. They were very kind and generous in their comments which many in attendance found helpful as tips in their own baking endeavours in the future. Members enjoyed all the entries at the end of our general meeting.

Here are the results...

### Dessert Contest

#### Class A- Pies and Cakes

- 1st- Lorne Campbell- Pumpkin Pie with Halloween Decor
- 2nd- Louise Milton- Orange Pumpkin Loaf
- 3rd- Maria Ott- Pumpkin Pie in a Basket

#### Class B- Cookies, Squares etc.

- 1st- Chris Wiensczyk- Pumpkin Scones with Cinnamon Glaze
- 2nd- Christine Williams- Pumpkin Cinnamon Rolls
- 3rd- Elza Estevan- Pumpkin Hermits
- Honorable Mention- Anne Johnston- Pumpkin Squares

### Traditional Pumpkin Carving

- 1st- Jo MacLean
- 2nd- Anne Johnston

### Non-Traditional Pumpkin Carving

- 1st- Anne Johnston



1st Place - Jo MacLean



## Leave the leaves

Brown, dead leaves are Earth's insect nurseries. They're home to butterfly larvae and shelter insects, microbes and worms.

So... let your rake collect dust. Raking yards has become a habitual gardening practice [that disrupts critical habitat for overwintering pollinators](#). Unlike the monarch butterfly – a species well-known for migrating great distances from Canada to Mexico to flee the cold – many insects are at home up north and endure the cold.

Rocks and woody debris, such as old logs, tree stumps or loose bark, also provide space to hibernate for countless invertebrate species. [Native pollinators](#), such as leafcutter bees and sweat bees, will nest in abandoned wood-boring beetle burrows. Leaving plant litter in your green space [can increase backyard biodiversity and boost pollinator communities](#) that will support your garden in the spring.

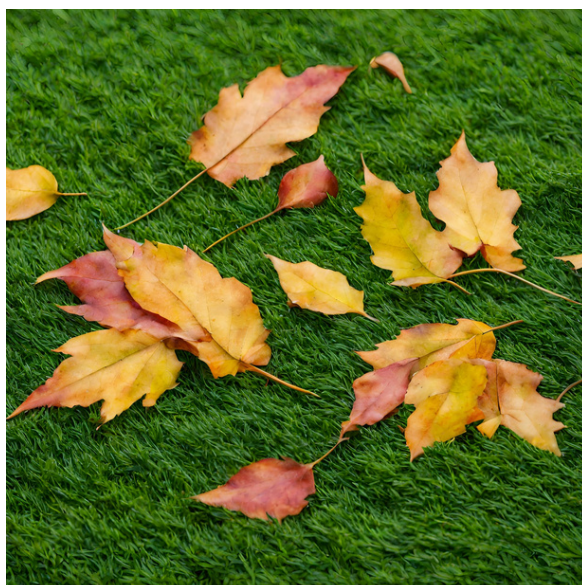
If you're worried that fall leaves matted down by snow or rain will negatively impact your perennials, fear not! A [thick layer of leaves provides added insulation](#) against bitter cold weather and can protect newly planted perennials when frost-heave may expose tender roots. Once the weather warms and sheltered pollinators have emerged to start foraging, compost your yard waste.

**Bonus:** Leaf and mulch piles attract beneficial insects such as [lady beetles, which will be ready to protect your garden](#) from aphids when spring arrives!

If your neighbours make a fuss about the "mess," be sure to let them know that your motivation is to make your yard more habitable for pollinators and talk to them about the importance of being a pollinator protector. Maybe they'll join you!

If you can't leave all your leaves where they fall, use your leaves in other beneficial ways...

**Remember:** DO rake leaves out of sewers and drainage pathways.





All of the events that the Georgetown Horticultural Society host involve hours of planning. We would not be able to offer any of these activities without our volunteers. Many hands make light work, and the GHS is always looking for help. If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours for an event or on a committee, please reach out to any of our Board members.

We are currently looking for a few volunteers for the following committees for 2024:

Cemetery Garden

Civic Garden

Hospital gardens

Flower Show convenors for May &/or June &/or September

Plant sale Silent Auction