



President's Message

Hello May...

Today, as I write this message, we are putting the final touches on the Annual Plant Sale at the Gellert Community Centre. By the time that you read this, however, it will be over. Let the gardening season begin! This Plant Sale is usually a sure sign of spring for me, BUT, this morning as I ventured out, there was a little ice and snow on the car (uuuggghhh).

I would be remiss if I did not give a grateful THANK YOU to our plant sale co-coordinators Mary and Cheryl. Also, a huge thank you to Mary and Jasper for hosting the potting location and plant storage area. Dorota joined the team as the dig co-coordinator this year. Thank you. And a thank you to all the GHS volunteers that invited us into their gardens to dig, joined a potting crew and showed up to price, sort and display all the wonderful plants on Friday for the sale. For our newer members, the money raised from the sale funds our speakers, workshops, flower shows, rent and so much more. We could not have been able to do this without your continued support.

At our May meeting we will host the first flower show of the year. Check your yearbook or the GHS website for details.

Let's keep in touch.

-Carol Mathison

In This Issue:

- President's Message
- Next Meeting
- Plant Sale
- 22 Minute Makeover
- Refreshments
- Best in Show
- Great Garage Event
- A Garden Tells a Story
- Mosquito Bucket Challenge
- Upcoming Events



Next Meeting-May 20, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

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

"Growing Beautiful Roses"- Elizabeth Schleicher

Elizabeth has a passion for roses. She is a member of the Canadian Rose Society in which she is a past president and a credited judge. She is a rose consultant with both the Canadian and American Rose Society. She has held the position on the Board of the World Federation of Rose Societies as Chair of the Standards Committee. She travels to many parts of the world to attend conventions and conferences.



Plant Sale



All set up and ready to go.



Mayor Lawlor dropped by to thank the GHS for 106 years of volunteering in promoting gardening and public beautification.



Some of our 30 + members who volunteered at the sale.

Did You Know?

In 1961, the GHS had a Plant Exchange and in 1965 started Plant Auctions. In 1984, the Plant Sales began. 42 years of Plant Sales!



Members of the GHS took part in Halton Hills 22 Minute Makeover at Mary St. Parkette on April 22.



L-R: Dorinne Wagner, Debbie Lang, Mary Megalink, Anita DuBruyn, Ingrid Nordmeyer, Wendy Hageman.
Missing from photo: Carol Mathison, Dianne Kayess



Refreshments

Thank you to Diane Crawford and Sandra Williamson for providing treats for the April Meeting.

A reminder to Carrie Perkins and Elza Estevan who signed up to bring treats for the May meeting.



Congratulations to Sandra Williamson for her “Spring” design entry in a recent OHA event judged as Best in Show!



Great Garage Event

Thursday, June 11, 2026

7 P.M.

Sandra Williamson’s House (address will be provided to registrants)

Instructor: Lil Taggart

Cost: GHS Members \$15, Guests \$25

Register: Lil Taggart liltovey@hotmail.com or sign up at May meeting

Theme: Hearts and Flowers

This is a chance for you to learn an easy way to make a design that can be used in so many ways. We will also explore the world of Functional Trays as an added bonus!

More information in the yearbook or on the GHS website.

A Garden Tells a Story

It is said that a “Garden Tells a Story” As I walk around my garden, it indeed has many stories to tell. So many plants and trees hold memories that my garden could write a book.

Along my back fence is a Bridal Veil Spirea. This shrub was transplanted from my parents house 29 years ago when they decided to dig up their spirea hedge. It grew all around their backyard and in June was a mass of white flowers. As children we would sit under the arched branches, shake the flowers and pretend it was snowing. I only have one spirea bush but every spring when it booms I give it a little shake.

There are other chapters to the story such as the tulips that have been blooming for 28 years. I will always remember how long as I felt nauseous as I planted them. I found out shortly after that I was expecting my daughter. There is the birch tree we planted when our daughter was barely one and just starting to walk. She thought it was exciting that there was this huge hole in the ground and would waddle over to drop a stone or leaf down the hole.

At the plant sale years ago, I purchased an Oenothera triloba, which has lovely yellow flowers which bloom at sunset. You can watch them slowly open up. One year at my daughter’s birthday BBQ, her aunts, uncles and cousins all gathered their chairs around the plant and watched the flowers open. They were amazed, taking photos and videos.

As I finally stroll past the raspberry bushes, I can picture myself and my daughter when she was young picking the raspberries. She would have red all over her mouth, proof she was eating more than she was picking

There are plenty of other memories in the garden, more stories to tell. I hope the next time you walk around your garden, that you stop and listen to the stories it’s waiting to share.

-Submitted by Dianne Kayess



Mosquito Bucket Challenge

Control Mosquitoes – Protect Wildlife

A Safer Alternative to Fogging



HOW IT WORKS

1. Fill & Bait

Fill a 2–5 gal bucket 2/3 with water and add a handful of leaves or grass.

2. Add Mosquito Dunk

Use 1/4 of a mosquito dunk (wildlife-friendly & kid-safe). Replace dunk monthly.

3. Add Cover or “Rescue Stick”

Add wire mesh or a lid with holes to keep kids and pets out, or place a stick inside so small animals can climb out.

4. Place & Label

Set buckets in shady spots around your yard. Add our sticker or a sign to let neighbors know what it is.

WHY IT WORKS

The bucket draws in mosquitoes already nearby (not from far away), then stops the next generation before it hatches.

It works because of Bti, a natural bacterium that targets mosquito larvae but doesn't harm biodiversity like bees, birds, or butterflies.



WHY NOT FOG?

Fogging hurts more than it helps. It kills wildlife, is harmful to your pets and kids, and doesn't even stop mosquitoes at the source — it misses the larvae, where real control happens.

SPREAD THE WORD WITH A STICKER

Help your bucket teach your neighbors with the official sticker (vinyl or printable).



LEARN MORE

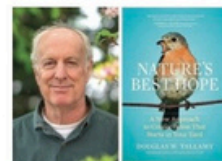
Scan for how-to, FAQs and advocacy tools:



MosquitoBucketChallenge.org

A project from  **HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK**

Cofounded by Doug Tallamy, author of *Nature's Best Hope*



Upcoming Events



Flowers for Feathered Friends

SATURDAY MAY 23rd 1-4 pm
19 St. Albans Dr. Acton, ON



GARDEN TALK WITH SEAN JAMES

- Expert advice on native and pollinator plants
- Visit our rain garden onsite with Sean
- Vendors (2)
- Refreshments

Free Will Offering

2022 Award Winner: Environmental Awareness Award, CVC

For more information please contact:
Pam: (905) 864-5600 OR Susanne (416) 579-9991




7TH ANNUAL

Native Plant Sale





Sat. May 30 and Sun. May 31, 2026
General Public: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Members: Early-bird shopping Sat. 9–10 a.m.

WHERE	VARIETY	PRICING
1285 Mineola Gardens Mississauga, ON Park on opposite side — residential area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60+ native plant varieties • Locally grown in Mississauga • Some hard to find 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most plants \$3.50 • Rare plants priced individually • Cash, cheque, e-transfer

Rain or shine · Bring your own box bloomingboulevards.org

