

Application for Master Gardener

Volunteer Program

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please attach a separate sheet for the following if necessary:

Occupation: _____

Hours Available: _____

Days available: _____

Types of Volunteer Experience:

Years of experience:

Volunteering ____ Gardening ____

Special Gardening Interests:

Application (continued)

List training, formal courses, certificates, or degrees you have in the field:

List special skills or talents which would be useful such as public speaking, computer skills, etc:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Coordinator: Holly Rupert
tarrylong@gmail.com
807 627-4412

Membership: Gwen Third
gwen3rd@gmail.com

Facebook: 'Master Gardeners Thunder Bay'
<http://tbmastergardeners.homestead.com/>

Provincial Administration
Committee

info@mgoi.ca

Come Grow With Us!



Master Gardeners of Ontario

Become a Master Gardener and ...

- Provide your community with valuable service
- Increase your knowledge of gardening and plants in Ontario
- Network, share ideas and work with others who have similar interests
- Develop your communication, presentation and leadership skills
- Participate in technical updates and other ongoing educational activities
- Work with members of your group to improve and educate your community

Master Gardeners motivate and inspire gardeners of Ontario

About

Established in 1985, Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) is a registered charity, comprised of 725 volunteers who provide over 38, 000 volunteer hours annually.

The MG program in Ontario consists of 35 independent groups which determine how their local program will be structured and managed. The Province is divided into 11 zones each of which has a Director appointed by the groups in their zone. The MGOI Board of Directors makes decisions in areas that are in the best interests of the program as a whole.

Vision

Motivating and inspiring Gardeners of Ontario

Mission

Master Gardeners of Ontario is a volunteer organization comprised of individuals who are certified horticultural experts and who provide in depth sustainable gardening information to the general public.

Goal

To advance the horticultural knowledge of the home gardener and of the general public in Ontario.

Operating Principles

Master Gardeners of Ontario is committed to:

- maintaining excellence in its training and
- certification program for volunteers
- providing accurate and current information
- meeting community needs
- developing partnerships with our communities



MG Certification

After completing the educational component as outlined below and fulfilling the volunteer requirements for two years you will receive our Master Gardener certification.

Educational Component

There are 3 paths towards completing the educational component for MG certification:

Take 4 specified courses from **Dalhousie University** (<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses.html>)

Fee is \$300 per course.

OR

Take 3 specified courses from **University of Guelph** (<https://admission.uoguelph.ca/home.aspx>).

Fee is \$549 per course.

OR

Pass the **MGOI Certification exam** for which you have 3 years to study. Fee is \$100

Note: Dalhousie or Guelph courses taken up to 5 years prior to joining may be accepted. Documentation is required.

Volunteer Commitment

Each volunteer is required to contribute a minimum of thirty (30) hours of service each year.

Twenty (20) of these hours are advice to the public:

- advice clinics
- telephone and email hotlines
- deliver educational programs for adults and children
- deliver horticultural presentations and workshops write media articles

Ten (10) of these hours are administrative in nature:

- business portion of group meetings
- serve on group committees
- develop a presentation
- prepare a lecture, clinic, workshop

How to become an MG

Find and contact the local group coordinator at www.mgoi.ca or use the contact information on the back in order to:

1. Attend an information session if one is scheduled in your area.
2. Complete application in this brochure.
3. Write an eligibility test and have an interview.
4. Become a Master Gardener in Training (MGiT)
5. Select a learning path with your coordinator
6. Complete volunteer commitment of 30 hours (20 hours advice and 10 hours administration) per year
7. After completion of learning and volunteer commitments become a Master Gardener (Min. 2 yrs)
8. Retain MG status by completing 30 volunteer hours (20 hours advice and 10 hours administration) and 6 Continuing Education Units (CEU) per year.

Continuing Education Units (CEU)

Master Gardeners are expected to provide current and up-to-date advice and information to the public. In order to do this MGs engage in continuing educational activities such as horticultural courses, technical updates, summer workshops and/or research of a horticultural topic for a presentation, newsletter or blog.

Dues

Annual Dues are \$35

Fundraising

Groups are self supporting and raise funds through plant sales, speaking fees, and other activities. Each Master Gardener is expected to help their group raise funds to cover group expenses such as rent/materials.