

January ~ February  
2013

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club



The East York Garden Club is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, District 5.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except August and December) in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Avenue at 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments are available at 7:00 p.m. The Clubhouse is wheelchair-accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family. To inquire about membership, please contact Christina Brown at 416-755-9077.

Visit us on the web at  
[www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)

President:

Susan Bartlett

Vice President:

Rosalind Regnier  
& Barbara Piercey

Newsletter Editor:

Jennifer McDougall



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## Thursday, January 17th, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

**Topic: Gardens of Tuscany (Florence & Countryside) Speaker: Donna Fenice**

Donna Fenice discovered Italy during a trip to Europe in her university days. She landed in France and loved it, and then she ventured on to Italy, where she eventually spent several wonderful years exploring Tuscany and beyond from her home base in Florence. Since returning to Toronto, she has taught Italian at York University, and, currently, when she is not in Italy or France, leads tours at the Toronto Botanical Gardens and Allan Gardens.

In a series of lectures entitled "Gardens of Italy" Donna takes us to Italy's most beautiful public and private gardens, providing insights along the way into the historical forces behind their creation, as well as glimpses of the lives of the fascinating individuals who created them.

This presentation will take away any winter blahs you may have!

Members with surnames beginning with "A" through "E" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table. Don't forget to bring your own mug for coffee or tea.

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## Thursday, February 21st, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

**Topic: Design an Outdoor Garden Room Speaker: Celia Alida Rutte**

Celia Alida Rutte's interest in design and gardening began about 12 years ago with the interior and exterior renovation of her previous home in Halifax, Nova Scotia. After the house and garden was completed she put it on the market for a price that was well above the area average "just to see what would happen". To her and her real estate agents surprise, it sold the same day!

Celia took that as her cue and moved to Toronto to study interior design. She is now the principal designer and owner of Design for Conscious Living®, is an interior decorator and landscape designer.

Celia's presentation, called "Defining and Designing the Outdoor Garden Room", walks you through the process of creating a room in a garden. The presentation promises to be informative and entertaining with lots of design tips, photos, floor plans, sketches and a healthy dose of humour.

This presentation will give you a head start for planning a room in your garden for this summer!

Members with surnames beginning with "F" through "K" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table. Don't forget to bring your own mug for coffee or tea.

## *Getting to Know EYGC Members ~ Minnie Price*

*An On-going Series into the gardening of EYGC Members*

*By Barb Piercey*

In November 2012, I received a phone call from a woman named Avril. She was calling because she had just read our newsletter (luckily I had put my phone number at the bottom of an article) and her Aunt Minnie was a past member of our club. She wanted to give us a teacup to use how we wished. Avril was here from England to help her Aunt Minnie prepare her house for sale as she was currently in hospital and awaiting word on a place at a senior's home. Upon arrival, poor Avril and her husband Alan were surrounded by boxes, mounds of paper and bubble wrap! A lovely teacup was sitting on the mantle for me to take. At the EYGC, teacups were often given as prizes for winning a "best of" for a specific horticultural entry. I left that day with about 20 teacups and other bits of interest for the club to use!



On December 20th, I went and met Minnie in her new home and we chatted about the garden club, gardening and her history with us.

She was born on February 19th, 1920 in South Wales and eventually lived in the Birmingham area in the West Midlands. During the war she worked at a factory making parts for planes. This is where she met her husband Leslie. In 1958 Leslie secured work as a jeweler and they flew 30 hours by way of Portugal and Ireland to Toronto. Minnie worked at the Simplicity Pattern Company preparing and packing sewing patterns for \$10 a week. Leslie's boss lent them money for a down payment and they settled in East York.

She and Leslie loved all aspects of gardening. She hadn't really gardened before, but it didn't take long for their backyard to be filled with all sorts of vines, roses, begonias, dahlias, chrysanthemums and delphiniums etc. They joined the EYGC shortly after settling in and they loved the casualness of the meetings filled with information for their gardening passion. After about 3 or 4 years of being a member, Minnie joined the board and was President for a while. She had a printing press in her basement where 6 or seven of the club or board members would get together and print, fold and staple the yearbook for distribution to the 60 members of the club. The club's participation in the Dominion Day parades was a float that the members completely covered with flowers every year.

She loved to compete in the Flower Shows and won many prizes of teacups and trophies. Her favourite plant was her delphiniums. She laughingly recalled preparing the stalks for show by putting them in the toilet in the basement in order to suck up as much water as they liked while staying cool and undisturbed for her return home from work and off to the show!

And the club's logo—Minnie won \$10 for designing that trillium inside a maple leaf! We still use that very design that you find on our letterhead, in our yearbook and most recently on our t-shirts and tote bags. Of course, I had a tote bag with me and she was very pleased how nice it looked.



She and Leslie made many friends through both the garden club and the lawn bowling club (she said the two go hand in hand for a good social circle). When asked why she thought it was important to be part of the EYGC she said it provides a place to meet other people in a social setting where you have at least one thing in common—an interest in gardening and being on the board allowed her to give back to the community she had grown to love.

One of her best memories was one afternoon looking over a new bed of wildflowers that she had sewn from a seed packet to find the most varied and lovely garden full so many different flowers and lots of bees and butterflies.

Minnie's advice for someone just beginning to garden? Keep at it, cultivate, work hard and just enjoy it....and join the East York Garden Club!

## Prez Patch

by Susan Bartlett

Welcome to the New Year. I was surprised and pleased to see in the December 27th, 2012 edition of the East York Mirror a suggestion to “attend a regular meeting of the East York Garden Club”, under an article suggesting ways to take charge in your community. We know what we’ve accomplished as a club but it’s nice to have a little recognition now and then.

We have a great Executive Board for 2013, with some new members and some members who returned after a break from the Board. **We are still in need of a secretary.** Duties include attend monthly meetings (fourth Thursday of each month at the EY Civic Centre, one week after our regular meeting), and take and transcribe the Minutes. While secretary is not a voting position, that doesn’t mean input and opinions aren’t encouraged and valued. Please contact me if you think you would like take this position 416-467-4945 or [susanhirst@gmail.com](mailto:susanhirst@gmail.com)

It seems early to be thinking of the OHA District 5 AGM but I will be bringing a sign- up sheet to the January and February meetings, so I can send in our registration by March 1st, 2013. The date is Saturday, April 27th, 2013 and this year it is presented by Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society so it’s a much shorter commute than the past few years, in fact it will be held at the Latvian Credit Union, on Credit Union Drive. The cost is \$30 and includes lunch and two speakers: Jean Cope and Charlie Dobbin.

Here’s to great gardening in 2013!



## *Thinking about entering Flower Shows? This may just help!*

This year we will have for sale the **“Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticultural and Floral Design”**. Yes, it is a long title, but it is full of very useful information for both novice and experienced competitors. It is produced by the OHA (Ontario Horticultural Association) and The Garden Clubs of Ontario to assist exhibitors, show organizers and judges in all aspects of a Flower Show.

Also known as “Publication 34”, the 108 page spiral bound book gives you valuable information on how to select, groom and present your flowers, plants, fruit & vegetables for show. There are definitions of various forms of design and tips as to what the judges are looking for in both horticultural and design entries.

The books will be available starting in January at a price of \$6.00





## The EYGC Photo Contest Categories 2013

By Malcolm Geast

### People's Choice Contests:

January - Christmas Light

February - Purple

March - Indoor Blooms

August

(held in conjunction with the Annual Flower Show)

1. Big

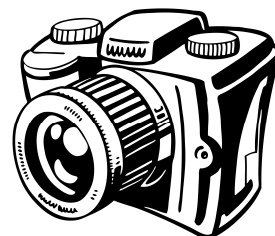
2. Circle

3. Bark

November - 2014 Yearbook Cover

### Annual Fall Show: Horticultural

1. Captured Beauty (close-up of a single flower)
2. Garden Art (Sculptures & structures in the garden)
3. Symmetry
4. Container Gardening (big or small, indoors or outdoors, anything that's growing in a container)
5. Anything Grows (Any horticultural subject)
  - (a) Children's category (ages 6 to 10)
  - (b) Youth category (ages 11 to 17)



### Prepare NOW for the 2014 Photo Contest

Categories for the 2014 contests will be announced at the end of 2013. However, we have already decided on two categories, both of which will have somewhat limited opportunities for photo taking without early notice. With this in mind, we can tell you the following will be included in the 2014 Fall Photo Contest:

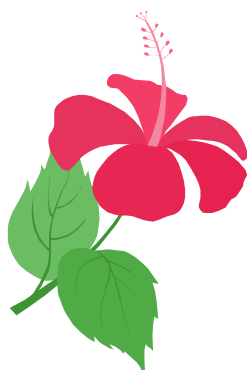
- Autumn Leaves
- The Four Seasons (four photos of the same location, one photo in each season; need not be horticultural)

### Annual Fall Show: General

1. Still-life . Doors (a photo with one or more doors as the subject)
2. Stairs or steps (a photo with stairs or steps, indoors or out, as the subject)
3. Windows (a photo with one or more windows as the subject)
4. Green & White
5. Street Scene (a photo including a road or a sidewalk)
6. Birds (a photo with one or more birds as the subject)

## 2013 Garden Club Speaker Line-Up

Date	Topic	Speaker
January 17	Gardens of Tuscany (Florence & Countryside) <i>People's Choice Photo Contest: "Christmas Light"</i>	Donna Fenice
February 21	Design an Outdoor Garden Room <i>People's Choice Photo Contest: "Purple"</i>	Celia Rutte
March 21	City Tree Management & By-Laws <i>People's Choice Photo Contest: "Indoor Blooms"</i>	Kristjan Vitols
April 18	Crops that Wow! <i>Flower Show</i>	Steven Biggs
May 16	What Treasures are Waiting to be Snapped Up? - Our own Master Gardeners & Club members will tell us about the plants in the sale. Members' Plant Sale	
June 20	Hostas and other Shady Characters in your Garden <i>Flower Show</i>	Jack Kent
July 19	Pot-luck supper in a member's garden (details will be in your July newsletter)	
August 24 (Saturday)	Annual Flower Show & Tea <i>People's Choice Photo Contest</i>	
September 19	Garlic <i>Flower Show</i>	Cathy Bartolic
October 17	Sexy & Smart Kitchen Gardens Annual Fall Photo Contest Seed Exchange	Cristina da Silva
November 21	Annual General Meeting, Awards Presentation, and Pot-luck Supper <i>People's Choice Photo Contest: "Yearbook Cover"</i>	





## People's Choice Photo Contest 2013

*By Malcolm Geast*

Don't forget that we'll be having the first of 2012's People's Choice Photography Contests at our January meeting. This month's category is "Christmas Light". In keeping with the pattern of the past few years, we have a colour category in February – this year it's "Purple". Our March meeting takes place during the week of Canada Blooms, and fittingly, our category for that month's contest is "Indoor Blooms". All of these categories are open to your interpretation, so feel free to be imaginative and creative.

The procedures will be the same as last year: Bring your photo to the meeting by 7:15 p.m., with your name on the back (please don't put any identifying marks on the front). Your photos should be no larger than 5 by 7 inches (approximately 13 by 18 cm).

We'll have all the photos laid out on a table, and will ask the membership to vote for the best picture. Ballots will be available for all members. It will be done on the honour system, so please take only one ballot.

First, Second, and Third Prize winners will receive ribbons and points to be counted toward the awarding of the annual trophy.

This year we'll once again have a photo contest at the Annual Flower Show in August. Let your creativity run amok with this year's three categories:

### 1. Big    2. Circle    3. Bark



#### The Trees have Ears

"A new study indicates that Eurasian jays are aware that others may be watching them while they hide away nuts and seeds for the winter, but they might also be aware when others are surreptitiously listening," says SciTechDail.com. "In response, the birds changed their behaviors, like stashing nuts in quieter places. The findings indicate that the jays may be able to understand another's point of view, which is an ability that is rarely seen in animals". The jays are often robbed by jackdaws and crows, as well as their own mates.



#### HELP US GO GREEN

We want YOUR email address!!Yes, it is important that you forward your current email address to the editor as postage costs are going up and it is so much better and green to get your newsletter via email.

That way you get it in colour too!

To get your newsletter the green way, email me, at [jenn@majam.net](mailto:jenn@majam.net)



#### SHARE YOUR PHOTOS with EYGC

Have something in your garden you'd like to share but not interested in hosting an open garden? Take a photo of the shrub or plant that you're proud of and send it to me at [susanhirst@gmail.com](mailto:susanhirst@gmail.com) for inclusion on the pre-meeting presentation.

# THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT

## Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek

Over the last few years, we've had a new master plan for the Don watershed and several City of Toronto initiatives on the Don River, such as actions on a Wet Weather Flow plan which seeks, among other efforts, to put a massive underground stormwater tank in Farlinger Ravine.

We need to be involved in all these efforts, but it can be overwhelming.

**In July of 2012, therefore, the Board asked the City for updates on 15 key aspects of the health of Taylor Massey Creek.**

We received some answers in the fall, and we'll be happy to share the responses with you.

To obtain a copy of the responses to our questions, please send us an e-mail and we will forward it, in Acrobat.

It is a complex report, with numerous hyperlinks to lengthy documents, and may take some time to digest.

**In January, we will essentially repeat this e-mail, and announce a date for a community summit on the health of Taylor Massey Creek.**

The summit will be held in February or March.

It will summarize current action on the 15 questions we raised, and seek to ascertain consensus on additional questions or possible next steps.

It's our Creek. We need to help protect and restore it. We can disconnect our downspouts and perform clean-ups and plantings. But we also need to provide input to government so that their policies, budgets, and actions are consistent, effective, and meaningful.

**Please forward this to friends and neighbours, and don't forget to e-mail us if you want a copy of the report.**

On behalf of the Board, and wishing you the best of the season,

Paula Stein

E-mail Coordinator

[eco@thetmp.org](mailto:eco@thetmp.org)



## Award Winners at the AGM



The newest Lifetime Members  
Dawn McEachern & Malcolm Geast



The winner of George S. Henry  
Trophy was Vera Stoyanoff



Novice of the Year - Jenn McDougall  
Malcolm Geast Photography  
Award winner - Anna Leggatt

### FRUITED CHEESE SPREAD ~ Memory from our AGM App Table

#### For the cheese base:

400g regular cream cheese (1 tub)  
140g pkg goat's cheese (Optional)

Put both into a medium sized bowl. Using a hand mixer, blend together until mixed and slightly softened.

Spread cheese mixture out about 1/4" to 1/2" thick onto serving platter . Or, mound into a flattened dome shape if you prefer.

#### For the topping:

1/2 cup dried cranberries  
1/2 cup dried apricots  
1/4 cup red onion  
1/2 cup parsley  
2 Tbsp. capers

Then mix together with:

1/4 cup olive oil  
1/4 cup red wine or balsamic vinegar  
3 Tbsp. honey  
Salt and pepper

Finely chop all ingredients and put into a small bowl.

Check and adjust seasoning. You want a balance of sweet, salty and acidity. Spread or pour over the cheese mixture.

Dip can be served warm or at room temperature. Serve with assorted crackers or pita crisps.

Note: The measurements are all approximate. Just taste and adjust as necessary. You can also use dates or figs in the topping.

If you make and serve the dip right away the colours are "prettier" and the ingredients more distinct. If you let it sit a while the colour tends to go brownish but everything mellows out and the flavour is richer and more complex.

Hope you enjoy it!-----Carole

## *Memories of the AGM*





*If you would like to make a submission in be included in the next issue of The East York Garden newsletter the next **deadline is February 22nd, 2013***

*Please e-mail you comments regarding our Newsletter or submissions for the next issue to [jenn@majam.net](mailto:jenn@majam.net)*



**EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB**

**We're on the Web!**

<http://www.eygc.ca>

*Mark your Calendars ~  
Some Great Winter Events*

- ♦ **February 13th** ~ Essentials for Small Gardens at the Toronto Botanical Gardens
- ♦ **February 14th** ~ St. Valentines Day
- ♦ **February 16 & 17** ~ Orchid Show 2013 at the Toronto Botanical Gardens
- ♦ **February 18th** ~ Family Day
- ♦ **February 28 to March 3** ~ Stratford Garden Festival ([www.stratfordgardenfestival.com](http://www.stratfordgardenfestival.com))
- ♦ **Canada Blooms** ~ March 15-24 at the Direct Energy Centre
- ♦ **April 27th** ~ OHA District 5 AGM hosted by Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society

## East York Garden Club Membership Renewal Form

Name .....

Address .....

Postal Code ..... Phone #.....

email.....

(Note that we will only use your email address to send you EYGC information. We do not distribute it to anyone else.)

☐ Single Membership      ☐ Family Membership      ☐ Renewal      ☐ New Membership

Age Bracket: ☐ Under 18    ☐ 18-60    ☐ Over 60

(Note: it is strictly voluntary if you choose to check one of these boxes. The rental rate at Stan Wadlow is a lower rate for organizations with a high number of seniors (over 60) and youth (under 18) therefore it is helpful, but not necessary, for us to have this information.)

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees for 2013 are \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family membership. Fees can be paid in person at a regular meeting of the Club or by mailing this form and a cheque (payable to "East York Garden Club") to:

East York Garden Club  
c/o Cristina Brown  
7 Knightsbridge Road  
Scarborough, ON M1L 2A8