

January ~ February  
2014

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 Fairbanks

Newsletter Editor:  
Jennifer McDougall



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**Thursday, January 16th, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

**Topic: Gardens of Northern Italy      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, she gets her gardening fix by helping maintain a public garden and guiding visitors around the Toronto Botanical Gardens and Allan Gardens. She has also created "virtual tours" so she can bring these two local gardens to those who can no longer visit in person.

In a series of lectures entitled "Gardens of Italy" Donna takes us to Italy's most beautiful public and private gardens. Tonight's presentation--Gardens of Northern Italy, Donna takes us on a journey to the most beautiful gardens of Italy's northern lake district. From a baroque extravaganza on Lake Maggiore, to an 'English' garden on the shores of Lake Como and a Palladian villa garden inspired by Versailles in the Veneto to the east.

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

Members with surnames beginning with "M" through "P" 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 20th, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

**Topic: Lavender      Speaker: Christine Moore**

In the mid 1990's Christine Moore became interested in lavender and began collecting information on this versatile herb, subsequently writing the first Canadian book on lavender. Although raised in the Toronto area, the farming roots of the family attracted her and she studied agriculture at the University of Guelph. Roses are her other passion and she has been involved with the Greater Toronto Rose & Garden Society and is the past President of the Canadian Rose Society.

In tonight's presentation, we visit some lavender farms and look at how lavender is grown commercially, how lavender oil is produced, varieties of lavender you can grow and how to grow in your garden. Christine's book and some lavender items will be available for purchase.

Note: There will be fragrance at this meeting.

Members with surnames beginning with "Q" through "Z" 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.

## *The Rockery's 10th Anniversary*

Admittedly, the title is a "bit" of a misnomer. The Stan Wadlow Rockery garden has been around a lot longer. This is the garden that East York Garden Club now maintains on behalf of the City.

Find out more about our history with this patch of East York at the January meeting, Thursday, January 16, 2014.

### The Ice Storm and the Rockery

Veronica went over to the Rockery to see the damage and was pleasantly surprised. It fared better than her own garden!

One small birch branch had fallen, but she couldn't see where it came from, so no real damage to it. One Juniper at the top of the stairs had obviously been bent over, but, was on it's way back up. That was it.

From the footprints, the Rockery is well visited in winter. It is still the thoroughfare as in summer. Our efforts at keeping it beautiful are enjoyed year-round. Thank you!



#### **Rockery Team Lead**

Think about becoming a Rockery Team Lead. This entails committing to come out on a scheduled dates throughout the season. The number times you'd be scheduled depends on how many Team Leads we get, the more TL's, the fewer committed days. The TL tasks include turning on the water, bringing out our sign and tools from our storage area, put them back, and turning off the water.



## Prez Patch

by Susan Bartlett

Welcome to 2014. The weather brought an unusual end to 2013 and made for a challenging holiday season for many of us. Now that the power is back on, it's been too icy or cold to properly check the damage to the garden. Toronto arbourist estimated that 20% of the City canopy has been destroyed and this is sobering. However some of my shrubs that were flat on the ground on Christmas Eve have righted themselves again. Many things in nature are resilient and so are us gardeners. I predict record breaking sales at garden centres in the spring as we all restock and replant.

Until spring, we can dream and plan and attend shows. **Get the Jump on Spring** will be held on Saturday, February 22 at the TBG. For the first time, East York will have a booth at this event, so come by and say hi (admission is free) or even volunteer to sit at the booth, more information to come on this. In March there will be Success with Gardening taking place March 6-9 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, conveniently close to Canada Blooms at the Direct Energy Centre March 14-23.

But the event of the season will be the East York Art & Photography Show at the S. Walter Stewart Library for the month of March. The official opening reception will be on Saturday, March 8 and the weather can't stop this! See you there!



## 2014 EYGC Board Members

### *Reminder ~ EYGC Art & Photography Show*

This is just a reminder that there is still a couple of weeks left to make a submission to the EYGC Art & Photography Show. Deadline is Thursday, January 16. Details of how to submit below:

*Take a photo of your piece and send it to the submissions email address: [eygcsubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:eygcsubmissions@gmail.com) (same address as for photos) or Contact Diane Ronan at [416-421-9604](tel:416-421-9604). Leave a message and she'll make arrangements to see your work.*



## Betty Meyers ~ A Lifetime of Gardening

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

*By Barb Fairbanks*

Betty Meyers is one of our recent “Lifetime” members and it has truly been a lifetime full of gardening from the time she was a young girl. Born into a family of farmers outside of Zephyr, north of Sanford, Ontario, her family had a beef farm, with a feedlot, pigs, ducks, geese, chickens, apple trees and a vegetable patch. In the spring, they would get chicks from the chick hatchery and Betty was given 25 male chicks to raise for her future income. Her grandfather taught her to garden at 7 years old with a small vegetable garden staked off. He taught her how to prepare the soil, plant the seeds and how to harvest.

She belonged to the 4H Garden Club called the Dirt Diggers at the age of 12. After 3 years, her garden was allowed to be entered in the 4H competition. It was sponsored by a man who owned the Canadian Countryman, a paper that was distributed to local farms. His wife sponsored the Home Economics Club and the Garden Club in the county. Judging took place in August and Betty won for the best vegetable garden in the county. The prize was spending a week at the University of Guelph and staying in Mac Hall between Christmas and New Years with winners from many counties all over the province. During the day she went to classes and learned canning, how to grow different varieties of plants and vegetables, making compost, and using manure. With only one girl to every three boys, it was a very exciting week with square dances every night—you never sat down!



Her father took over the family farm when she was 11. Her father wanted Betty to have an education as he himself didn't enjoy being a farmer and she had no interest in becoming a farmer's wife. Her parents wanted her to be a teacher, but that was not what Betty wanted and she quit after 6 weeks. In 1954, Betty was boarding on Broadview and started working at a correspondence school as she knew how to type. In the meantime, she went to Toronto Western and spoke with the Pathologist regarding a career as a technologist. She studied Microbiology, Histology, Biology, Biochemistry and Blood Banking. She worked at Toronto Western for 18 months and was certified as a Registered Technologist. This work took her to Montreal for 5 years after which she moved to Hamilton and worked in the Blood Bank of the Red Cross. She retired from the Red Cross after 23 years.

Betty then moved to Don Mills where she took up gardening again. A move to an East York bungalow followed in 1978 and Betty has lived in this home for the past 35 years. There was an existing rose garden with lots of bee balm when she bought the property. There was a huge “New Dawn” rose that was planted in 1950 and still grows today! She did not change the garden until she could see what was there. She built her garden up over the years using the knowledge from 4H and from a local gardener, Janet Badali. Janet taught Betty a lot including how to grow in East York clay and, fortunately for us, got her to join the East York Garden Club in about 1980. In the spring and summer, Betty would work 7am-3:30pm and as soon as she came home she would go straight to the garden and work through to 9pm and quickly made huge changes to the garden from the soil right on up.

Betty has been an active member of the EYGC including being the Treasurer for 3 years and auditor for 3 years. Up until the last couple of years, she had always donated plants for the plant sale. Early on, Janet and Betty took on the big job of organizing the sale at the park on Canada Day with car loads of plants! She has opened her garden to tours. She has given mini presentations on clematis and grasses at meetings.

She was always very active in competing in the flower shows. It all started with a hanging begonia that was really beautiful. She took it to the club meeting for the greeting table, but when Janet saw it she told Betty that it was going to compete in the show and wrote her up an entry ticket. Well, it won Best in Show and Betty was stunned and hooked! She has entered ever since and as she says: "I am only now running out of steam." Betty has taken many classes and workshops in design once she decided to start that part of the competition. Reading books, joining other garden clubs that had an emphasis in design, and going to see other clubs' shows all contributed to her success in the design section of our flower shows. She does wonder why she never became a judge!

During the year, she enjoys trekking outside of the city where she finds the nurseries have different varieties of plants and the plants tend to be bigger and less expensive. Her favourites are Bradford Greenhouse, Georgina Greenhouse, John's Garden in Uxbridge, and Lost Horizons. She likes Humber Nurseries for perennials. And don't discount going to your local corner store—there are treasures to be found amongst the regular plants. She learned that from Anna Leggatt.



Betty loves the 20 amaryllis that she has in her front window. The plant that she can't wait to see in her garden is the shade-loving pink Jack in the Pulpit—she loves to look for it to come up in late June and it has multiplied and it is stunning. Betty also loves vitacella clematis and hosta. Betty considers herself to be a plant collector rather than a landscaper. She likes statuary in the garden for interest. If she ever has a heartbreak in the garden, she just considers it as part of the learning curve.

Her advice to someone just beginning to garden: appreciate all plants, and pick your favourites—stick with them and learn all you can about them. You will build a good education as your favourites change.

Betty believes that the EYGC has becoming better and better. She feels it is interesting to all ages and levels of gardening skills. When asked why she thinks it is important to be part of a garden club, she replied, "It helps you to keep learning. You have to appreciate that not every meeting is going to be what you are interested in, but you have to sit and listen and you will come out with one thought that will help you at some point in your garden."

Gardening is a continuing education and Betty is living proof.

## *The EYGC People's Choice Photo Contest Rules 2014*

*By Malcolm Geast*

1. Members may submit one print, which is to be no larger than 5 by 7 inch (approximately 13 by 18 cm)
2. The member's name must be printed on the back of the photo. (Note: Press lightly when writing or use a label, so as not to make an impression on the front of the photo.)
3. The photo should fit with the category for that month's contest.
4. Entries for monthly contests must be received by 7:15 p.m. on the day of the contest.
5. Entries for the August show will be accepted between 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. on Friday, August 15 and between 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, August 16.
6. First, Second, Third Prize, and Honourable Mention winners will receive ribbons and points to be counted toward the awarding of the annual trophy.
7. Entries in the November contest must be portrait orientation, and can include photos entered in previous contests (including the the Fall contest). The winning entry will be the cover of the 2015 yearbook.
8. Photographs are to be produced from any still-camera (film or digital).
9. The Club reserves the right to copy and use the images of the winning entries.

**Judging Criteria:** Ballots will be provided for those attending to vote for the photo of their choice, one vote per member.

## *2014 Garden Club Speaker Line-Up*

Date	Topic	Speaker
January 16	Gardens of Northern Italy <a href="#"><i>People's Choice Photo Contest: "Orange"</i></a>	Donna Fenice
February 20	Lavender <a href="#"><i>People's Choice Photo Contest: "I Love..."</i></a>	Christine Moore
March 20	Plants That Bugs Die For <a href="#"><i>People's Choice Photo Contest: "Shoes"</i></a>	J. Paul Lamarche
<a href="#"><u>April 17</u></a>	Creating a Beautiful Garden with Native Plants <a href="#"><i>Flower Show</i></a>	Cynthia Brown (Toronto Region Conservation Authority)
May 15	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 19	Now I've Got It—Where Do I Put It? <a href="#"><i>Flower Show</i></a>	Anna Leggatt
July 17	Pot-luck supper in a member's garden (details will be published in the July newsletter)	
August 16 (Saturday)	<a href="#"><i>Annual Flower Show &amp; Tea</i></a> <a href="#"><i>People's Choice Photo Contest</i></a>	
September 18	Spring flowering Bulbs—Plant a Spectacular Spring Garden Now <a href="#"><i>Flower Show</i></a>	Dugald Cameron
October 16	Mushroom Mania <a href="#"><i>Annual Fall Photo Contest</i></a> People's Choice Carved Pumpkin Contest Seed Exchange	Ann McIlmoyle, Waymac Farms
November 20	Annual General Meeting, Awards Presentation, and Pot-luck Supper <a href="#"><i>People's Choice Photo Contest: "Yearbook Cover"</i></a>	

## *2014 EYGC Photo Contest Categories*

### People's Choice Contests:

January - Orange

February - "I Love..."

March - Shoes

August (held in conjunction with the Annual Flower Show)

1. Dry

2. Solitude

3. Murals

November - 2015 Yearbook Cover



### Annual Fall Show:

#### Horticultural

1. A Rose is a Rose is a Rose
2. Hanging Baskets
3. My Garden
4. Autumn Leave

#### General

5. Landmarks of Toronto
6. Black and White
7. Outside at Night
8. Bird\Baths (with or without the bird)
9. Flowing Waters
10. The Year of the Horse (a photo with a horse as the subject)
11. The Four Seasons (four photos of the same location, one photo in each season; need not be horticultural)

### Children & Youth Section

12. Anything Grows  
Any horticultural subject)
  - (a) Children's category (ages 6 to 10)
  - (b) Youth category (ages 11 to 17)

*EYCG needs YOU !!!*

We have a few job openings for 2014:

**The Board**

We could really use a **SECRETARY** to take Minutes and transcribe them. We may even reduce our meetings in 2014 to make it easier! A lot of committees are submitting written reports now, so the Minutes are usually just 2 pages. The Secretary position is non-voting, but your ideas and suggestions are valued.

We can always use more Board members, especially now. We have traditionally held Board meetings once a month, but are experimenting with holding a few fewer meetings to ease up on the time commitment.

If at all interested in the Board, now or in the future, please call me at 416-467-4945 or [susanhirst@gmail.com](mailto:susanhirst@gmail.com)

**Flower Show Assistant**

This would be acting as a back-up the Flower Show Coordinator. Please call Barbara Fairbanks (416-755-0278) [barbpiercey@bell.net](mailto:barbpiercey@bell.net)

**Rockery Co-ordinator(s)**

The Rockery is one of the Club's biggest legacies and community outreach projects. As time has gone by, the City's involvement has lessened and our role is vitally important in maintaining this public space. The new coordinator could be one person or the position could be split into three.

Please contact: Veronica Callinan (416-801-9659) or [vcallinan@sympatico.ca](mailto:vcallinan@sympatico.ca)

**Publicity**

Getting the word out about Club meetings and events, either online/social media or by traditional methods such as posters. The publicity coordinator has always done the yearbook also, but if you want to help with just one of these tasks, that's fine too. Contact Susan at 416-467-4945 or [susanhirst@gmail.com](mailto:susanhirst@gmail.com).

**Logoware**

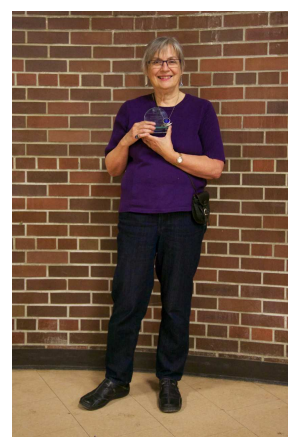
There is already an inventory of EYGC t-shirts and bags just waiting to be sold. Perhaps you have an idea for some items you'd like to see the EYGC logo on? Contact Susan at 416-467-4945 or [susanhirst@gmail.com](mailto:susanhirst@gmail.com)

*Award Winners at the AGM*

The newest Lifetime Member  
Betty Meyers



The winner of George S. Henry  
Trophy was Vera Stoyanoff



Novice of the Year -  
Claudette Levesque



*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, 2014***

*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 at TBG*

Toronto Botanical Gardens Winter Lectures

The Cafe opens at 5:30, Doors open at 6:30, Lectures start at 7:30.  
Members free, bring a friend \$10; Public \$25,

Students (with ID) \$15.

Promoting Biodiversity in the Urban Landscape  
Scott Torrance

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014 7:30PM

Why Gardens Matter

Harry Jongerden (New TBG Executive Director)

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014 7:30PM

777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, ON M4C 1P2

## 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 2014 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