

# The East York Garden

"The East York Garden" is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club



Issue Date: July August 2018

Photo: Lilies Credit: Alan Barber

### **Next Meetings:**

### Thursday July 19, 2018, 6:30PM

# Topic: Potluck Dinner at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse

This year's Potluck Dinner will be a "picnic" theme held at the Stan Wadlow clubhouse! Doors open at 6:30pm with dinner to start at 7:00pm.

dinner to start at 7:00pm.

There will be a wandering Master Gardener to answer any garden questions you may have, and identify plants. If you have never attended one of our July "meetings", don't be shy. It is a social evening and a true potluck—bring whatever you like—if we have 50 potato salads then that is what we have (it hasn't happened yet!)

A reminder of what each member should bring: a dish of food (a salad, a main, a dessert) that does not need to be heated, with at least six portions\* along with whatever serving utensil would be needed; your own plate, cutlery, cup, and napkin—no folding chairs this year! Beverages will be provided. There is no access to a refrigerator, freezer, microwave or oven. Please label all your containers and serving utensils.

\*(The law requires us to give notice that the food has not been inspected i.e., eat at your own risk. In keeping with food safety, please follow general food safety practices: wash your hands when cooking, keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot)

#### ∫aturday August 18, 2018, 2:00PM to 4:00PM

#### Topic: "Annual Flower Show & Tea"

This is our big flower show of the year with top prizes for award winning entries. Entries for the Flower Show will be accepted between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening, and between 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. on Saturday morning. Judging begins at 11:20 a.m. sharp.

The show and tea is open to EYGC members and the public from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be some nice raffle prizes and tickets will be available for purchase on the day and at the Potluck dinner in July. You can vote for your favourite photo in each of 3 classes. For the afternoon tea, we would appreciate donations of desserts, cookies, or other goodies.

The design theme for this flower show is "Toronto Events & Festivals". We have a speaker, Peter Keeping talking about "Clematis" at 3:30pm. Goodie packages will be available for purchase.

#### See more details on Page 22

Good luck to those members who are entering flowers, vegetables, photographs & designs!



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 pm.

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

Yearly membership fees are \$20.00 for a single, \$30.00 for a family. To inquire about membership, please contact:

Barbara Fairbanks at: 416-755-0278

Visit us on the web: www.eygc.ca

**President:**Barbara Fairbanks

**Vice President:**Rosalind Regnier

**Newsletter Editor:** *Michael Woods* 





#### IKENOBO IKEBANA SOCIETY OF TORONTO PRESENTS

### 55th JAPANESE FLORAL EXHIBITION



Sunday, July 8, 2018 12:00 pm to 4:30 pm Official Opening 1:30 pm

demonstration Professor Yumi Kubota Kyoto, Japan

IKEBANA DISPLAYS BY
MEMBERS OF THE TORONTO CHAPTER

refreshments Tea Room

Admission \$10.00 at the door

JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
6 GARAMOND COURT, DON MILLS
(WYNFORD DRIVE & DON VALLEY PARKWAY)



FOR PURTHER INFORMATION
PHONE: 416-467-4962 OR EMAIL: IEENOBOTO@SYMPATICO.CA

## July-Aug 2018 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits Various Photos:

Alan Barber, Karen Bell, Barbara Fairbanks, Monique Gauthier, Malcolm Geast, Laura Grant, Austra Gulens, Anna Leggatt, Jue Mason, Nola McConnan, Anita Millar, Rob Norquay, Diane Ronan, Michael Woods, Janet Zablocki

### Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch by Barbara Fairbanks

#### Those Cardinals...

Everything is ramped up in July—the gardens are becoming jungles, the weather is getting hot, hot, hot and things at the Club keep on keepin' on.

New this year: the location of our July Potluck meeting—moving to the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse where we will have air conditioning, ceiling fans, a roof over our heads and washrooms! We've been having a hard time locating backyards big enough to fit our ever-increasing membership and then on top of that—what if it rains? Worry no more. The toughest thing will be finding a parking space, so we encourage you to carpool to the potluck picnic.

I have actually had a chance to get out in the garden this year. I've been wondering about why my Hostas are not yet holey due to the slugs and snails. I found my answer once I had a chance to sit and observe. The two pairs of cardinals nesting, one set in the skyrocket juniper, and the other somewhere nearby, have had babies! They have been feeding all those hungry mouths with escargot! No wonder I have been finding smashed snail shells on the porch, the walk, the rocks—the parents are seeking them out from the undergrowth and then SMASHING them against the hard surface to get at the protein-rich snails. I am hoping they will have a second brood to carry on their much-appreciated work.

Once again, please sign up or ask about volunteer opportunities with the Club—we have lots to choose from—in order to keep us doing all that we do throughout the summer and the rest of the year.

If I don't see you at one of the many Pop-Ups, the Potluck Picnic, the Annual Flower Show & Tea, please have a safe and interesting summer. Take lots of photos and write an article for the newsletter telling us all about it.



I look forward to seeing you at our meetings this year and, as always, you can contact me at: barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net or 416-755-0278

### The New EYGC Logo



We wanted to find out more about our designer, and she graciously agreed to answer our questions.

Congratulations to EYGC, we have a new logo! Our new logo is contemporary, professional, colourful, and looks great!

The entry selected as the winner was designed by EYGC member, Brittany Leigh Cavanaugh.



EYGC: How did you get interested in design?

**BLC:** I fell in love with design through journalism. I did my undergraduate degree in journalism and English literature, and a significant part of that program was the design aspect of the news cycle. Once I graduated, I immediately went into a 3-year design program. So, essentially, that was my gateway.

EYGC: Did you have any particular inspiration or mentor that influenced you?

**BLC:** I wouldn't say that there was a particular mentor that influenced me, but my design decisions were inspired by two different ideas. One, the desire to include the Purple Coneflower in some capacity; and two, to contemporize the pre-existing logo design with a younger perspective.

**EYGC:** What is your favourite part of the design process?

**BLC:** Hmm... this is a tough question. I guess I really enjoy seeing the end result. It's a culmination of hard work and various ideas that come together in singular form.

**EYGC:** What made you decide to enter the EYGC competition?

**BLC:** Recently, I have been doing a lot of repetitive design work. I love doing it, but I wanted to try and switch my headspace to something a little bit different. When I heard about this opportunity, I knew I had to enter.

EYGC: What did you find most challenging when working on your design?

**BLC**: Fonts! I'm such a typophile, which can be both a good and bad thing. I always try to challenge myself to find something that fits the unique job I am doing without repeating the same staple fonts I love.

EYGC: What did you find most rewarding when working on your design?

**BLC:** I think this goes back to question 3. The end result is definitely the most rewarding. Getting to see all your hard work poured into a finished product is great and relieving! Plus, seeing your work in real world application is surreal.

### Pop-up Gardens Spring 2018









Alan & Michael's Garden during Tulip-mania

Pop, Pop, Pop!







Rob's Yellow Lady Slipper & Double Bloodroot



Nola's 'Oh My Goodness' Trilliums, and Blood Red Tulips

Alan's Laburnum/Viburnum Combo

## Pop-up Gardens Spring 2018





Roz's Lovely White Clematis and Unusually Coloured Coral Peony





Sue's Colourful Blooms





Anita's Poppy & Spring Garden





**Rob & Chris's Front Yard Drive-by** 

# Pop-up Gardens Spring 2018





Austra's Manicured Perennial Bed and Raised Vegetable Garden





Veronica's Lush Reverse Terraced Garden, and Unusual Bi-Coloured Peony





Laura's Impressive and very Colourful Niagara-on-the-Lake Garden

### Toronto Clean-Up Day



The EYGC Volunteers back for a quick Spring Clean-Up & Garbage Removal, enjoying the Sunshine

March in the East York Canada Day Parade!

Yes, you can march with other members under the EYGC banner on Sunday July 1st.

After the march there will be a plant sale in the park! Just take a look at how much fun we had last year. Mark it on your calendar to join us!

For more information call Karen MacDougall at 416-467-4827



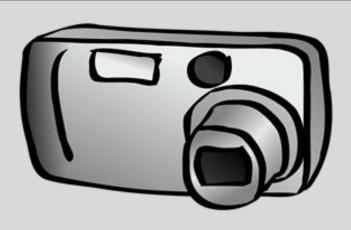


Dennis Jones at Mary Fragedakis' Environment Day

#### **Our City Councillor's Environment Days**

Once again EYGC had a table at both the Environment Days of Janet Davis (May 5) and Mary Fragedakis (June 16). Janet's was a chilly, windy day and Mary's quite a sunny and lovely weather day.

Thanks to our EYGC volunteers manning the table and talking up our Club: Theresa Boyd (twice!), Jennifer Smith, Lynda Tanner, Diane Dyson, Dennis Jones (twice!), Rob Norquay, Karen Bell, George Gorrie, Mary Donovan and Susan Bartlett.



Just a reminder that the upcoming **Annual Show in August** includes a:

# "People's Choice" Photography Contest.

Let your creativity shine through as you interpret these themes:

- · Vegetables in the Garden
  - My Favourite Flower
    - At the Beach

A few rules to keep in mind:

Members may submit one print per category which is to be no larger than 5x7 inches (approx. 13x18 cm.)

The members name should be printed on the upper right corner on the back of the photo.

Entries will be accepted between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Friday August 17th and between 9:00a.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Looking forward to seeing lots of entries.

Linda Boyko & Anita Millar









If you are interested in attending the Ontario Horticultural Association's convention in Kingston this year, you can find information at:

http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/ up\_conf.php

There are garden tours, inspiring speakers, prizes, vendors, dinners and lots of likeminded gardeners from all over Ontario.

Registration is done by mail and forms are printable from the website





### Toronto Garlic Festival

#### Admission:

\$5, free for kids under 12

#### Date:

Sunday, Sept 16, 2018

#### Hours:

9 AM to 5 PM

#### Location:

Artscape Wychwood Barns
601 Christie Street, Toronto ON M6G 4C7
Website:

www.torontogarlicfestival.ca

Twitter: @torontogarlic
Hashtag: #torontogarlicfestival
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/

TorontoGarlicFestival/

Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/">https://www.instagram.com/</a>

torontogarlicfestival

## May Plant Sale















EYGC volunteers setting up the plants for the show, presenting the plants for sale, & the plant auction

### May Plant Sale











This year's plant sale meeting was run using the same format as the last several years, with 2 speakers discussing the plants that were on offer, highlighting any plants of note or with special needs, and answering questions from the audience; an auction of 8 or 10 plants "of note", that is, individual plants that were anticipated to be more desirable; and the actual open sale.

Veronica Callinan and Stacey Shannon did a superb job of presenting the plants on offer, and provided a good combination of knowledge between them. They spoke for just under 30 minutes, which I think is an appropriate length of time. We netted \$653.00 this year.

#### Paul Sarjeant







Issue Date: July August 2018

The East York Garden Club Newsletter

### April Flower Show Wrap-up







Anne Stanley's Judges Choice Winner Vera's First Place - Yoga

**Rosemary's Best Potted Plant** 

While I wasn't here to see it, the number of cut specimens was the lowest ever with only 14 entries! The unusual late winter blast held back many of the narcissus, hellebores and flowering branches. Last year we had 72 entries. Thank you to the intrepid competitors for searching their gardens for something to enter.

Congratulations to Anna Leggatt for her Best Cut Specimen award for her Hamamelis branch (Witch Hazel "Jelena"). The Best Potted Plant award went to first time competitor, Rosemary Vandierendonck, for her stunning pink Phalaenopsis orchid. The Best Design award went to Vera Stoyanoff for her elegant "Solitude" design with a single rose. Anne Stanley was awarded Judge's Choice for her very lovely "A Quiet Walk", a design in 2 rubber boots with tulips. Barb



Vera's 1st Place - Connectivity



**Kimberly Hewitt's First Place** 



**Anna's Best Branch** 



Vera's Arrangement for Best Design

### The Annual Flower Show & Tea: Saturday August 18th

Put on your creative thinking caps for another spectacular Annual Flower Show! This is a great competition and it is judged by three accredited horticulture and design judges. It is a really wonderful way of celebrating what is growing in East York and who grows and shows the best of the best. There are special cash awards for 8 "Best Of" awards in addition to the points and prizes.

There are 50 cut specimen classes, 12 plant classes (including hanging plants and dish gardens), 11 fruit and vegetable classes from peppers to zucchini, and 7 adult design classes and a children's design class.

The design theme this year is: "Toronto Events & Festivals" filled with Nuit Blanche, Caribbean Festival, Taste of the Danforth, and even the EX!

A reminder to entrants: Friday entry time: 6:30 to 7:30pm and Saturday entry time 9-11:15am. Judging starts at 11:20am sharp!

Looking forward to seeing everyone's entries and if there are any questions regarding the show, please call us: Linda Boyko 416-699-4308 or Barbara Fairbanks 416-755-0278.





### The Tea Part of the Annual Flower Show & Tea!

The Flower Show and Tea opens for viewing by members and the public at 2pm. We welcome you to come and purchase a tea ticket and enjoy a lovely afternoon with a large assortment of goodies and great coffee, tea, a special herbal beverage or a lemonade. A reduced ticket price for our members—bring your membership card!

If you have not attended one of these special Saturday afternoons, here's a peek at what you can expect:

- View the flower show and see hundreds of award winning entries.
- Prizes to be won if you purchase one or more raffle tickets. Voting in our People's Choice
  Photo Contest (see the details in this newsletter or your yearbook as to how to enter and the
  class list).
- Listening to a fascinating short talk from Peter Keeping, clematis nurseryman, on his top picks
  of this lovely flowering vine.

At the end of the afternoon, any of the delicious goodies remaining will be packed up and sold as tasty takeaway treats.

What a fabulous way to spend a summer afternoon. Bring your family and your friends - and some extra cash!

### District 5 AGM

#### The District 5 AGM Results:

The District 5 Annual General Meeting held in Aurora this year on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> was a lot of fun and quite interesting. East York had 24 members attend—we love the D5AGM!

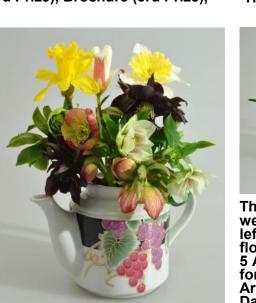
The hosts were the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society and they treated us to a wonderful array of morning refreshments and a boxed lunch. The speakers were David Tomlinson and Mark & Ben Cullen. The theme of the event was "Preserve our Past, Protect our Future".

We won a few ribbons in the Publications competition: Our July 2017 newsletter received a 1<sup>st</sup> prize, our bookmark received a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and our brochure and yearbook received a 3<sup>rd</sup> prize each.

We also won the trophy for the Highest Number of Points in Horticulture! Thanks to all the members who gave us items to exhibit in the flower show and to Cristina Brown for organizing all our entries.



EYGC Publication Winners from the District 5 Annual General Meeting L-R, Bookmark (2nd Prize), Yearbook (3rd Prize), Brochure (3rd Prize), July 2017 Newsletter (1st Prize)



Malcolm Presenting Hort Trophy to Roz (VP)



The District 5 Horticulture Trophy



were made from the leftovers of the EYGC flower entries at the District 5 AGM in Aurora. Not bad for leftovers!
Arrangements designed by Daisy Auer.

### **EYGC Community Gardening Project**



# Our First Small Community Gardening Project for 2018

We were contacted by Kirsten Kidd and Michael Maehle at the Royal Canadian Legion, Todmorden Branch 10 at Pape and Woodville. They have a newish garden they started (and got help for the Highway of Heroes) on the side along Woodville. It is very neat and they actually had a plan drawn up with plant places by a Master Gardener-in- training. They also have two small beds on the Pape side and they say part of the problem is the winter salt-water spray from the passing buses.



Volunteers Robert Bailey, Alan Barber, Rob Norquay, Wini Stoddart, Monique Gautier, Suzanne Issacs, Sue Munro, Alma Bailey

We offered our help to weed and prune and generally look after the beds. We have been there twice so far and the work is not nearly as difficult as the Rockery had been! We were warned that the big side garden got blasted with sun during the day, so we met at 6:30pm to work. The first evening we had 5 members out and the second we had 9.

Thank you to the volunteers who live nearby for keeping an eye on our new plantings and for

generally lending a helping hand.

We are still on the look out for a few similar sized projects throughout East York where it will be easy for members to walk to the site and help out.

### Barb Fairbanks



Volunteers Susan May, Jacqueline Tanner, Sue Munro, Wini Stoddart









### A Trip to Longwood Gardens

By Michael Woods

Longwood Gardens is located in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. Originally a farm dating back to the 1700's, it was developed into an arboretum by descendants of the original owner, until it fell on hard times in the late 1800's and became the target of a lumber company. Philanthropist Pierre S. du Pont wanted to save the trees, so he bought the estate in 1906. One thing led to another and du Pont decided to create a display garden for the purpose of entertaining his friends and business associates, and it eventually developed into one of America's leading horticultural display gardens. It is a fair distance from Toronto, but well worth the journey to see these impressive and immaculately tended gardens.

Alan and I have been to Longwood a couple of times before, always enjoying it very much, but this time we were extremely fortunate with our timing, possibly helped out by the delayed spring we had this year. We arrived at the peak of the spring bulb blooming, especially the tulips, and any of you who have seen our garden in spring know we love tulips. Their "Long Walk" is an enormous double-sided border garden, designed for showing off, and is planted and re-planted several times during the season. Full of a rainbow of the most glorious tulips this year, any early ones that were finished, had already been replaced with gigantic greenhouse-grown foxgloves, as the first step in the switchover to the next set of flowers. They have to keep the garden looking spectacular every single day of the year, and they truly do an amazing job. (With the help of an endowment fund set up by du Pont to keep it going) As the Dowager Countess of Grantham (Maggie Smith) said on *Downton Abbey*, "Nothing succeeds like excess."

But enough talk, when a picture is worth a thousand words...







The "Long Walk" early in the day before it got crowded, showing every colour in the rainbow, including white







They trial all of their tulips to select which ones they will plant the flowing year, and they're all clearly labeled





The colour combinations are great, & they underplant the tulips with flowers of the same colour for maximum impact





The enormous foxgloves were nearly 6 feet tall, & selected for their colour coordination when replacing spent tulips







Wisteria blooming profusely, & the plant displays inside the beautiful Beaux Arts style greenhouses were amazing



Royal Botanical Gardens celebrates opening of new, sustainable rose garden, and issued the following:

Burlington ON, June 21, 2018 — Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) announced today, the opening of its new Rose Garden in Hendrie Park, following a \$3 million rejuvenation project. The garden will officially open to the public on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to a weekend that includes tours, live entertainment, interpretive programming and the Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society Annual Show.

"RBG is thrilled to welcome in a new era of sustainable horticulture to Hendrie Park," said RBG Head of Horticulture, Jim Mack. "Much like our rejuvenated Rock Garden, the new Rose Garden embraces new designs and techniques that reflect a more modern, environmentally conscious approach to growing roses. One that people can implement in their home garden."

The new Rose Garden focuses on Ontariohardy, disease resistant roses together with companion plants. Beneath these beneficial plant pairings is a trickle irrigation system. Deep roots, combined with a consistently maintained layer of mulch, means less artificial watering which promotes an eco-friendly approach.

The companion plantings and advanced irrigation system creates a garden that is resilient and sustainable; a garden growing in healthy soil working together to attract beneficial insects that stave off pests.

Opened in 1967, the original Centennial Rose Garden showcased a large monoculture of hybrid tea and floribunda roses for nearly 50 years. Despite the best efforts of RBG's horticulture team, the collection had suffered in recent years. Using environmentally-friendly treatments could not outweigh the reality that the garden was made up of disease-prone roses, further compromised by falling under the shadow of large shade trees. In 2017, construction began on the rejuvenated garden, sacrificing a year of

roses in order to take the garden in a bold new direction.

Highlights of the new garden include approximately 3, 300 roses displaying 300 different cultivated varieties, 4, 500 companion plants and many new enhancements to the garden landscape. This includes upgraded pathways, fences, gazebos stairs and lighting as well as renovations to the Turner Pavilion Teahouse that overlooks the new garden. Education elements include an array of new interpretive signs, including the "story of roses" display, teaching visitors about the history of roses.

In 2017, Royal Botanical Gardens launched a \$3 million fundraising campaign in support of the new garden and are currently raising the remaining \$700-thousand. More information can be found at <a href="https://www.rbg.ca/rosegarden">www.rbg.ca/rosegarden</a>.





Every day is a colourful experience at the Gardens!

The speaker at the June EYGC meeting, Gloria Broks, mentioned the new Rose Garden at the RBG, and they both have the same philosophy for growing hardier, more disease-resistant, carefree roses. This is really the only way to go when growing roses to be truly pesticide and insecticide free, and still have healthy beautiful roses. Please see Gloria's recommendations on page 23.









One of the roses already flowering in the new Rose Garden at the RBG in Burlington, Ontario

# Rose Garden Opening Day Ceremonies

#### By Michael Woods

At first I was surprised to receive an invitation to the opening ceremony for the new Rose Garden at the RBG, but then I remembered that as a member of the Garden Writers Association, my name goes on a Media list that they share with garden-related companies and institutions, hence the invite.

The weather cooperated beautifully and it was a lovely sunny day, with a refreshing cool breeze. The ceremony was fairly low-key, with the obligatory representation of RBG management, suppliers, and contractors, along with some of the RBG gardening staff.

Considering it was just planted this year, there was a surprising amount of colour. I'm guessing that the suppliers wanted their plants to look their best so they made sure they were in bloom before delivery.

The garden is very impressive, and with a little maturity will be quite spectacular. It is a garden to see and one of which to be proud. The focus on hardy, disease-resistant roses, along with companion planting and a commitment to sustainability, is a solid step forward for the Royal Botanical Gardens.









Reflecting pools, brick pathways and new gazebos



Renovated Pavilion Teahouse at the Rose Garden

### June 2018 Flower Show Summary



Daisy Auer's Best Cut Specimen (Campanula)

missed having Jean Quinn, Anna Leggatt and Betty Meyers competing this month, we did have 18 competitors—including one newbie, Dianne Cavanaugh (she got a first for her rose!).

Thanks to Cristina Brown for chairing the show, and Wini Stoddart and Karen Bell for clerking the show. We had volunteers to help, but new helpers: Jane and John Karpenko just jumped in and did everything from filling vases to placing entries. I don't think John knew what he was in for! All our volunteers are very important

Thank you to all our participants and

volunteers in the June flower show. We had many beautiful entries and designs. While we

Congratulations to: Daisy Auer received the Best Cut Specimen for her lovely Campanula. Vera Stoyanoff received Best Rose, Best Design (North Star) and Judge's Choice (for her fragrant Ismena).

in making competing easy for all entrants.

THANK YOU! Join us any time!



Vera's Best Rose



Vera's Best Design



Vera's First Place



**Marion Stephen's First Place** 



Vera Stoyanoff's Judge's Choice (Ismena)

### Victoria Park School's Grand Adventure...2018







**Barb Foster** 

Victoria Park Elementary School on Tiago Avenue

Roz Regnier

On Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup>, I had the pleasure of representing the East York Garden Club in our annual sponsorship of Victoria Park School's trip to the Toronto Botanical Garden.

Upon my arrival at 8:15, I was warmly met at the school by Grade 2-3 teacher, Ms. James. She introduced me to her class who were excited to be going on a school trip.

Once the adult helpers were assigned to their group of children, and we lined up with the Grade 1-2 class in the hallway. Forty children and 14 adults then set off by TTC for the TBG. It was quite a feat getting all of us onto one bus and transferring at the busy intersection at Victoria Park and Lawrence.

Once we arrived at the TBG, we were welcomed by the two teachers that were to be the leaders that morning, along with Rosalind Regnier who organized the trip. I was with the Grade 2-3 class. The topic prepared for them was "Soil."

For the first activity, we went to a wooded area where the children looked for inorganic material – rocks and feathers -- that would not break down in the soil. This was followed by a walk to the creek where the teacher told a detective story about a squirrel that spilled some nuts. The class decided it was "fake news."

After the story the children were divided into groups to examine soil. The first group were close to the creek; the second group by a treed grassy knoll, and the third on a pathway. Each group examined the soil in the area and gave a short talk on their findings.

Lastly they walked over to the teaching garden where activities were planned.

- Looking for and examining organic matter –leaves, moss, twigs-- in the soil.
- Examining and holding earthworms. This was to show the importance of worms in producing soil. (Only one child declined to hold a worm.)
- À scavenger hunt, which allowed the kids to let off steam.

Around noon we returned to the TBG classroom where we met up with Rosalind and her group. Then we set off for Victoria Park School. I asked the children what they liked best: Most said "Everything!". A few said: "Touching the worms." Rosalind and her group did similar activities geared to the Grade 1-2 level.

This is one of the Community Outreach events sponsored by the East York Garden Club. The educational trip was well received by both the staff and children. It was a pleasure for me to be a part of this worthwhile project.

#### Barb Foster





# A Visit to Bunny Haven & Taming My Daughter's California Jungle

By Roz Regnier

For a number of years now, each May I travel to Oakland California to pull weeds and plant my daughter Cindy's garden. After two days of pulling weeds, it was time to move the compost and start planting.

Cindy and I go on garden tours and see many wonderful plants, and like kids in a candy shop, we have to try all these amazing plants. Okay, some don't make it, but she does have some success with others - a 25-foot passion fruit vine, a 4-foot lemon tree, and many jasmine plants. There is rarely any frost, so everything just keeps growing. Four nicotine plants have sprouted in a half inch space between her foundation and cement walkway, and last year her foxgloves were over 6 feet tall.

I limit my gardening to the front yard, side yard, and back deck. The back yard is a jungle of 5 redwood trees, a bamboo grove, 2 mock orange, camellia, 15 plum trees, etc, all on a slope! All of this is covered with 2 feet of ivy, and maintenance consists of trimming the ivy off the stairs going down to the creek at the end of her property. There's also an old greenhouse, and firepit down there - it certainly doesn't feel like part of the city back there.







Now, for the good part. My daughter volunteers at an animal shelter and has recently adopted a beautiful furry rabbit. But, he didn't get adopted because he has white fur and cute pink eyes. He lives in the second bedroom of her three-floor condominium, and bounces around her living room when she's home. He is very affectionate and insists on being petted when she does her yoga downward dog.

Did you know when you "fix" a rabbit, he can be toilet trained? He has a litter box with special gray paper and hay in it, and that's where he does his business. But here's the good part. When you compost this litter, the poop doesn't seem to disappear, and doesn't smell. I used this compost when I planted her purchased plants, and I couldn't believe the difference. The leaves and plants did not droop or look sad after



planting. I would have repotted all of her plants but I didn't have the time.

Cindy and her bunny "Chickpea", are coming to Toronto for a one-month visit this summer. I'll stock up on hay, gray paper and greens for Chickpea, and I'm hoping for lots of 'presents' from the rabbit.

PS: Cindy just emailed me that her tomato plant (growing in 80% bunny compost) just shot up another 9 more inches!

THIS STUFF IS GOLD!!!



# Violets for Mother's Day?

By Rob Morquay

My dad supported my interest in indoor plants by making for me a set of glass shelves that went across the South facing window in my bedroom. Previously I slept in the back bedroom, but negotiated with my sisters for the front one with all the sun. My room was ablaze with light during the day and had an eerie glow from the aquariums at night. (I needed to keep the lights on so as to keep the water warm. It's remarkable that I got any sleep!)

I needed the shelves so that I could maximize my plant collection. I specified glass shelves so that they would not block the sun on the lower levels. Dad happily installed these and I happily got more plants for my collection. I was fascinated by Haworthias, succulents that have long stems holding their blooms high above the plant. I liked ugly or awkward looking plants: crown of thorns and lithops – succulents that look like stones from South Africa. I did try my luck with African violets, but to this day I cannot grow them. Why? Because they need to be watered more than once a week! I manage that for growing seedlings (sometimes!), but on an ongoing basis – not for me.

Still, Woolworths was having a Mother's Day sale and I went and found African Violets on sale. I selected two and took them up to the nice cashier lady. She commended me on buying my mom a gift. I looked at the ground, stubbed my toe on the linoleum and said, "I bought them for me." Mom who did not like house plants, became an outdoor gardener in her 80's and this she did with much enthusiasm. By then, I had some horticultural training and could help out.





### CAREFREE ROJEJ:

No winter coverage, no blackspot

- choose a rose bush from the new varieties that are disease resistant, winter hardy, drought tolerant and on their own roots.
- these have thick, waxy, leathery leaves that are shiny and dark green.
- make sure it is the right place- needs at least 6 hours of sunshine daily
- ensure there is enough air circulation around the rose
- plant it deeply- with at least 4 inches of mulch around it
- plant in well composted soil
- use a soaker hose, covered with mulch
- water once a week 1-2 inches if it doesn't rain
- after a rose is well established- 3 years you can withhold water even more.

#### **Palatine Roses**

www.palatineroses.com 2108 Four Mile Creek Rd. Niagara on the Lake

#### **Hortico**

www.hortico.ca

Watertown, Ontario

#### **Sheridan Nurseries**

1774 Ellesmere Rd. 416 438-6931 2827 Yonge St. 416 481-6429

The above information is courtesy of June's meeting speaker, **Gloria Broks** 

### It's "Pop-Up" Time! Share your Garden with EYGC members...

This year we encourage everyone to think about doing a "Pop-Up". Your garden can be large, small or a work in progress. It's an opportunity to socialize with fellow members and to share knowledge.

You can arrange it in advance or give us at least 2 days notice to send out an email blast and make phone calls. If you are able to open your garden more than once during the year – Great! - Because then we see it through the changing seasons. If you can arrange two viewing times on one day, it allows members more flexibility to plan their visit. But it's really whatever works best for you. You are the one sharing!

Access to the gardens is exclusive to EYGC members.

If you want to pop-up your garden, please contact: **Diane Ronan Tel: 416-421-9604** or **Email: barb.fairbanks-eyac@bell.net** 













Here is a selection of photos from the many gardens that were popped-up during the 2017 season

### EYGC 2018 Bus Tour

On Sunday September 9th we'll visit:

Whistling Gardens...a must see garden. We'll have a tour & then time to purchase plants.







Next we'll go to a buffet lunch...



Then we visit the **Bell Homestead** in Brantford







Local produce & baked goods will be available at our last stop.

Cost \$85 for EYGC, OHA members \$20 extra for non-members (for membership fee) All taxes & gratuities are included

Tickets available at the May meeting Rosalind Regnier: 416-759-6247

### Mosaïculture returning to Gatineau in 2018

In the November-December 2017 issue of the newsletter, there was an article about Mosaïculture in Gatineau Quebec. If you missed the show last year, they have decided to do it again this year in Gatineau. It's an incredible display garden, and if you can find your way to the Ottawa area this summer, you really should see it for yourself.

# The following was issued by the CBC:

The free exhibit, put on by Mosaïculture Internationales de Montréal, was considered one of the bigger successes among the events to celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial.

While that event received more than \$9 million funding from three levels of government, the 2018 event, announced Tuesday at a news conference in Gatineau, will be relying on both government assistance and ticket sales.

The City of Gatineau and the province of Quebec will each contribute \$2 million, while the federal government is granting \$1 million to support Mosaïculture's marketing activities outside Quebec.

Event organizers also plan to charge visitors \$15 for Gatineau residents and \$20 for people from outside the city.





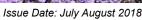














The East York Garden Club Newsletter

# Hey, What's Going On?

Dates:	Title:	For More Info Contact:
7&14-July-2018	Smartphone nature Photography for Beginners 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Toronto Botanical Gardens (TBG)	Toronto Botanical Garden_416-397-1341
14-July-2018	Wilket Creek Ravine Tour - Toronto Botanical Garden	Toronto Botanical Garden 416-397-1341
09-Aug-2018	Hand Gathered Bouquet, by Jessica Gale. 6:30pm to 9:30pm at the TBG	Toronto Botanical Garden 416-397-1341
July - August Weekends	Blooms Festivals at the Royal Botanical Gardens, (RBG) May to July. Check website.	https://www.rbg.ca/
20-Aug-2018	Creating Seasonal Urns, by Jessica Gale, at the Toronto Botanical Garden.	Toronto Botanical Garden_416-397-1341
July-August- 2018, Wed. Evenings	Red-Hot Jazz & Cool Blues—Live Summer Concerts in the RBG Gardens, Wednesday Evenings, 6:30 to 9:00PM	https://www.rbq.ca/
7-July-2018	Niagara-on-the-Lake Annual Garden Tour, 10:00am to 4:00pm.	https://www.notlhortsociety.com
On-Going	Certify Your Garden Through The Canadian Wildlife Federation	http://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore-our-work/connecting-with- nature/in-the-garden/get-certified/?src=ws

This list is to alert you to some of what's going on horticulturally in Toronto and the surrounding areas. Comprehensive information about each event is not listed here. We don't have the space for that, but if you see something that interests you, then please explore it further on your own. If you go to one of these events, please let us know all about your experience. Thanks!



### ONTARIO REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY

### **ANNUAL LILY SHOW**

Saturday and Sunday, July 14th and 15th, 2018

You are invited to attend the Ontario Regional Lily Society's Annual Lily Show, either as an exhibitor or spectator.

Held at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, Ontario. Entries to the show may be placed Friday evening or Saturday morning as specified in the Show Schedule. We welcome non-members as exhibitors.

Check ontariolilysociety.ca for further details as they become available.





# Do you know a budding gardener or naturalist?

You could win for them a:

Canadian Wildlife Federation's

"Li'l Green Sprouts Kit".

The gardening kit includes:

- Sturdy and gender neutral tote bag
- Garden tools with hardwood handles made especially for small hands
- Notepad on thick environmentally-friendly paper
- Pencil
- Magnifying glass with hole to attach a string if desired
- Activity booklet with 17 activities. The experttested directions, tips and variations will help you tailor your experience to different ages, interests, materials at hand and time availability. Exploring, growing & craft activities will lead to new discoveries, creations & good old-fashioned fun.
- Three traditional activity sheets with a fun Canadian twist, teaching about our wildlife and encouraging your child to discover them outside.
- Good bug/Bad bug identification cards and a package of seeds.

All you have to do is enter your name in a draw at our July meeting and the winner receives the kit.







# Exhibition at the TBG: "ZimSculpt"

Toronto Botanical Garden's outdoor African art exhibition "ZimSculpt" showcases hundreds of stone sculptures by over a dozen contemporary Zimbabwean artists.

### The exhibition opens Friday, August 3 through September 30, 2018.

The works are chiseled, hand-carved, sanded and polished by artists who draw upon a wide variety of inspiration. From dramatic modern styling praised by Henry Moore, to more contemplative "village" pieces that capture African life, these sculptures project a vibrancy that has captivated audiences around the world. The setting of Toronto's most beautiful garden for this great art highlights the beauty of both.

During the course of the exhibition, two artists-inresidence will be live-sculpting, demonstrating their carving techniques and intricate handiwork. All displayed work, including work created during the event, will be available for purchase, and visitors are welcome to commission pieces from the two featured artists.

An outdoor Marketplace will feature smaller one-of-akind sculptures for purchase as well as traditional basketry and jewelry by Zimbabwean artists.





### The Back Page Backyard...

Show us your backyard! (or front yard, or balcony...)

Send a photo of your backyard at its best, or at your favourite time of year. Show your whole backyard, or a cozy corner, or a particular "vignette" that you love and would like to share with EYGC members.

Be selective and send only one or two photos, preferably in jpeg format, and fairly high resolution is best for clarity. No flower close-ups here, those are for the front page...

Send to the newsletter at: woods-eygc@bell.net

Shown to the right is Janet Zablocki's backyard with lilacs blooming.



### Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Colleen Middleton, Jane Munro-Bowman, Karen Jeffrey, Phil Pothen



If you would like to make a submission to be included in the next issue of "The East York Garden" newsletter, the next deadline is:

August 24th, 2018

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to *Michael Woods* at:

woods-eygc@bell.net

We're on the Web! Find out more information and get back issues of this newsletter at our website:

www.eygc.ca



**EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB** 

"The East York Garden" is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club