

The East York Garden



Next Meetings:

Photo: Orange Tulips **Credit:** Austra Gulens

Please Note: All of our Garden Club meetings are on hold until the situation is resolved with the Corona Virus, COVID-19.

We will try to continue with some events if they can be done safely on-line, like the People's Choice Photo Contest. Thank you so much to all those individuals who sent in their photos, so we could continue with the contest.

We will continue to reach out to all of you online, and we will continue with the EYGC newsletter. This could be an opportune time to write that article for the newsletter that you never seemed to have enough time to before. We also want to hear from our members letting us know what sorts of things they have been doing to help get them through this very difficult time. If you have any inspiring words, or words of comfort, please send them along for the newsletter. Also, Spring has thankfully arrived, and I'm sure a lot of you have been taking photos of your spring gardens, and we would love to see them! So send a couple of photos of what's blooming in your garden, for all of us to enjoy.

Michael Woods, Editor & Art Director, EYGC Newsletter



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
July, 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:

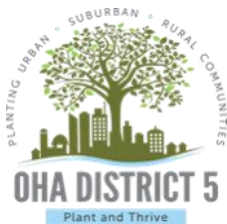
Cristina Brown at:
416-755-9077

Visit us on the web:
www.eygc.ca

President:
Diane Dyson

Vice President:
Rosalind Regnier

Newsletter Editor/Art Director:
Michael Woods



In these trying times, having a garden is a wonderful thing. However, if you don't have a garden, look up Margaret Roach's gardening blog. It is inspiring, and as EYGC member Diane Ronan says, it's the best garden blog ever. Thanks Diane.

Michael

"Maybe more than ever before in my life, I'm grateful today to have a garden. What a blessing it feels like. I can't imagine the weeks and months ahead without the refuge it will provide. Perhaps you all feel the same way."

Margaret Roach, Blogger Extraordinaire
"A Way to Garden" - Best Garden Blog
awaytogarden.com

A Way to Garden.com

Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:
*"This is July/August in
East York"*

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the
cover of the next or future Newsletter!
(Landscape format is best)
woods-eygc@bell.net

May - June 2020 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Alan Barber, Dianne Cavanaugh, Diane Dyson,
Barbara Fairbanks, Malcolm Geast, Austra Gulens,
Anna Leggatt, Nola McConnan, Anita Millar,
Wendy Plume, Rick Plume, Sonia Van Heerden,
Michael Woods*

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson

The rapidness and the unknown length of the COVID-19 response has made many things uncertain as we all adjust.

Our monthly, in-person EYGC members' meetings have now had to be cancelled until at least the end of June, as the City of Toronto has banned larger gatherings. We have had to postpone the annual bus trip as well. This year, we were scheduled to go to Niagara. We are awaiting word on the annual East York Canada Day parade.

The District 5 Annual General Meeting, scheduled for this Saturday, April 18th in Keswick, has also had to be cancelled. (Bravo to EYGC which led the number of registration for that excursion. Almost 30 members were planning to take the day trip!) And, finally, we are still waiting on word about the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) convention in July, on pause as the organizers wait to see what government and health authorities recommend.

In the meantime, EYGC Executive meets (remotely) more frequently now to consider how EYGC can stay connected with you. We are looking at more frequent communications (thank you Michael!) and the possibilities of a Facebook group and/or webinars. Expect to see us more online (with special thanks to Sue Wells who keeps us connected to members without internet). Feel free to send us more materials to share!

Gardeners may well have an advantage in these days of being house-bound. Whether it's given us more time to gaze out the window at new buds or to hunch over the earth, poking at it, we are connected to this place in which we have the good fortune to live.

So I want to encourage each of us. As more people look to learn about gardening now, we can be the ones to spread the beauty and bounty of our gardens. Let's share what we know. Let's learn from each other. Let's have a laugh together. In this time of physical distancing, now is the time to reach out to others. As gardeners know, this is the time for tending and care. Now more than ever, let's connect to each other. We will reap the benefits to come.

Keep well and grow on.

: DD

Diane Dyson, gardenclub@eygc.ca
President

Not Everything Got Cancelled...

The Coronavirus has had devastating effects on all of us, the whole world over. Closures, cancellations, physical distancing, and self isolation are just some of the things we have all had to embrace in order to try and stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It has been frustrating, depressing, and at times overwhelming at how insidious it has been affecting absolutely everything in our daily lives.

Many events have been cancelled, but one thing that it could not cancel is the arrival of Spring. Thank goodness! While we have been inside looking out, the gardens have been going about their regular business of sprouting and growing, turning green and blooming just like nothing was out of the ordinary. **THANK YOU GARDENS!** At least Mother Nature can continue unabated, and bring us all some colour and joy! The spring garden has certainly helped us cope with these trying times. Here are some shots of what our garden was doing, that helped to put some smiles on our faces.



Snowdrops were the first to appear, followed by Witch Hazel, Crocus, and even some Chives

Not Everything Got Cancelled...

Send us some photos of what helped you cope and get through this situation, and we'll put them in the next newsletter.

Thank you, *Michael Woods*

Please send photos to: gardenclub@eygc.ca or woods-eygc@bell.net





The Climbing Rose Saga - Part II

By Michael Woods

Last year I wrote about wanting to find the ideal climbing rose to grow around our front door, so that each time we went in and out, we would be greeted with the beautiful scent of roses. We could imagine living in "Rose Cottage" on Cobblestone Lane somewhere in rural England. But of course without having to worry about all the Brexit crap.

Well, I emailed Joanne Weber at **Eastcliff Farms**, to see if they could help me with my quest for an arbour to go around our front door. A couple of years ago, when we needed an extra large trellis for our clematis, Eastcliff was able to make a custom trellis that was based on a sketch that I sent to them. It was a great success, so I decided they were first on my list to obtain an arbour for our front door.

I knew that it was going to have to be another custom piece, so I took some measurements, and prepared a sketch for Joanne to review and see if she could help me. After a few back and forth emails, and some sketch revisions to make sure that the structure would be sound, we arrived at a solution (and a price...) that worked for both of us.

The above correspondence started in January, and several weeks later I gave the go-ahead to have the custom arbour built. To my surprise, Joanne got back to me right away, to tell me that she would like to get it completed in the following couple of weeks, before all the spring flower shows started. Eastcliff Farms was to have a booth at Canada Blooms this year, if it hadn't been cancelled, and that was the start of the show season for Joanne.

True to her word, a couple of weeks later, I got an email from Joanne asking if she could drop off the arbour when she came to Toronto to start setting up her booth at Canada Blooms. The arbour was complete! I was delighted, and could hardly wait to see it. Unfortunately for Joanne, Canada Blooms was cancelled two days after

she dropped off the arbour.

The arbour looked great, and all we really had to do, was get some brackets so we could fasten it to the front of the house, to ensure that the rather heavy iron arbour would be sure to stay in place.



Hopefully my "Rambling Rector" will look like this!

The next step was to get the rose for the arbour. I had previously found a rose that met most of my criteria on the David Austin UK website. However, I had decided that I needed to see if I could find a source here in Canada, hopefully where they were grown locally, improving the likelihood that it would survive our winters. I was in luck and found the rose, "**Rambling Rector**", at **Palatine Roses** in the Niagara area, where they grow their own stock. So, I ordered my rose, and was given a date in April when I could pick it up at their facility in Niagara.

The trip to Niagara was a real treat. We hadn't been out of the house in ages, let alone on a

Editorial

road trip. The trip went well, and Palatine Roses had a very efficient “curbside” procedure for picking up the roses. We simply pulled into their driveway, stayed in the car, popped the trunk, and they loaded the roses into the car. They closed the trunk, and waved us on our way. No contact.



Rose hips are supposed to follow the blooms...

We did have to let them know ahead of time when we would be by to pick up the plants in order to facilitate this, but that was certainly not difficult. They made it easy for us, and I’m sure they were glad to make the sale, all done online previously.

This was my first experience with bare root roses, however, I think I will leave that story for another article.

The next installment of this story will include a photo of our new arbour, and hopefully with a new rose starting to grow up onto the arbour.

Keep safe and healthy,

Michael

Eastcliff Farms was scheduled to have a booth this year at both Canada Blooms, and the Peterborough Flower Show. Unfortunately COVID-19 had other ideas.

You can find out more info at:

www.eastcliffarm.ca

They are located near Ayton, Ontario, in Grey County, near Hanover, Ontario.



“Plants contain the world.
The garden, better than
any college education,
gave the world to me.”

Jamaica Kincaid



“A modest garden
contains, for those who
know how to look and
wait, more instruction
than a library.”

Henri Frédéric Amiel

Every afternoon, as they were coming from school, the children used to go and play in the Giant's garden. It was a large lovely garden, with soft green grass. Here and there over the grass stood beautiful flowers like stars, and there were twelve peach-trees that in spring-time broke out into delicate blossoms of pink and pearl, and in the autumn bore rich fruit. The birds sat on the trees and sang so sweetly that the children used to stop their games in order to listen to them.

"How happy we are here!" they cried to each other.

Oscar Wilde

The Happy Prince and Other Tales



*When the world wearies,
and society ceases to
satisfy, there is always
the garden.*

Minnie Aumônier



Inspiring Words, Thoughts & Garden Photos

A half-moon, dusky gold, was sinking behind the black sycamore at the end of the garden, making the sky dull purple with its glow. Nearer, a dim white fence of lilies went across the garden, and the air all round seemed to stir with scent...He went across the beds of pinks, whose keen perfume came sharply across the heavy scent of the lilies, and stood alongside the white barrier of flowers. They flagged all loose, as if they were panting. The scent made him drunk.

D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*



If well managed, nothing is more beautiful than the kitchen garden: the earliest blossoms come there: we shall in vain seek for flowering shrubs in March, and early in April, to equal the peaches, nectarines apricots and plums; late in April, we shall find nothing to equal the pear and cherry; and, in May, the dwarf, or espalier, apple-trees, are just so many immense garlands of carnations.

William Cobbett,
The English Gardener



Inspiring Words, Thoughts & Garden Photos

I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud

by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



A Light Exists in Spring

by Emily Dickinson

A Light exists in Spring
Not present on the Year
At any other period —
When March is scarcely here

A Color stands abroad
On Solitary Fields
That Science cannot overtake
But Human Nature feels.

It waits upon the Lawn,
It shows the furthest Tree
Upon the furthest Slope you know
It almost speaks to you.

Then as Horizons step
Or Noons report away
Without the Formula of sound
It passes and we stay —

A quality of loss
Affecting our Content
As Trade had suddenly encroached
Upon a Sacrament.

A Special Poem from One of our Own...



A Spring Like No Other by Austra Gulens

When my days are encircled by grief and loss,
I look out the window at my backyard sanctuary and
I am reminded to turn off the news
step outside and
stand still.

Breathe.

The alluring scent of spring hangs in the air.

Listen.

The glorious melodies of the songbirds float through the trees.

Watch.

The tulips and daffodils are unfolding to a sea of colourful splendour.

So I breathe. I listen. I watch.

My heart is full and

My rejuvenated soul has the courage to face tomorrow.



EYGC Climate C.H.A.N.G.E. Ideas

What can we as **gardeners** do to help mitigate climate change? There are lots of things we can do, from small to large, to help. To assist with developing our idea list we have put together the **EYGC CHANGE Concept**:

C - Creative
H - Horticultural
A - Activities
N - Now, for
G - Gardeners
E - Everywhere

Climate Change is very real, and we should all do everything we can to assist in mitigating this global concern. Sometimes it can be very overwhelming to think about what needs to be done to change this situation, but what we as **gardeners** can be concentrating on is what we

can do everyday, however small, to assist in changing the course of events.

We know that some of you are already taking steps to make a difference, and we would like all our members to think about how we as **individual gardeners**, and as a **garden club**, can effect change.

We anticipate this will be an on-going feature in the newsletter where we share ideas that we can all consider adopting to help make a difference.

Please tell us what are you doing already. Send to: gardenclub@eygc.ca

Here are some of the ideas that we have received so far:

One of our tips from the last issue was to plant a Victory Garden. Some of you may be familiar with the idea, and some of you may find it a new concept. We have found a couple of articles courtesy of the U.S. National Gardening Bureau that might assist you, whether you're growing in a garden, or in containers. Plant some produce that you don't have to go to the store to enjoy!



Citrus will grow in pots, although more popular are herbs and tomatoes, and many other vegetables

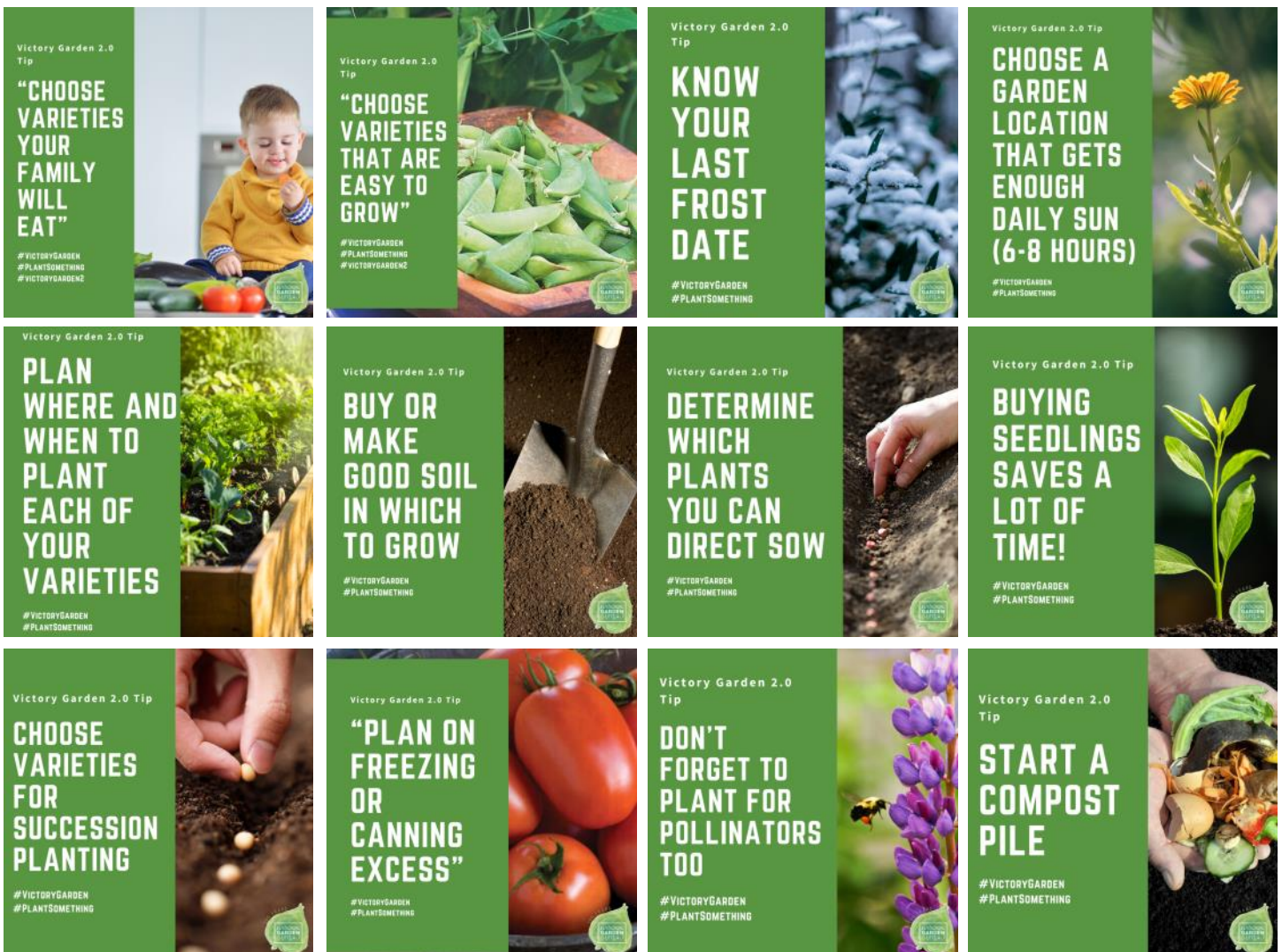
Growing a Victory Garden 2.0

The concept of a Victory Garden came about during World War II, when access to fresh fruits and vegetables was compromised, and food in general was hard to get. People were encouraged to “grow their own” to help feed their families, and take some stress off the food system. It is an appropriate time now to think about Victory Gardens again. The following article and accompanying graphics are courtesy of the U.S. National Garden Bureau:

When the Victory Garden Manual was first written in 1943, it was pretty easy to come up with reasons to grow your own vegetables. It was wartime and food was scarce. The food that was available might not have been the freshest or healthiest. Statistics say that in 1943, nearly 40% of all fruits and vegetables grown in the U.S. were grown in-home and community victory gardens. That's impressive!

Now, as National Garden Bureau celebrates its 100th anniversary (1920-2020), it seems timely to reintroduce the concept of victory gardening with quick and easy steps to plan and grow your own vegetable garden. ***We are calling it: Victory Garden 2.0!***

All credit goes to the author of this book, James H. Burdett. Mr. Burdett founded the National Garden Bureau in 1920 as a way to enlist horticultural writers and broadcasters in the noble effort of mass education to create a population of gardeners. In the process, he improved the lives of citizens both in wartime and in times of peace.



Victory Gardening in Containers

Thinking of growing a Victory Garden but don't have a garden? No problem. Containers work great for planting a Victory Garden. Here are some tips courtesy of the *National Gardening Bureau*:

Ten Tips for Growing a Container Victory Garden 2.0:

1. Don't underestimate the size of container needed for growing some vegetables.

Bigger is almost always better, but with larger containers comes a need for more soil and thus weight becomes a consideration, especially if you plan to move your containers often. Drainage is very important in a container as is soil depth. Good guidelines for choosing containers are provided in this article. For some additional vegetable container guidelines, this article will help.

2. Just as with in-ground plantings, you need enough sunlight.

Containers need 6-8 hours of sun per day to produce, but unlike in-ground plantings, you can move containers around to get more sunlight. Consider using containers with wheels, or otherwise easily movable containers, so they can receive enough sunlight.

3. What about wind? Are you on a corner balcony of a tall high-rise?

Think about how the wind might impact fragile plants or even topple the containers. Consider clusters of containers. Not only is it aesthetically pleasing, with plants providing some needed humidity for their neighbors, but also some plants can protect other plants from wind.

4. Vining crops need trellises...

not only for support but also to grow upwards, saving horizontal space which might be at a premium.

5. Soilless potting mixes are great for containers, providing good drainage with less weight (less chance of soil compaction).

The larger the container, the more potting mix you'll need which means less frequent watering.

6. Consider drip irrigation or self-watering containers depending on your availability to water frequently enough.

Container gardens do require more frequent watering (sometimes multiple times each day if it's hot and dry) than in-ground plantings.

7. Proper fertilization is more important for

container plantings.

More frequent watering can wash out some of the nutrients a plant needs to produce vegetables.

8. As with in-ground plantings: Know your zone and know your last frost date...

without that knowledge, you are setting yourself up for disappointment.

9. Think combinations!

Why not plant basil with a tomato plant? Or put beans with carrots? Spinach and onions work well together too. Some vegetables are pretty enough to be front and center and act like ornamentals!

To make it even easier, many suppliers and garden centers have searchable options for varieties that grow well in containers.

10. And last, but not least, don't forget to plant some flowers for pollinators!

Flowers that attract bees are good and necessary no matter how or where you plant your vegetable garden.

OK, so we can't travel this spring so why not start some tomatoes from seed on your windowsill. I don't have store bought seeds but I eat cherry tomatoes from the store. I phoned Anna Leggatt re this problem & this is her answer.

Rinse tomatoes in water to remove dirt. Cut open ripe tomatoes one variety at a time & squeeze the pulp & seeds into a container with a lid. Label & set aside for 3 days--no more--at a temperature not more than 21 C. Remove seeds from mess, clean, & dry for a few hours. Plant in sterile containers, warm to start, then max light.

I'm thinking this should be done mid April so that the plants can be set outside the end of May.

Best of luck if you try it.

Rosalind Regnier



2020 Flower Show Review

A reminder: Flower Show Changes and Reminders for 2020

The Flower Show Committee has made a few small changes to the 2020 Flower Show schedule:

- There is no flower show in April! It is now a May flower show on May 21

- The overall design theme for this year is: 2020 Vision

- For each of the monthly shows (May, June and September) there will be a **class in the "Cut Specimens" section that is just for first-timers**. These first-timers have NEVER competed in a show prior to 2020. This is to get them/you to dip your toes and compete amongst yourselves. The entries will be judged based on the same criteria as the rest of the classes, but some helpful information from the judge and show chairs may be written on your entry tag. These first-timers may also fully compete in all other classes. The first-timers are considered first-timers for all 2020 shows.

- **Entry times:** You may bring your entries starting at 6:30pm to 7:15pm in May, June and September. Judging will start at 7:20pm sharp!



Spring Plant Sale Change



As

outlined in the Flower Show Changes for 2020, the Board decided to move our April Flower Show to May.

This means that the Spring Plant Sale that used to be at our May Meeting will now be held on **Saturday June 6th, 2020.**

Having the Plant Sales on a separate date from our meetings greatly improves the logistics of organizing the sales, as we found out with our Fall Plant Sale. Plants can be dropped off ahead of time, and the sale can easily overflow into the Sunday if necessary without having to re-locate any unsold plants.

We thank Diane & Peter Ronan, and also Michael Woods & Alan Barber, for volunteering their driveways for our future Sales.

ON HOLD

What do you mean
'I'll see you in a few
months'.
Where are you
going?

The Garden



Doddle Courtesy of Andre Jordan

A Selection of Members Fall Contest Photos



Please Note:

Any Photos from the Fall Photo Contest are welcome in the newsletter.

Here is an additional selection of some of the photos from the Fall Photo Contest. The photos on this page are courtesy of Sonia Van Heerden.

If you won any award, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM, or are particularly proud of your photo, please send a digital copy to the newsletter so we can publish them in a future issue.

Thank you.



Pop-Up Gardens in 2020...Virtual?

With most events being cancelled these days, the Executive Board was reluctant to cancel all Pop-Up Gardens, but it seemed the only thing to do to keep people safe. However, the suggestion of having *VIRTUAL* pop-ups, sounded like a great idea, and reasonably feasible to achieve. So we are looking into how we could host our Pop-Up Gardens online, where members could post videos of their pop-up gardens.

Please stay tuned, and we will update up on how we plan to achieve that.



Dedicated Flower Show Team Wanted for 2020 onwards!

We have 4 flower shows a year and it takes quite a few people to put on the shows and manage the arrangements.

Barb Fairbanks is looking for members to volunteer to become part of a regular team to ensure there is always someone available who knows what to do! This may involve helping set up the show tables, preparing vases for entries, assisting entrants with placing their entries and writing up entry tags, clerking (recording winners), then packing away the show and cleaning up. Generally, helping where needed.

We have 3 monthly shows in May, June and September and it is always a bit of a time crunch to get set up and get everything ready for the 7:20pm judging. If you are helping with the set up, it would be necessary for you to be at the clubhouse as early as 6:10pm and if you are helping with the clean up you may be there until 9:30pm. More detailed information is available. If you have volunteered before, please confirm you are still willing to help.

With thanks!

**Please email or call Barb if you would like to be part of the team.
barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net or 416-755-0278**

Notices to Members



Photographs will be taken at many East York Garden Club (EYGC) meetings and events.

It is assumed that by attending an EYGC meeting or event you are giving tacit approval for your image to be used in EYGC publications (e.g. yearbook and newsletter) that will subsequently appear on our website, or to be used for publicity for future events.

If you have any questions about this please approach a member of the Executive Board or contact us at:

**gardenclub@eygc.ca or
416-469-5593**

EYGC Code of Conduct

In keeping with the City of Toronto's Anti-harassment policy when using any City of Toronto properties, East York Garden Club, with the kind assistance of the Leaside Garden Club, has designed an **EYGC Code of Conduct** to adhere to the City's regulations.

In short it says: ***A guiding principle of the East York Garden Club is that everyone is entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. Although EYGC promotes freedom of expression and open communication, we expect all members to adhere to this principle as outlined in the full "Code of Conduct".*** The full document will be published in an up-coming newsletter.

EYGC MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

"CANNABIS, IN ANY FORM, IS NOT TO BE AT ANY EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB MEETING, ACTIVITY OR EVENT, SUCH AS, BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO, OUR REFRESHMENTS, FLOWER SHOWS, PLANT SALES, SEED EXCHANGE."

114th OHA Annual General Meeting & Convention

Jul 17th to 19th, 2020

London Ontario

Theme: Inspired by Nature

Enjoy Competitions, Displays,
Seminars, Socials and Bus Trips

For more info, watch this newsletter
or see [https://gardenontario.org/
convention/](https://gardenontario.org/convention/)

Hosted by District 10

TENTATIVE

Inspired by Nature

Learning Growing Blooming

Horticultural & Seasonal Happenings

Mark's Choice Through the Garden Gate: Wychwood

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 6 & Sunday, June 7, 2020

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Toronto's largest tour of private gardens. This self guided garden tour, now in its 33rd year, moves



**MOST EVENTS ARE
CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

Date:

Contact:

*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 any of these events, please let us know all about your experience. Thanks!***

The Back Page Garden...

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

Send a photo of your garden at its best, or at your favourite time of year. Show your whole yard, a cozy corner, or any "vignette" that you love & want to share with EYGC members.

Be selective and send only one or two photos, preferably in jpeg format - fairly high resolution is best for clarity. Send to the newsletter at:

woods-eygc@bell.net

*Shown to the right is Spring arriving at **Dianne Cavanaugh's** back garden.*



Here we Grow Again...Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Potential New Members are Social Distancing...



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:

June 22nd, 2020

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



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