



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

Issue Date: 2020
November/December

The East York Garden

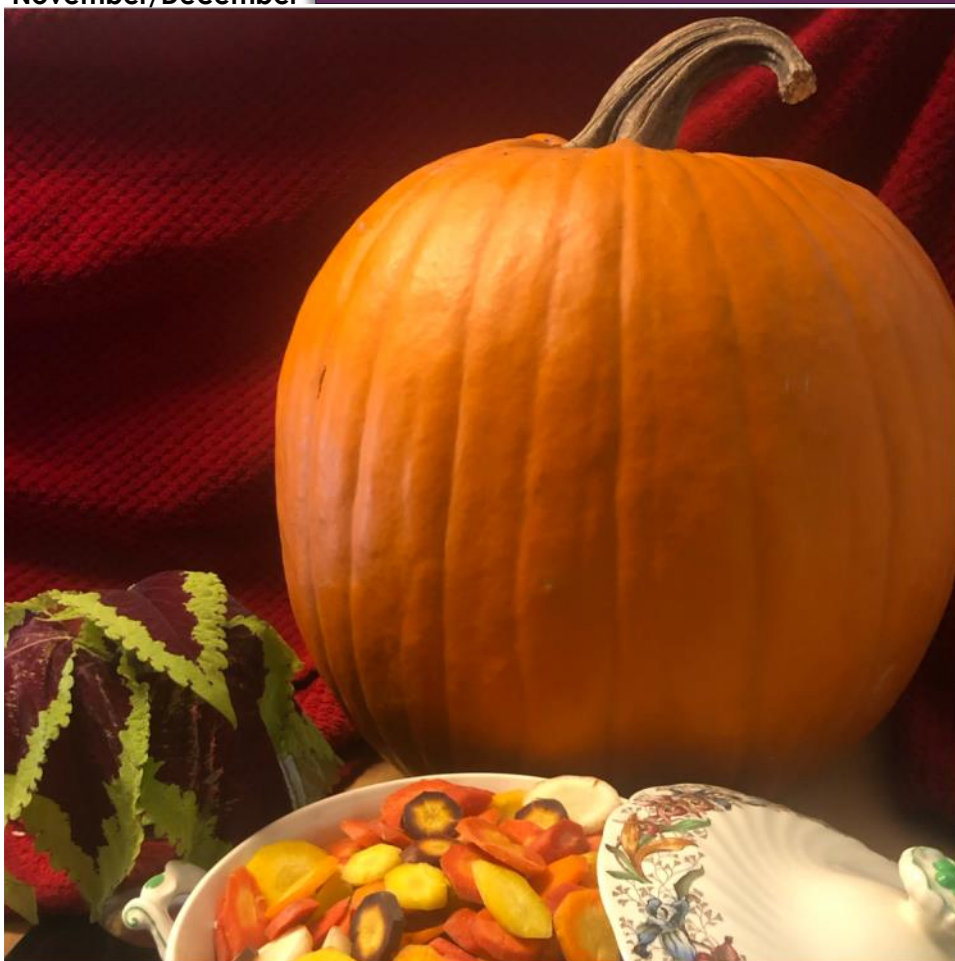


Photo Credit: Dianne Cavanaugh

Please Note: All of our Garden Club meetings are being held online through Zoom until the situation is resolved with the Corona Virus, COVID-19.

We hope you've been enjoying the People's Choice Photo Contest and the Pop-up Garden videos on our new Facebook page. Thank you so much to all those individuals who sent in their photos and have posted videos for us all to enjoy.

We will continue to publish the EYGC newsletter. It's an opportune time to write that article for the newsletter that you never seemed to have enough time for before. We also want to hear from our members letting us know what sort of things they have been doing to help get them through this very difficult time. If you have any inspiring or comforting words, please send them along for the newsletter. Also, we would love to see your winter photos. So send a couple of photos of your garden in winter for all of us to enjoy. Please rename your photo files with the plant name if relevant. What are your winter gardening activities?

newsletter@eygc.ca



The **East York Garden Club** is
a member of:

The Ontario Horticultural
Association, District 5.

Meetings 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 for
returning members are waived for
2021. 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:
*Jennifer Smith
and Maureen Ballentine*



Annual Photography Contest Cancelled

Attention all photographers - another EYGC event is impacted by the Covid-19 virus.

After discussing the logistics involved in judging the club's annual photography contest the organizing committee has decided to cancel this event for the foreseeable future.

We did not make this decision lightly. The deciding and most important consideration was the health and safety of the judges. We realize many of you will be disappointed but will, hopefully, understand why we made this decision and agree with it.

Save any pictures you may have taken and/or printed as some (or all) of the subjects may be used for the 2021 contest.

In the meantime please continue to enter the monthly People's Choice contests.

Thank you for your understanding.

The EYGC Photography Committee

Anita Millar, Linda Boyko and Rick Plume

Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:

*"This is January/February in
East York"?*

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the cover of the next Newsletter!
(Landscape format is best)

newsletter@eygc.ca

November December 2020 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Beth Binnington, Mary Lou Burt, Jens Carl, Dianne Cavanaugh,
Barb Foster, Kim Hewitt, Wilfrid Haufe, Anna Leggatt,
Nola McConnan, Wendy Plume, Jennifer Smith, Anne Tanley,
Jacqueline Tanner, Heather Whetstone and Janet Zablocki,*

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson

These are the days that darken early. More of us stay inside. Our gardens have quietened down. These are also the days when usually we would gather to cheer and fete one another. And we will, just in different ways.

Since our last newsletter, members have enjoyed three more pop-up garden tours: two in Old East York (Mary Lou's and Alan's) and one focused on backyard chickens (Beth and Heather's). The sun shone warmly each day.

Dozens of members attended each day, at their appointed time, socially-distanced and masked. We spied raised planters, bird houses, and chicken coops among carefully collected and labelled specimens, bountiful vine tomatoes and zinnias, blousy cosmos and wisteria.

This month, we will be doing things a little differently for the Annual General Meeting. Potluck supper will rely on what we each have in our fridges and the awards presentation will be muted. Yet we will carry on with the regular business and welcome a new Board member or two. Some will join us online by computer and others by phone.

We are taking advantage of the way we are able to connect over long distances now from the comfort of our couches. So we will be hosting a speaker from the Nature Conservancy of Canada!

Our monthly lectures are also swinging back on track as we plan ahead. We have enjoyed the recent presentations on Monarch Butterflies, by Veronica Callihan, and on Seed-Collecting, by Anna Leggatt.

The monthly Photo Contests have buoyed us with members' submissions of Stormy Days and of Fall Colours. Stay tuned because members will soon also be voting on the cover photo for the Yearbook.

Most recently, we have opened our Garden Club Facebook page to others, who may not yet be members but are interested in our mission of promoting skills and knowledge about gardening, beautifying the community, and conserving our natural resources.

This newsletter is also an important record and way for us to connect, especially for those who are not on the internet. So please consider sending in photos, articles, poems, musings for us to include!

Diane, gardenclub@eygc.ca

416 786-6765

Keep well all, and grow on!

Member Photos...

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

Please send photos to: newsletter@eygc.ca

Beth and Heather's Backyard Chickens, Photo credit: Wendy Plume



Anne Stanley's Photos



Member Photos

*"Gardening is the best therapy in the world."
C.Z. Guest 1920-2003*

Mary Lou Burt's Photos



Hanging on to Summer



Musings by Kim Hewitt

I'm in between. Fall is here and so is my penchant for procrastinating (honestly, it's here all year long but let's pretend it's a fall thing for now). I have lots of wonderful excuses. My new excuse for gardening is 'in between'. My tomato

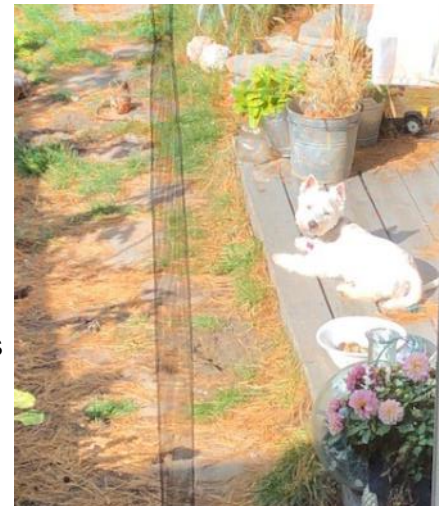


plants should be pulled out, but they are still ripening so why pull them out? They are in between stay or go. Fill some leaf bags. My neighbours'

pine tree needles are falling but there isn't enough for a half bag yet. It's in between. So, why not just let them stay on the ground for now. Recently I watched a program about heather plants and learned that they like acidic soil. Perhaps I should save the needles and place them under some heather plants. I think that's a great excuse to procrastinate some more, at least until I find some heather plants; can you still get heather plants right now? Did I mention not only do I have a procrastination problem; I also have a very small attention span. Maybe on leaf bag day I can make up a full bag with other things. Then of course, on leaf bag day it's raining. I hate wet leaf bags, so now I'm waiting until next leaf bag day. I'm in between leaf pick up days. Okay, I will start to work on my grow lights. Wait; one of them isn't working, that's okay, I can get this done, I'll take them over to my Dad. He mentioned he could fix them. He called me back right away and asked if I was going to change to LED bulbs and he followed up by emailing me several articles to read – now I'm in between



reading articles on converting to LED bulbs. Back to the garden. Okay; this year I am going to over winter my dahlia bulbs. I can do this! I read a few articles, watched a few YouTube videos and I have a lot of information that I have no idea what to do with, I must just pick something. I finally find a YouTube video that actually says, just try something and see if it works. I'm going to dig them out after the first frost. I have the baskets ready to put them in. I've saved some newsprint to line the baskets and I have some sawdust for pet cages to put over them. I just need a frost.....I'm in between again! I think it's time to make a cup of tea, join Pippa in the backyard and contemplate what's next in between.



**Photos by:
Kim Hewitt**

Big Red Oak



Preservation by Jacqueline Tanner

Ever wondered what is the oldest living tree in Toronto? Wonder no more - a glorious, huge red oak (*Quercus Rubra)* growing in north west Toronto has been estimated to be at least 250 years old. And it needs our help.

The tree is growing on a private property that is set to be sold. The City of Toronto has agreed to purchase the property, convert it to a parkette, and care for the tree, if a fundraising goal of \$430,000 can be met. The deadline is Dec. 12 2020. The Cullen family (of Weall and Cullen) has donated \$100,000, and various fundraising efforts are working toward a successful end. One of these efforts has been spearheaded by a nine year old girl who is making lovely beaded bracelets to sell and has so far raised over \$2000. You can see these bracelets and hopefully order one by emailing savethebigredoaktree@gmail.com.

I went to see the big red oak tree and it is impressive and beautiful.

Unfortunately the existing house blocked the view of the massive trunk but the canopy was huge and loomed over the house. The tree is located within a block of the Humber River and has served as a landmark and wayfinder for untold generations of travellers. It is a major producer of oxygen, and a living link to our past.

The Executive Board of EYGC had recommended that we join the fundraising efforts to protect this tree, as other local garden clubs have done. We propose to donate \$250 towards the preservation of the big red oak tree. If you would like to make your own donation or for more information you can contact toronto.ca/reoak or DonateTO at 416-392-1144. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at jdtgardening@gmail.com or 647-214-3337.

Big Red Oak—76 Coral Gable Drive



Photo credit: Jacqueline Tanner



Photo credit: City of Toronto website

Facebook News!

Our East York Garden Club Facebook group has grown to 63 members. If you haven't had a chance to join, come and check us out. We are a private group open to anyone who wants to join, EYGC member or non-member. Everyone must answer the three questions and agree to our rules before joining. Invite your fellow gardener friends to join. We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!


Cheers, Kim
Kim Hewitt

 **Rosemary Vandierendonck** shared a post.
October 25 at 10:53 AM · 🌐




Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry ✓
October 15 at 4:01 PM · 🌐

It's treasure hunt time! If gypsy moth affected your trees this summer, you can help reduce next year's defoliation by finding and removing as many egg masses a... [See More](#)

 **Sonia van Heerden**
Visual Storyteller · October 20 at 2:12 PM · 🌐

I can't get over my mums this year at the front door. They have been in the same spot for about 10 years - there is a small yellow flower in about July which blooms, and then in October there were rust mums blooming. This year as Alan has stated, something happened to them. Perhaps it was the dry summer or the rain right now, but they are bright red with a yellow centre.



Group Rules from the Admins

- 1 Be Kind and Courteous** ...
We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.
- 2 No Hate Speech or Bullying** ...
Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.
- 3 No Promotions or Spam** ...
Give more than you take to this group. Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed.
- 4 Respect Everyone's Privacy** ...
Being part of this group requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but may also be sensitive and private. What's shared in the group should stay in the group.

Inspiring Words, Thoughts & Garden Photos

Just after the death of the flowers,
And before they are buried in snow,
There comes a festival season,
When nature is all aglow--
Aglow with a mystical splendour
That rivals the brightness of spring,
Aglow with a beauty more tender
Than aught which fair summer could
bring ...

----- Emeline B. Smith



Photo credit: Maureen Ballentine



Photo credit: "Autumnal Hydrangea" - Jennifer Smith



Photo credit: "Euonymus & Berries" - Jennifer Smith

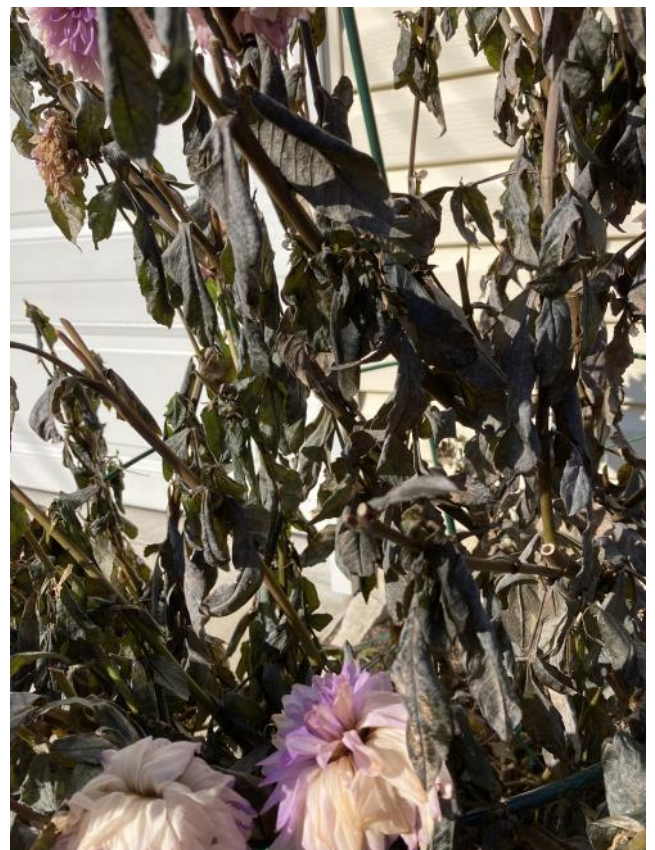


Photo credit: "Frosted Dahlia" - Jennifer Smith

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 you are doing already. Send to: newsletter@eygc.ca

Global Warming: 10 gardening Ideas to Counter Climate Change —

by Michelle Slatalla

(summary by Maureen Ballentine)

1. **Plant Natives** - "Native plants have been evolving since long before we were on the scene and can handle conditions like drought and extreme temperatures."
2. **Pamper Pollinators** - Even the smallest city garden can provide respite for butterflies and bees.
3. **Rip Up the Lawn** - Turf grass is a water hog.
4. **Feed the Birds** - "In the fall, leave seed heads and grasses in place so birds can eat seeds and animals can use parts of the plants to build dens,"
5. **Ease up on the Gas** - "If you reduce your lawn space, you can use a rotary push mower,"
6. **Be Chemical-Free** - "Don't use chemicals in the garden because the chemicals in fertilizers, weed killers, and pesticides go into the ground and harm the wildlife, the fish, the insects,"
7. **Smart Irrigation Systems** - In-ground watering systems have sensors on them to tell you when to water and not to so you don't waste water.
8. **Collect Rainwater** - "Put in a rain barrel to collect rainwater and use it when needed," "And don't overlook gray water."
9. **Compost Wisely**
10. **Have Houseplants** - it's important to have a plant—indoors if not out.

You can read the entire article at: <https://www.gardenista.com/posts/global-warming-10-gardening-ideas-counter-climate-change/>

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY LUCIE!

Lucie Simons was born in England on October 23, 1920.

She attended Chelsea Art School and studied Pedagogy at London University.

She loved teaching. She spent 4 or 5 years at one of the oldest girls' schools

She exhibited at The Royal Academy before marrying and moving to Montreal (1946), where she painted and taught some adult evening classes. Then to Toronto.

She has had many exhibitions (one, two person and group) and has won several painting awards and an Ontario Award for Volunteerism.

Till recently, the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto has been a home away from home. She sketched and drew on two days each week. She was one of the first women to join this prestigious club. One of her works is exhibited in the Board Room.



Her medium has three distinct art forms: small editions of hand-printed serigraphs, original oil paintings and original watercolour painting with a distinct style.

Perhaps you could call them nature-inspired semi - abstracts. I was passing Windsor Art Gallery a few years ago and glanced in - "That is one of Lucie's pictures!."

Sandy and I introduced Lucie and her late husband to the (now defunct) Mozart Society where they enjoyed concerts, with George objecting to "Modern stuff".

Lucie was still attending the COC before the virus closed everything down.

Family is very important to Lucie. In turn, she took each grandchild to London (UK) for a week to celebrate their 12th birthdays.

Lucie was a terrific gardener. Their property sloped down to Taylor Creek, with north light for her art. There were several springs and mature trees. A series of wood paths and bridges took you down through the garden. "I put in more paths when I sell another picture." Japanese maples are her favourites. Sadly, she had to move to a retirement home where she can see some flowers from her window.

East York Garden Club is privileged to have Lucie as a life member. Her garden was open for fund raising events and always attracted many enthusiastic visitors. She was President for two years over 20 years ago, joining in, running various activities and donating time (and art) to help make our club the success it is today.

By Anna Leggatt

A joy of Gardening



Lost in my Thoughts

By Janet Zablocki

What do you think about when you are gardening?

I get lost in my thoughts when I am in my garden. I will have full intention to get a certain gardening task done. However, this plan often morphs into a state of full distraction.

Be it a new bloom that needs to be admired, a weed that needs to be shown to the door, a plant that requires a new location or something needing a haircut. I then pick a bouquet and find a place to sit and force myself to enjoy the moment before jumping up again to putter some more.

I return to examining and assessing each plant's growth while making mental notes for a care plan.

When I see a plant from someone who generously took a spade and dug out a plant to share with me, I connect with them in my thoughts. This morning I noticed the cheerful purple Arctic Daisies that Jennifer Smith recently donated to the EYGC's membership. They are providing a delightful show of colour in my late October garden which is a welcome treat at this time of year. I think of the late Janet Badali when I spot a daylily in my garden that she hybridized. When I look at the gladiola that Joyce Cook rescued and donated this Spring. I think of her wonderful talent with roses. Other thoughts and emotions evolve as I wander.

For many years after my father's passing, the sight of the peonies he gave me from his garden



tugged at my heart and caused a flood of tears. It takes me back to when I was a small child by his side as he tended to his plants. I am grateful that I inherited his love of nature.

And yes, I do talk to my plants. I tell them how beautiful they are and thank them for the joy they bring. I think about how restorative my visits to my garden are and celebrate this welcome escape from the problems of the world. While I may have forgotten why I went out to my garden to begin with, it is worth every precious moment when I'm lost in my thoughts.

"Emotional ties to plants are binding"

Lee May (1941-2014)

EYGC Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is changing with the times, yet the Formalities and Fun continue! Grab yourself a snack & drink as we virtually close out an interesting year for our garden club.

We will begin with our usual set of formalities which will include minutes, financials, election of the 2020 EYGC Board and President's report.

Refresh your snacks & drink, and onto the Fun! Photo contest awards and the EYGC 2020 Year in Review presentation. Dr. Mhairi McFarlane, Director of Science and Stewardship, Ontario Region, Nature Conservancy of Canada will be our evening speaker.

Information on the Historic Red Oak fundraiser with a virtual poll / vote taking place.

On to the lucky draw with winner announced at the meeting. Closing remarks will be provided by our President. We look forward to seeing you virtually at the meeting.

DATE: November 26th TIME: 7:00 meet and greet and 7:30pm start via Zoom



Flashback to our 2019 AGM.

A good time was had by all

Winners of our Stormy Weather Photo Contest

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 it in a future issue.

Thank you.



1st Place: Wendy Plume

*In all things of nature there is
something of the marvelous
- Aristotle*



Tie 2nd Place: Wilfrid Haufe



Tie 2nd Place: Anna Leggatt



3rd Place: Jens Carl

Got a Question? Got an Answer?

If you have an answer to questions posted, please copy the question and submit with your answer for our next newsletter to newsletter@eygc.ca subject line Got an Answer. Got a question, send to same email.
Subject: Got a question

Q1. What is this vine? It starts in the spring and resembles tiny violets without flowers. It doesn't do too much at first. Then in the late summer it takes off, two to three feet in the shade. About every 10 cm it makes another little cluster. Then keeps going. It likes to be in toad-friendly dark moist areas. What is it?



Q2. This is hepatica in October at Thanksgiving. Does anyone else have hepatica? A toad can hide in here very easily.



Q3. I have a patch of what I think is gallardia or blanket flower. It produces copious amounts of foliage but few flowers. (The flower is about 32 cm tall.) Is something amiss for this plant? The patch is in full sun and the photos were taken on Oct. 9, 2020.



Q4. Each autumn a vast amount of spring bulb foliage grows in my garden. (It is probably muscari or chionodoxa.) No flowers appear in the autumn; many grow in the spring. So this fall foliage is not a problem, but I don't understand why it grows.



Winners of our Fall Colours Photo Contest

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 it in a future issue.

Thank you.



1st place: Anna Leggatt



Tie 2nd place: Wendy Plume



3rd place: Nola McConnan



Tie 2nd place: Barb Foster

Pop-Up Gardens

VIRTUAL pop-ups.

Reminder, if you want to share your garden at its best, why not video your garden and post it on Facebook? Not into videos...you can post photos of your garden too.

Beth and Heather's Chicken Garden Pop-Up

by Beth Binnington and Heather Whetstone

Background:

The UrbanHensTO Pilot project launched in March 2018 and included our Ward. After some research, we found a company which rents out a package of ready-to-lay hens, coop, feed and bedding. Everything is delivered in May and picked up in October-what could be easier? We went on the wait list and in May 2019 our flock of 4 chickens arrived.

Year One: Chickens in the Garden

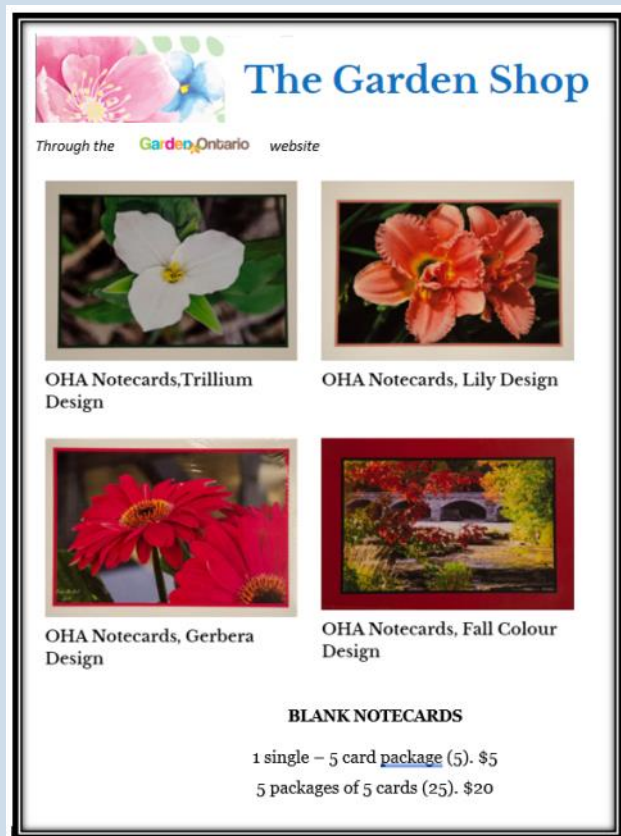
The advice was to always supervise the chickens while they were out of the coop. They enjoy being out, so while being supervised they proceeded to eat our garden. Hostas seem to be a favourite! At least we got eggs- 4 most days. Getting somewhat attached, we paid a deposit to have the same 4 chickens return the following year, 2020.

Year Two: A Space for Everyone. This time around we put some ground rules in place and divided the garden into the chicken zone and the planting zone. This seemed to work out much better for all involved—particularly because we ended up having a LOT of time to garden. Having the chickens gave a nice rhythm to the day and to the pandemic lock-down. They awoke at first light and came down the ramp from their roost. Like clockwork at dusk they ascended to the roost for the evening, and we closed the outer door to keep them safe for the night.

Roz had been encouraging us to do a pop-up in 2019 but with a hen-pecked garden we were not very keen! This year we felt better prepared and signed up. It was nice to see everyone in person!



Notices to Members



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."

Help Wanted on the East York Garden Club Executive

Please consider joining us to help to keep the Garden Club thriving!
Board meetings are monthly (2 hours in the evening).

Members work together to get the newsletter out, run the photo contests, arrange speakers, set up meetings, monitor our Facebook page, and organize flower shows.

Contact any Board member now if you might be interested.

EYGC 2021 Membership Form



Website: www.eygc.ca

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year: 2021

Please note: membership fees are waived for 2021 except for new memberships. You only need to complete this form IF your information has changed.

Personal Information

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Postal Code _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Note: Your privacy is respected. We will only use your email address to send you EYGC information. We do not distribute your email address to anyone else.

Membership Information

☐ New ☐ Renewal: fee waived
☐ Single (\$20) ☐ Family (\$30)
☐ Receive newsletter and club events via email

Payment Method

☐ Cash ☐ Cheque

If new membership: how did you hear about us, e.g. a local paper, a neighbour, our brochure?

Age Group ☐ 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 Clubhouse 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.

☐ I would like to volunteer in some capacity with the Club

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees can be paid 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

Personal Information & Privacy Act Disclaimer

The information provided on this form is for the exclusive and confidential use of EYGC. Personal information of members, such as your name, address and telephone number is published in the EYGC Yearbook to identify a contact person for a specific event. This will be maintained in accordance with Canada's Personal Information and Electronics Document Act.

Do you want your name in the yearbook's members list? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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:

newsletter@eygc.ca

Shown to the right is Jennifer Smith's Mushroom Family on Norway Maple stump Oct 19, 2020.



You saw my tree trunk garden in the Sept/Oct issue. Here is my Mushroom Family growing on the same stump.

Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Rachel Jones, Janet Nanos and Jan Sommerfeld



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:

December 22nd, 2020

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to

newsletter@eygc.ca

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

www.eygc.ca



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