

The East York Garden



Photo Credit: Anna Leggatt

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

We hope you've been enjoying our new Facebook page. Thank you so much to all those individuals who are contributing items 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 spring photos. So send a couple of photos of your garden in spring for all of us to enjoy. Please rename your photo files with the plant name if relevant. What are your spring gardening activities?

newsletter@eygc.ca



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.

To inquire about membership, please contact:

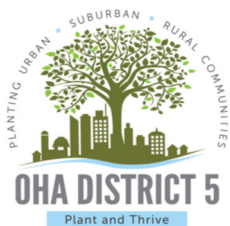
Cristina Brown at:
416-755-9077

Visit us on the web:
www.eygc.ca

President:
Diane Dyson

Vice President:
Rosalind Regnier

Newsletter Editor/Art Director:
Jennifer Smith
and Maureen Ballentine



Speaker Schedule for 2021

Date	Speaker	Subject
March 18	Elizabeth Stewart	Spring Awakening
April 15	Michael Erdman	Summer Bulbs
May 20	Betty McCulloch	Monarch Butterflies
June 16	Jeff McMann	The Trees of Mount Pleasant
September 16	Susan Walmer	Oak Ridges Moraine
October 21	Emma Biggs	Fun and Unusual Crops

Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:

*"This is May/June 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

March April 2021 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Daisy Auer, Beth Binnington, Dianne Cavanaugh, Anna Leggatt,
Nola McConnan, Wendy Plume, Jennifer Smith, Caroline
Smoyer, Nina Sparks, Cynthia Townshend*

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson

Well, this is awkward! Here I am, having worked for a number of big nonprofits, an advocate for affordable housing. At the same time, I'm the president of the East York Garden Club the year local residents are protesting the decision by the local and federal governments to build permanent, modular housing beside the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse where more than 100 EYGC members, the majority of them older, gather for our monthly lectures.

It is a hot button issue which has many people steaming. The president of the local hockey association is vocal about their concern over the loss of the parking lot alongside the school. Other neighbours organized a protest. One local resident, to later guffaws, said "This parking lot is the hub, the heart of the community." The news report, where he's quoted saying that, now has over one million views. For a while, even, "East York" was trending on Twitter because people were shocked to hear parking lots deserved more support than people.

Parts of the debate have gotten even uglier. Facebook posts have suggested that local children will be endangered by these new residents, as many of them were formerly homeless. (Actually, statistics show that kids are much more likely to be abused by someone they know like their hockey coach, or their step-parent, or a family friend.) The argument about whether to provide housing for people who need it doesn't merit much debate. Decent people agree people should be housed. So we are debating location and our convenience.

Members of the East York Garden Club have relied for years on the availability of parking, as have many other users of the park's facilities. Truly, Stan Wadlow is one of the premier recreational spaces in the city, a magnet to a continual rotation of community-based programs. It has five baseball diamonds, curling (nearby), the hockey rinks, the pool, skate park, playground, dog park, and the clubhouse. Yet, it's not in easy walking distance to most of East York, so many of us drive to get there.

This concentrated complex of playing fields and recreation amenities was created with the same philosophy of shopping malls. In the same vein, "Superstores" now replace the many local grocery stores, butchers, and fruit stands that once existed. Now we often have to travel further to get our groceries or enjoy a club meeting at these new, larger destinations. And usually we drive to get there.

So now what is to be done, if there are fewer places to park?

We know it will be many months before we meet in person again, but the EYGC executive has already begun to talk about the problem and to brainstorm some solutions. Here below are a few of our ideas:

We might just ignore the issue and let it resolve itself. We could encourage more people to walk or bike to the meetings. We might encourage car-pooling among members. Or maybe we could find a different time to meet that doesn't clash with all the sports schedules. Perhaps we might be able to use the school parking again. Or, most drastically, we might find a new community location around East York to meet.

Any of these ideas are possible. Let us know what you think. We will continue to monitor the situation. Community consultations will occur and the building will go up.

Silver lining? Perhaps, like the seniors in East York Acres just across the park who started a community garden, some of these new neighbours will also have an interest in gardening and will join us.

Keep well all, and grow on!

Diane, gardenclub@eygc.ca

416 786-6765

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

My backyard visitor—January 3rd. By Anna Leggatt



My winter garden by Beth Binnington



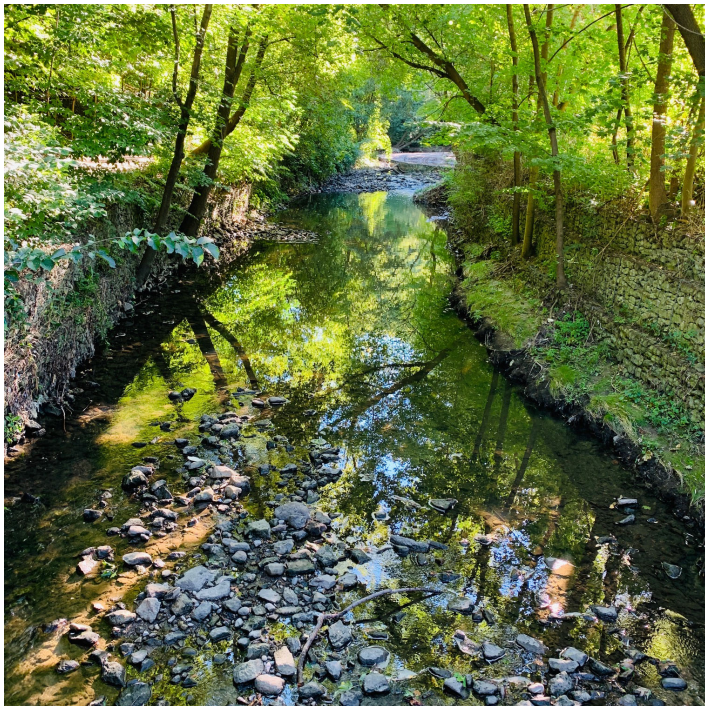
Lady Slipper Orchid—first bloom
TLC includes fertilizer. By Dianne Cavanaugh



April in East York by Anna Leggatt



January Photo Contest “Tranquility”



Caroline Smoyer—1st place tie



Nina Sparks—1st place tie



Nola McConnan —2nd place



Wendy Plume —3rd place



Explore online and order soon!

by Anna Leggatt

*NOW IS THE TIME TO START PLANNING FOR
YOUR GARDEN IN THIS COMING YEAR.*

**Some seeds need to be started early so
explore online and order!**



Renee's Garden Seeds lists flower, vegetable and herb seeds for the home garden. The seeds are organic and many are heirloom.

I particularly like packets with 2 or 3 different varieties, colour coded. Eg 3 different cherry tomatoes. Shipping to Canada from California is fast. www.reneesgarden.com

William Dam Seeds is family run, located near Dundas, Ontario. They have an extensive range of seeds and supplies for both home gardeners and farmers. They also sell asparagus roots as well as gladiolus, garlic and onion bulbs. The seeds are untreated, with new offerings every year. I am intrigued by the Fishbone Grass. Each type has germination instructions. www.damseeds.com

Richters Herb and Vegetable Catalogue is the go-to place to find weird and wonderful herbs, vegetables and flower seeds. They have plants as well and plug packs to grow on. Dried herbs are available and a few neat products. Last year's order included Jicama seeds. The chipmunks dug up the young plants and left me with one plant. I did harvest one tuber! I may try Caterpillar plants this year! Support local suppliers www.richters.com

Then there are plants.

Lost Horizons has been sold and will open again under new management. Hopefully, it will remain the place to go for hard-to-find perennials, ferns, ornamental grasses, and woody plants. www.losthorizons.ca

Northland Nursery has an amazing range of plants, from flowering shrubs, perennials, daylilies, ornamental grasses, hostas, shrub roses, clematis, vines, hardy lilies and evergreens all in gallon pots, priced at \$6.99. You have to find them yourself and label them. COVID restrictions: bring your own labels and don't put so many pots on the cart as they are difficult to count! Millgrove, ON www.northlandnursery.com

Harpers Garden Centre Dundas, ON has a great range of plants but is a bit pricey. www.harpersgardencentre.ca

Whistling Gardens is the place to find evergreens, Japanese Maples, magnolias, peonies, etc. The new gift shop and cafe will be open. Ask for a special plant early and Darren may find it. Wilsonville, ON. The display gardens are terrific! Large collections of conifers and paeonia and fountains playing to music. www.whistlinggardens.ca

South Coast Gardens has rare and subtropical plants that grow surprisingly well in Southern Ontario. St Williams.
www.southcoastgardens.ca

Vineland Nurseries is in Beamsville, ON and stocks a good supply of evergreens, many dwarf, Rhododendrons, Japanese maples, hard to find woodies and some perennials. www.vinelandnurseries.com

John's Garden is near Mason House Gardens, near Uxbridge. He has perennials, trees, shrubs, vines, evergreens, annuals, edibles (veggies, fruit, fruit trees, herbs), tropicals, succulents, as well as ornaments, pots, etc. Wonderful plants in a wooded setting www.facebook.com/johnsgardeninuxbridge

Mason House Gardens Mail order or pick up. Next list soon, which will include perennials, alpine, heirloom/specialty veggies, and "Really Cool Plants" for containers and hanging baskets www.masonhousegardens.com perennials, alpine, heirloom/specialty veggies, and plants for containers and hanging baskets.

Phoenix Perennials in BC is an award winning nursery offering up to 1200 different plants for mail order.
www.phoenixperennials.com

Seed Starting Tips by Anna Leggatt

If you haven't yet, order your seeds if you want to start early. Many seed companies are selling out!

Do not use soil - use a soilless mix that will be sterile

Sterilizing Pots: if reusing pots—Chlorox:water 1:9 Soak 1 hour

Light: Grow-lights best. Be careful with a sunny window- plants may burn if close to glass or not get enough light. Problems - Damp off (seedlings suddenly topple over). Keep Sterile, Air exchange - fan. Water from bottom. Apply a light dusting of cinnamon on the soil surface and gravel Chamomile tea - 1 tea bag to 2 cups boiling water.

Let cool, water and/or mist your seedlings. New tea in 1 week.

Direct Seeding in garden as soon as ground has warmed a little:

- lettuce
- cabbage, broccoli, kale
- onion sets
- peas, broad beans,
- carrots, parsnip, celery
- radish, beets, spinach—warm soil

Start inside: - move out when soil has warmed—tomatoes, eggplant, peppers.

Start end of March: cucumbers, zucchini, melon. Start 3 weeks before outside

DON'T FORGET: Harden plants before moving outside.

Gradually move them from shade to sun so they don't get sunburned.



Forcing Bulbs



A first attempt Update

by Jennifer Smith

On page 6 of the January-February 2021 issue, I described how I planted four pots of narcissus bulbs with the hope of forcing them to bloom sometime during the bleak months of winter. Well, I'm here to report that so far none of the bulbs has bloomed. Here is a picture from February 20 of a pot of Bridal Crown Poetaz Narcissi. My determined friend is hopeful that it will provide some blooms, but I am not so sure. I think that the bulbs did not have a long enough cold period, because when the weather turned in November I brought the bulbs inside. The leaves of my pot of Velocity Rockgarden Narcissi became tipped in brown and I have since discarded it.

The two other pots continue to grow but again without any buds. Apparently the foliage in the pot of 3 Hawera Mini Narcissi is 12 -18 inches tall!

Some people say that the letters in the word *FAIL* stand for *F*irst *A*tttempt *I*'s *L*earning. I haven't yet decided if I have learned how NOT to plant bulbs (mostly, don't bring them inside too early) OR Don't plant bulbs!



Photo by: Jennifer Smith

February Photo Contest “Love”



Daisy Auer—1st place



Dianne Cavanaugh—2nd place



Nola McConnan—3rd place

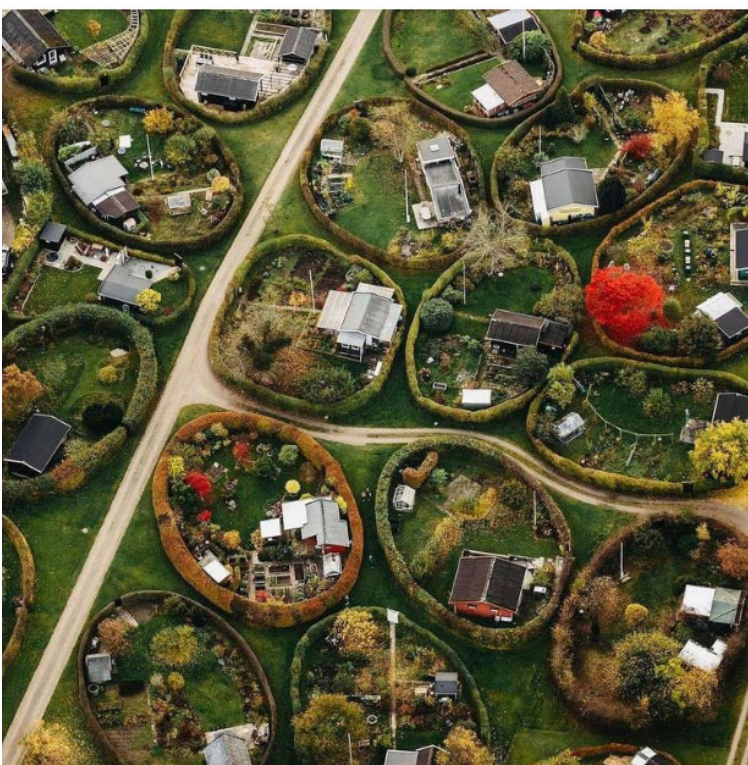
Facebook News!

Our **East York Garden Club** Facebook group has grown to **75** members. If you haven't had a chance yet, 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



East York Garden Club



David Attenborough Fans

February 26 at 11:16 AM · 🌐

These oval gardens look amazing from above and serve as a green escape from the city! Located in Copenhagen, Denmark, the gardens are designed with little to no... [See More](#)



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1 Comment Seen by 45

Group Rules from the Admins

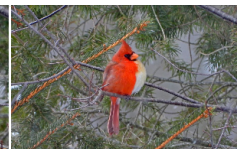
- 1 Be Kind and Courteous** ...
We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.
- 2 No Hate Speech or Bullying** ...
Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading 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.



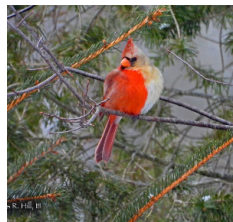
Maureen Ballentine shared a post

Visual Storyteller · February 24 at 12:52 PM · 🌐

This is very interesting



East York Garden Club



Jamie Hill

February 21 at 8:37 AM · 🌐

I have been birding for 48 years and yesterday (20 February 2021) I had a once-in-a-lifetime, one in a million bird encounter! Annette Smith and I were able to... [See More](#)



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2 Comments Seen by 55

Our January Talk by Anna Leggatt



Namibia, a desert wildlife paradise

Summary by Jennifer Smith

On Thurs., Jan. 21, we were treated to a little armchair travel—no passport or COVID test needed—courtesy of Anna Leggatt. In 2016, member Anna Leggatt and her husband Sandy joined Worldwide Quest on a 3-week tour entitled *Namibia: A Desert Country and a Wildlife Paradise*. They flew into Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, which is a nation of about 2.5 million people. I was impressed to learn that when this nation achieved independence in 1990, it enshrined in its constitution the conservation of its natural resources. The tour group made a brief foray into Botswana and also into Victoria Falls Hotel in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia).

Anna and Sandy saw a variety of animals on their trip. The nest built by many Sociable Weaver birds showed a large “bird apartment building”, as many birds contributed to this communal living area.

We were impressed by the sight of a 200 year-old Welwitschia, which is a conifer related to pine.



Welwitschia



Weaver bird nest

It produces only 2 leaves its whole life which grow continuously. Wind can cause them to

shred and curl, which is why the photograph looked like there were many leaves. This plant also has an intriguing root.



Anna showed some photographs of beautiful sand dunes. I loved the one that displayed climbers' shadows as they scaled the dune. The rock formation called the Organ Pipes is situated near the small hill of Burnt Mountain, west of the town of Khorixas in Namibia. This is a group of hexagonal basalts which resemble organ pipes. They were formed about 150 million years ago as the result of the intrusion of liquid lava into a slate rock formation, which was exposed over time by erosion. This formation is similar to that of the Giant's Causeway in Ireland, which is an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns.

This leopard cub appears to be staring right into Anna's camera lens.



Link to January's meeting:

<https://youtu.be/66HMdW2hoAQ>

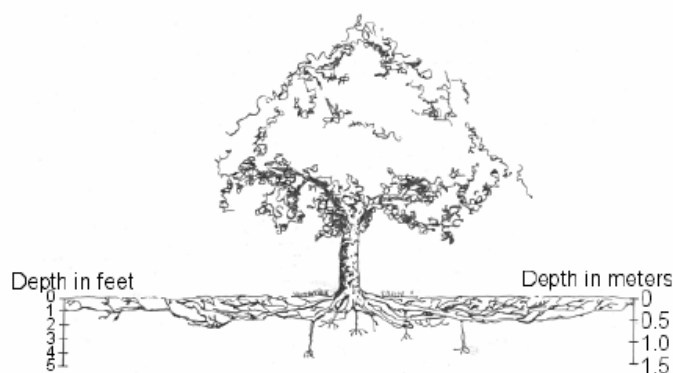
Our February talk by Todd Irvine

Helping Trees Thrive the Natural Way - Feb. 18, 2021

Summary by Jennifer Smith

On Feb. 18, about 40 members of our club heard Todd Irvine, a certified Toronto arborist, present a talk called ***Helping Trees Thrive the Natural Way***. His love of trees was evident throughout his presentation. His talk included many helpful charts about tree biology, what trees need to flourish including sufficient water, warmth, soil conditions, space to grow horizontally, amount of sunlight received, and other facts. He stressed the need to work within the natural conditions of one's own garden and to plant for these conditions in order to have plants grow to their potential. He described decisions that trained landscape architects sometimes make that are less than optimal for trees. He encourages us to look at forests as models for what trees need: the forest floor remains generally undisturbed and therefore supports natural flora (e.g. trilliums which take seven years to bloom and therefore cannot tolerate disruption); the trees grow tall and healthy; the leaf litter helps to regenerate new trees; the cycle continues.

Roots



Tree Protection Zones

Trunk Diameter (DBH)	Minimum Protection Distances Required (radius)
<10 cm	1.8 m
11 - 40 cm	2.4 m
41 - 50 cm	3.0 m
51 - 60 cm	3.6 m
61 - 70 cm	4.2 m
71 - 80 cm	4.8 m
81 - 90 cm	5.4 m
91 - 100 cm	6.0 m

Fertilizing

- Whenever possible, focus on improving the growing environment, instead of adding synthetic fertilizers.

Mulching

- Partially composted mulch is best
- Replicates a forest floor
- Many benefits
 - Retains moisture, suppresses weeds, insulates roots, provides organic matter
- 5 to 10 centimeters - 2 to 3 inches
- Entire drip-line
- Not against trunk
- Replenish annually

Starting from seed

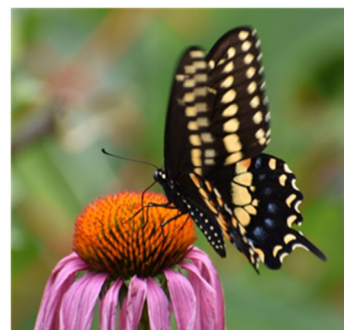
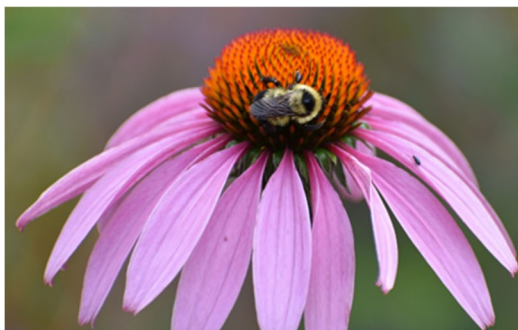


A small seed-starting experiment

By Beth Binnington



We have an echinacea plant, variety Primadonna Deep Rose. It has beautiful colour, strong upright stems, and the petals are somewhat horizontal making this flower really stand out in the garden. Like many coneflowers it's a magnet for bumblebees, butterflies and other insects. Even when the flowers have faded, birds arrive through the fall and winter to eat the seeds. So we wanted to add more specimens to the garden. Why not propagate from seed from the parent plant? This is an economical way to get more plants and it's also pretty exciting when collected seed germinates. To try and get flowers this season, the seeds were started indoors.



I was not sure whether seed from this cold-climate perennial needed special treatment for optimum germination so did an experiment. Seeds were isolated from the seed heads (thanks to Anna Leggatt for the white dinner plate tip, and to Veronica Callinan for IDing the seeds on the EYGC Facebook post). Half were started immediately in a seed-starting mix and the other half were mixed in a baggie with wet vermiculite and placed in the fridge for 3 weeks before planting. This is called cold stratification and makes the seed think it's been through winter and now it's spring and time to start growing.

The results were dramatic: non-stratified seeds did germinate, some in 2 days and others over the next 3 weeks. But 5x more cold-treated seeds germinated, and did so uniformly, within days as shown below, left. Seedlings as of February 21 below, right: 8 from 'regular' seed and a flat from cold-treated seed— many new flowers either way!



A garden of hope...



Show off nature's best shades of yellow with a 2021 Hope is Growing garden

By Mark and Ben Cullen GreenSpaces

Hope is growing in 2021. It's truly a refreshing theme after a difficult last year. Canadians are ready to start looking up — and that includes gardeners.

That is why Communities in Bloom has embraced “Hope is Growing” as the banner for their 2021 campaign.

What is Communities in Bloom? It is a celebration of urban environmental sustainability across Canada. CIB is a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization that partners with municipalities to enhance residential and public spaces.



Since their start in 1995, the goal has been “to enhance the quality of life and the environment through people and plants in order to create community pride.”

The professional trade association Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA) acquired Communities in Bloom just over a year ago, providing an opportunity for new ideas, growth and vision.

Among the first endeavours is the Hope is Growing campaign, in partnership with Garden Centres Canada, encouraging Canadians to plant gardens of hope for 2021 and featuring the colour yellow. From coast to coast, the goal is to create front yards, boulevards and playgrounds brimming with yellow flowers, foliage and vegetables.

You can take part by planting your Hope Garden and sharing it on social media, and by looking for Hope is Growing displays at participating retail garden centres.

Friendly competition is at the heart of Communities in Bloom. If your community participates in the broader Communities in Bloom program, planting a bright yellow Hope Garden can enhance your odds for this year's awards.



A garden of hope

Here are our top six suggestions for a yellow-themed garden this season:

1) Forsythia is one of our favourite flowering shrubs that becomes enrobed in a coat of yellow flowers in early spring — perfect timing for the heralding of new hope.

If you have not already planted forsythia, you can enjoy its colour with cuttings placed in a tall vase. Forsythia cuttings tend to root easily by pushing the bottom third of each cutting into damp ground as soon as the ground has thawed.

2) Sunflower (*helianthus*) for sunny days ahead. There could be no more obvious choice for a Hope Garden. Shop now for a wide variety of sunflower varieties from seed catalogues or go online and check out the seeds that are available from a myriad of suppliers.

3) Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a native perennial that produces bright yellow flowers from late summer into autumn and attracts pollinators to beat the band.

4) Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*) is another great native plant that is a relative to the sunflower.

This one is different, though, as it features an abundance of yellow pollinator-attracting flowers and produces an edible tuber that can be cooked like a potato. Note: Jerusalem artichoke can be overly aggressive, almost invasive. Keep it in a confined part of your garden.



5) Golden Delight summer squash, or simply yellow zucchini. And since we were speaking of vegetables, this is one of our favourite yellow veggies.

It's easy to grow — and prolific. One of Mark's favourite tricks is carving the grandkids' names in zucchinis while the fruit are young and giving them as gifts from the "zucchini fairy" after they have matured for a few days. Why not carve a hopeful message in your zucchini?

6) Marigolds (*Tagetes erecta*) are a fun annual to grow with edible flowers. All marigolds are technically edible, but in our opinion the best tasting species are French marigold (*Tagetes patula*).

Big Duck Gold marigold is one of our favourite varieties. As a bonus, many vegetable gardeners inter-plant marigolds with their veggie crops to keep insects, especially aphids, at bay.

Canadians took up gardening in record numbers last year. We hope to see a yellow-washed repeat in 2021 that proves Hope is Growing — especially in our gardens.

Visit hopeisgrowing.ca to register your garden and to learn more about this project.

Credit: *The Toronto Star*—January 20, 2021

Thanks to Sue Mason for contributing this article

March Talk—Spring Awakening



Getting your Garden Ready to Grow

Presented by Elizabeth Stewart—Master Gardener

Elizabeth received her BA from UBC, following her studies in Interior Design at Mount Royal College, Calgary. Elizabeth was a founding member of the Group for Design in Business, where she launched and managed the *Financial Post Design Effectiveness Awards* (later the *Design Exchange Awards*). She is the co-founder and former Board member of two important charities: *The Canadian Women's Foundation* and the *Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic*; as well as the former President of the *Canadian Association of Women Executives* and a Board member of the *YWCA of Toronto*.

She was nominated for the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award in 1988 and again in 1992. Her career and entrepreneurial approach are featured in the best-selling book, *In the Company of Women* by Katherine Gay, Harper Collins Publishers Ltd., 1997.

Growing up on the farm in Saskatchewan, Elizabeth Stewart considered 'gardening' a hateful word, since it meant hours of dusty, backbreaking work, hoeing, weeding and harvesting the vegetable garden in the blazing sun.

To her surprise, many years later in Toronto, she found herself living in a funky, rented, Queen Street West studio in a renovated factory building - with a garden! More specifically, a series of 80 feet of shady terraced beds rising steeply skyward from a basement walkout.

Over the next several years, she graduated from petunias to polyanthus and from an avowed non-gardener to an addict, with more books on gardening than the Toronto Reference Library (almost), several magazine subscriptions and eventually - frustratingly - not a single square centimetre of earth left unplanted. She also became an active member of Toronto Master Gardeners, where she served on the Board as Communications Coordinator for many years.

Since relocating to a tiny bungalow in the same neighbourhood, she has transformed her backyard into what she calls a 'working farm'. The successor to that back-breaking Saskatchewan vegetable garden is a beautiful and bountiful urban plot, which was featured in *Canadian Gardening* magazine.

Mark your calendars for Elizabeth's talk—March 18, 2021 @ 7pm

*When you bring flowers into your
vegetable patch, be prepared
for good things to happen.*

Lisa Mason-Ziegler (1961-)

Got a Question? Got an Answer?

STILL LOOKING FOR ANSWERS:

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. If you've 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?

A1. lesser celandine or pilewort (fig buttercup), a member of the buttercup family and considered invasive. Poisonous if eaten.



Q2. I have a patch of what I think is gaillardia 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.

A2. The Gaillardia is a short lived perennial, perhaps this is a new plant.



Q3. 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.

A3. This bulb, along with a few other muscaris, is unique in that it begins to produce its foliage, a cluster of narrow leaves, in the fall when the temperatures begin to drop, often shortly after it's planted. These leaves then last through the winter (and if ever they are damaged by the cold, the bulb will simply produce replacements in the spring), then the grape hyacinth blooms come spring, like the other spring bulbs.

No one knows why the plant has a reversed season of leaf growth: it's just one of those mysteries of Nature for which there is as yet no explanation!



April talk by Michael Erdman



Growing summer bulbs

Presented by Michael Erdman

Michael Erdman developed his keen interest in gardening and horticulture when he bought his first house in Toronto's Riverdale neighbourhood in the late 80's. Although his grandfathers in Waterloo had tutored him as a child in the culture of roses and growing vegetables, there was a long interlude between opportunities to get his hands dirty. With a blank slate of a yard at his new house and being a researcher by trade, Michael threw himself into learning about perennials, roses, shrubs and within a couple of years had no grass left in his yard. Without his knowledge, a friend entered him in a couple of garden contests, and in two years his garden won first prizes in the Riverdale ward and White Rose Nursery's city-wide garden contest.

Moving to the Beach neighbourhood in the '90's for more arable land, Michael co-authored books on perennial gardening and indoor gardening, and eventually became president of the Beach Garden Society. His Beach garden is regularly featured in the Society's summer garden tours, and has been featured in numerous magazines, newspapers and TV programs. He tends hundreds of houseplants, including camellias and orchids. Always looking for new challenges, he completed the RBG and Garden Clubs of Ontario horticultural and floral design judging certification courses. Michael's floral designs have won many awards at major juried shows such as Canada Blooms, the CNE, and the Garden Clubs of Ontario Triennial Shows.

He is currently a member of Milne House Garden Club, the Garden Club of Toronto, and heads up the Greater Toronto Bulb Society.

Join us to learn about exotic and easy-to-grow bulbs, corms, and tubers for the summer and fall garden, including pineapple lilies, tiger flowers, spider lilies, and the amazing climbing lily – *Gloriosa rothschildiana*. Michael will share tips for growing these interesting plants both in the garden and in containers, including plant care such as watering and fertilizing, and how to store the bulbs during the winter so that you can enjoy their beauty year after year. And you will learn how simple and rewarding these wonderful, but less familiar plants are for the average gardener!

Mark your calendars for Michael's talk—April 15, 2021 7pm

*The view from your bedroom window should include
something that blooms every spring.
Michelle Slatalla (1961 -)*

Toronto Scouts are having a garden sale

Scouts Garden Products Sale—March 1-April 17

- order online at www.132nd.com/gardenproducts
- Items include: All-Purpose Potting Soil, Top Soil, Black Mulch, Cow Manure, Multi Mix Garden Soil
- Product pick up Saturday, April 24
- For more information 416-425-6881



IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR SEEDS

Dominion Seed House is temporarily closed to new orders due to high volumes. Members of the OHA qualify for 10% discount. To get your discount simply use OHA code 4633 on your order form. See the catalogue here: www.dominion-seed-house.com/en

Other seed sources:

www.oscseeds.com/request-catalogue/

www.stokeseeds.com/ca/

www.damseeds.com (organic)

www.veseys.com

www.richters.com

The Serviceberry: An Economy of Abundance by Robin Wall Kimmerer

It's about symbiosis, cooperation, economics and gratitude.

Thank you to Karen Bell for this recommendation. Link to Robin's essay:

https://emergencemagazine.org/story/the-serviceberry/?utm_source=pocket-newt

EYGC Memberships 2021

In an effort to simplify membership fee payments we are investigating a variety of options. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

Notices to Members

PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2021

March	<i>Windy</i>
April	<i>First Booms</i>
May	<i>Rebirth</i>
June	<i>The Colours of June</i>
July	<i>My Canada</i>
August	<i>Summer Garden</i>
September	<i>September Skies</i>
October	<i>Harvest</i>
November	<i>Yearbook Cover for 2022</i>

*Please note, if we are able to resume regular in-person club activities, we will return to our regular format for photo contests including a judged show in November 2021.

photocontest@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".***

*Gardens are living creatures
that we would like to be happy.
Our task is to act lovingly,
carefully, and protectively.*

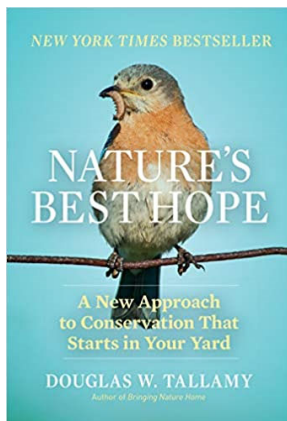
Paolo Pejrone (1941-)

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."

I have just read the book ***Nature's Best Hope – A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*** by Douglas W. Tallamy, which I obtained from the Toronto library. There was a substantial waiting list for this book.

The author, from the US north-east, suggests that as the powers that be are not making any progress on eliminating exotic or foreign plants from the country, we must start in our own gardens, and if you are adjacent to a public walkway, help by eliminating these plants about 50 yards out from your garden.



He wants to attract birds to our gardens, but to do that, we should have sufficient caterpillars for the birds to eat. Birds will come to our feeders, but prefer bugs and caterpillars. So we have to attract butterflies, moths and bees. These insects will come if you are growing the plant whose nectar they prefer, and eventually there will be caterpillars in our gardens.

He also gives some interesting ways to attract bees. He does not like the bee hotels, as there would usually be only one large hotel in a garden, and it would invite bee predators. Instead, he suggests a block of wood, about 1 foot by 1 foot and deep enough to drill your holes. Put these blocks of wood in several places in the yard for a smaller bee condo, and some may be lucky to not be found by the bee predators. Also, he has another bee accommodation. Take a full roll of toilet paper and bury it in the soil with the hole in the middle and the top 1 inch outside the soil, in a spot totally protected from rain or runoff. A bumblebee queen will enter your makeshift nest box and chew her way into its center to set up a cozy nest.

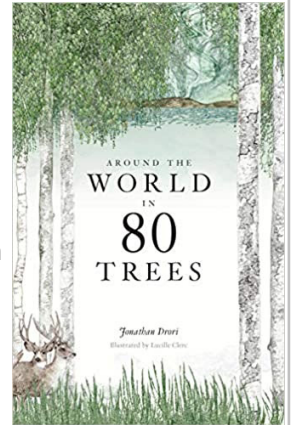
Throughout the book there are lists of helpful plants that people have added to their gardens.

Sonia van Heerden

Around the World in 80 Trees. Drori, Jonathon. Laurence King Publishing, London UK 2018 ISBN: 978-1-78627-606-3 US\$19.99

This delightful book was a Christmas present and is a definite keeper: a book to dip into repeatedly to remember more facts about trees around the world.

The author starts in England with the London Plane, then moves into Europe, North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, Africa, and so on. The final tree from Canada is - you've guessed it - *Acer saccharum*, our Sugar Maple.



Our first books were sheets of vellum (calf skin). These were often encased in boards of Beech wood. The German word for Beech is *buche*, thus giving us the word "Book".

Did you know cashews, (*Anacardium occidentale*) from India, are in the same family as poison ivy? The fruit encourages animals to try it but they quickly drop it after a bite. This enables seed dispersal. The nuts have to be steamed and roasted so we can eat them!

Perhaps we have seen Wollemi Pines when visiting botanic gardens in warmer climes. This was well known as a fossil. Then a small colony was found in the Blue Mountains of Australia. They grow in a remote area and are completely protected. Although some of the trees are over 1000 years old, they are all one clone. Genetically the same, the risk from disease and fire is great. We can see, and even buy, plants that have been grown from cuttings. (It is not a pine, but more closely related to Monkey Puzzles.)

Just 80 trees but a wealth of knowledge. I highly recommend this book

Anna Leggatt

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—My backyard
arbour garden
By Cynthia Townshend*



Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Pat Barnett, Jacqueline Chan



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:

April 22, 2021

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



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