



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

Issue Date: 2021
May June

The East York Garden

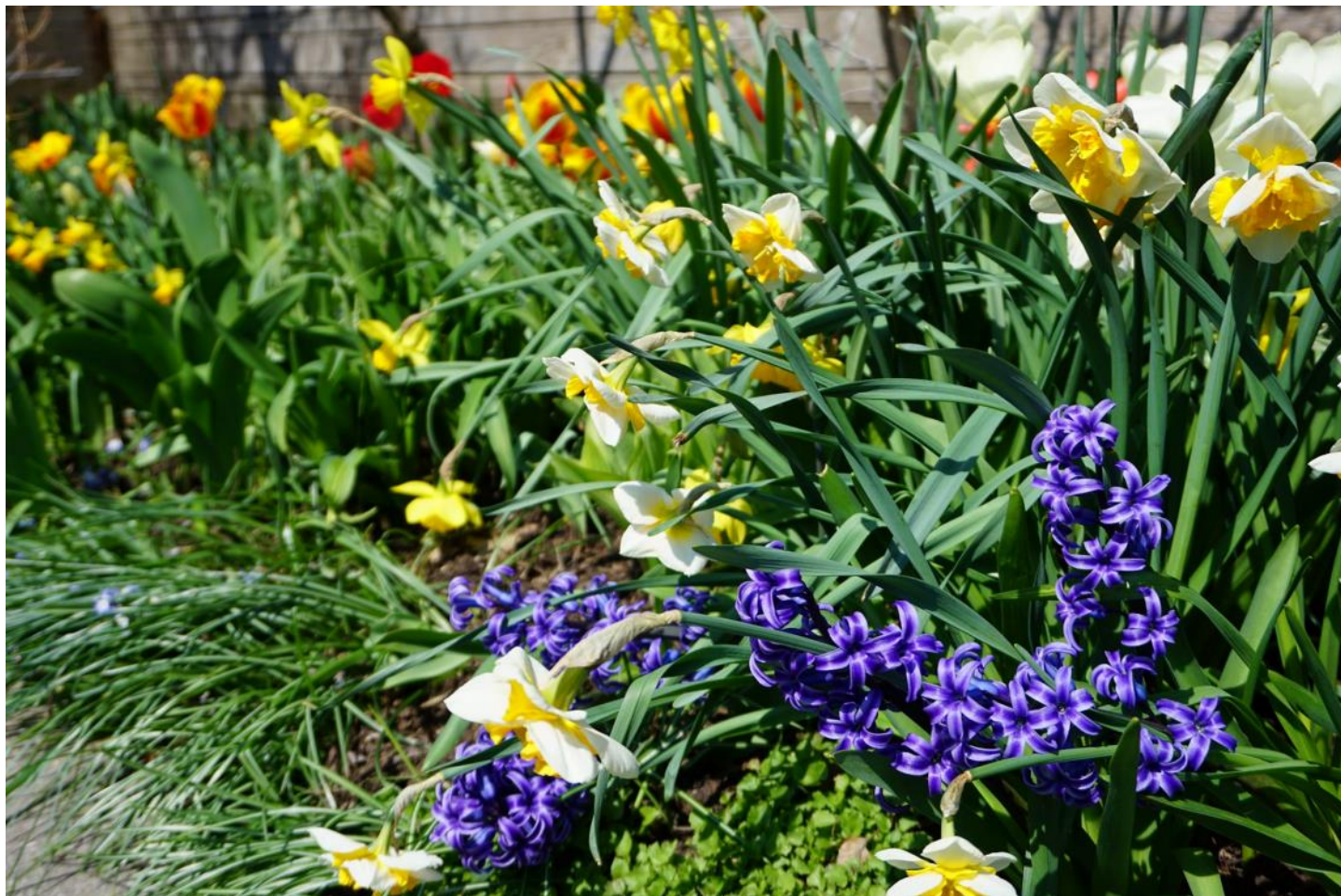


Photo Credit: Alan Barber

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 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. Are you growing vegetables? Are you raising Hens and collecting fresh eggs? Send your stories and photos to the newsletter team for our next issue. Please rename your photo files with the plant name if relevant. What are your summer 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
May 20	Betty McCulloch	Monarch Butterflies
Wednesday June 16	Jeff McMann	The Trees of Mount Pleasant
September 16	Susan Walmer	Oak Ridges Moraine
October 21	Emma Biggs	Fun and Unusual Crops
Nov TBA		AGM

Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:

*"This is July/Aug 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

May/June 2021 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Daisy Auer, Maureen Ballentine, Alan Barber, Beth Binnington,
Mary Lou Burt, Jens Carl, Dianne Cavanaugh, Wilfred Haufe,
Wendy Latham, Nola McConnan, Wendy Plume, Jennifer Smith*

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson

For over a year now, Garden Club members have not met together at Stan Wadlow. The flower shows, the snack table, the free magazines and seed exchanges have all been quiet, lying dormant, like our gardens under the snow.

But we are enjoying some early signs of spring. At our monthly lectures over Zoom (or phone for some who call in), we hear that many members have been vaccinated. Soon some will be able to get their second shot. In fact, we have joked that it will be up to the octogenarians and septuagenarians in the Club to get things rolling again, while those closer to their middle years will stay isolated (and safe) a little longer. (Those members over 90 can have a free pass and simply enjoy EYGC activities however they choose.)

These are the new signs of spring, coming back slowly but surely. The pandemic winter will pass, and we will mark what we have lost, and look to see new growth around us.

We are not there yet. But as the seasons turn, we will return.

Let me share a few more Club updates, since all is not poetry!

If you are interested in following the community discussion around the new modular housing that will be built in the parking lot across from the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, the City is posting information to a webpage on its website (Google City Toronto modular housing). Two community meetings were held (virtually) in March and one more is set for May 3 (no registration details yet). A report will go to the City's Planning and Housing Committee on May 20 and to City Council on June 8th. A parking assessment study will be or has been done, depending on which part of the webpage you read. If you have questions or feedback, the assigned community liaison is Leah Snowden at communityliaison@lura.ca, (647) 578-8580; alternately, Councillor Brad Bradford at councillor_bradford@toronto.ca, (416) 338-2755.

The East York Canada Day team is lining up a great menu of COVID-safe activities for July 1st, since the cancellation of the parade (and other big public events) will still be in effect. Among the planned activities, East York Garden Club will ensure that the Legion Hall garden on Pape displays its patriotic best for the celebrations. Volunteers are welcome to help with the prep.

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

Snow covered Magnolia by Maureen Ballentine



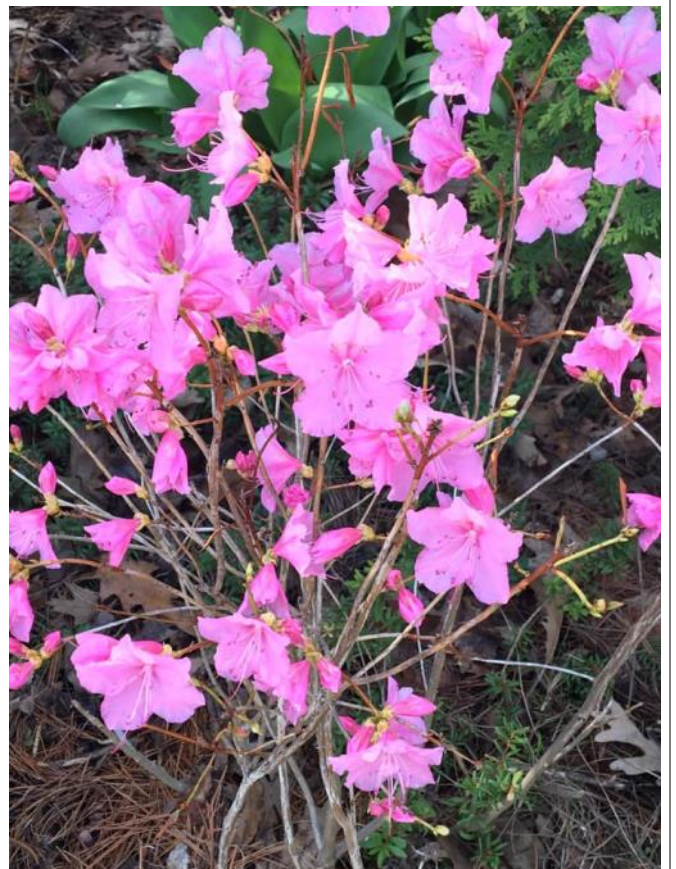
Early Tulips: By Alan Barber



Michael Erdman's garden by Wendy Latham



Spring blooms by Mary Lou Burt



Basket of Gold by Jennifer Smith



March Photo Contest Winners "WINDY"



Beth Binnington—1st place



Daisy Auer—2nd place



Dianne Cavanaugh —3rd place

*"It is utterly forbidden to be
half-hearted about gardening.
You have got to love your garden
whether you like it or not."*

*W.C. Sellar (1898 - 1951) &
R.J. Yeatman (1898 - 1968)*

Neonicotinoids



Know your insecticide

by Jennifer Smith

In the chat section of our April 15th Zoom meeting, a few of us raised the topic of neonicotinoids and wondered how we can best deal with this concern.

Neonicotinoids comprise a group of pesticides used in agriculture to protect crops from various insects. They are also used for other purposes, including killing insects in homes, controlling fleas on pets, and protecting trees from invasive insects such as the Emerald Ash borer.

There is considerable concern that these pesticides are contributing to the decline of our bee populations, which are so vital for the pollination of many of our edible crops. Scientists suspect that these pesticides may disrupt the memory and flight abilities of insects. Cognitive impairment may result in colonies being both less productive and dying sooner. Crops may be pollinated with lower efficiency.

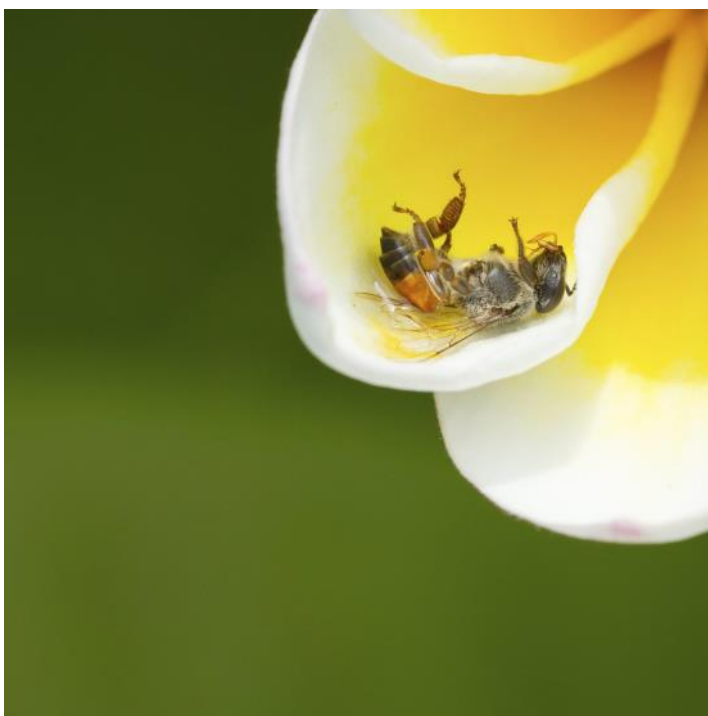
On March 31, 2021, Health Canada announced restrictions on the use of two of three neonicotinoid pesticides widely applied to crops in the country.

But the government backtracked on a proposed outright ban prompted by a massive bee die-off. Pesticides makers will have two years to adapt to the new rules, which include reduced application rates and the number of applications, as well as spray buffer zones.

The regulations apply to a range of fruit and vegetable crops such as onions, lettuce and blueberries, potatoes, corn and soybeans.

To find out whether an insecticide you see on the shelf of your hardware, pest control supply or garden center is a neonicotinoid, look on the list of active ingredients. If you see one of the following names listed, the insecticide includes a neonicotinoid:

Acetamiprid
Clothianidin
Dinotefuran



Imidacloprid
Nitenpyram
Thiacloprid
Thiamethoxam

Gardeners are encouraged to ask about neonic use at the garden center where they purchase plants. You can also Google specific garden centres to learn about their policy on spraying with neonicotinoids. Since I now have this document on my phone, I will be able to compare plants' labels with this list of chemicals.

Statement from some of the largest retailers here:

<https://foecanada.org/the-bee-cause/market-action/#1567190531420-c4e5e1b4-66fa>

National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

<https://ncceh.ca/environmental-health-in-canada/health-agency-projects/neonicotinoid-pesticides>

April Photo Contest Winners "Love"



Jens Carl—1st place



Wendy Plume—2nd place



Wilfred Haufe—3rd place

*"When at last I took the time to
look into the heart of a flower,
it opened up a whole new world ...
as if a window had been opened
to let in the sun."*

Princess Grace of Monaco (1929 - 1982)

Facebook News!

Our **East York Garden Club** Facebook group has grown to **80** 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



Mary Lou Burt

April 12 at 2:52 PM · 🌍

Would anyone like some Juliet cherry tomato seedlings? Ready to plant in individual pots. Also have midnight snacks cherry tomato seeds. Please send me a message please.



23 Comments · Seen by 58

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

April 21 at 8:28 AM · 🌍

Spring surprise



👍🥰 6

2 Comments · Seen by 51

Our March talk by Margaret Rousseau

Spring Awakening - March 18, 2021

Summary by Jennifer Smith

On March 18, about 40 members of our garden club were treated to a talk by Margaret Rousseau. (She presented in place of our scheduled speaker Elizabeth Stewart.) Margaret has been on the board of the Leaside Garden Society for over 15 years, first as Show Chair and more recently as Garden Tour Chair. She is the recipient of a 20-year Ontario Volunteer Service Award for her work in horticulture. Margaret serves as a Master Gardener mentor and we were fortunate to have one of her mentees, Luiza Montiero, with us for this presentation.

Margaret gave us many hints for helping our gardens to make a wonderful start in April and May. She encouraged us to remember that we need to warm up our gardening muscles before overdoing it and causing injury.

Just as we need to be gentle and slow with our bodies, we need to move carefully in the spring and avoid digging in our still-frozen soil. She suggested that we plant vegetables, perennials and annuals together to have a joyous, colourful garden with all spaces filled. She also talked about succession planting in which when one plant is past its prime, another is planted in its stead. She advised us to take a lot of photographs throughout the growing season so that we can look back and make changes as desired. She left us eager to get out and get started!

Toronto Master Gardeners can be contacted at (416) 397-1345 or www.torontomastergardeners.ca

"The great thing is not to be timid in your gardening, whether it's colours, shapes, juxtapositions, or the contents themselves. Splash around and enjoy yourself."

Christopher Lloyd (1921 - 2006)

Our April talk by Michael Erdman

SUMMER BULBS - April 15, 2021

Summary by Jennifer Smith

On April 15, local gardener Michael Erdman treated about 45 club members to slides and information about unusual summer bulbs. He provided very helpful common and Latin names and very specific planting instructions and growing habits. Many of these bulbs are difficult to find. He encourages us to be on the lookout everywhere, all the time: big box stores, nurseries, anywhere. We may be surprised where we will find one of these unusual specimens.

He started with **Zantedeschia** (calla lillies) and described these as the “most architectural” plant. These are tender and need to be dug up and brought inside for the winter. I found it interesting to learn that **Eucomis** or “Pineapple lily” is a bulb in the asparagus family. This bulb will bloom within one month of planting and its blooms last for a long time. **Hymenocallis**, or Peruvian daffodil, grows 3 - 4 feet high and has a very unusual appearance with long “tails” on the flower. Unfortunately for us here in Toronto, it is beloved by raccoons. **Ornithogalum saundersiae** grows 3 - 4 feet straight up on long stems. It has lovely black seed heads after flowering. It is in the hyacinth family and related to the pesky Star of Bethlehem.

Ornithogalum thyrsoides grows to about 1.5 feet high and is very fragrant. Michael says that he often plants fragrant flowers near his walkway so that passersby can enjoy the scent. **Gladiolus callianthus** (aka Acidanthera) is a flower that I have long admired without know what it was. I shall seek out these corms. Its flowers bloom on a 3 foot spike and emit a hyacinth-like fragrance. It should be treated as an annual and dug up in the autumn. **Gloriosa superba** is a climbing lily from Asia and Africa. Its leaves have tendrils which attach to a structure and grow up to 8 feet/stem. Apparently this flower is a winner in floral design contests! **Nerine bowdennii** or Guernsey lily blooms from Sept. to Nov., which sounds like a lovely autumn treat. **Zephyranthes** or Rain lily often blooms after a thunderstorm. It is a member of the amaryllis family and has 2” wide flowers which resemble the amaryllis we grow around Christmas.

Tigridia pavonia, or Tiger flower, is a corm from Mexico. Its leaves resemble those of the iris. The flowers bloom from about mid-summer to frost and the corms should be treated as annuals. **Achimenes** is also called a Hot water plant because it can be revived with a dose of warm water. It is a rhizome from the Gesneriad or African violet family. You may be able to grow this plant throughout the winter. (I assume this would be done inside.) **Alstroemeria aurantiaca** is a South American rhizome with long-blooming flowers. It is recommended that one “dead stem” this plant to get new growth. **Dahlias** are tender tubers from Mexico comprising over 50,000 hybrids! Michael recommends that these be staked or caged when planted in order to help them to stay erect. Deadhead these frequently to get new blooms and dig them up after frost sets in.

Thank you, Michael, for your informative and eye-catching presentation!

"The great majority of the flowers in my garden are in their present places because they have personally informed me, in the clearest possible tones, that this is where they wish to be."

Beverley Nichols (1898-1983)

April Colours



East York in Bloom

By Nola McConnan

I was out on the bike on Wednesday afternoon April 14th. This is the rainbow of blooms I happened upon along the way.



My neighbour's early Magnolia



Forsythia at the Chestnut Hill Lookout



Willow trees in Taylor Creek



My Scilla bed gets better every year



Vinca may not be everyone's favourite



On Player Crescent

May Talk—Monarch Butterflies



The Amazing Monarch

Presented by Betty McCulloch

I am a Citizen Scientist. That just means I am a volunteer. A retired professor of nursing. A lover of nature - particularly butterflies and birds. I have been involved with tagging over 8300 butterflies in the past seven years at Rosetta McClain Gardens, Scarborough. My focus in this presentation is monarch butterflies and their life journey and environmental challenges. I'll review the monarch's life cycle and their annual migratory cycle. In addition to tagging, we gather data regarding condition, gender and weight. We try to do this within 45 seconds. In the past we have also included wing length, temperature and redness. I will share the highlights of our 7 years of data with you. The presentation will interrelate the environmental impact on monarchs. The summary will focus on how we can keep our monarch butterfly a living specie.

Mark your calendars for Betty's talk—May 20, 2021 @ 7:30pm



Photo credits: Google Images

Another way to raise caterpillars

A woman in my neighbourhood keeps monarch caterpillars safe by placing a light-coloured gauze gift bag over the milkweed and tying it closed at the bottom. Once a day she opens the bag to let the frass fall to the ground.

In this way she protects the eggs, caterpillars and pupae from predators but doesn't go to the trouble of bringing them inside the house. When the butterflies hatch, she removes the bag.

— Jennifer Smith



June talk—Trees



The Trees of Mount Pleasant

Presented by Jeff McMann

Jeff McMann has been in the green industry for over 40 years. A graduate of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, he is also an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist.

Having worked extensively in the construction and maintenance sectors of landscaping has allowed Jeff to expand his experiences in the industry. He has had his award winning gardens and turf work featured in magazines, books and newspapers.

He has been asked to judge for many programs including Landscape Ontario Awards of Excellence and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association National Awards.

Having recently “retired” he spends lots of time working around the home and developing on-line courses. In 2020 he was awarded the ISA Maple Leaf Award for individuals who have provided exceptional energy, leadership and commitment to promoting and improving arboriculture and urban forestry.

The trees of Mount Pleasant: This famous Cemetery is home to a unique arboretum located in the City of Toronto. There are hundreds of types of trees there and only a small number of visitors have seen them all. In this presentation we will look at some interesting tree photos that have been collected over a 4 year period. You will see some rare trees, cones, flowers and some that you would not think, could survive in Ontario.

Mark your calendars for Jeff’s talk—June 16, 2021 7:30 pm

"Gardening involves the incredibly complicated alchemy of life, involving not just plants and animals, but the entire cosmos and the microcosm."

Wolf D. Storl (1942 -)



Gardening Safely with Osteoporosis

The pandemic has made outdoor interests like gardening even more popular. Love of gardening and the pleasures of poring over garden books, seed catalogues and doing online searches on annuals, perennials, mulch and more have kept us occupied during this Canadian winter. However, those with osteoporosis may worry that pain and fractures, or the fear of pain and fractures, will mean giving up their gardens. Thank you to Jennifer Smith for securing permission to provide this link.

<http://osteoporosis.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015-04-22-COPING-FINAL.pdf>

EYGC Memberships 2021

Our membership form can be found online at <http://www.eygc.ca/ClubInfo/HowToJoin.html>

NOTE: If paying by e-transfer NO PASSWORD is required. Please add your full name and address in Notes section of the e-transfer .



Website: www.eygc.ca



MEMBERSHIP FORM Year: 2021

Personal Information

Name (s) _____
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
☐ Single (\$20) ☐ Family (\$30)
☐ Cash ☐ Cheque
☐ Receive newsletter and club events via email

E-transfer Payment

☐ ** E-Transfer to treasurer@eygc.ca
☐ Single (\$21) ☐ Family (\$31)
(Bank surcharge of \$1 included)

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 voluntary if you choose to check one of these boxes. The rental rate at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse is lower for organizations with a high number of seniors (over 60) and youth (under 18). 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 due by January of each year. Fees can be paid in person at a regular Club meeting or by mail.

- Mail 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
- ****E-transfer:** membership fee including bank surcharge to treasurer@eygc.ca. Please indicate **EYGC Membership and your name** in the message. Email the completed membership form as well.

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 Electronic 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

Notices to Members

PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2021

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".***

*"I've never seen a gardener who
hasn't room for one more plant."*

Lee May (1941 - 2014)

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."

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

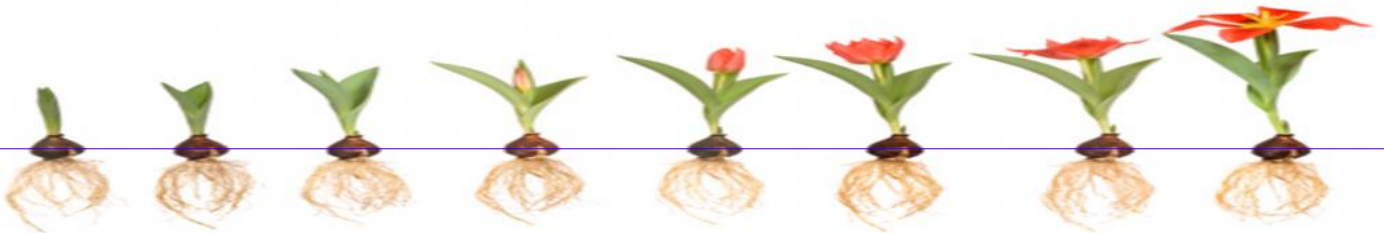
*Shown to the right—My backyard spring garden
By Jennifer Smith*



Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Linda Bayliffe, Melanie Lissiades, Erin Spencer, Liz Williamson



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 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



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