

The East York Garden



Photo Credit: Amaryllis by Maureen Ballentine

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. How are you passing your time this winter? See Beth's article on page 12. 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 winter garden plans?

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:

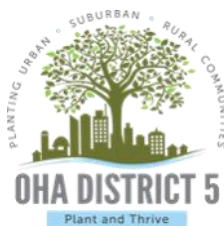
Cristina Brown at:
416-755-9077

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 2022

Date	Speaker	Subject
January 20	Claudia & Duncan Wood	Allotment Gardens
February 17	Rob Grand	ZooShare
March 17	Jason Brown	Ravines
April 21	Chris Cormack	TRCA

People's Choice Photo Contest

Theme—January in Toronto

Deadline—January 14, 2022

Submit to photocontest@eygc.ca

Watch your email for voting

Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:

*"This is March April 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

January February 2022 EYGC Newsletter

Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Maureen Ballentine, Alan Barber, Beth Binnington, Veronica Callinan, Nola McConnan, Roz Regnier,
Jennifer Smith,*

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson

It's a new year, yet another wave of COVID is upon us. I have actually lost count if this is the fourth or fifth wave. This struck me when I looked at the messages I have written for the Club newsletter over the past two years.

I looked back at what I wrote at the start of 2021. The year seemed uncertain. We were still unsure about gathering together in person. We were relying on the heroics of people like those on the Photo Committee or on this newsletter or overseeing our online activities. Arranging speakers was an awkward dance because we didn't know what format our meetings would have.

And that's how the year worked. We couldn't gather for our monthly meetings or bus trips. The annual tea is still on hold. But multiple dozens of us gather every month to hear guest lectures delivered over Zoom. Volunteers turned out from spring through fall at the Pape Legion to tend the gardens there. The outdoor plant sale over three days was very popular. The Photo Committee reinvented itself and was the single committee able to award its annual prize at our (now online) Annual General Meeting.

Our East York Garden Club is a venerable community institution, and it soldiers on. Volunteers step up when needed. And our membership base is still one of the largest in the District, with new memberships popping up regularly.

Perhaps it's because our gardens offer the lesson that nature is tenacious (witness our changing climate), and change always comes. Yet we can play a part in how it changes. It's in how we plant a seed, or move a plant, or stay connected with one another.

We hope you will join us for another year. Look for the Membership form in this issue, or go online to re-new now.

Thank you all – and grow on!

Diane, gardenclub@eygc.ca

416 786-6765



2022 has been declared the Year of the Garden. Events will be organized in communities across Canada,

Gardens Ontario / Ontario Horticultural Association is encouraging all gardeners to plant red flowers and plants this year.

To get East York gardens blooming red, and as a benefit of membership, we delivered five red tulip bulbs to all EYGC members. This gesture, a small gift ordered from Vessey's and hand-delivered by EYGC Exec and volunteers is a small token of thanks for sticking around through 2021.

Member Photos

Send us some photos of your garden or your neighbourhood gardens and we'll put them in the next newsletter.

Please send photos to: newsletter@eygc.ca



Decorating for the holidays—by Nola McConnan



3 generations of Cyclamen—by Nola McConnan



My Amaryllis—by Veronica Callinan



Finds from the valley (mostly)
- by Maureen Ballentine

Native Tree spending—City of Toronto

Why Toronto city staff want to spend \$3.2M to plant a quarter of a million native trees

By Michael J/mee, CMC News, November 5, 2021 (Thank you Karen Bell for submitting)

The city's parks and forestry staff will ask council next week to approve a plan that could add as many as 250,000 trees to Toronto's canopy over the next 10 years.

The idea is to halt the spread of invasive species and replace them with hardier native trees, like oak, maple and cherry, they say.

"It's important to plant the right tree in the right place," said Beth Mcewen, manager of forests and natural areas for the city.

"European Buckthorn is one of the most prolific species that we have in the city now ... and it can take over a forest and stop the reproduction of other species like oaks, maples that support habitat for wildlife."

The city would contract Forests Ontario — a not-for-profit organization "focused on tree planting, forest stewardship, forest education and awareness," according to its website — to find the hundreds of thousands of native seeds. The organization would then distribute them among its network of nurseries where they'll be tended to maturity — a process that could take up to seven years.

The young trees would then be planted in more than 80 city parks and ravines. The cost of the plan is about \$3.2 million, according to a report to the city's infrastructure environment committee last week, and will last for a decade.

...Taylor Creek Park, one of the sites that will benefit from the new push to plant native species in parks and ravines.

Forests Ontario will collect the native seeds, which will then be catalogued, stored and eventually distributed to one of the half dozen or so of its affiliated nurseries, according to chief operating officer Elizabeth Celanowicz. It'll be their job to grow the seeds into viable trees and shrubs, which can take four to seven years, Celanowicz says. From there, they'll be shipped to city sites for planting.

"Trying to plant native is the key to a healthy, diverse forest because they're able to adapt to local environments, they're able to handle different climate changes," she said.

"And also with invasive species, a lot of times they out-compete the native species ... and then you lose that biodiversity of that healthy forest."

Forests Ontario uses trained seed collectors, who will gather and catalogue the seeds of particular native tree species, and list where the seeds were found. When the city needs to plant a particular tree in a particular area, it will know exactly which species is being planted and how close to its native habitat that tree is.

At present, when the city decides to target a local forest or field for planting, no-one knows exactly where that tree came from, or whether it's an ideal fit for that particular habitat.

Weeding out invasive species

This latest initiative is a part of the city's wider seed diversity program, which has been ongoing for about 15 years, according to city staff.

It aims to identify which species will grow most effectively in which areas. By gathering and nurturing seeds, the program can ensure strong genetics in local trees and shrubs, which will help them survive. And those plants can in turn help an entire ecosystem thrive, because native species produce fruits and flowers that are helpful to other native animals and insects.

Kristin Vincent, a natural resources specialist with the city, says this new initiative will produce 15 species of native trees and 16 species of shrubs.

Another goal is to ensure that invasive species, like European Buckthorn, Dog-strangling Vine, Japanese Hedge Parsley or Garlic Mustard, which have been introduced to the city over the past 70 years, are not the ones getting planted in the city.

'A big problem'

Some nurseries still sell non-native trees and shrubs to homeowners and landscapers.

"It's a big problem," McEwan said. "It's becoming an increasing part of our management programs ... to try to take away the invasive trees.

"A lot of different species that should be growing here are becoming less and less common."

And by establishing, through Forests Ontario, a bank of native species seeds, the city will always be able to plant the right tree in the right place, McEwen says, adding she's confident the program can help stem the tide of invasive species.

"I'm very hopeful," she said, adding that "people are becoming much more aware of how important trees are" to help reduce the impact of climate change.

"It's hard to turn back time to completely change this, but hopefully we'll learn to live with some things and to control others."



UPDATE: Toronto City Council approved 200,000 source-identified native trees and shrubs to be planted between 2022 and 2031

Elizabeth Celanowicz, chief operating officer of Forests Ontario, inspects some young silver maple trees that are being grown for the organization at NVK Nurseries in Dundas, Ont., one of the organization's affiliated nurseries. (Greg Bruce/CBC)

Summary of our November 18th AGM...

by Jennifer Smith

Our yearly AGM was held on Thurs., Nov. 18 over Zoom. About 30 people attended. Diane began the event with a Welcome and the Land Acknowledgement. We paid tribute to Lucie Simons and Wini Stoddart who both passed away this year. Some people shared their memories of these two members.

At 7:30 our official business began with the President's report. Diane thanked the dedicated gardeners who work at the Legion. She mentioned our September plant sale and the three pop-ups we enjoyed this summer. Our Facebook group has over 100 members. We have several videos of our lectures available to view on our YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=East+York+Garden+Club

Diane also mentioned the member survey that Susan Bartlett created. She thanked Lynda Tanner for booking our informative and diverse speakers.

We learned that The Canadian Garden Council has proclaimed 2022 as the Year of the Garden, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association.

<https://gardenscanada.ca/year-of-the-garden/>

Canada Blooms has been cancelled for 2022, as has the OHA Convention that was to be held in July in Guelph. It will now be held in 2024.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Joyce Crook, who recently celebrated her 95th birthday. She sends lovely greeting cards to members in her perfect script. We are grateful to Sue Wells and Stacey Shannon who regularly deliver a dozen print copies of the newsletter to people without the internet. We learned that the Rockery continues to be tidied by City gardeners. Roz reports that they do a "Fantastic job" and added that the "Perennials look great."

Susan Bartlett presented the minutes from the 2020 AGM. These were accepted.

Rosemary Vandierendonck, our Treasurer, presented the financial statement, which showed the results of our first full year of living with CoVid. We have 152 members and we can now pay our membership fees via e-transfer. We received our usual grant from the Ministry of Agriculture for \$1,500 and an additional \$1,140 that was part of "Agricultural and Horticultural Support and

Summary of our November 18th AGM

Recovery Funding Initiative”. (This second grant is a one-time event.) Our club is in a good financial situation. She appreciated the assistance from Sonia Van Heerden and Gord Piercey, our reviewers.

Gloria Broks, assistant director of District 5 of the OHA, ran the election for **our new executive board**. Our directors for the 2022-2023 season will be:

Diane Dyson
Beth Binnington
Kim Hewitt
Roz Regnier
Paul Sargeant
Heather Whetstone

Susan Bartlett continues as Secretary; **Rosemary Vandierendonck** as Treasurer, Sonia Van Heerden and Gord Piercey as our reviewers.

Diane thanked Anita Millar, who has moved out of the city, for her service on the Board and on the Photo Committee. She also thanked Barb Foster for her many years of service in a variety of roles.

This ended the official part of the meeting.

Rick Plume spoke about the monthly Photo Contest. From January to October 2021, the committee received 123 entries. The winners each month receive 3 points for first place, 2 points for second place and 1 point for third place. The results of each month's contest are tallied over the year. The first place winner is Wendy Plume with 14 points, the second place winner is Caroline Smoyer with 7 points and we have a tie for third place with both Beth Binnington and Vera Stoyanoff with 6 points each.

The Gardening Scavenger hunt ensued with much merriment and a healthy amount of competition to see who is growing the “ugliest houseplant”. Jacqueline Tanner won in this category and received a gift card to the LCBO. Rosemary Vandierendonck received a \$30 gift card from Lee Valley for growing the second ugliest houseplant. Anna Leggatt received some beautiful garden-themed tea towels.

Veronica Callinan generously shared her Master Gardener knowledge and spoke about how to grow seasonal plants: poinsettias, paper whites and amaryllis. Then she gave helpful hints to a few who had sent in questions ahead of time. Diane thanked Veronica for all of her help throughout the year.

Kim Hewitt surprised us all by saying that all members will receive a gift bag on their front porch/mailbox with a few tulip bulbs inside. Diane thanked Kim for all of her assistance with the AGM. Then we were divided into Breakout rooms. This was a very good idea and allowed us to visit. The meeting ended around 9 p.m. Many thanks to Diane, Kim, and others involved in making our AGM an informative and enjoyable event.

Pop Up Gardens—Year in Review

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to host 3 pop-up garden tours in 2021. Hoping to bring you many more in 2022.

Jennifer Smith



Alan Barber



Roz Regnier



Facebook News!

Our **East York Garden Club** Facebook group has grown to **106** 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



Veronica Callinan shared a post.
December 10, 2021 at 8:22 AM · 🌐



Me if i ever need to move.



The Garden Professors

December 10, 2021 at 7:45 AM · 🌐

Friday Funny!



You and 11 others

Seen by 64



Haha



Comment



Wendy Latham shared a link.
December 4, 2021 · 🌐



In case you're interested in signing the petition...



YOU.LEADNOW.CA

Preserve our bees - eliminate the use of neonicotinoids in agriculture



1

Seen by 34



Like



Comment

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.

A Taste of Spring

By Alan Barber



I have never been a big fan of winter, shovelling snow, skiing, skating, or tobogganing, and once the winter solstice passes, I eagerly watch as the days get longer, and I can get back to being in the garden outside. But one thing that makes the waiting bearable is the pleasure I get from the hyacinth bulbs which I start forcing in December and provide needed colour and aroma in the dead of February.

The process begins in the autumn when I buy a bag of assorted hyacinth bulbs and place them on a lower shelf of the fridge away from any fruit to avoid contamination with ethylene gas. Although I like a variety of colours, I find that blue and white seem to produce a better bloom than pink or yellow, and the blue seems to have the strongest scent. Forcing spring bulbs means they need a period of cold dormancy (35 to 48 degrees) to mimic conditions found in the garden. After chilling for 10-12 weeks, by the first week of



December I'm ready to place them in the hyacinth glasses filled with water, which will enable the roots to start growing. I am fortunate enough to have a nice selection of glasses bought over the years from trips abroad to various gardens, as well as the long gone garden store Cruikshank's here in Toronto.

The glasses then spend several weeks in the dark cold cellar under the front porch (how lucky I am to have that!) and gradually roots appear from the basal plate of each bulb, and grow to fill the water-filled portion of the glass. Then a very pale green shoot appears from the bulb and they can be brought into the light to complete their cycle. This can be done over several weeks, a few bulbs at a time, to ensure a continuous series of blooms. After spending a few days on a sunny windowsill, the shoot slowly grows and eventually becomes the highly scented flower that provides such joy, and assures me that all the spring bulbs sleeping outside in the garden will soon be signalling the start of a new gardening season.

I would encourage anyone to give forcing spring bulbs a try. For the bit of time and small cost, the results are well worth it.

While Waiting for Gardening Season...

By Beth Binnington

It's January- gardening season seems tantalizingly close but still so far away. Here are some things to pass the time while we're waiting.

1. **Watch the bird feeder**, hoping something that isn't an English Sparrow will appear (sorry Brits).

Lately at our place there's been many House Finches. The females are very sleek and pretty with their side stripes and the males seem to become a more vibrant red each day.

This bunch seem to appreciate sunflower and safflower seeds. By the way, that red feeder is squirrel proof, as advertised.

Dark eyed Juncos are always a welcome sight and it's rewarding to see them feeding on the native plant seed heads left in the garden.

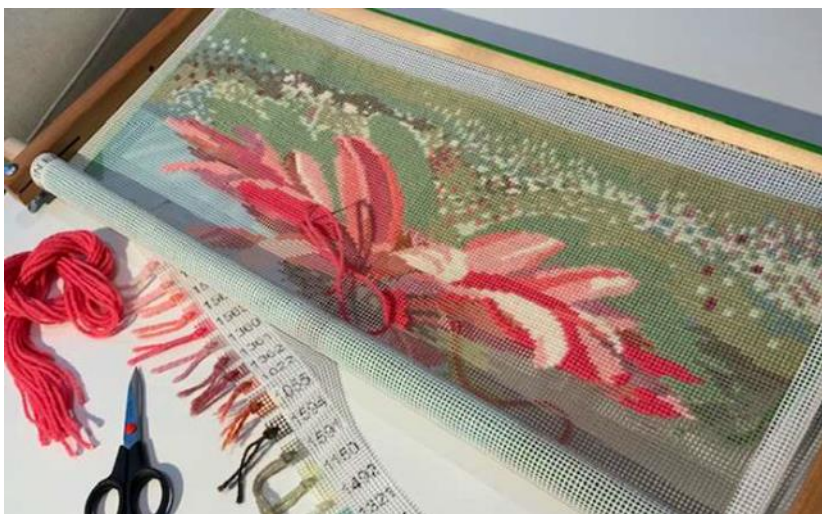
A recent treat was a pair of red-breasted nuthatches but they didn't wait to be photographed unfortunately!



2. **Make some garden-themed fabric art.**

This beautiful needlepoint project (pattern: Echinacea) and photo are courtesy of member

Karen Farnocchi, who is making better use of her time than sitting around watching the bird feeder.



While Waiting for Gardening Season

By Beth Binnington

3. **Organize those seeds** you optimistically picked up last year- - including the ones Roz talked you into at the EYGC Plant Sale.

I'm hoping the flowering climber Lablab (aka Hyacinth bean) will give some interest in a challenging part of the garden. It certainly looked good when I saw it in Roz's garden at last year's pop-up.

A related activity is to have a go at starting some native plants from seed such as these swamp aster seeds from NANPS. Many need a period of cold treatment called stratification. This can be up to 3 months in the fridge, so start now. This site is an interesting resource:

<https://wildplantsfromseed.com/>



4. **Start that jigsaw puzzle you've been saving.**

There are those English Sparrows again!

Perhaps we should start an EYGC winter puzzle exchange?

5. **Maybe this should have been #1:** Furiously study the seed catalogue(s) for this year's selections.

This is seriously hours of entertainment for those who place seed orders. Order so many seeds that William Dam/Veseys/Stokes/etc think you are a commercial grower then spend February and March wondering how you're going to grow them all and where on earth will you plant them? (Repeat next year.)



6. **Get outside to enjoy one of East York's great ravines, parks, or natural areas.**

While there, inspect any surreptitious plantings you may have done in 2021. This tiny White Pine was one of many distributed by our MP for planting on Canada Day. So far, so good!



7. **Patiently wait for spring.**



Member Interviews...

Kim Hewitt

By Jennifer Smith, July 2021



Kim Hewitt is the friendly person who so capably runs our Zoom garden talk sessions. She has been a member of the garden club for about 5 years; Barb Fairbanks' welcoming manner enticed her to join.

She serves on the board as the organizer of the Annual General Meeting. We commented on what an enjoyable evening our AGMs are, an adjective not often associated with this necessary event!

Like many gardeners, Kim hails from a gardening family. Her grandparents had a small mixed farm in the Orillia area. Today if you travel northwest of Toronto and see "Hewitt's fresh vegetables", this indicates the presence of her relatives. Her paternal grandmother's last name was "moon"; Moonstone around Mount St. Louis was named after this family. Kim recalls that as a child at her grand-parents cottage on Lake Couchiching, she and her cousins were tasked with carrying seaweed and buckets of water from the lake to the cottage garden. Her grandfather also incorporated any dead fish into the garden! Nowadays we can spend big bucks at garden stores to obtain these same nutrients for our city gardens.

Kim used to disparage petunias and marigolds. Now she laughs at herself when she realizes that she uses these easy plants in her hanging baskets because they



Member Interviews...

Kim Hewitt

By Jennifer Smith, July 2021

flourish. She enjoys growing zinnias for their bright colours and often starts them inside using her grow lights. A fellow garden club member passed on these lights; her father refurbished them and now she starts many seeds indoors.

Kim enjoys quilting, a skill she learned from her mother and grandmother. She grows raspberries and makes jam and puts up pickles. She used to grow ferns next to the pond. When these no longer did well due to increased sun, she planted rhubarb. She enjoys making pies, another skill learned from her paternal grandmother, who often won awards at farm fairs for her delicious pies.

She grows many plants in containers including gorgeous begonias and calla lilies. In the alley she has some very large planters with beets; she has a goal of encouraging the neighbours to also plant up the alley. She plans to try growing more begonias from cuttings. She has found a spot on her front porch where the begonias grow very happily.

She encourages gardeners to “Just try things”. You can plan your garden and all conditions might appear to be right for your particular plants, but then for unknown reasons something just might not work. For example, Kim has planted sweet peas along a shed wall. They are not flourishing, even though a neighbour grows them in a similar spot. Likewise, her peonies were not doing well in one spot; several years ago she transplanted them and they still refuse to bloom. Also, the amount of shade her gardens receive is changing as the front and backyard tree canopies increase. Gardens are always in a state of flux. If you like a particular plant, try it; it may or may not flourish.



Member Interviews...

Beth Binnington & Heather Whetstone

By Jennifer Smith, July 2021

I spent a lovely hour with Beth Binnington & Heather Whetstone on their back deck, overlooking a beautiful wild garden and the chicken coop in the way back. These are two very energetic people. They both work full-time; maintain their own lovely garden and care for their 4 rented hens, and work for an average of 10 hours/week in their two allotment gardens. Interestingly, while Beth comes from a gardening family—both grandparents had large gardens in the small town where she was raised—Heather's parents were not avid gardeners. However, her grandparents gardened a bit and her grandmother took pity on the “dead rack” of sad plants at places like Canadian Tire; she brought home these plants and rejuvenated them. So there is some gardening in Heather's background. Now they grow a wide variety of vegetables from seed, including 8 types of potatoes. They grow a number of native plants, both for their own gardens and for the Cliffcrest Butterflyway. They have a cucumber vine located on the deck because downy mildew, bacterial wilt and cucumber beetles are rampant at their allotment gardens. They are experimenting with growing Armenian cucumbers. As of this writing, this new melon has not been sampled. Heather is very ambitious and scientific about the garden: if something doesn't flourish, she investigates how to increase its success rate the next time. She is pleased that they have three seasons of plantings and eat fresh vegetables until January. Many years they enjoy tomatoes, potatoes and Brussel sprouts at Christmas and even winter radishes until spring!



Member Interviews

Beth Binnington & Heather Whetstone

By Jennifer Smith, July 2021

At the allotment gardens they have a number of fruit bushes and apple trees. They make a lot of jam from a variety of berries. I was gifted with a jar of delicious blackberry jam!

Beth calls herself an optimistic gardener: successful plants are praised and grown again, unsuccessful ones are let go (unless Heather adopts them!). Beth admits to liking straight lines in the garden and does not care for double flowers, which, she adds, are difficult for pollinators to access. Heather really likes daisies and cone flowers with that particular shape of a centre with petals around it.

They are very glad that they joined our garden club about 5 years ago. Heather appreciates the variety of topics offered through the talks; the August Show & Tea that we all miss; and how easy it is to chat with other members. For Beth, the meetings hold a small-town vibe which reminds her of



the community events of her childhood. They both like how down-to-earth the members are and how they keep busy with a wide variety of activities in addition to gardening.

Somehow Beth & Heather also find time to camp and canoe; bird watch; knit; take beautiful photographs; contribute to iNaturalist; and learn about bumblebees. In the summer Beth joined the TFN and led her first walk in late August. In November Beth and Heather joined the Board of our garden club.



How To and Who Knew

Mason Jar Soil Test

by Donella Crigger, *For the house*

Knowledge is power, in life and in gardening. Determine if the soil composition of your garden space is sandy, clay, or silt – even degrading compost. Know what your soil makeup is using a mason jar “test” and then you can make adjustments as necessary.



Starting your Seedlings

by Donella Crigger, *For the house*

Looking for new ways to start your garden?? Consider using biodegradable items from your kitchen. You can start your seeds in eggshells. By starting your seeds instead of buying plants that have already begun to grow, you can save big bucks on your gardening costs. Beans, squash, cucumbers, melons, all of them are easy to start in eggshells. When it is time to plant them just lightly tap the shell to crack it before planting the entire egg, shell and plant into your garden.

For acid loving plants, create your garden seedlings in citrus rinds. Yup! Don't throw out those citrus peels. You don't even have to pull the seedlings out — just plop them into the ground, peel and all, when they're ready to be planted. Turnips, peppers, tomatoes, and TONS of other plants thrive with acidic soils. Using a peel gives them a solid start to a long healthy plant-life. When it's time to transplant them, just plant the peel and all into your garden.

Made from my backyard harvest

Send us your recipes that include seasonal ingredients, ideally from your own garden but not required. Include a photo if you have one. Pictures get the tastebuds going!

Vegetarian Leek and Potato Soup

from: *Feasting at home*

Contributed by Maureen Ballentine



2–3 Large leeks -1 ½ inch -2 inches in diameter (5 -6cups)

4 tablespoons olive oil

4–6 cloves garlic, rough chopped

1 tablespoon fresh thyme (or substitute sage, or 1 tsp dry thyme or herbs de Provence)

1 1/2 pounds yukon gold potatoes- thinly sliced. (the thinner, the faster they will cook!) or use any thin-skinned potato- red, fingerling

6 cups veggie broth

1 1/2 teaspoons salt

½ teaspoon fresh cracked pepper

½– 1 cup sour cream

2 tablespoons fresh chives (or scallions) for garnish

Cut leeks in half lengthwise and slice leeks into ¼-inch thick slices. Rinse under running water to removed dirt and sediment. (The water will help soften the leeks as well.) Heat oil in heavy-bottomed pot or dutch oven, over medium heat. Add rinsed leeks and sauté until tender, golden and fragrant, 8-10 minutes. Add garlic and thyme and sauté for 2-3 more minutes.

Add potatoes, stock, salt, pepper and fresh thyme. Bring to a boil, turn heat to low and simmer, covered, for 15-20 minutes, until potatoes are fork-tender.

Make the optional leek oil.

When the potatoes are tender, use an immersion blender and blend the soup until smooth, or blend in batches in a regular blender until very smooth and silky.

(Remember, you don't want to fill up a blender with hot liquid, or you will have a soup explosion. So blend in small batches, less than half full, holding the lid down firmly covered with a kitchen towel.)

Return the silky smooth soup to the pot, bring to a simmer over low heat, and stir in the sour cream. Taste and adjust salt and pepper.

EYGC Memberships 2022

**Memberships: Individual—\$20/year,
Family - \$30/year.**

**Send cheques payable to
“East York Garden Club” to:
East York Garden Club,
c/o Cristina Brown,
7 Knightsbridge Rd,
Scarborough, M1L 2A8**

**Our membership form can be found
online at [http://www.eygc.ca/ClubInfo/
HowToJoin.html](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 .**

A Reminder about Advertising

**We will accept one advertisement free of
charge each calendar year.**

- **The member advertising must be a current member of EYGC**
- **The advertisement will appear in only the March/April newsletter**
- **The advertisement is subject to executive approval**
- **A print-ready advert would be required, business card size**
- **Submitted as a PDF or JPEG**

**You may send your advertisement to
Diane Dyson at gardenclub@eygc.ca no
later than February 1, 2022. All ads to be
approved by the EYGC Board.**

OHA 2022 Convention Postponed

2022 CONVENTION POSTPONEMENT TO 2024 AND OHA AGM TO 2022

At the Fall OHA Board Meeting earlier this month the Convention Hosts, Kathy Bouma from District 7 and Vicky Culbert and Karen Redmond from District 8, brought forward some extremely disappointing information regarding the Convention and AGM scheduled for Guelph in 2022.

In the interest of the OHA and all of its affiliated members, it is the decision of the OHA Board of Directors that the 2022 Convention in Guelph will be postponed to 2024. The same venue will be used and the dates selected are July 12 to July 14, 2024.

Upcoming Speakers

Allotment Gardens

Presented by Claudia and Duncan Wood —
Thursday January 20th, 2022

Claudia and Duncan Wood, both retired, were members of the Beach Garden society for 15 years and served on the Board for 10 years. They recently joined Riverdale Horticultural Society and The Greater Toronto Bulb Society. They are enthusiastic gardeners who enjoy learning by doing! When they obtained an allotment garden permit from the City of Toronto 10 years ago, Claudia felt like she had won the lottery. They have tried growing many vegetables and flowers and have learned that every year is different with different results! They also maintain their shady Beach garden and work on a team of former BGS members to maintain the Main St. Library Garden.



ZooShare

Presented by Rob Grand —Thursday February 17th, 2022

Rob Grand is an experienced entrepreneur and business manager with expertise creating, developing, and consulting with successful businesses, social enterprises, and non-profits in the Environmental and Renewable Energy sectors. Rob is currently the General Manager of ZooShare Biogas Co-operative, Canada's first Zoo-based biogas plant. Rob has served as a Director and Advisor to more than a dozen organizations including the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Green Enterprise Toronto, The Coalition for a Green Economy, and Fashion Takes Action. Outside of the office, Rob coaches hockey, teaches skiing, paddles whitewater, hikes trails, climbs rocks, and can often be found with camping gear strapped to his touring bike.



Notices to Members

PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2022

January	<i>January in Toronto</i>
February	<i>The Colour Red</i>
March	<i>Black and White</i>

Entries accepted from 1st to 14th of the month.

*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 2022.

**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".***

Since we did not have a printed year book for 2021, Alan Barber's winning photo for 2020 will grace the cover of our next printed yearbook.

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."

Membership Form 2022



Website: www.eygc.ca

MEMBERSHIP FORM Year: 2022

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 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—Snowpeople, submitted by Jennifer Smith



Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Susan Peter & Shirley Thompson



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:

February 22, 2022

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