



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

Issue Date: 2022
November December

The East York Garden



Photo Credit: Maureen Ballentine —Whirlwind Anemone

PLEASE NOTE: Our AGM will be held Friday, December 2nd at 7pm at the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse. Watch your email for more details to come.

Our **East York Garden Club** Facebook group has grown to **137** 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 post on our Facebook Group.

Send us your photos for our next newsletter. Let us know what type of content you would like to see in issues going forward..



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.

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 2023

Date	Speaker	Subject
Jan	TBA	

People's Choice Photo Contest

Yearbook Photo Contest

Deadline—November 18th

Submit to photocontest@eygc.ca

Watch your email for voting

Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:
"This is January/February in
East York"?

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

November/December 2022 EYGC Newsletter

Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Maureen Ballentine, Barb Fairbanks, Anna Leggat, Debra Lewis,
Patricia Mosdell, Wendy Plume, Roz Regnier, Jennifer Smith,
Sonia Van Heerden, Heather Whetstone*

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson



If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again. That's how it feels with our monthly Members' meetings (and most of the pandemic-era garden club activities).

In September, EYGC hosted two different meetings: a lecture at our (now) regular on-line meeting, and then, the week following, 32 members attended the in-person meeting at Stan Wadlow, where we saw a live demo of how to make compost tea – and a modified flower show! Name tags were located and building renovations negotiated. As a replacement for the snack table, Vice-President Roz Regnier arranged loot bags with chocolate bars for members to take home.

In October, we tried to combine these efforts into a hybrid meeting where members could join in-person or on-line, according to their comfort level. It was, shall we say, a mixed success. The first challenge is that City recreation facilities do not provide public WiFi to connect to the internet. A few tech-savvy members volunteered their phone data. The second challenge involved figuring out how to set up a small TV studio to broadcast the meeting, one which would capture the slides being presented, the speaker, and, separately, the audio. It proved to be too much (but I swear it worked at home in the trial run!). So, on-line members suffered no and/or poor audio. Most of those who logged in for the presentation on low maintenance gardens logged off. The in-person meeting continued, questions were answered, and members poured over the table set up for the seed exchange.

Next month, it's EYGC's Annual General Meeting, tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 2 at Stan Wadlow. We will do the regular business required of a non-profit corporation: Board elections and financial review. We will also be able to announce the winners of the 2023 Yearbook cover and the 2022 photo contests.

Among other items:

- The responsibility of *arranging the monthly speaker* is the most urgent area of need. All of 2023 lies before us, needing someone to look for excellent speakers from other garden clubs, through the Master Gardeners, and other avenues, connecting with them and confirming the details.
- We will be looking for a few more Board members to join the Club efforts. This involves an additional (usually on-line) monthly meeting. Please contact me or a Board member if you might help.
- Fun! As always, we are looking at some fun activities for members. Details to be announced soon.

Keep well, all, and grow on.

Diane, gardenclub@eygc.ca 416 786-6765

Forcing Bulbs...

By Heather Whetstone

Perhaps the correct title is “What to do with all the extra bulbs you ordered and don’t have room to plant in your garden”. Every year I order spring flowering bulbs in July when the first catalogues are put in the mailbox and then of course again when the sale catalogue arrives in September. I cannot seem to stop myself even when the numerous bags of bulbs are laid out on the counter.

Necessity is the mother of invention. I thought I could plant the bulbs in pots just like I had seen on all the British garden shows for forcing in the house in March or just to leave outside for spring displays. I don’t have a garage or a cool basement to keep the pots and I certainly don’t have room in the fridge for five months. I decided to plant the bulbs in pots and bury them in the ground. I reused some 6-inch plastic pots because I wanted to fit 6 tulip bulbs for a large display but I think you can have any size or number.

I covered the bulbs with soil from my container plants and a thin layer of gravel for easy watering when I bring them into the house. I dug a hole and put the pot in so the lip is level with the ground. Then I covered the area with wire mesh weighed down with bricks or stones. This stops the animals from digging them up and allows me to find the pots when I want to dig them up.

You do need to wait until the ground is thawed enough to get a trowel or shovel in around the pots to loosen them from the ground. The first



Forcing Bulbs

year I didn't think about that but last year I put the pots in an area of the garden that gets the most sun in February and March which made it easier to remove them from the ground.

The first and second time I tried this I was just happy to get the tulips to bloom but I noticed the tulip stems are long and thin, not short and thick like the ones from the nurseries. I do not know whether this is from the low light in the house or the sudden shock from the heat. That will be this year's experiment. When I dig up the pots I am going to put one in a cold frame or under plastic for a few sunny days and the other I will put under my grow lights.

I have not been successful getting daffodils to bloom with this technique. However, even if the stems are long, it is a fun and easy way to extend gardening into the winter months.



Photo Credits: Heather Whetstone

"Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul."

Veronica A. Shofstall

Meet Our Members

Wendy & Rick Plume—August 4, 2022. By Jennifer Smith

When Wendy and Rick Plume moved into their bungalow in 2007, they were delighted to finally have an area to garden larger than a balcony. Initially this house only had lawns; now it has a beautiful perennial front garden and a variety of shade plants and tall trees in the back. Like many of us, Wendy learned to garden from family members. At least four generations of her family were avid vegetable and flower gardeners.



Wendy's mother had a large garden in Oakville and gave the Plumes many perennials when they started their own garden in '07. Rick did not grow up with gardeners to the same degree but has nurtured an ivy started by his mother seventy years ago. He is happy to act as "sous-gardener" and to assist Wendy as needed.

They chose to plant a Lavaglut rose in memory of a dear friend who favoured this species. The cherry tree commemorates Wendy's father. The backyard holds a lilac in memory of Rick's mother.



Since joining our club in 2007, Wendy and Rick's names are frequently found in our newsletters. Wendy contributes beautiful—and often winning—photographs. In grade 6 she borrowed her mother's Baby Brownie camera and quickly became hooked on this hobby. Rick worked for the Canadian Press as a Photo Editor for 43 years and has won a number of awards. Although professionally he took photographs of a range of subjects, now he is most interested in photographing people and unusual graphic items.

Rick and Wendy have helped our club in a variety of ways. They both gardened at the Rockery when we were in charge of this spot in Stan Wadlow Park. Wendy helped to sell our club T-shirts, coffee cups, etc. and also assisted with the organization of the District 5 AGM in 2016. Rick is a member of the Photography Contest Committee.

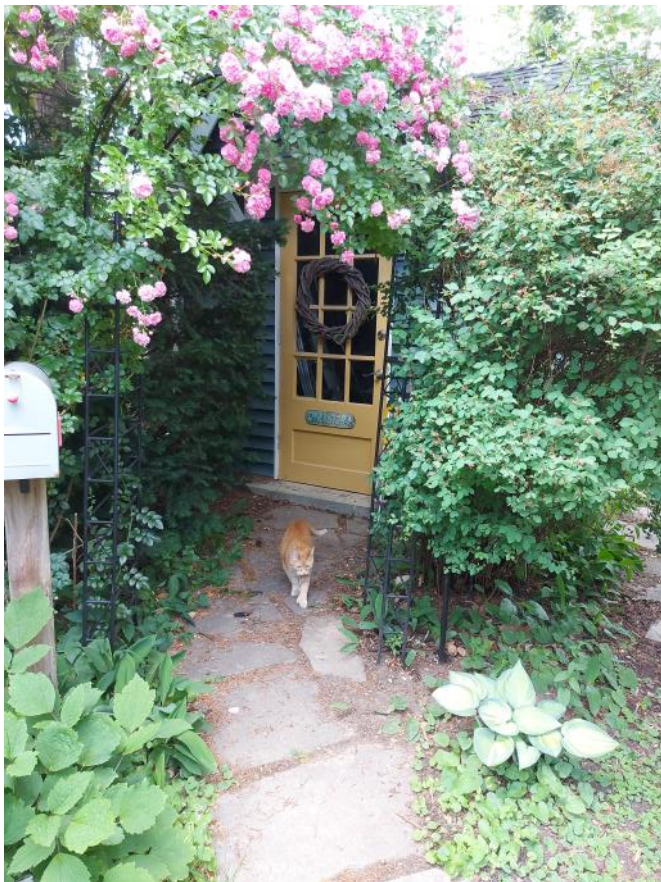
They have opened their gardens for pop-ups a couple of times. They have also invited club members to walk or drive by the front garden, when the back garden offered nothing special to view. They received an honourable mention (and a T-shirt!) from the "David Suzuki digs my garden" contest held some years ago.



Rick and Wendy are avid travellers. They make sure to visit gardens when they go to new places. They love the ease of heading out in their teardrop-shaped camper, which is completely self-sufficient. They also enjoy hiking and are members of The Outdoor Club of East York. They are trying to incorporate more native plants in their gardens and are surprised that some of these haven't survived. We discussed how our gardens and our growing season have changed over the past years. Wendy notes that "heartbreak and challenge" are part of gardening. Gardens are never "finished"; they change over time and need regular tending. The gardener must learn not to take failure personally. Just try something new!

September Photo Contest Winners

“Pathways”



1st place—Barb Fairbanks



2nd place—Debra Lewis



3rd place—Wendy Plume

Meet a Past President

Barb Fairbanks—July 5, 2022. By Jennifer Smith

Barb and I enjoyed a lovely chat while sipping lemonade on her pretty front porch. First she showed me around her property. I completely understand why neighbours often stop to chat: her gardens and house are very attractive. She joined our club in 2008 and served as president from 2016 to 2019 inclusive. (She is now Past President with Diane Dyson as the President.) She assisted with other activities including engaging speakers for our lectures and helping to organize the flower shows. She also helped to organize the OHA Convention when our club hosted District 5 events. Her mother gardened and, in fact, Barb lives with her husband, Gord Piercey, in her mother's former home. This photograph shows Barb under her mother's beautiful pink rose. Barb sees gardening as part of home ownership. Her interest in gardening increased when she joined our club and began to talk with other gardeners and learn more from the lectures.



Hostas are one of her favourite plants; a favourite is a tri-coloured one called "June". She enjoys dividing plants to give away and notes that by doing so, if your original plant fails, you can usually find someone to return a bit of healthy plant so you can start over. Her cat Sadie appreciates the shade provided by the hostas. Barb likes clematis but for some frustrating reason they don't thrive on her property. She doesn't fuss with soil and fertilizer but just hopes that the plants are happy. She has a rolling composter from Lee Valley. She would like her gardens to look more lush but is challenged by increasing shade as various trees and shrubs grow ever larger. In addition to hostas, she finds that the easiest plants are echinacea and alliums. Barb particularly likes the big purple allium.



She explained that it was challenging to eventually change the gardens from her *Mother's* to hers and Gord's. Perhaps deciding to renovate and enlarge the house helped with this process, as some parts of the gardens had to change.

Barb enjoys swimming, reading fiction and memoirs, and attending Scarborough Garden Club meetings as well as our own. She thoroughly enjoys the social aspect of our club: people are friendly, interesting, and always ready to discuss gardening challenges.

Although Barb says that she doesn't fuss about the soil, she does wish that they had brought in new soil when they renovated. She encourages novice gardeners to start with good soil if possible or at least amend it. And don't plant goutweed!



Our September talk by Joanna Blanchard...

A VISIT TO LESS WELL-KNOWN ENGLISH GARDENS

Summary by Jennifer Smith

Joanna opened her talk by describing gardening as the English national sport. She suggests that this is due to a history of planting for food and medicine; to cover smells of rotting garbage and unwashed bodies; and for beauty. The English climate also makes it easy to grow a wide variety of plants.



Joanna and her husband have visited many gardens in England over the years. She chose to speak about these eight spectacular spots. You may find beautiful photographs of them on the web.

- 1) Ness Botanical Gardens was created by Arthur Kiplin Bulley. He sponsored collection expeditions of plants and seeds world-wide. These expeditions introduced hundreds of new plants to British gardens and changed them forever. Bulley died in 1942. His daughter donated the gardens to the University of Liverpool in 1948. One of the gardens has a couch in it. Joanna is not sure how the couch fares in rainy weather!
- 2) Biddulph Grange, which is near Stoke-on-Trent, is a masterpiece of Victorian garden design. It was created by James Bateman to showcase his collection of exotic plants such as azaleas and dahlias. It includes a “Dahlia Walk” with yew hedges cut at 90° angles. This Dahlia Walk is planned and planted by local garden clubs. There are several “stumperies”, which are tree stumps artfully arranged and planted. King Charles III has stumperies on some of his properties.
- 3) Kenilworth Castle & Elizabeth Garden. The castle was built in the 1120s and was originally one of England’s most formidable medieval fortresses. Elizabeth I gave the property to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, who transformed it into a spectacular palace in an effort to win Elizabeth’s heart. In 2009 it was re-created according to its original plan as recorded by an eyewitness and includes many square knot gardens. Apparently designs were of greater importance in Elizabethan times than the plants used within.
- 4) The Salutation Hotel in Sandwich, near Dover, was designed by Edwin Lutyens in 1912 as a country retreat for the Farrer family. Its gardens include an extensive collection of dahlias and echinops as well as a sunny, dry bed of cactus and succulents. In 2013 a cyclone caused a storm surge which flooded the gardens with sea water. After several years of work the gardens were revived. Unfortunately, this hotel and restaurant closed in 2020.



Our September talk by Joanna Blanchard

- 5) Wallmer Castle & Gardens was built in 1539 by Henry VIII as a fort on the Kent coast. It has a shady damp garden in its moat. It also sports “cloud hedges” which are trimmed with curved edges. Only perennials are grown here, including many roses.
- 6) The Inner Temple Gardens was established in 1195 by the Knights Templar. It is a secret, tranquil oasis in the heart of London. It has many unusual plants growing in all seasons. Gorgeous wisteria has grown here since 1848. The gardens are tended by The Worshipful Company of Gardeners which was first created in the 14th century.
- 7) Ham House on the River Thames was created in 1610. Its large lawn was a sign of wealth at the time; the number of men or grazing animals needed to maintain it signified the owners’ wealth. This garden includes a window cut into a yew hedge which shows a bit of the next garden; what a clever and attractive feature.
- 8) Joanna finished with a visit to Kew Gardens in southwest London, which began in 1759 when Princess Augusta, mother of King George III, founded a nine-acre botanic garden within the pleasure grounds at Kew. In 1840 ownership was transferred to the British government. In 1844 the first glass house ever created was built as the “Palm House”. In 2003 Kew Gardens was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Now Kew Gardens and the botanic gardens at Wakehurst in Sussex, are managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens.

In addition to the gorgeous gardens that Joanna showed us, she shared photographs of places where she and her husband stopped for refreshment after a garden tour. Every pub or tea house displayed lovely container plants which hung from walls or sat in ceramic pots on the pavement. Her whole presentation was a glorious display of colour. I imagine many of us checked the status of our passports after this wonderful armchair travel experience!



Speaker Summary - Compost Tea

By Rosalind Regnier

On September 22nd, thirty-two of our members heard Doug Findlay talk at Stan Wadlow Club House about his compost tea. This means that 100 people missed it. I'm fixing that problem.

Doug is a retired employee of the Toronto Forestry Department and used to prune and maintain Toronto's trees. I decided our members needed to hear this for those who missed it or didn't take notes.

- Equipment:
1. fish tank or pond pump
 2. stone bubbler
 3. large bucket or container
 4. fine net bag [dollar store]
 5. kelp powder [Amazon]
 6. worm castings/ compost available at A1 bait, 240 Raleigh Ave.
 7. molasses
 8. Vit C powder [ascorbic acid]
 9. tap water

It takes 24 hours to make the brew. When it's ready, use all of it immediately as the micro-organisms will be at their peak. The whole brew can be used frequently. Vitamin C removes the chlorine in the water. Kelp promotes fungal growth. Molasses feeds the beneficial bacteria.

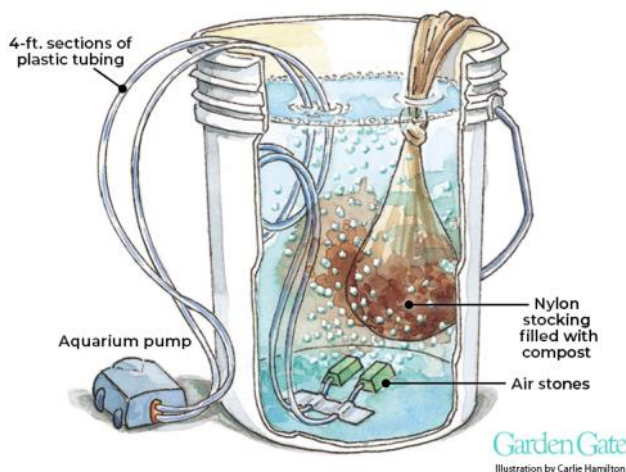
I gave away 1 quart of this tea to 6 members and told them to use it immediately on small plants. After 2 weeks I asked them how the plants did. They all said the plants thrived except my sister who said the plant looked sad. But one week later she said it had started blooming.

If interested, give me a call (Roz—416 759-6247) and I'll tell you more. If too much work, I'll tell you about my compost tea using last year's leaves and water.



My hibiscus flower this summer with 5 blooms where I usually get about 2 blooms at a time

BREWING COMPOST TEA



To Clean or Not to Clean

Some reasons to NOT clean up the garden this fall — by Jessica Walliser

(summary by Jennifer Smith)

1. The native bees, butterflies (both adult and chrysalis forms), ladybugs and other insects need a place to over-winter. Old plant stems, leaf piles, and ornamental grasses may provide a perfect safe, protected spot.
2. Birds that stay around during winter need protein-rich food such as the insects, above, that are also present. As well, seeds and berries that are left on old stems provide important food during these lean months.
3. Jessica Walliser finishes by reminding us of how beautiful the winter garden can be with snow on dried seed pods, berries on bare branches, juncos and cardinals finding bits of food, and ice shining from blades of ornamental grasses.
4. 4. In other words, save yourself the time and trouble in the autumn. Don't empty your garden of its valuable food and shelter sources! (And delay cleaning up the garden in the spring, but that's for another article in a few months.)

You can read the entire article at: <https://savvygardening.com/6-reasons-not-to-clean-up-your-garden-this-fall/>

Chapín—why it's important

(Thank you Karen Bell for your preamble and sharing the link)

Modern science meets ancient Aztec farming techniques!

This article describes a centuries old farming method called chapín which relies on preserving wetlands, rather than draining them — an ecologically sound and organic technique. Mesoamerican farmers used reed rafts covered in nutrient-rich mud to grow food. The wetlands in question are home to an endangered salamander, the axolotl, the one that can regenerate organs, etc., and is of great interest to scientists.

From **Undark** digital magazine, a non-profit, editorially independent digital magazine exploring the intersection of science and society:

Mexican Farmers and Scientists Share a Mission: Saving a Wetland

<https://undark.org/2022/08/01/mexican-farmers-and-scientists-share-a-mission-saving-a-wetland/>

Our October Talk —Easy Gardening

Presented by Pat de Valence

Summary by Maureen Ballentine

On October 20th, Pat gave our members a very informative talk on how to make gardening easier. Pat's main message; plantings should be close together to reduce the area for weeds to flourish. Pat is also a proponent of using leaf mulch as it has more organic organisms to feed your soil than wood chips which can be expensive and prevent moisture from reaching roots.

Pat cited Savvy Gardening a number of times and recommended members check this website out for lots of good information—<https://savvygardening.com>.

For those looking to create their own leaf mulch—also referred to as leaf mould - this website will tell you how—<https://www.ruralsprout.com/leaf-mold>

Member Photos



European Spindle, Taylor Creek Ravine—by Jennifer Smith



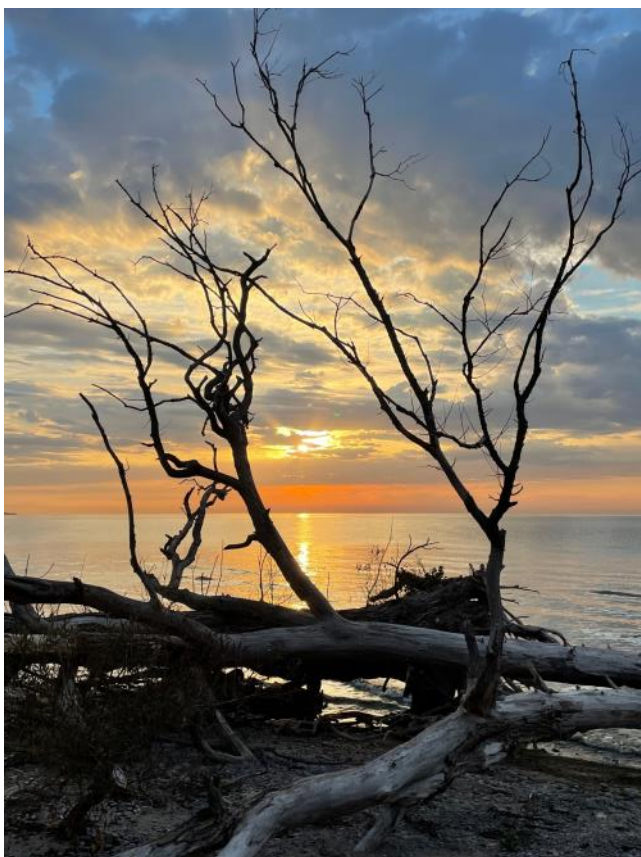
Fall Bloomers
by Maureen Ballentine



Fall Flooring in Taylor Creek Ravine
by Maureen Ballentine

October Photo Contest Winners

“Transitions”



1st place—Patricia Mosdell



2nd place—Anna Leggatt



3rd place tie —Sonia Van Heerden



Website: www.eygc.ca

MEMBERSHIP FORM Year: 2023

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 ☐ Receive newsletter and club eventw via email

Payment Options:

*** Paying by Cash or Cheque:**

☐ Cash ☐ Cheque
☐ Single (\$20) ☐ Family (\$30)

**** Paying by E-transfer to treasurer@eygc.ca**

(Bank surcharge of \$1 included)

☐ Single (\$21) ☐ Family (\$31)

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 MIL 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.

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 _____

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

Notices to Members

PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2022

November—YEARBOOK COVER

Entries accepted from 1st to 18th of the month.

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

EYGC Memberships 2023

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>**

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

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”.***

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."

Proposed Amendments to our Bylaws for our Upcoming AGM December 2, 2022

Existing By-Law

6. Meetings

- a. Excepting July, August and December, general meetings of the Club are to be held each month, on the third Thursday of the month. The Executive Board may decide to hold additional general meetings.

Proposed Change:

- b. Excepting July, August and December, general meetings of the Club are to be held each month, on the third **week** of the month. The Executive Board may decide to hold additional general meetings.

Existing By-Law

- c. The November meeting of the Club shall be the Annual General Meeting, during which the election of members of the Executive Board, presentation of the annual financial statement, reports of the year's activities, and presentation of awards shall take place. The quorum for such a meeting shall be the membership in attendance.

Proposed Change:

- d. The November meeting of the Club shall be the Annual General Meeting, during which the election of members of the Executive Board, presentation of the annual financial statement, reports of the year's activities, and presentation of awards shall take place. The quorum for such a meeting shall be the membership in attendance. **The Annual General Meeting may be held in person, virtually or a hybrid of both.**

Existing By-Law

- D. Meetings of the Executive Board are to be held a minimum of ten times throughout the calendar year.

Proposed Amendment:

- D. Meetings of the Executive Board are to be held a minimum of ten times throughout the calendar year. **The meetings may be held in person, virtually or a hybrid of both.**

More ways to Garden

Rent a plot in an Allotment Garden run by the city of Toronto - [ALLOTMENT GARDENS](#)

For Organizations, start a Community Garden in a city owned park— [COMMUNITY GARDENS](#)

Back Yard Sharing—Do you have unused garden beds? Find out more at [CULTIVATETO](#)

More information at [Toronto Urban Growers](#)

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

Your Photo Goes Here

Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

We look forward to meeting you in the new year



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:

January 6, 2023

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