



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

Issue Date: 2023
January February

The East York Garden



Photo Credit: Maureen Ballentine

Happy New Year Members! Watch your email for news updates.

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
Monday 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
Mon. Jan 23	Jay Coady	Backyard Conservation
Mon. Feb 27	Cathy Nesbitt	Worm Composting
Mon. Mar 20	Veronica Callinan	Low Maintenance Gardening

People's Choice Photo Contest

Deadline—January 28th

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 2023 EYGC Newsletter

Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Maureen Ballentine, Beth Binnington, Barb Fairbanks,
Anna Leggat, Jennifer Smith, Deborah Wheeler*

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson

The East York Garden Club is a hardy bunch, used to change and challenge. We have survived for almost a century—since shortly after the flu pandemic of 1918.

But it's always something! And this has definitely been a time of change. (I note the irony that my mention of change has become a constant over these past three years.)

So, this past fall, we resumed in-person meetings. In October, we tried our best to do a hybrid meeting, in order to meet the needs of those who preferred to stay safe at home. It was, to be generous, a mixed success. However, we are still committed to finding a way; after all, other garden clubs have succeeded in hosting hybrid meetings. One of the pieces that will help is that WiFi should be coming to the Clubhouse, so that we won't have to rely on streaming the meeting through our own phones.

However, a few more changes have come to the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse. Now many programs are running on several evenings. Thursdays nights, a yoga class is held in the large room where we meet, and Wednesdays, the kitchen is occupied with a youth cooking class.

The loss of the main space on Thursday evenings has thrown a kink into all sorts of things, such as booking speakers and publishing the Yearbook. But we are making some good traction on these issues now. Let me explain further.

The Board of Directors has considered a few alternatives (including joking we should all join the new yoga class!). But the most conservative approach is to meet on another night. The downside is that we know some members may not be able to attend on a new evening.

Finding a new location is another option, but a longer-term project. It's also one we said we would only adopt after we had tried Stan Wadlow once again. (How bad is the parking now?)

So, for at least the next three months, we will meet on Monday evenings. With any luck and a few more smarts, we will also figure how to stream the meeting over Zoom at the same time. (WiFi is coming to Stan Wadlow soon!) Look for a motion on this at our next meeting.

It's time to renew your membership.

If you haven't yet, please find the form here in the newsletter and on our website.

Keep well, all, and grow on.

Diane

416 786-6765 gardenclub@eygc.ca eygc.ca

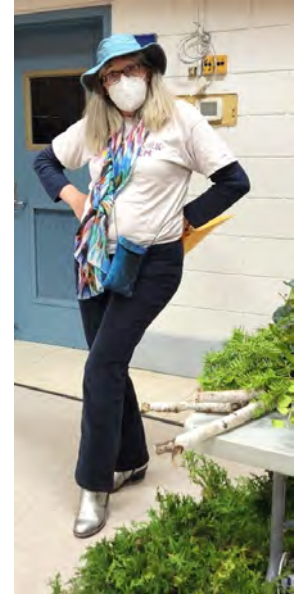


Join us
on Facebook

We Meet Again—2022 AGM

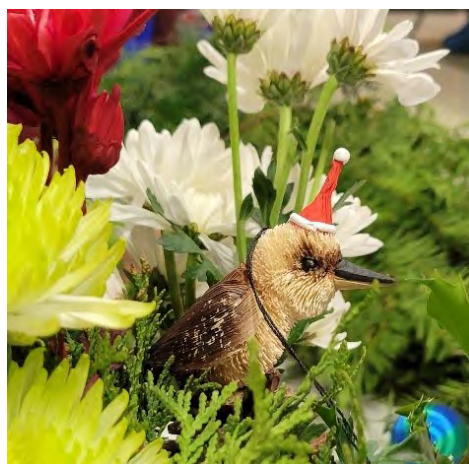
December 2 at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse — By Beth Binnington

The EYGC held our 2nd post-COVID in-person event on December 2nd at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse. The AGM was well-attended and saw the return of many traditions: name-tags at the door, pre-meeting meet-and-greet and raffle prizes. Regular AGM business such as approval of the financial statement was attended to, and the photography contest winner, yearbook cover photo, and Presidents' Awards were announced. A 'competitive' flower arranging contest, called Arrange This! was a huge success.



AGM—On your mark, get set, GO!

Three teams used an assortment of provided materials to create an arrangement within 15 minutes. Members voted for their favourite by ballot. Thanks to Kim Hewitt for the idea, planning and execution of this fun event!



AGM—and the winners were



1st place; Team 3

2nd place; Team 1



3rd place; Team 2

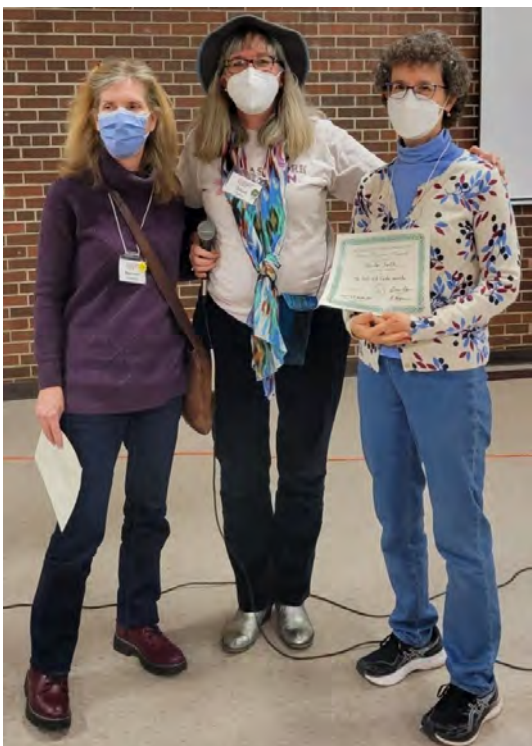
AGM— Awards



2022 Photo Contest winner: Wendy Plume



Lynda Tanner's years of service to the club were recognized with a Lifetime Membership award



Maureen Ballentine and Jennifer Smith were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the EYG Club Newsletter.



Kim Hewitt was recognized for maintaining the club Facebook page to provide an online presence where club members could connect during the pandemic.

Meet a Member

Karen Bell —August 17, 2022. By Jennifer Smith

Karen bought her East York bungalow in 2000 as a millennium project. She wanted to join a garden club to expand her knowledge beyond balcony gardening and to meet people. She has volunteered in our club in a variety of areas including serving on the Executive as Secretary from 2004 - 2012. She also assisted with Environment Day activities, the August Tea & Flower Show, and helped in the club's library. (Unfortunately, this library no longer exists.)

Her father gardened at their London, Ontario home and her grandfather had a large, hilly property in Darbyshire, England.

Karen's garden has a large white spruce at the back. When she first moved in, there was a beautiful stand of hostas under the tree. She also had a "borrowed view" through the hostas and the neighbours' chain link fence. Now this been replaced by a wood fence, so the view is blocked and the hostas are less successful. The Autumn Joy sedum that Karen transplanted into this area is growing nicely. She painted a door into her garage a beautiful blue which blends nicely with the garden.

The neighbourhood raccoons dig up her iris for no apparent reason. While attempting to replant some of these rhizomes, Karen discovered that grubs had infested and weakened the plant. She has moved some plants two and three times in hopes of finding a good spot with varying success.

Karen likes to collect plants from interesting sources. She has some ferns which originated on Georgina Island. An Indigenous friend let her take one fern in exchange for an offering of tobacco. She grows a variety of native plants, including a pagoda dogwood and two serviceberry trees. (The older serviceberry gives a lot of berries which are beloved by the birds.) She finds that the native plants are the easiest to grow since they are meant to be here. She is striving to have a low maintenance garden; she seldom waters. Her Missouri sundrops are prolific, bright pops of yellow in the front garden. She has a cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) which is now growing underneath the white spruce; the conifer helps to keep the cup plant in check. She has let her red leaf lettuce go to seed so it will grow again next spring. A lavender plant from her balcony garden self-seeds easily—even into cracks in the sidewalk—and she often gives bits away as gifts.

The newsletter committee appreciates the links to relevant articles that Karen often contributes. In addition to gardening and reading, she enjoys curling, lawn bowling, and working out at the gym.



November Photo Contest— Congratulations Beth Binnington Yearbook Cover Winner



More ways to Garden—apply early

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](#)

Children's Garden Award

East York Children's Community Garden wins first place! - by Jennifer Smith

In early November we received the delightful news that the East York Children's Community Garden had won first place in the City of Toronto's Garden Awards, Community Garden Category, and that one of our members, Suzanne Isaacs, is the Garden Coordinator.

Suzanne kindly provided more information in a telephone interview on December 6.

The garden is located at Woodville & Pape, on the south side of the East York Community Recreation Centre (and just one block south of the Legion garden which is maintained by Jacqueline Tanner and volunteers). It has existed for some years but was not maintained during the COVID lockdown. Suzanne lives near the garden and was dismayed to see the space not being used or planted. She is also a volunteer with the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway project and was looking for a site in which to establish a pollinator garden. This past spring, Suzanne applied to the City to take on the role of Garden Coordinator. She was responsible for sourcing plants and soil and designing the planting. She sourced pollinator and vegetable plants from community groups (including Beth Binnington, an EYGC member) and created a wonderful vegetable and pollinator garden. Throughout the summer, Suzanne shared responsibility for watering and weeding with five community volunteers, who she found by posting signs around the garden and creating an Instagram account. The group harvested and donated the produce weekly to "Club Sandwich", a local organization that provides food for nine local food missions.

On Fridays one of the volunteers led the Rec Centre Children's Camp participants through the garden to observe what was being grown.

The photographs show the garden with a lovely mural, made by a local group when the garden started, and Suzanne holding the well-deserved certificate. Sincere thanks to Suzanne for her dedication to the garden!



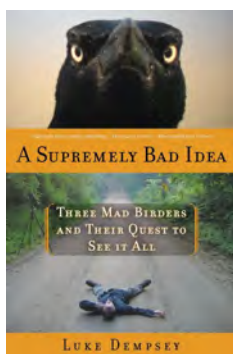
Book Reviews

Three books about birds, birding and a hermit

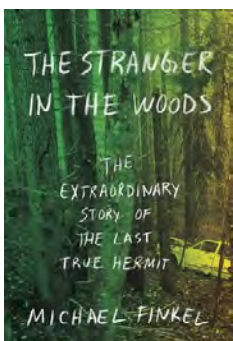
by Barb Fairbanks

During the late summer and fall of 2022 I read three books I randomly picked up at the library. I love backyard bird watching and I often record my sightings, but I am by no means an expert. Anna Leggatt got me into donating to Bird Studies Canada and I now get wonderful newsletters and emails with lovely bird photos and information galore.

In 2017 when EYGC promoted a challenge to the membership to have at least 50 members get our gardens certified as Wildlife Friendly by the CWF, I became much more conscious of the needs of a variety of wildlife, including birds. The challenge within EYGC was a great success and we have a beautiful poster created by Michael Woods to commemorate that achievement.



Back to the books: the first of the three books I read was *Supremely Bad Idea—Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See it All* by Luke Dempsey. I liked the title and the cover looked so silly, I had to pick it up. It is quite a detailed book about how Luke became a birdwatcher starting out so innocently, and then becoming quite obsessive. The threesome's adventures were interesting, sometimes funny and insights into the birding world were enlightening. The sad confirmation that habitat loss and climate change are reducing the number and range of sightings was clear.



The next book I read was *The Stranger in the Woods – The Extraordinary Life of the Last True Hermit* by Michael Finkel. While it wasn't strictly about birds or bird watching, I found the resonance with nature interesting. It was intriguing to learn how watching clouds, weather, and birds advised 'the hermit' on weather and seasons as he did not have any communication devices or even a calendar.



Finally, I read *One Wild Bird at a Time: Portraits of Individual Lives* by Bernd Heinrich. Both the Hermit book and this one are based in Maine. I thought that was unusual but after speaking with someone from Maine, I've learned that this state contains many forests and lakes and is relatively unpopulated —easy to get lost/hide! Mr. Heinrich's book is about the migration, mating, nesting, raising, and fledging of many common species. I enjoyed his detailed observations from his cabin windows, tree blinds or walks. His notes on the nest building process and how the eggs and newborns are looked after and what it is in his acreage that attracts certain birds year after year were very interesting.

After reading all three, in that order, I realized there was a connection and I thought other members might be interested in some winter reading.

Winter Gardens

by Anna Leggatt

Arum italicum—Italian Arum is in full leaf during the winter. Leaves grow up and unfold in early November, continuing to grow whenever the temperature is above freezing.



The leaves are flattened by the snow, becoming erect again whenever there is a thaw. Flowers appear in May and the leaves die. Red berries brighten a dark corner in the summer. Grow in shade. Can be invasive.

Liquidambar styraciflua, the sweet gum, has interesting, but prickly fruit.



And then flowers! Our late member, Janet Badali, had a wonderful clump of *Helleborus niger*, the Christmas Rose. This came from her sister in Vancouver and was shared around. I have had a clump for at least 40 years. It flowers early, well before Christmas. This season, before November 11! It will continue till April. I cover my plant to protect from frost.

Plant one near the house for seasonal flowers.



Upcoming Speakers

"Garden Giants: Trees' Roles in Backyard Diversity"

Presented by Jabeen Coady —Monday January 23, 2023

Jabeen is a professional arborist who discovered arboriculture three years ago, and has since completed her apprenticeship and gone on to start her own local, independent tree care company - while still working as a full-time arborist for Stewart Services Tree Care to complete her hours to write the Ontario Qualified Arborist exam.

As the owner and operator of the all-queer-all-female company, Raven Tree Care, she utilizes her skills from her previous career in Animal Control and Wildlife Education and brings them into the world of arboriculture. Jabeen uses her career platform to educate the public about the importance of preserving trees and protecting the various species of animals that live in them.

Outside of working with trees, Jabeen continues to rescue wildlife and to participate in indoor rock climbing, hiking, fishing, and other outdoor activities with her lovely wife, Olivia, by her side.



Wintering

You may think yourself lazy, or flawed. Yet your body is made of almost exactly the same elements as the stars. Your bone composition matches the coral in the seas and you, my friend, are ruled by the moon and the sun. Whether you like it or not. So no, you are not lazy., nature is simply pulling you to slow, like the life, floral and fauna around you. It is not your moment to rise. It is winter, you are wintering. And you are right on time.

- Donna Ashworth -

Notices to Members

PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2023

January — “Hygge”

Entries accepted from now to the 28th for this month only.

**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.

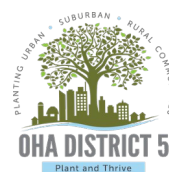
In short it says: ***A guiding principle of the East York Garden Club is that everyone is entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. Although EYGC promotes freedom of expression and open communication, we expect all members to adhere to this principle as outlined in the full “Code 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."

East York Garden Club Board of Directors 2023

Past President	Barb Fairbanks
President	Diane Dyson
Vice President	Rosalind Regnier
Secretary	Susan Bartlett
Treasurer	Rosemary Vandierendonck
Director	Heather Whetstone
Director	Beth Binnington
Director	Kim Hewitt
Director	Cristina Brown
Director	Jacqueline Tanner



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 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.

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

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

Inside looking out

by Deborah Wheeler



Here we Grow Again...Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Yvonne Butorac, Jennifer Pah, Linda Petherick



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, 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



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