



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

Issue Date: 2023  
July August

# *The East York Garden*



**Photo Credit: Alan Barber**

Our **East York Garden Club** Facebook group has grown to **150** 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:

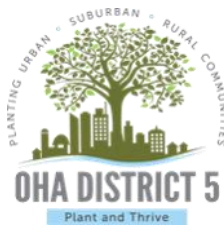
**Cristina Brown at:**  
**416-755-9077**

Visit us on the web:  
**[www.eygc.ca](http://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
August 19		Flower Show and Tea
September 18	Ursula Eley	Sustainable Design

## *People's Choice Photo Contest*

**Deadline—July 22, 2023**

***"Bursting with Colour"***

**Submit to [photocontest@eygc.ca](mailto:photocontest@eygc.ca)**

**Watch your email for voting**

## *Newsletter Cover Photo*

Have you got a photo that says to you:  
***"This is September/October in  
East York?"***

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the  
cover of the next Newsletter!  
(Landscape format please)  
**[newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)**

## July/August 2023 EYGC Newsletter Photo

### Credits Various Photos:

*Maureen Ballentine, Alan Barber, Michelle Barraclough,  
Karen Bell, Beth Binnington, Dianne Cavanaugh, Judy Douglas,  
Anna Leggatt, Barb Fairbanks, Sue Peter, Jennifer Smith, Erin  
Spencer, Shirley Thompson, Heather Whetstone*

# Message from EYGC's President



**Prez Patch**  
by Diane Dyson

As we lean into the heat (and smoke!) of this summer, EYGC switches into summer mode. It doesn't mean we slow down, but we are in different places.

One quick announcement: the Bus Trip scheduled for this September has been cancelled because of lack of registrations. We are committed to trying again in the new year.

In the past two months, we've had a rush of pop-up garden tours and two brilliant Flower Shows. Members are also apparently enjoying in-person meetings where we have seen post-pandemic attendance blooming. (And, yes, I hear your calls for a better sound system! Cavernous brick rooms are challenging.)

EYGC's Plant Sale in May raised a record four-digit amount this year (\$944 on the day of, with \$70 more in sales afterwards).

Despite the heat and smoke on July 1st, we also saw the dependable return of members to march in East York's Canada Day parade. (We were right ahead of the "Pub-cycle" and the Batmobile, so we enjoyed lots of cheers!)

Continue to watch out for announcements of upcoming events, like more pop-up garden tours and the 2023 Calendar to be delivered to your doorsteps later this summer.

The August 19th Flower Show will be our biggest event where EYGC also invites neighbouring clubs. The Show will have over fifty categories in which to make a submission. Our website will have complete details. Note, this year, we won't be doing a flower auction at the end, but we will have lots still to see and do.

We're glad to regularly celebrate new members as well as welcome the return of many long-time members. Our fees remain very nominal but our membership count qualifies us both for the chance to use municipal facilities and for an annual grant from the provincial Ministry of Agriculture. Thank you for your support!

If you can, volunteer to help! Serve lemonade at the August Flower Show, join us every two weeks at the Legion for a good weed, or offer to show off your garden. Or, simply, when you sit next to someone at a meeting, ask them how their garden grows. Join in! It's the quickest way to make friends in the Club.

Let's have fun – and grow on!

*Diane, [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca) 416 786-6765*





# Indoor Composting with Lomi

*By Dianne Cavanaugh*

## What is Lomi?

Last year, for my birthday, my three daughters surprised me with a Lomi Composter.

I was ecstatic as I had read that Lomi was able to transform almost everything you eat, including food waste into nutrient-rich plant food in just under 4 hours.

Terrific, I thought. I had been trying to reduce the amount of soil and fertilizers I purchased, including a CSA subscription for compost tea from Crooked Farmz, which I purchased last year.

I was considering using a traditional outdoor composting bin for my food waste. However, the thought of the mess, smells, the fact that I would be attracting critters to my backyard and the amount of effort was too discouraging.

I'm happy to say that I have been using Lomi for a year now and I couldn't be more satisfied. Not only do I have the perfect nutrient rich earth, but I have limited my food waste going to landfill including the resulting methane gas; reduced my carbon footprint and I no longer use synthetic fertilizers because Lomi provides me with a natural soil amendment for my plants, grass and gardens.

I have provided their website, if you are interested in finding out more about Lomi: <https://lomi.com/>



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

# Our May 15th Flower Show

*by Heather Whetstone*

May 15, 2023 was our first official club flower show in four years and it was a beautiful sight to see. The early warm weather made some spring flowering bulbs bloom and go over before the calendar flipped to May. That didn't stop club members from entering in 16 of the 21 cut specimen classes, house plants, and the design section. Yvonne Butorac, a new club member was awarded Best Cut Specimen, Alan Barber was awarded Best Potted Plant, Anne Stanley Best Design and Carolyn Lee Judge's Choice for her collection of flowers.



George Gorrie, Karen Bell, Roz Regnier



Anne Stanley



Kim Hewitt



Diane Dyson and Yvonne Butorac

# The Rise of Urban Farms

*by Karen Bell*

Some EYGC members will remember a pre-pandemic field trip to see Toronto Metropolitan (then Ryerson) University's large rooftop garden.

Down on the ground, we all have worked in or passed by allotment gardens, where a large area is divided into small garden plots for individuals. Allotment gardening is an old concept, where people without their own land can indulge their desire to grow things. The Second World War brought about a farm

labour shortage and a food crisis, which spawned the Victory Garden, where non-farmers were encouraged by the government to grow food to feed themselves and others. It is estimated that wartime Victory Gardens supplied one-third of the food for the U.S.

COVID lockdowns helped make gardening a popular hobby. But taking that idea one step further, urban farms are growing in numbers. From Don Mills to Downsview, Montreal to Edmonton, the idea of urban farming is taking hold.

## **Food Security**

Recently, empty store shelves followed by steeply rising food prices have motivated some to grow their own. Those who cannot are resorting to food banks. According to The Hunger Count 2022 by Food Banks Canada, food bank visits were up 15 per cent from 2021 and 35 per cent from 2020. Food banks step in to help, but fresh fruits and vegetables are in short supply there. This is where urban farms come in. Larger operations – including Common Table Farm in nearby Flemingdon Park – aim to feed the poor who simply cannot afford healthy food.

Due to free trade agreements, the last decade has seen a steep decline in the production of fruit and vegetables in Canada. The factories which processed that food have closed. We may import cheaper produce from south of here, but what happens when the supply is interrupted by drought, disasters, war or climate change?

## **Climate Change**

Food systems are estimated to generate about a third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, mainly through transportation and food waste. One way to reduce emissions is to produce food close to home and only produce what you need. If your customers are close by, you have a better idea of how much to grow.

Urban farms can also help cities with stormwater management. Mississauga and Montreal have even made urban farming part of their strategy to fight climate change. Drought and climate change will certainly play a role in our future food security.

For more on urban farms see:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/urban-farming-1.6882706>

<https://www.flemingdonparkministry.com/the-common-table-farm-2/>

<https://microhabitat.ca/urban-farming-in-montreal/>



Photo Credit: Micro Habitat



# Pop Ups – by Beth Binnington

## Anna Leggatt hosted a pop-up on April 21st.

Clearly everyone was itching to look at gardens as 28 attendees were recorded! On display were two magnificent magnolias, and a lovely dwarf cherry in bloom. A lot of daffs, multiple colours of the spring ephemeral corydalis, and the bulb lawn (which we tried not to trample) were in good flower. An unexpected highlight was the wildlife- warblers, queen bumblebees, and a mother red squirrel busily moving her young to a new location, using the wisteria as a runway.



Photos Credit: Beth Binnington



Narcissus



Cowslips



Oak leaf polyanthus primula



Dog-tooth violets

**Alan Barber's pop-up** was held May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> and had 15 visitors. Alan's beautiful garden featured spring bulbs, hellebores, redbud and pear trees, emerging shrub foliage, and dog toothed violets. The weather on May 2<sup>nd</sup> was rainy/overcast and 7°C while the 2<sup>nd</sup> session on May 6 was sunny and 14°C.

**Dianne Cavanaugh's pop-up** was held on May 26<sup>th</sup> and had 15 attendees. The day was sunny and 20°C. Highlights included several rhododendrons, snowball viburnum (very fragrant!), lilacs, redbud, tree peony, Japanese Kerrias and 7 maple trees.



Dianne's native plant winter sowing project



Rhododendron and Spanish bluebells

# EYGC & July 1

*by Anna Leggatt*

We moved to Parkview Hills in 1968 and frequently attended the Dominion Day Parade and Festivals on July 1st.

The Parade started in 1957, created by True Davidson. The celebration moved to its present locale in 1962. The parade was (and perhaps still is) the largest in Canada.

It was long! The Mayors of East York, Members of Council, our MP and MPP were all in posh cars. There were many floats, marching bands, (probably about 4 playing bagpipes) Orange Lodge contingents, Nursing organizations, Ambulances, fire trucks, Scouts and Guides, decorated bicycles, 1st and 2nd World War Veterans, members of the Historic Association in a vintage car - frequently with Joyce Crook in appropriate costume for the 1860s, cheerleaders, clowns, etc., handing out flags and balloons.

EYGC first joined the Parade around 1960. President John W. Gray mentions "the float entered in the Dominion Day Parade. This advertised our Society a great deal more than anything that has taken place since I have been a member." In 1967 - "DOMINION DAY - For several years our Society has entered a float in the East York Dominion Day Parade. This year we hope to do something extra special, in honour of our country's 100th birthday." Our participation lapsed in the 1970's, 80's and 90's.

Then in 2006 "...as one group of members manned our Canada Day booth in Stan Wadlow Park, another group marched along the streets of East York, as we made our first showing in the Canada Day Parade in many years. New EYGC shirts, with a new logo were sported by the parade participants, and many of the volunteers at the Park."

The Parade emptied and people moved to Stan Wadlow Park for Bingo, dancing competitions, food, music and stalls by local groups for fund raising.

EYGC had a stall for many years. This started in 1978. The 1979 Yearbook reported: This is from the 1979 yearbook account of the previous year's activities: "July 1st is always a big day in East York with Dominion Day celebrations in Cedarvale Park. Our Club ran a Country Store Booth on this day and sold many handicrafts that were made by members, also home-baking and, of course, plants of many varieties. Many members joined in the manning of this booth and had a very interesting day."

In 1987, the yearbook reported "JULY - Canada Day is always a very active and interesting day in East York with a parade and many booths in the Park manned by various groups. The Club had a very successful day at the Country Store booth, which was well stocked by the members with baking, plants, books and White Elephant items." People came early for plants, especially Janet Badali's Iris divisions (I still have some). We frequently raised over \$2000. It was a lot of work collecting and setting up.

It is a wonderful way to celebrate our history, expand our horizons and join in with our neighbours. However, the final Firework display is better than ever!



Roz Reigner

Photo credit: Karen Bell



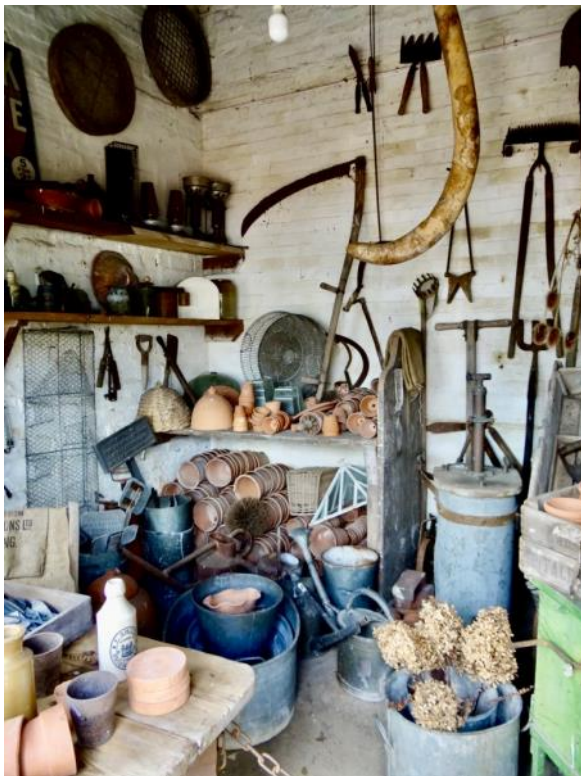
Photo credit: Unknown



Photo credit: Unknown



# May Photo Contest Winners – “Tools of the Trade”



1st place—Anna Leggatt



2nd place —Beth Binnington



3rd place —Judy Douglas

# Our May Talk by Andrew Geimar

## “Rescuing Grocery Store Orchids ”

*Summary by Jennifer Smith*

Andrew is a dynamic and enthusiastic speaker. About 42 people (and one more on Zoom) enjoyed learning more about orchids. His knowledge of orchids began as a hobby and grew into a business. He and Felix To run Roehampton Orchids in the Mount Pleasant & Eglinton area. His slides showed a few types of orchids and amazed us when he said that there are 40 native orchids in Canada. (Hawaii only has 4!)

Orchids may be epiphytes (grow on trees); lithophytes (grow on rocks); or terrestrial (grow on the ground in humus or leaf litter). He described a few problems that may occur: too much water, too much sun, others. Then he invited members to repot their orchids. He provided sphagnum moss, plastic pots of different sizes, and other gardening tools. Members spread out at tables and shared their knowledge as they cut back dead roots, pulled out old growing medium, and repotted their plants. Andrew circulated and gave further helpful hints for achieving happy, healthy orchids.

Andrew was pleased to hear that Roz Regnier is hosting a compost tea event (July 9 at her house); this liquid is very beneficial for orchids. He debunked the suggestion to use ice cubes to water plants; NO! too cold and harmful.

Andrew has offered us a discount code for his store: SHOP15.

We are invited to bring an orchid into his store to receive advice about it.



Andrew Geimar



Rosemary Vandierendonck and  
Judy Douglas



Margaret MacCleod and  
Shirley Thompson—newly  
planted orchids



Yvonne Butorac



# Member Photos



Photo Credit: Jennifer Smith



Photo Credit: Maureen Ballentine



Photo Credit: Jennifer Smith



Photo Credit: Maureen Ballentine



Photo Credit: Maureen Ballentine

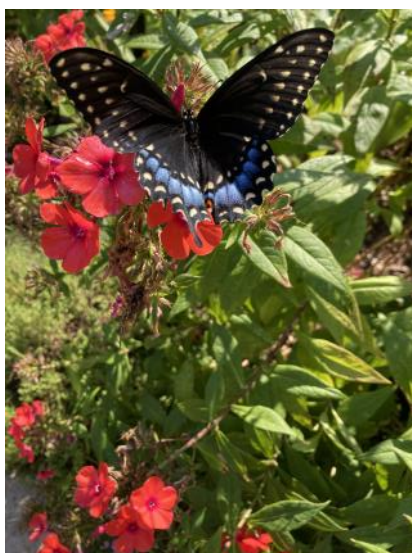


Photo Credit: Jennifer Smith



Photo Credit: Maureen Ballentine



# Our June Talk by Anna Leggatt

## “Weeds ”

*By Maureen Ballentine*

On June 19th the Clubhouse hosted over 70 members for the plant show and Anna Leggatt's WEEDS talk. This was the highest turnout since before COVID and it was great to see so many familiar faces.

Anna began her talk with the most asked question, “What is a Weed” - a plant you don't want.

Anna discussed alternates to lawns as they are “deserts for pollinators” but great for rabbits and June bugs. Anna's suggestion, plant clover as it fixes nitrogen levels and fertilizes the soil.

Wind, animals and exploding pods help spread the weeds.

Anna spent much of her talk discussing how to identify weeds by leaf texture, leaf veins and leaf shape. Members brought in a number of weed samples for Anna to identify and to share with those in attendance.

Some of the most prevalent weeds include Garlic Mustard. One plant can produce over 750 seeds.

Dog –strangling vine has invaded the city ravines and backyards. Finding insects to control the spread of these and other weeds is a strategy being investigated.



Sample of weeds discussed



Great turnout



Lynda Tanner greeting new members, Alison Walker and Heather Renzella

Photo Credit: Beth Binington

# June 19 Flower Show

*by Heather Whetstone*

The cut specimens for the June flower show were dominated by lovely flowering branches and roses framed by huge green hosta leaves. Alan Barber was awarded Best Cut Specimen for his Weigela branch and Best Rose for his spray of small white roses. Kim Hewitt and Anne Stanley were joined by Patricia Houghton and Sonia Van Heerden in the design section with Anne Stanley taking home the Best Design. Mary Lou Burt's white iris won the Judge's Choice award. I am looking forward to the August Flower show.



Alan Barber



Barb Fairbanks



Sonia Van Heerden



Anne Stanley



Hosta entries

Photos Credit: Beth Binnington

## ***Reminder for August Flower show.***

August 19, 2023 is our next and largest flower show of the year. There are 50 cut specimens, 14 plants, 15 fruit and vegetable plus the beloved design classes. Entry times are Friday, August 18, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Saturday, August 19, 9:00 - 11:15 a.m. Judging will commence at 11:20 a.m. sharp! Please make sure your entries arrive on time. Exhibitors may place up to two entries in any one class provided they are of different cultivars. Only one entry per exhibitor is permitted in any design category. A downloadable flower show schedule is available at the club website <http://www.evgc.ca/>.



# The Climbing Rose Saga—Part 3

*by Alan Barber*



In the previous newsletter issues of November 2019 and May 2020, my late husband Michael wrote of his desire to cover our front door in a beautiful fragrant climbing rose to evoke memories of all of our past visits to English gardens. He described how he designed and had constructed an iron trellis to be installed around the door, his search online for the ideal variety of

rose, and of our last road trip before COVID to Palatine Roses in Niagara-on-the-Lake to pick up a locally grown specimen of 'Rambling Rector', a white, small flowered rambling rose with a reputation for intense fragrance and attractive rose hips in the autumn. He ended the second article by promising an update on the planting of the rose, and its ultimate success.

Since Michael's passing it falls to me to continue the story. Later in the spring of 2020 I planted the rose in a corner of the perennial bed under the front window close to the corner of the porch, and since I was confined to home and garden due to COVID restrictions, had plenty of time to water and tend to the new installation. True to its nature as a rambling rose, the next two years saw it put on 12 to 15 ft of vegetative growth, which I carefully wound and tied into the metal framework around the door. I eagerly awaited the signs of any flower buds but my knowledge of roses is limited, they generally like more sun than my garden can provide, and all new growth seemed to be just leaves. I had read that most flower buds are formed on 'spurs' off of the main stem so my pruning tried to encourage those, as well as maintaining access through the front door. Fortunately I use the side door almost exclusively. Finally this spring, during the plant sale in May held in my driveway, several garden club members assured me they saw signs of incipient flower buds,

and now in June there is a respectable showing of very aromatic trusses of pure white blossoms, which I hope will only become more numerous in the coming years.

As a fitting end to the story, I entered a spray of the newly opened flowers in the climbing/rambling category at the Garden Club's June flower show, where it won a first prize as well as the award for 'Best Rose'. I'm sure Michael would be pleased and proud that his 'Rose Saga' had such a successful ending.

Photos by: Alan Barber





# June Photo Contest Winners – “GARDEN HELPER”



1st place—Erin Spencer



2nd place—Michelle Barraclough



Tie 3rd place—Shirley Thompson



Tie 3rd place—Barb Fairbanks

# “I didn’t know that was Invasive!”...



By Sue Peter

Just a couple of years ago, while wandering the aisles of the garden centre, I found a beautiful purple-blue groundcover with a burgundy leaf. And it was a shade lover! I thought I hit the jackpot....the next year, this beautiful Ajuga/Bugleweed had leapt to about 3' outside of the garden bed. I quickly got rid of it.

As I drive to my cottage, it is common to see huge swaths of orange lilies or what we've always called ditch lilies, alongside the road. Maybe years ago someone planted a clump at the end of their driveway or they escaped from someone's garden. This year, I've seen them spreading to our private road, deep in the woods, 8km away from the nearest patch.

Invasives. We've probably all had them in our gardens at some point. Whether we unknowingly planted them or inherited them from a previous owner, invasives are everywhere.

## Definitions count

So what is an **invasive** plant? Invasive plants are harmful non-native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that are spread by global trade, human and animal transport, and gardening. They invade forests and prevent native plants from growing, which can have negative impacts on how ecosystems function, on native vegetation, and native wildlife <sup>1</sup>.

Many people use the term invasive when they really mean **aggressive**. An aggressive plant is one that spreads faster than we prefer, or into an area of your garden where we don't want it to go. A plant may be aggressive in one area of a garden or neighborhood and well behaved in another depending on soil, water, light conditions and competition.

**Native** plant species are species that have existed historically in that area, before European settlement. Plants that are native to one part of Ontario doesn't necessarily mean native to all of Ontario.

**Non-native** doesn't mean invasive or bad. They are just plants that have been introduced by human activity. Some of these non-natives become **naturalized**. These plants reseed and spread on their own but do not disrupt the growth of native plants and ecosystems and may not support ecosystem health as native plants do.

## Why should gardeners worry about invasives?

We all know about the dreaded Dog Strangling vine, Garlic Mustard, and Manitoba maples but are you aware of the common garden plants that are invasive in Ontario? While I didn't find a complete A-Z list, The Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) has created a wonderful guide, [Grow Me Instead](#) <sup>3</sup>, for 28 species that are invasive to Southern Ontario with alternatives for each one. As well, there are 30 plant species on the watch list. It's a good place to start.

Sadly, you will still see many of these still being sold in garden centres across Ontario but that's a conversation for another day.

The problem with invasive species, is that they know no boundaries. We commonly hear "they are fine in my garden!" Do we really know what happens beyond our garden boundary?



Ajuga/Bugleweed



Orange/Ditch Lillies



Periwinkle invading a woodlot (Photo courtesy of Will Van Hemessen)



Lily of the Valley



Goutweed



# “I didn’t know that was Invasive!”

Seeds and plant matter can be spread by animals, birds, wind, improperly processed compost etc. People can unknowingly spread them through clothing, footwear and vehicles and from escaping gardens or knowingly through the movement of whole plants, seeds or roots or by illegal dumping.

Invasives compete with native species for resources like space, light, water, and food reducing the biodiversity and putting native species at risk. As a result, they kill, crowd out, and devastate native species and their ecosystems. In some cases, like Dog-Strangling Vine, they can release chemicals from their roots that can change soil chemistry<sup>4</sup> and other plants can’t survive in the “new” soil. When native plants decline, other native species that rely on these native habitats for survival also become at risk.

The East York Garden Club acknowledges our stewardship of Land by First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples, and as such, we have a responsibility as gardeners to respect and restore the land as much as we possibly can. As removal of well-established invasives is very difficult, prevention is key.

I’ve started small:

1. Identify and remove all invasives in my garden. It’s a work in progress – I’m looking at you Siberian Squill....
2. Remove any on the watch list - why wait?
3. Fill any empty spaces and newly created bed with natives.

This has been a real learning curve for me. I don’t expect changes overnight but eventually we can make a difference.

## Sources and Further Reading

<sup>1</sup> Invasives Species Centre <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://haltonmastergardeners.com/2020/05/21/its-not-invasive-in-my-garden-whats-the-harm>

<sup>3</sup> Grow Me Instead <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Southern-Grow-Me-Instead-1.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> City of Mississauga <https://www.mississauga.ca/services-and-programs/forestry-and-environment/invasive-species/dog-strangling-vine/#:~:text=Dog%2DStrangling%20Vine%20is%20an,crowd%20out%20native%20plant%20species.>

Credit Valley Conservation <https://cvc.ca/document/cvc-list-of-priority-invasive-plants>

Invasive Species Centre [www.invasivespeciescentre.ca](http://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca)

Ontario’s Invading Species Awareness Program <https://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/terrestrial-plants/>

Government of Ontario <https://www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-ontario>

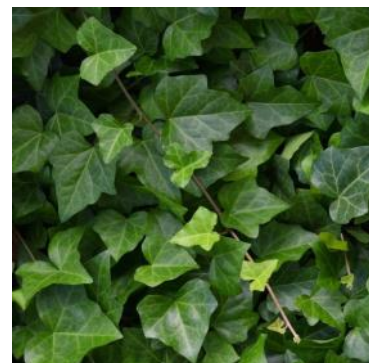
The Nature Conservancy of Canada <https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/what-we-do/resource-centre/invasive-species/>

Protect NatureTO <https://www.protectnatureto.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PNT0-InvSpeciesFactsheet-June2018.pdf>

Managing Invasive Plants In Ontario <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/LandOwnersGuide2018lowres.pdf>



Japanese barberry



English Ivy



Creeping Jenny

Photos by Susan Peter



# Flower Show Trophy & Awards You Can Win in 2023

*By Barb Fairbanks*

Every year there are award presentations at our end-of-the-year Annual General Meeting in November. This includes cash prizes for show points as outlined in the Flower Show Rules in your up-coming yearbook and on the website [www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca). This is a reminder of our trophies and awards possibilities for competitors:

We have the **“Anna Leggatt Novice Award”**. Anna generously sponsors this award to encourage members to enter flower shows. This award goes to the individual novice who has not been awarded a first prize in previous years in any OHA society shows. Being a novice and receiving the highest aggregate amount of points in both horticulture and decorative classes in both the monthly and the annual shows could win you this prestigious award. Many members who have won this award have gone on to continue to compete in shows and even join the Board of Directors!

We have the **“George S. Henry Trophy”**. This trophy was brought back to life in 2006. It hadn't been presented since the late 1950s. This trophy is awarded to the member with the highest number of aggregate points in both Horticulture and Design classes in the monthly and annual shows.

For many years Vera Stoyanoff has won this great trophy. As a prolific gardener with a love of competition, Vera has won it for the full 17+ years plus a few years prior to the trophy! Now, for the first time, Vera is not competing this year. She is happy and healthy, just taking a break from the flower shows. This has opened up the possibility for a new name to don the trophy---at least for one year!

**Please note that for the August show only, members may enter 2 items in each class.**

*Good luck to all!*



**George S. Henry Trophy**  
BEFORE RESILVERING



**George S. Henry Trophy**  
AFTER RESILVERING

# From the President's Desk—Jan/Feb 2006

## From the East York Garden Newsletter—January February 2006

By Malcolm Geast

This year will be marked by two significant horticultural anniversaries.

It was in 1906 that the Ontario Horticultural Association was created by an act of the Ontario legislature. Through the following years, as the OHA grew, it contributed to the beautification of the Ontario landscape and strengthened community ties. With 280 clubs and societies, it now has approximately 35,000 members. Largely as a result of lobbying by the OHA, the *Trillium grandiflorum* became the province's floral emblem. During both World Wars, garden club and horticultural society members grew fruits and vegetables for distribution to needy families on both sides of the Atlantic. Our Association has also frequently helped with the provision of seeds and the replanting of trees following disasters as diverse as the Prairie dust storms of the thirties, the tornadoes of 1985, and the ice storm of 1998. As it moves into its second century, the OHA's new motto – *Keeping Ontario Beautiful* – reaffirms the commitment of its first century. The centennial convention of the OHA will be held in Ottawa on August 11 to 13. Open to all members, it's always an enjoyable and interesting experience. We'll be providing you with information about speakers and programs as it becomes available in the next few months.

Twenty years after the inauguration of the OHA, our own Club was formed. Our original name was the East York Horticultural Society, a name that stood for 40 years. In the mid-sixties, after the membership felt that a less-formal name was warranted, we became a Garden Club. Around the same time, we moved from R. H. McGregor Public School to the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse (known at that time as the Cedarvale Clubhouse). We've undergone many changes since our formation, some for the better, some out of necessity, and some for reasons that we're not really sure of – unfortunately there are many holes in our archives. But during 2006, I'm hoping that we'll be able to put together a history of the club, and fill in some of those holes.

One feature of our history that has fallen by the wayside over the past few decades is the awarding of trophies to the winners of the Club's competitions. A look through any one of the yearbooks from the forties, fifties, or sixties will reveal a couple of pages (or more) of trophies. Unfortunately, it's been many years since any of them have been awarded. Many have been lost, and those that remain are sadly in drastic disrepair. In 2006, we'll be starting to turn that around. This year we'll be reviving an award that has not been presented since the late fifties. The George S. Henry Trophy was given to the member who received the highest number of aggregate points in the monthly shows. George S. Henry was, for 30 years, the MPP for East York, and for four years, the Premier of Ontario. Each year, from some time in the thirties (we're not sure exactly which year) until his death in 1958, a cup was donated in his name. Early last year, as a result of efforts by Martin Rainbow, President of the East York Historical Society, we were able to acquire one of those cups, which we've had refinished and mounted on a new stand. Once again, it will be presented to the points winner from the monthly shows. We'll also be introducing a new trophy this year. The photography contest, now in its seventh year, has become a permanent fixture. To coincide with our 80th, a new trophy will be presented in conjunction with the competition. Details haven't been worked out yet, but we'll be letting you know in a few months.

## OHA 115th Convention will be held July 21-23 in Ottawa

For more Information - <https://gardenontario.org/convention/>

### LOOKING FOR NEW EYGC BOARD MEMBERS

As Past-President of the Club, one of my roles is to seek members who can give some time to lead the Club for the next 2 years.

We are **currently in need of 4 to 5 new Directors** to ensure we have a full Board to help lead the Club forward. The time commitment is approximately 2-3 hours a month at Board and Club meetings plus additional time on leading or assisting in on-going or new Club activities.

We know that every community group is struggling to find volunteers nowadays. We want you to know that any skills you can bring to us will be appreciated, valued and will not be wasted. We do have "job" descriptions for the Director position and all the other activities we do to give you scope and time commitment guidelines.

If you are interested, or want more information about the board or volunteering in general, please call or email me at

416-755-0278 [barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net](mailto:barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net)

Thank you.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH GARDENING AT THE LEGION

Inviting members of EYGC to assist with our Community Outreach commitment to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10 at 1083 Pape Ave. The garden there is lovely with many pollinating plants, several stunning roses and many perennials.

Helping out at the Legion usually involves weeding, deadheading, caring for the roses and planting red and white annuals at the beginning of the season. It is not hard work and it is very satisfying to make the garden look as beautiful as it does. The Legion members are very grateful and passersby often comment on the loveliness of the garden.

It is a requirement of each OHA affiliated garden club to take on at least one community project. At this point the Legion is our only project, though we would like to take on more. Our ability to branch out is hindered by the lack of volunteers that come out to help. It is very disheartening that in a club with approximately 135 members only two or three come out to help at the Legion.

Those who do show up are friendly and would be very welcoming to any member who wants to spend an hour in the nice weather doing what we all love - gardening. We share knowledge and if anyone is unsure what to do another member will help them out. No judgement, just fun and satisfying work.

We will meet at 1083 Pape every second Thursday at 5:30 starting on May 4th. There is lots of parking nearby. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact me at 647-214-3337 or [jdtgardening@gmail.com](mailto:jdtgardening@gmail.com).



# Notices to Members

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2023

July—"Bursting with Colour"

August—"Elements"

September—"Trees"

October—"Black and White"

November—"Year Book Cover"

December "Joy"

*Entries accepted until of the 22nd month.*

[photocontest@eygc.ca](mailto:photocontest@eygc.ca) or

**416-469-5593**



## SUMMER POTLUCK:

### *A summer evening in the garden*

**HOSTS:** Dianne Cavanaugh and Sandy

**MONDAY JULY 17, 6:30-8:30**

18 Adair Rd

Entrance to the left side of the house through the black metal gate.

Please bring and enjoy:

Food to share (for 6 people) with a list of ingredients or possible allergens if possible

BYOB

BYO Lawn chair

## 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".***

# 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](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)

This beautiful Cactus is growing in Jennifer Smith's front yard. If you know what type of cactus this is send us a message to [newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)



## *Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members*

**Myrna Baker, Faye Hart, Heather Renzella, Monvie Utami,  
Alison Walker, Lih Wang**



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:

**August 22, 2023**

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to [newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto: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](http://www.eygc.ca)



**“The East York Garden” is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club**