

# East York Garden Club

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

March & April, 2003

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 August and December) in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Avenue at 7:30 p.m. The Clubhouse is wheelchair-accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$10 for a single, and \$15 for a family. To inquire about membership, contact Rosalind Regnier at 416-759-6247.

Visit us on the web at [www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)

President:  
Betty Goldring

Second Vice-President:  
Bev Woods

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## Thursday, March 20, 2003

**Speaker: Martin Galloway**

**Topic: Water Gardening the Natural Way**

Martin Galloway, always an entertaining speaker, is the owner/operator of Chalk Lane Greenhouses in Uxbridge, and the host of HGTV's *Secret World of Gardens*

After the talk, there'll be a question and answer period. Members are encouraged to bring their gardening questions for other members to answer.

Members whose surnames begin with G or H are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

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## Thursday, April 17, 2003

**Speaker: Rosemary Dobson**

**Topic: Creative Modern, Abstract and Oriental Designs**

Rosemary Dobson, an OHA judge and a prize winning flower arranger will demonstrate how to create these designs.

With the spring growing season in full swing, we'll have another question and answer period after the talk. Members are encouraged to bring their gardening questions for other members to answer.

Members whose surnames begin with J, K or L are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

## Upcoming in May:

Sonia Day, speaking about **Balcony Gardening**. As well, we'll have our first flower show of the year.

## Community Outreach

Calling all Garden Club Members!

For almost thirty years, we've looked after the garden bed in the island near the entrance to the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse. However, it's become increasingly difficult over the past few years to keep it looking attractive. Particularly dry summers have come along at the same time that we've had trouble getting regular access to water. Many of you may have noticed that the island seems to be an excellent spot for skateboarding. Unfortunately skateboarding and gardening are not always compatible. And then last year, at the same time that several of us questioned the wisdom of trying to continue to maintain it, the decision was taken out of our hands. In late summer, the city dug up and levelled the site, leaving us with nothing to maintain.

At this point we could have decided to just walked away from this kind of activity. But, we have a commitment to fulfill. The Club's Mission Statement is clearly outlined:

- ▶ to promote gardening in the community
- ▶ to encourage sharing of horticultural knowledge
- ▶ to beautify the community
- ▶ to conserve our natural resources

Let's enjoy this opportunity presented to us to beautify East York and to carry on the tradition of community spirit.

Your executive members have come up with some ideas but we need your input on similar projects and your willingness to volunteer. Please contact one of the members of the executive (names and phone numbers are listed in your

yearbook) and give them your suggestions. If you prefer, you can email your ideas to us at [projects@eygc.ca](mailto:projects@eygc.ca)

Here are some of the projects that have been suggested:

- Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve, located at Broadview Avenue and Pottery Road, recently received a \$65,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to develop their program. They are looking for volunteers to help with clean-ups, plantings, exotic weed control and expansion of the guided trail tours.
- The City of Toronto "Community Gardens Program" endeavours to provide opportunities for community groups to start food, flower or native species gardens that beautify and enhance public lands. Presently the East York Community Centre, located on Pape Ave. between Cosburn and O'Connor, is working with local residents and the Dept. of Parks & Recreation to establish a community garden on a piece of their land. They are looking for support, guidance and hands-on involvement from groups such as the EYGC.
- "Adopt a Garden" - We are in the process of obtaining more information from Parks & Recreation regarding the garden at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse and other possible gardens in the area.
- Sponsorship of school children to attend horticultural events such as The Teaching Garden at the Civic Garden Centre.

Please take time to think about community outreach, to share your ideas and to volunteer.

## The Novice Gardener – Part Two, The Plan

By Karen Bell

A new home owner, I spent my first winter reading books on gardening and gazing at the gorgeous photos. Could my yard ever look like that? The books advised that a plan should be drawn up, based on site conditions.

Even though I'm experienced at sketching, it wasn't easy to make decisions on a three-dimensional space. I tried to consider height, colour, winter colour, pleasing shapes and eventual size of the plants. I read up on shrubs. I did a lot of drawings. It was a long winter. I made lists of shade plants, sun-loving plants and bloom times.

At last, spring arrived, and I was off to the garden centre, plan in hand. One look at all those magnificent plants in all their variety, and I was muttering, "Must have one of these and one of those," and well, the plan was pretty much abandoned.

This made me feel inadequate, but I discovered that a little impromptu buying can work out well. Like the pink turtlehead that has grown into a beautiful, large perennial, and the purple coneflower that has become the anchor of a low maintenance front garden.

Another anti-plan habit: I have accepted many donations; one mystery plant revealed itself (two years later) to be a spectacular foxglove (a biennial). Another small annual grew into a large "Nicotine Plant," blooming in perfect colour to complement nearby plants. Another gift of cosmos reminded me of my father's garden and will certainly be a mainstay of mine. Be open to happenstance.

I have planted things in the wrong place. As the garden expands, I've recognized that plants – even shrubs – can be moved. One poor plant is currently in its third location in two years, and seems no worse for wear.

I understand now that my garden and I will continue to evolve. More knowledge will fuel that evolution. And perhaps I will become more disciplined in my approach. Perhaps not.

*This is the second in a continuing, semi-regular series by Karen. Next Time: Fertilizer From Your Kitchen*

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## New Members

These members have joined our club in the past couple of months. Please extend a warm welcome to them. Their name tags will have a blue star, to make them easier to recognize.

Ruby Brett  
Jan Scott-Charles  
Kathy O'Craven  
Lee Pritchard

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## OHA Photo Contest

Every year at its annual convention (held in Windsor in early August this year), in addition to the horticultural competition, the Ontario Horticultural Association has competitions in floral design, photography, and an art show. If you are interested in information about any of these, please contact Malcolm Geast or Betty Goldring, or take a look at the OHA's website (there's a link to it on the EYGC site). Closing date for the photo competition is April 30. For all of the others, it's the beginning of August.

## Playing with Plants

by Diane Ronan

Let's face it. We live in Canada. And that means spending time indoors when it's winter. So..."How do you stay sane when it's freezing and snowing and you can't be outside in your garden?" Well, you could play with your houseplants. Here are a few of my favourite games:



### Drawing:

Take pencil and paper and get up-close and personal with your plants. Try drawing them. You don't have to be Michelangelo. Just put lines and shapes on paper. Look at the stem and see how it grows. Notice the leaves and how they turn. When you draw you have to observe and what you see may be a message from your plant: "Prune me!" "Repot me!" "Turn me!" And... you can always put your finished masterpiece on the refrigerator door.

### Creating:

Create a floral arrangement. Try an unusual container; incorporate one of your houseplants; experiment with colour and texture. Check out the design categories in your 2003 EYGC Yearbook and practice now. Your entry could be "Best in Show".

### Propagating:

It's always uplifting to see a new plant take root. So do some research and try air layering your 'leggy' dracaena; start a stem cutting from your favourite geranium or attempt a leaf cutting from Aunt Zelda's fancy begonia. Your plant progeny would make a great gift for someone special.

I'm sure you can think of other games too. Have fun and think positive: "Spring will return."

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This is the real secret of life - to be completely engaged with what you are doing in the here and now. And instead of calling it work, realize it is play.

Alan Watts

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## EYGC members on TV & in Print...

- You can catch Laura Grant every month on *Michael Coren Live* on CMT (Rogers Cable 9). This month she'll be on the show on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, along with Larry Sherk. Laura welcomes people to call and ask any gardening questions.
- Janet Badali's garden is featured in the latest edition of *Ontario Gardener*. It's part of the **Beautiful Gardens Annual 2003** and is entitled "Parade of Peonies".

## Seasonal Signs

It's been over four months since our first snowfall and with the snow still covering the ground it's hard not to be thinking that this winter will never end. However, there are some hopeful signs. Warmer temperatures have finally started to appear, and the spring garden show season has begun. This week, spring "officially" begins. On March 20, at 8:00 p.m. (near the middle of our March meeting!), the vernal equinox takes place, as the sun crosses the equator on its annual march northward. The hours of daylight will begin to outnumber the hours of darkness, giving us more time to spend outside in the garden (assuming of course, that the snow does finally disappear).

Two weeks later that added daylight gets an extra boost. Don't forget, on Saturday night of the April 5 & 6 weekend, to turn your clocks forward an hour. We all lose an hour that weekend, but, unless you're an early riser, you'll gain an extra hour of daylight for the next seven months

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**Eileen Craig** passed away on March 8. A former EYGC president, she had been a member for about 25 years, 20 of those as a part of the executive. She was an enthusiastic supporter of both the Garden Club and East York.

A constant volunteer, she helped with publicity, the newsletter, the potluck suppers, Canada Day, and the first garden tour. Eileen loved flowers, plants and gardens, but she especially liked the people she met through these garden club activities. She had a large impact on the club, and will be sorely missed by her friends.

Glen Hutzel

## Time for a New Name?

*The East York Garden Club Bi-Monthly Newsletter*. Doesn't really roll off the tongue, does it?

This is a newsletter in need of a name. We've thought of a few: *The Trillium* (not bad), *The East York Gardener* (okay), and *The EYGC* (not good). As you can see, we need some help. Let us know what you think would be a good newsletter name. You can give me your suggestion at the monthly meeting in March or April (we're hoping to make a decision before the May/June issue), send an email to [newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca), or drop me a line at: Malcolm Geast, 10 Dustan Crescent, East York, Ontario, M4J 4G5

## Emailed Newsletters

If you're interested in having the newsletter emailed to you (instead of, or in addition to the mailed copy), drop me a line at [newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)

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**Evelyn Fallis**, a former long-time member of the East York Garden Club died recently at age 89.

She was an enthusiastic gardener, working hard for the club. I remember her encouragement when I first joined the Garden Club, about 30 years ago. She was a keen Rosarian, winning many prizes elsewhere as well as with us.

Anna Leggatt

## Upcoming Events

March 23 (Sunday)

**Canadian Rose Society Annual Meeting** at the Civic Garden Centre (Lawrence & Leslie). Speaker Norman Track's topic will be Josephine's Eden, an illustrated lecture on Empress Josephine's rose collection at Malmaison, France and her contribution to the popularity of roses. Norman Track is a world traveller and talented photographer. Guests are welcome and admission is free. If you need more information, call 522-6422 or visit the society's web site at [www.mirror.org/groups/crs](http://www.mirror.org/groups/crs)

March 29 & 30 (Saturday & Sunday)

**RBG Orchid Show** at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. The show runs from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday

March 31

**Changing the World - One Garden at a Time** at the North Toronto Memorial Centre. Find out why what we do in our garden is directly linked to the health of our community. Lorraine Johnson, author of *The Gardener's Manifesto: Changing the World & Creating Beauty One Garden at a Time* is the speaker. The North Toronto Memorial Community Centre is a 200 Eglinton West, two blocks west of the Eglinton Subway Station. Starts at 7:00 p.m.

April 5 (Saturday)

**Condo and Balcony Garden Workshop** at the Civic Garden Centre (Lawrence & Leslie) This workshop will focus on gardening in containers on balconies and in other areas where space is limited. Four well-known garden designers will be speaking on different aspects of this popular trend. Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call Cathy Cox at 416-397-1358 for more information. Pre-registration is required.

April 9 (Wednesday)

**Wet and Wild: Wetlands, Ponds and Bog Gardens** at the Civic Garden Centre (Lawrence & Leslie) David Tomlinson will let you in on the secrets to building and maintaining your watery urban oasis. He will help you select the right moisture-loving plants to thrive in this environment. He will tell you which plants like to keep their "feet wet and ankles dry." Starts at 7:30 p.m

You'll find a complete list of events on our website ([www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)). The list is updated at least once a week.

### 2003 Membership Form

Name .....

Address .....

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Postal Code ..... Phone # .....

Fees: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees can be paid in person at the next monthly meeting, or by mailing this form and a cheque to

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