

East York Garden Club

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

July & August, 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

President:
Betty Goldring

Second Vice-President:
Bev Woods

Newsletter Editor:
Malcolm Geast
416-429-4719
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Thursday, July 17, 2003

Pot-luck supper in Stan Wadlow Park

During the past few years, our July meeting has been a pot-luck supper in one of our member's garden. This year we're holding it right next to our newly-proposed Adopt-A-Garden rockery in the southeast corner of Stan Wadlow Park. This will be an opportunity to come out and meet other members, and at the same time take a close look at the flower beds that we're hoping to take care of. The latest news about the site, and a map showing the location can be found on pages 2 & 3. Please bring a dish of food, with at least six portions. We also request that you bring your own plate and cutlery, and a folding chair if possible.

Saturday, August 23, 2003

Annual Flower Show & Tea

Summer's not over, but it's only one week until the Labour Day weekend. And it wouldn't be a complete summer without our Annual Flower Show and Tea. There are 107 categories in which to exhibit this year. Complete details can be found on pages 23 to 27 of your yearbook.

A number of generous people signed up at the June monthly meeting to help in providing some delicious munchies for the Afternoon Tea. But, in case you missed the sign-up sheet and would like to contribute, please contact Lucie Simons at 416-696-7217. It would be very much appreciated.

Help is also needed in setting up the tea tables on Friday evening, August 22 as well as helping set out the goodies on Saturday, August 23. Please contact Lucie if you can help in any capacity.

Upcoming in September: Marion Jarvie, speaking about Woody Plant Cuttings, and our final flower show of the year.



Interested in becoming more involved in the Club and its activities?

Are you interested in becoming more involved in the Club and its activities? Our Annual Potluck Supper and Awards Night is Thursday, November 20. This is also our Annual General Meeting, when the Club's Executive Committee is elected for the coming year. While we hope that most of the Committee will remain for 2004, there are the following vacancies we know will need to be filled:

- President
- Two Vice-Presidents
- Three Directors
- Yearbook Co-ordinator
- Photo Contest Co-ordinator

If you would like more information, or wish to join the group, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Lucie Simons, at 416-696-7217. Lucie is our Nominating Committee and a Past-President of the Club. She would be very happy to provide whatever information would be helpful.

If you'd like to know more about the activities

and projects that we're currently working on, you can also call Betty Goldring, President, 416-444-8069 or anyone on the Executive Committee – phone numbers are in the 2003 Yearbook.

The Executive Committee meets once a month, at the East York Civic Centre at 7:30 p.m. on the Thursday following the monthly general meeting. Club members are welcome to attend these meetings. Why not come and see what it's all about; and perhaps find a club project or event which you might enjoy helping to plan and organize?

None of our club events and activities could take place without the generous help and talents of those members who serve on the Executive Committee. Your ideas are welcome – come and join us in 2004.

Adopt-A-Garden Update

The response to the proposal to restore and maintain The Rockery Garden at Stan Wadlow Park has been very positive. At our June meeting, 33 club members indicated that they are willing to volunteer their time and gardening skills for this project.

As a result, it has been decided to make a formal application to the City to work on the garden as a Community Project. Diane Ronan has agreed to sign as Garden Co-ordinator, on behalf of the East York Garden Club.

Meanwhile, some of the volunteers from Community Clean-Up Day continue to pull out weeds and clean up flowerbeds, even though the "Adoption" is not yet official.

The exciting news is that Diane has been in contact with Christopher Martin, Parks Supervisor for our region and has been given access to the original landscape architect's drawings of the development plan for The Rockery – dated 1989. These plans will be a very useful guide.

Thanks to everyone for their show of support; those of you who volunteered will be contacted. It will be rewarding for the Club and the Community to recreate a beautiful garden.

We encourage all of you to come out to our pot-luck meeting on July 17, to view the garden. We're sure you'll see it as a great opportunity to combine horticulture and community activities.

The Novice Gardener – Part III

By Karen Bell

If you expect your garden to be productive, you have to give something back to the earth. Your plants need nutrients and your soil may need amending. Clay soil needs to be made lighter and sandy soil can use organic material to help it hold water.

Composting is an old technique, getting popular again with today's ecologically-minded gardener. My father, and his father before him were into composting. (My grandfather kept a very large garden in England featuring spectacular roses, vegetables of every kind, and fruit trees, and he didn't have the money to spend on fertilizer for all those plants.)

For the new gardener, a compost heap is an early priority because it will save you time on garden waste disposal and money on soil amendment. Composting is also ecologically friendly; the City of Toronto would like us all to compost, in order to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill sites.

Use a plastic compost bin, build a container from old lumber, or simply pile the stuff in a

small trench in a corner of the garden. Put in kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps. You can even add coffee grounds, tea bags, pet hair and dryer lint – no meat, fat, oils or dairy.

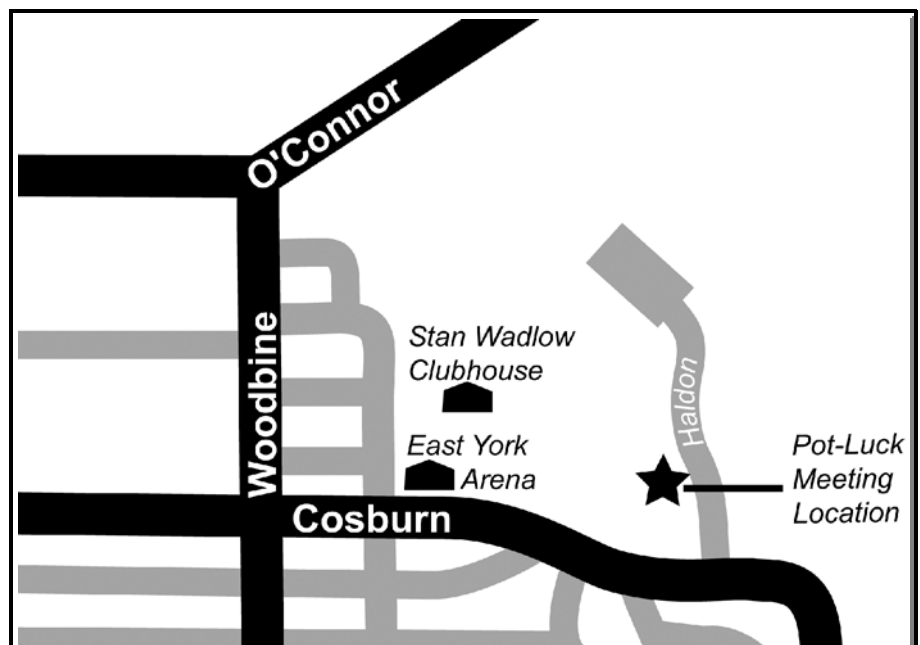
Always cover the food scraps with grass cuttings, leaves, twigs or other garden refuse. Top with a thin layer of soil. This is part of the composting formula and it keeps odours down and pests away. (If there is any odour, you are not covering the food scraps well enough.) Water occasionally, turn it now and then, and what you put in will begin to break down.

Patience is key; the process of breaking down the vegetable matter can take from three weeks to a year, depending on how hot the pile gets, but the resulting gorgeous, rich, dark soil will help your garden grow.

If you're not currently composting, try it. You'll reduce the amount of garbage at your curb and your plants will love it.

July 17 Pot-luck Dinner & Meeting

As you read on the front page, the July 17 meeting will be held as a pot-luck dinner in Stan Wadlow Park, at the Rockery Garden, the site we are hoping to adopt as a club and community project. The site is located at the southeast corner of the park. It's in the area just to the north of Cosburn Avenue, and to the west of Haldon Avenue.



Gardening with Glen

By Glen Hutzul

In June, Joel Schraven, from Pickering Nurseries gave an excellent presentation on his favourite modern roses. He mentioned that the end of June is the time to begin spraying for powdery mildew on roses. He uses and recommends *Funginex*. To be most effective it should be applied as a fine spray or mist. Since spores of the fungus responsible for this problem can be spread by water splashing off the soil on to the rose leaves, you should spray the soil below the bush as well as its leaves.

Ed Lawrence, the chief gardener at Rideau Hall in Ottawa suggests using a baking soda solution: about one part of baking soda dissolved in 30 parts of water, plus a few drops of dish detergent. Apply early in the day to allow for the leaves to dry before nightfall. Keep spraying periodically throughout the summer.

We get mail...

A recent email from club member Sonia van Heerden addressed the problems with the sites at which the city usually provides compost and mulch free of charge:

As I started my gardening late in the season, I missed out on the free compost available at Northline Boulevard in East York and at the East York Civic Centre this year. The Northline site did not have any compost after March 31st.

I attended at Northline twice in May looking for compost or wood mulch, but no one was there to answer questions. Phoning the Toronto City did not give me any information on whether the city had any compost or wood mulch. Then I talked to Parks employees in their truck and they promised that

someone would phone me with the information about wood mulch.

Within two days I was phoned and advised that the closest wood mulch was available on Unwin Avenue near Cherry Beach during regular business hours during the week. I was able to fill a few pail fulls, and as I did not have any leaves left over from last fall, I used this mulch for the brown layer in my composters. My next task is to spread a layer of this mulch over my flower beds and hanging baskets to conserve water.

Sonia also noted that she was advised that compost is now available at the Ashbridges Bay sewage treatment plant on Saturday mornings only from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

New Members

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

Diane Robinson
Michael Matischuk
Cindy Halewood

Elizabeth Hanna
Catherine Hanshaw
Beena Rajendra
Janet Zablocki

Doreen Wigglesworth
Valerie Ducatel
Willene Bryan

2003 CNE Volunteers and Competitions

Each year the Ontario Horticultural Association seeks volunteers from all the clubs and societies in Ontario to help out at the OHA Booth at the CNE. We provide horticultural encouragement to those who stop by, and answer a few questions. (However, don't think that it's an onerous job – in recent years the most common questions have been “Where are the washrooms?” and “Can you tell me how to get to the Dog Show?”) There's a Master Gardeners' Booth nearby and anyone with a question that can't be easily answered can be sent to see them. For the most part, the horticultural questions that we are asked relate to the location of the nearest Garden Club or Society. The brochures that are provided for handouts and the yearbooks that are available for reference can be used to answer most questions. Best of all, free entry to the Ex is provided by the OHA. If you're interested, or want more information, please contact Betty Goldring 416-444-8069.

To allow time for mailing of your free CNE tickets, the OHA needs to know by July 31. The dates for which volunteers are needed are Friday, August 15 to Saturday, August 23 for

shifts that run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., or 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Two people are needed for each shift. All that is asked is that you staff the booth for one three-hour shift.

While volunteering at the OHA Booth in past years we've heard so many comments that run something like, "I have flowers (or vegetables) in my garden that are much better than those prize winners". If you've ever been to the CNE and made the same comment, why not enter something from your garden this year, and be a real prize winner? For show schedules and entry forms for the CNE Flower Show this year, please contact Betty Goldring, 416-444-8069. They'll also be available at our July 17 pot-luck meeting. However, if you wait until the meeting, please be advised that entry forms must be received by July 18, and thus you should be prepared to fill in and deliver the form the following day. Show schedules and entry forms are also available on the CNE web site (www.theex.com), by calling 416-263-3835, or by faxing 416-363-3838.

Competition News and Reminders....

Photo Contest.....

You've spent countless hours working on your garden to get it looking just right. The flowers are out, the vegies are growing. Even the butterflies and spiders are enjoying it. Now is the time to take some pictures, so that you can remember it in the years to come. While you're recording your work for posterity, why not take some shots for our photo contest as well? This year there are six categories, ranging from *Captured Beauty* (flower close-ups) to *Insects in the Garden*. As well there's an *Anything Goes* category just for digital cameras. Details can be found on pages 16 & 17 of your yearbook. Entry forms will be available at the September and October meetings, and on the club's web site.

Flower Shows....

The *Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticultural and Floral Design* (Publication 34) has been extensively revised. This book to assist judges, exhibitors, and show organizers in all aspects of Horticultural and Floral Design Competitions is double the size of the previous edition. At a cost of only \$5.00, the revised version of this publication will be invaluable for anyone competing in flower shows. If you are interested in getting a copy for yourself, please contact either Malcolm Geast (416-429-4719) or Betty Goldring (416-444-8069). You can also email us at info.eygc.ca

Emailed Newsletters

If you're interested in an emailed copy of the newsletter emailed to you (instead of, or in addition to the mailed copy), drop me a line at newsletter@eygc.ca Back issues are now available on the Club's website.

Upcoming Events

Now that we're in the middle of summer, there aren't a lot of gardening-related events taking place. Most of the garden tours have taken place, the Civic Garden Centre's lecture series is just a memory until the fall, and it seems that the only plant sales you'll find are half-priced annuals as various garden centres rush to get rid of their stock before it dies. With that in mind, we present an abbreviated list of upcoming events:

Saturday, August 16

Don Valley Brickworks Tour – Co-sponsored by Friends of the Don East and Heritage Toronto, this tour will look at the industrial plant, the history of the brickworks, significance of the Carolinian habitat, the geology at the Quarry face and the regeneration work being done at the site. Rain or shine. Runs from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. You are advised to wear proper footwear.

September 6 & 7 (Saturday & Sunday)

The Canadian Rose Society Exhibition of Roses at Sherway Gardens Shopping Centre (Etobicoke)

Sunday, September 7

Greater Toronto Rose and Garden Society Annual General Meeting at the Civic Garden Centre (Lawrence & Leslie). Starts at 2:00 p.m. For more information, call 416-622-6422

You'll find a complete list of events on our website (www.eygc.ca). The list is updated as we hear about new events.

2003 Membership Form

Name

Address

.....

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

Rosalind Regnier
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