

# The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

August & September 2005

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 \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family. To inquire about membership, contact Denise Alexander at 416-759-5736.

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

President:  
Malcolm Geast

Vice-Presidents:  
Linda Boyko  
Dawn McEachern

Newsletter Editor:  
Malcolm Geast  
416-429-4719

## Saturday, August 27, 2005

### Annual Flower Show & Tea, 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m

It's been a somewhat different summer than we experienced in 2004, when the cool weather delayed or diminished much of the summer growth. The lack of rain this summer has been a bit of problem, but the recent easing of the summer heat should result in a profusion of flowers and vegetables for our Annual Flower Show and Tea. This year there are 101 categories in which to exhibit. Complete details can be found on pages 24 to 26 of your yearbook. (Exhibitors of *Preserves*, please note that this year, the number of entries is limited to no more than two per class per household.)

There will also be a display and presentation of the activities and plans for The Rockery.

We would appreciate any donations of desserts, cookies or other goodies for the afternoon tea.

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## Thursday, September 15, 2005

**Speaker:** Larry Lamb  
**Topic:** Exotic Invaders - Our New Weeds

A founding member of the Canadian Wildflower Society, Larry Lamb is passionate about our native flora. In the late seventies, when it wasn't yet fashionable, he got rid of his lawn, and created an award winning prairie garden. This evening he will speak about how and why alien plants pose threats. He'll also be talking about invasive animal species, and will even be explaining how earthworms harm our soil more than they improve it!

This meeting will also feature our final flower show of the year (details on pages 27 & 28 of your yearbook). In addition there will be a draw table. Entry forms will also be available for this year's Photo Contest.

Members whose names begin with S or T are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.



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**Upcoming in  
October :**

**October 20 – Our Annual Round Table Meeting  
Photo Contest Entry Date  
Seed Exchange**

## From the President's Desk

The year is barely half-way through, but it's already time to start thinking about 2006. Every year, in November, several members of the Club's Executive Committee see their term of office come to an end. Frequently these same members choose to run again, and remain on the Committee. But occasionally, one or more members decide to leave, which results in vacant positions. There are thirteen elected officials on the committee: ten Directors, two Vice-Presidents, and a President. Every year five of the Directors reach the end of their term. This year the terms for the two Vice-Presidents and the President also come to an end. At this time we're not sure how many will be choosing to run again. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Committee, please speak to one of the current members.

You may be thinking, "What does the Executive Committee do?" or "If I join, how much time will I be committing to the Club?" The Committee meets once a month, on the fourth Thursday evening of the month. We discuss such items as flower shows, the

Club's participation in community events, finances, fundraising, upcoming meetings, and special events (garden tours, Canada Day, for example). Committee members are also expected to participate on at least one committee. Time involved can be as little as a couple of hours a month or several hours a week, depending on your interests.

But it's not necessary to be a Director, Vice-President, or President to join in with the other members of the Club. You can participate in the committees for the Flower Show or the Rockery. In 2006, we'll have a new committee, for the yearbook. For the past couple of years, the yearbook has been put together by one or two people. Next year, we're hoping to spread the effort around a bit more. If you're interested in joining in, you can contact me at 416-429-4719, or by email at [malcolm@eastyork.net](mailto:malcolm@eastyork.net).

And if you're still looking for a way to help out, I'm always ready to accept articles for the newsletter.

*Malcolm Geast*

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## Canada Day

Thanks go out to all who participated in the annual Canada Day Plant and Attic Treasures Sale. Eager buyers were waiting for plants almost as soon as we were setting up. And the Attic Treasures have become a good way of making sure that items that are still usable, but which we no longer need, find a good home. Sales totals for the day were \$583.

If you provided plants, Attic Treasures, transportation, or horticultural expertise, or if you worked behind the tables, making sales, thanks once again for helping to make the day a success.

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## In Memorium

Tom Wardle Sr. passed away on June 20 at age 91. He had been a member of our Club since 2002. I am sure that many of you will remember him in his many charitable roles and as an Ontario MPP and Toronto Councillor. Our condolences go out to his son Tom, also a member of the East York Garden Club.

## Rockery Seeds

*Glen Hutzul*

Calling all seed collectors! We would appreciate your help to establish some self-seeding annuals in the Rockery. We are hoping to grow California poppy, rose-campion, English poppy (with the shaggy blossom heads), and Portulaca. If you could give the collected seeds to Glen by October, he will plant them this autumn. With the long hours of sunshine that The Rockery receives they should germinate and bloom very early in spring.

We are also looking for some ground cover plants for the area beneath the deciduous shrubs on the south edge of the garden. If you can spare some sweet woodruff, Lily-of-the-valley or, green creeping Jenny, please let Glen know. He will arrange to have them planted this autumn. Hopefully, they bloom next spring.

## 2005 Photography Contest

Entry forms for the 2005 Photography Contest will be available at the September meeting. This year we have six general and two special categories.

For the past couple of years we've had separate categories for film and digital pictures. When we started the contest in 2000, digitals were a rarity. But over the past five years, as prices have come down, and availability increased, sales of film cameras are now in the minority. As well, the increased resolution of the newer cameras and the availability of high-quality printers and commercial photo finishers, it has become difficult, if not impossible, to tell the difference between film and digital photos. As a result, we're no longer splitting them into separate groups. All categories are now open to both film and digital.

Colour and gardening often seem like obvious partners. However, this year we're giving you the opportunity to break up the partnership. In the category "Black and White", you'll be able to show that colour isn't always needed to produce a good picture. And to clear up one small bit of confusion with this category, we're not asking for photos whose subject matter is black and white, but instead photos that are themselves black and white. The photos can be taken either as monochrome or as colour and converted to monochrome.

This year we've added two categories for the younger members of the Club. Both are called

"Anything Grows" (an open category that allows for any horticultural subject). One is for the six to ten-year olds, and the other is for those aged 11 to 17. Please note that a family membership is not required; children or grandchildren of any member are eligible to enter.

Entries will be accepted at the October meeting. Please note that this year there will be no prize money. There will, however, be all-new prizewinner certificates. Full contest details and rules can be found on pages 8 & 9 of your yearbook. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Boyko, or send us an email at [photocontest@eygc.ca](mailto:photocontest@eygc.ca).

Complete list of 2005 Categories:

1. Captured Beauty
2. Black & White (anything with a horticultural subject)
3. The Rockery (pictures taken at the Stan Wadlow Rockery)
4. An Arrangement of Flowers
5. Quiet Time in the Garden
6. For the Birds
7. Anything Grows (Any horticultural subject) (children's category)
8. Anything Grows (Any horticultural subject) (youth category)

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### Emailed Newsletters

If you'd like to have the newsletter emailed to you (instead of, or in addition to the mailed copy), drop us a line at [newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca). If you're looking for back issues, they're available on the Club's website ([www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)).

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### Bushwacked...

Watch out...Reality TV is moving into the garden. "Bushwacked", a show that premiered in Georgia in July asks people to turn in their neighbours' unsightly gardens for an overhaul. The show's crew turns up unannounced, knocks on the front door, and tells the owner that their yard has been targeted for a makeover. The producers say that the reaction so far has been positive. No word yet on whether the show will turn up in Canada, or if there have been any less-than-positive reactions.

## Beach Flower Show

This year, at its September Show, the Beach Garden Society has two design classes that are open to members of horticultural societies or clubs outside of the Beach. Recently, we received an invitation from the Show's co-chairs, Maggie Butterfield-Dickinson and Ursula Eley, encouraging all interested designers from EYGC to enter these classes.

### **Theme: Beach Garden Society 20th Anniversary**

Class 48:

#### **Reservations for Two** - an Exhibition Table, Type 1

- staged on a 30" square table, 30" high
- exhibitor to provide tablecloth
- limited to 5 entries, so please register early

Class 49:

#### **Anticipation** - a design

- to be staged on show tables covered in ecru tablecloths
- the allotted space was not specified in the schedule, but the tables are 30" deep, so the area for each design would be about 24" x 30"
- unlimited number of entries, but please reserve a space

Entries will be received between 5:00 pm and 7:15 pm

Removal of entries - after 9:30 pm

Please call or email to reserve a space, and to get directions to the Adam Beck Community Centre. You can contact Ursula Eley at 416-699-4353 or [eley@rogers.com](mailto:eley@rogers.com)

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## ALHB Update

The headline of a recent article in The Toronto Star ("One down, one to go") implied that the Asian Long-Horned Beetle (ALHB) is no longer a problem. However, while the threat has eased, the ALHB is still of some concern. Infested trees have been found in four locations in Vaughan and northwestern Toronto. Howard Stanley (our speaker in May), has noted that there has been no population growth in the past year, but has suggested it could still take several years until the beetle is eliminated. As a safeguard, 7,000 trees will be removed from the affected areas to contain and eradicate the ALHB.

## Master Gardeners Program

One of our members recently contacted the Toronto Master Gardeners, in order to apply to take the requisite courses. However, the program has temporarily been suspended. Here is the reply that she received:

Thanks for your recent enquiry regarding Toronto Master Gardeners.

Our group currently has a moratorium on accepting new members for two reasons - first, our group is over capacity and we are having trouble finding enough volunteer hours for members. Secondly, the University of Guelph is no longer supporting the program and our parent organization, MGOI (Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.), have not finalized a new supplier for the horticulture courses but it is looking like it will be Niagara School of Horticulture. University of Guelph is still offering the courses, just not supporting the Master Gardener Program.

Once this education provider issue is resolved we will look at starting the recruitment process again. We expect to begin the next recruitment fall 2006.

At the recent OHA Convention it was announced that an agreement with the Niagara School of Horticulture has been reached, and the program will restart in 2006.

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## September 10 Bus Tour

There are still a few seats available for the bus tour on Saturday, September 10 (departing Stan Wadlow Clubhouse at 9 a.m., and returning at 6 p.m.). The Royal Botanical Gardens, The Potting Shed (Cayuga), and Sweet Grass Gardens (near Brantford) are on the itinerary. Lunch at the Best Western, in Brantford, is included. And of course, there will be the opportunity to buy plants at The Potting Shed and Sweet Grass. Tickets are \$54 each.

To buy a ticket for the tour, please call Roz Regnier at 416-759-6247.

## Notes from North Bay

This year's OHA (Ontario Horticultural Association) convention was held in North Bay August 12 to 14.

More than 500 enthusiastic gardeners listened to speakers, discussed some business issues, toured North Bay gardens, viewed flower and art shows, and met with other gardeners from around the province.

Sixteen afternoon seminars gave all of us a wide variety of subjects to choose from. To mention just a few of the speakers' topics, we listened to "My Life with Honey Bees", which had many of us ready to sneak some hives into our backyards; "Best Kept Secrets of the Garden", giving us all a new respect for some common weeds; and "The Low-Down on Pruning", saving our trees and shrubs from the effects of some bad barbering. David Hobson, who had all of us laughing our way to lunch on Saturday, showed us the Gardener's Handshake. As well, bus trips on Friday and Saturday afternoon took participants to some magnificent gardens.

There was a great deal of participation in the competitions. The theme, "Reflections of Ontario", was taken to heart as the number of entries in the art and photography competitions more than doubled. East York was well represented with Peter Ronan receiving a first-place in the yearbook cover competition and a second place in the Yearbook (overall), and Linda Boyko taking a first place for her picture of a Trillium in the photography competition category "A Tribute to Ontario" competition.

Even the usual business issues (minutes, Treasurer's Report, elections, voting on resolutions) had more than a few moments of excitement when a couple of "lively debates" developed around the subject of OHA dues increases. (And in case you're wondering, a dues increase had been expected, and was one of the factors in our own fee increase this year. There's no reason for it to affect your fees in the near future.)

One of the other highlights of an event such as this is the opportunity to visit a part of Ontario that we might otherwise bypass. North Bay has a wonderful vista across Lake Nipissing. But for many years it had a somewhat unattractive waterfront, cut off from the Lake by railway lines. In recent years, the city has undertaken a waterfront revitalization, so that the area now has a park with biking and walking paths, and an extensive array of flower beds. Plants are provided by the city, but the organization and labour is supplied by over 300 volunteers.

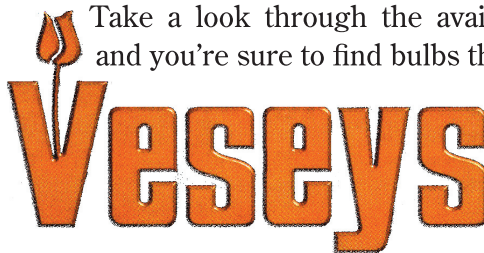
Next year's convention will mark the 100th anniversary of the OHA, and will take place in Ottawa from August 11 to 13. I urge you to consider attending. It's an opportunity to hear some very interesting speakers, find out about new gardening ideas, meet other gardeners, and generally have a good time.

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## Fall Bulb Fundraiser

Included with this issue is the order form for the Fall Bulb Fundraiser described in the July newsletter.

Take a look through the available packages, and you're sure to find bulbs that will brighten up your garden next spring.



Orders should be brought to the Club's meeting in September. As we described last month, this is a fund-raising effort that brings you quality bulbs at good prices, and at the same time helps out the Club.

For more information, or if you'd like to order, but can't make it to the meeting in September, please call Veronica Callinan at 416-750-9758.



# Upcoming Events

August 19 to September 5

**The Canadian National Exhibition** We all know about The Midway, the Air Show, and those little doughnuts, but did you know that The Ex also has events aimed specifically at gardeners? There are gardens, competitions, demonstrations, and speakers (including East York's Anna Leggatt and Laura Grant). You can get all the details at [http://mmi.theex.com/\\_/?Garden\\_Show](http://mmi.theex.com/_/?Garden_Show).

Thursday, September 8

**September meeting of the Leaside Garden Society** at Leaside Library, 165 McRae Drive. Charmiene Montgomery & Margaret Nevett will be part of a Master Gardeners Question and Answer Panel . Begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 20

**September meeting of the Beech Garden Society** at the Adam Beck Community Centre, 79 Lawlor Avenue. This meeting includes the Society's Annual Show. Begins at 7:30 p.m.

September 24 & 25 (Saturday & Sunday)

**Marion Jarvie, Open Garden** (37 Thornheights Road, Thornhill) – The third and final weekends that Marion Jarvie has her garden open for viewing this year. Open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

Wednesday, October 5

**Toronto's Carolinian Forest** at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Leslie & Lawrence) Martin Galloway will discuss the origins of Toronto's ravines and the evolution of their various plant communities. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$12.00, free for TBG members.

Saturday, October 15

**North American Native Plant Society AGM** at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Leslie & Lawrence) Speakers will be Frederick W. Case, Jr. (author of *Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region*) and Ken Parker (from Sweetgrass Gardens) Runs from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members.

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.

## East York Garden Club Membership Form

Name .....

Address .....

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

email .....

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees for 2005 are \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family membership. Fees can be paid in person at a regular meeting of the Club or by mailing this form and a cheque (payable to "East York Garden Club") to:

East York Garden Club  
18 Warvet Crescent  
East York, Ontario  
M4B 1P3