

# The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

October, November & December 2005

**Thursday, October 20, 2005**

## Round Table Discussions

October is the time for our annual round-table discussions. This year we'll have Master Gardeners to cover the subject of *Getting the Garden Ready for Winter* and to solve some of your problems during *Question Time*. As well, *Simple Seasonal Decorations* will help you get ready for the next couple of months. We'll also have a discussion about the Club's direction for 2006.

There's more: We'll have our annual Seed Exchange, awards for the monthly shows will be given out, it's the closing date for the photography contest, and we'll have our final draw table for 2005. And if that isn't enough, we'll also have some bags of yellow daffodils for sale.

For the Seed Exchange, please put your seeds into paper packages and label them with the plant name, and if possible, the colour and variety. Drop them off at the beginning of the meeting.

Members whose surnames begin with U, V, W, or Z are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

---

## Annual General Meeting and Potluck Supper

**Thursday, November 17, 2005**

**Doors open at 6:30, Dinner begins at 7:00**

This is our final meeting of the year. The evening will begin with a potluck supper, followed by the awards for the August flower show and the photography contest, and a couple of surprises. We'll finish off with the election of the 2006 Executive. There will also be door prizes. All of the entries in the photography contest will be on display throughout the evening.

All those attending are asked to bring a dish of food (at least six servings). It would be appreciated if items such as lasagna or desserts could be pre-cut. If possible, an appropriate serving utensil would also be welcome. Don't be afraid to bring "too much" – extra food will be donated to Touchstone. And it's always helpful in the clean-up afterwards if you can put your name on the bowl or plate. The Club will be supplying dishes and cutlery, so you won't need to bring your own. Punch, tea and coffee will also be provided.

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



## From the President's Desk

Wow, that was quite a summer. Heat that never seemed to end, and rain that we thought would never begin. (But when it did begin, it came with all the stops out, as those who had their basements flooded by that late August downpour will agree.) I'm sure that most of our gardens found it a little strange as well. With our hottest June on record, plants that struggled through a rather cool spring couldn't seem to decide whether to blossom early, late or to just give up. In the past couple of weeks, I've seen flowers appearing on plants that usually bloom in spring.

But with the summer of 2005 about to become just a memory, it's time to start looking forward to 2006. In January of this year, I wrote about plans for our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005. But, as I let you know a couple of months later, my request for EYGC memorabilia turned up yearbooks dating back to 1941, and from a reading of these yearbooks, I discovered that we're only 79 years old – an error in counting made in 1950 had been carried through for over half a century. In 2006, as we correct that mistake, we'll have the opportunity to celebrate not just 80 years of gardening, but our continued participation in a vibrant community.

Our highest profile event will be a garden tour, on Sunday, June 25. At the present time, we have a number of gardens selected, but are still looking for a few more. If you know of a garden that would be suitable for a tour, please contact Roz Regnier or me.

We'll be continuing to improve The Rockery in Stan Wadlow Park in 2006. The transformation from a patch of weed-infested rubble a few years ago to a floral showpiece is a long process, but one that has already been noticed. I'm happy to let you know that this coming week, we will be receiving a *Clean and Beautiful City Appreciation Award* from the City of Toronto.

Of course, none of what the Club does could be accomplished without the efforts of our many volunteers. The list includes those who participate in the Canada Day Sale, Environment Day, and the May

Plant Sale; those who come out to weed and plant at The Rockery; the Flower Show Committee and clerks; the telephone committee; the members who participated in the District 5 AGM in April; Veronica Callinan for her Veseys Fundraising idea (we made \$472!); Elizabeth Malone & Brenda MacKinnon for their valued organization of the refreshments each month; and all of the members of the EYGC Executive Board.

There will be many opportunities to participate in the Club's activities in 2006. You can serve on the Executive Board, or one of the Club's committees. Our garden tour will require numerous volunteers to help out on the day of the tour. Canada Day, Environment Day are enjoyable ways of helping out, and at the same time meeting other gardeners and members of the community. And for those of you who like to dig in the dirt (isn't that all of us?), and who can spare a few hours a month, we can always do with some more volunteers to help out with The Rockery.

*Malcolm Geast*

---

## New Member

Please extend a warm welcome to a new member, Susan Pilon, who has recently joined the Club. Please welcome her and take the time to answer any questions that she may have about our Club.

---

## And Another New Member....

Congratulations go out to Susan Bartlett and Paul Hirst, on the birth of their daughter.

Rebecca Saffron Bartlett Hirst, 6 lb 13 oz, was born at the East General Hospital at 3:03 a.m. on Thursday September 29.

## August & September Flower Show Results

This year's Annual Flower Show & Tea was a hit with all who attended. The number of entries in the Cut Flowers categories was down slightly from last year (possibly as a result of the hot dry summer), but with increases in the categories for Plants, Fruits & Vegetables, and Design, the total number of entries was over 300 for the third consecutive year. Best in Show went to Vera Stoyanoff, while Betty Meyers had the Best Design, Margaret McRae had the Best Cut Specimen, and Sonia Van Heerden had the Best Rose. As well as the displays of flowers and plants, the show featured highly informative presentations by Janet Badali (Dividing Peonies) and Glen Hutzul (*The Rockery Update & Plans*).

Congratulations also go to Anca Dragomirescu for the Best Design and to Janet Badali for the Best Cut Specimen at the September show.

## More Information About Invasive Species

At our September meeting, Larry Lamb's discussion stirred an interest in many of us to know more about invasive species. An excellent reference is published by the Canadian Wildlife Service, and is entitled *Invasive Plants of Natural Habitats in Canada*. Included is a general discussion of the problems of invasive species, detailed information about the various species, and legislative responses to the problem.



If you have access to the Internet, Environment Canada has made the publication available free of charge. You can read all 121 pages at: [www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/inv/cont\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/inv/cont_e.cfm) (you'll also find a link to this publication on the EYGC website, [www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca))



EYGC members, after the September 10 bus tour to the RBG, Sweet Grass Gardens, and the Potting Shed.



## OPEN HOUSE

The Toronto Botanical Garden (formerly the Civic Garden Centre) will be unveiling its new facilities on Saturday, December 3. From noon to 4:00 p.m., there will be an Open House as the building, now known as the *Kathy and George Dembroski Centre for Horticulture* reopens after nearly a year of renovations. Staff and board members will be available to answer questions and show off the amenities in the new and improved building.

Included in the new building are:

- Weston Family Library – almost 2,000 square feet housing the TBG’s unique horticultural library with new public computer stations
- Children’s Education Centre – dedicated to year-round classes on the environmental sciences for schools, community groups and individuals
- TBG Shop – prominently located at the front entrance and “carrying a broad array of gardening books and distinctive wares for home, gardening and outdoor living”

The Toronto Botanical Garden is located at the southwest corner of Lawrence Avenue and Leslie Street.

---

### 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)).

### A Name From the Past

From 1913 to 1943 East York was represented at Queen’s Park by George S. Henry, a farmer and the former Township Reeve. In 1930, after serving first as Agriculture Minister, and then as Minister of Public Works and Highways, Henry became Ontario’s 10<sup>th</sup> Premier. He lost the 1934 election to Mitch Hepburn, but remained as an MPP for another nine years. Henry has been called “Ontario’s Unknown Premier”, but his legacy is longer lived than that of many the other 23 holders of that office. He was the driving force behind the construction of the Queen Elizabeth Way, which set in motion the move to build the network of multi-lane highways that connect the cities of southern Ontario.

In 1898 Henry had purchased the land that now lies between Leslie and Don Mills Road and north of the 401, and it was here that his greatest passion lay, as he turned it into a dairy farm, which at its peak had 90 head of prize-winning Holsteins. His farmhouse, known as Oriole Lodge remained his home until he died on September 2, 1958, one day after he had sold the property to the developers of the subdivisions that now occupy the area known as The Henry Farm.

Well, this might be interesting, but what does it have to do with gardening? For the answer, you’ll have to wait until our November meeting, when it will all become abundantly clear.

---

### Mine-sniffing Plants

Scientists in Denmark are developing a plant that changes colour when it grows near buried land mines. Thale cress (*Arabidopsis thaliana*), has green leaves that turn red in autumn, or when subjected to stress. The plant has been re-engineered to change colour when it comes into contact with nitrous oxide, a compound that leaks out of land mines. If successful, the plant could help in the fight against the 100 million land mines buried and active in the world today, a number that grows each year. It’s estimated that, at current rates, it will take until the year 3100 to remove all existing land mines.

## It's Almost Spring...

Our first snowfall is still a few weeks off, but it won't be long until we're ready for the spring garden shows.

The first of these comes along at that time when we've just about had enough of the snow and the cold. Construction activities that closed most of the Toronto Botanical Garden's facilities earlier this year will soon be complete, allowing for a return of Getting the Jump on Spring. The show will take place on Saturday, February 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

A few weeks later, from March 8 to 12, it's Canada Blooms, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (just to the east of the CN Tower). Now approaching its tenth anniversary, Canada Blooms regularly

### Looking ahead to January...

Barrie Porteous will be our January Speaker. Barrie is a founding member of the Ontario Rock Garden Society and has observed the native habitats of plants across North America and Europe. As well as writing extensively about his travels, he has spoken across North America and in Britain, and is known as an excellent photographer.

In January, he'll be speaking about Plant Hunters, the fascinating explorers who went out to China, the Himalayas, and South America and discovered many of the wonderful plants that we now grow in our own gardens. Did you know *Lilium regale* (Regal lily) was not known in western gardens 100 years ago?

To gather these plants, many early plant hunters endured long, arduous trips with many hazards, some of them deadly. There is even a report of one of them removing his own appendix!

Today, plant hunting still exists and new species are found that are wonderful additions to our gardens. But of course, even though there are still hazards, travel is not nearly as hazardous as it was for the explorers who Barrie will be speaking about.

attracts over 100,000 visitors to hear speakers, talk to vendors, and view 40 Feature Gardens. Tickets are \$18 (\$15 for Seniors and Students).

Four days later, the Successful Gardening show opens at the International Centre (at Airport Road and Derry Road). It runs from March 16 to 19, and is co-located with the International Home & Garden Show. Speakers at the 2006 show include David Hobson, Art Drysdale, Marjorie Mason, Liz Primeau, and Paul Zammit. Also included in the show is the Ontario Horticultural Association's Plant & Flower Competition. Successful Gardening isn't as high-profile as Canada Blooms, but it is a little less frantic. Tickets are \$12 (\$9 for seniors and children aged 9 to 18). And parking is free! If you're interested in volunteering to help at the OHA's flower competition, you'll receive a free pass for the duration of the show. We'll have more information for you in the January newsletter.

Come April, we should be starting to see some real blooms starting to appear outside. Just in time for the Ontario Garden Show at the Royal Botanical Gardens, in Burlington. Running from April 6 to 9, there's a show garden, speakers every hour, and over 60 vendors. Tickets are \$8.

Detailed information about these shows can be found on the web:

- **Getting the Jump on Spring** (information will be available in a few weeks):  
[www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca](http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca)
- **Canada Blooms:**  
[www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)
- **Successful Gardening:**  
[www.home-show.net/successwithgardening](http://www.home-show.net/successwithgardening)
- **Ontario Garden Show:**  
[www.ontariogardenshow.com](http://www.ontariogardenshow.com)

These links can also be found on the EYGC website:  
[www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)

# Upcoming Events

October 21 to 30

**2005 Chrysanthemum Show** at Gage Park, Hamilton

This year's theme is "A Splash of Mums". Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. Admission is \$3.00, \$2.00 for seniors and children.

Wednesday, November 9

**Garden Design in Public Spaces** at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Leslie & Lawrence)

Speakers are Tom Sparling, from Ryerson University, and Terry McGlade, from Perennials Gardens Corp. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$12.00, free for TBG members.

Sunday, November 13

**Meeting of the Ontario Rock Garden Society** at the Toronto Botanical Garden

Richard Fraser speaks about *Orchids and Other Choice Plants for the Garden*. Begins at 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 23

**Green City: New Practices in Urban Design** at the Toronto Botanical Garden

The speaker is architect and urban designer Ken Greenberg. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$12.00, free for TBG 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 .....

(Note that we will only use your email address to send you EYGC information. **We do not distribute it to anyone else.**)

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees for 2006 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