

# The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

March & April, 2006

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-President:  
Dawn McEachern

Newsletter Editor:  
Malcolm Geast  
416-429-4719

## Thursday, March 16, 2006

**Speaker:** Marion Jarvie  
**Topic:** Pruning - How, When & Where

Marion will explain the basics of pruning and show us how we can enhance the beauty of our shrubs and trees. A passionate teacher, horticulturist and designer, she has been teaching and lecturing for over 25 years to gatherings of gardeners in the Toronto area and around the world.

Members whose surnames begin with G or H are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There will also be a draw table following the meeting.

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## Thursday, April 20, 2006

**Speaker:** Mary Audia  
**Topic:** Preparing for a Show - What the Judge Looks For

Mary will show us how to make two simple arrangements. She will also "judge" some cut flowers and pot plants so we can see how a judge looks at entries. Mary is an award winning designer and judge who has amazing pot plants and grows unusual tomatoes. She is also the Past President of North Toronto Horticultural Society.

Members whose surnames begin with J, K, or L are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There will also be a draw table following the meeting.

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## Upcoming in May:

- Lawns - a Panel Discussion. Grasses and Alternatives, Lawn Care, Pests and Diseases
- First Flower Show of the year
- Plant Sale



## Don't Forget!

A gentle reminder: Membership fees were due in January. If you don't renew, you won't be able to get the many benefits of being a part of the Club: A yearbook, six newsletters, a plant sale, and of course, 10 meetings with interesting speakers and the opportunity to meet with other East York gardeners. Please make sure that you renew as soon as possible!

## From the President's Desk

As you may know, 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of the Ontario Horticultural Association. To help mark the occasion, Canada Post has recently released four commemorative stamps, featuring "typical Canadian gardens". As you can see in the accompanying picture, portrayed are a shade garden, a flower garden, a water garden, and a rock garden. Each one is a photo taken in an Ontario setting. Of particular note is that the rock garden belongs to our March speaker, Marion Jarvie.

Although they're available now, the official unveiling will take place on March 16, at the Successful Gardening show. Six million of them have been printed, so we can hope that they'll be around for a few weeks at least.



The Centennial Convention of the OHA will take place in Ottawa from August 11 to 13. Along with the business portion of the convention (which, surprisingly, at times can get rather exciting), there are speakers and seminars covering a range of horticulturally-related subjects, a flower show, competitions for photography and art, and bus tours. As well, with members from every part of Ontario, it's an opportunity to become better acquainted with gardening issues outside of our own area. The list of speakers and seminar topics is still under development, but should be available in the next month or two. However, the bus tour list has been finalized. There are six tours in all, including the Governor-General's residence and gardens, three or four private gardens, the Experimental Farm, and a Rideau Canal Boat Tour. The convention takes place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Ottawa. Registration is \$65, with meals and accommodation extra. If you're interested in attending please contact me at 416-429-4719 or [malcolm@eastyork.net](mailto:malcolm@eastyork.net). You can get a registration form from me, or you can print one from the OHA's website, [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org).

*Malcolm Geast*

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## Mark Your Calendars...

Two days that you'll want to mark in your calendar are the last Sunday in June and the second Saturday in September.

For the first time in four years, we're planning a public garden tour. This year's tour, The Alluring Gardens of East York, will take place on Sunday, June 25. At the present time, with a dozen gardens in place, we have a committee of six Club members working on sales, publicity, and the arrangements for the day. We will be looking for volunteers to help out in the gardens on the day of the tour. More details will be available in the next issue of the newsletter.

To close out the summer, we're organizing a bus tour for Saturday, September 9. We're still in the planning process, but we expect to have the arrangements made in the next few weeks. Details and sign-up sheets will be available at the April meeting.

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## New Member

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

## Rockery Update

Diane Ronan

Think back to Fall 2005 – when we planted all those bulbs and new plant material. Soon everyone will enjoy the results of our labour. Spring will come; bulbs will bloom and plants will flourish. Spirits will be lifted.

Saturday, April 22 is Community Clean Up Day and we're again looking for volunteers to help clean up The Rockery and Stan Wadlow Park. There will be a sign-up sheet at our March meeting or you can call me at 416-421-6631 for more information.

We've been told that construction of the Stan Wadlow Skatepark, adjacent to The Rockery, will begin in May 2006 for completion in August 2006. Members of the EYGC attended Steering Committee Meetings and lobbied hard to ensure that there was the least possible impact on The Rockery and that the Club's commemorative tree would be carefully relocated. We will continue to monitor the project.

And despite construction, we intend to plant annuals and maintain the gardens throughout the year. So we will be calling previous volunteers and looking for new ones to help with this ongoing project.

See you at The Rockery!

## Canada Day Parade

Margaret McRae

The EYGC will be walking in the East York Canada Day parade this year and would welcome additional walkers to join us.

We will join the parade at Dieppe Park on Cosburn Avenue and walk along Cosburn, Coxwell, Sammon, and Woodbine to arrive at Stan Wadlow Park before noon, in time to sell plants and attic treasures at our booth. Our purpose is two-fold, to promote the club and to have fun.

We plan to carry the Club banner and wear Club T-shirts and gardening hats. We will carry gardening tools like a rake or fork. If we have a large enough contingent we can also push a wheelbarrow and pull wagons or carts containing plants.

We have seven walkers signed up already. If you would like to join us please contact Margaret McRae by email at [margmc@sympatico.ca](mailto:margmc@sympatico.ca) or phone 416-429-7821 and let us know how you would like to participate.

The Planning Committee consists of Margaret McRae, Diane Brockman, Susan Bartlett and Joyce Crook. Feel free to speak to any of them with your suggestions.

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## District 5 Annual General Meeting

April 22 will be a busy day for the Club. As noted above, we'll be participating in the Community Clean Up Day, by helping to clean Stan Wadlow Park. On the same day the Annual Meeting of District 5 of the OHA will be taking place. As you'll recall, along with the Leaside Garden Society, we were one of the hosts of the 2005 meeting. This year the host is the Markham Garden and Horticultural Society. Speakers Arthur Beauregard (from the Toronto Parks & Trees Foundation) and floral artist Glen Fidler will address the theme of *Gardeners Without Borders*. There's a flower show, vendors,

door prizes, and perhaps best of all, the opportunity to meet with gardeners from other parts of the GTA. The day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends around 3:00 p.m. Of course, there's also a hot lunch.

The meeting will be held at the Rouge River Community Centre in Markham (just south of the 407, and west of the 9th Line. Cost for the day is \$25. We'll have a sign-up sheet at our March meeting.

However, if you wish to attend, but miss our meeting, you can call Malcolm Geast at 416-429-4719, prior to March 27.





## Gardening on the Web

It's no secret that most of us enjoy reading about the activities that we do for pleasure, whether it's sports, model trains, pets, or of course, gardening. We've all taken a look through the magazine racks and know which are our favourites. But you may not know that many of these publications have websites that are invaluable companions to their paper editions. This month, we'll take a look at the site of one of Canada's top-selling horticultural magazines, *Canadian Gardening* ([www.canadiangardening.com](http://www.canadiangardening.com)).

*Canadian Gardening's* website contains a wealth of information, but because of the cluttered appearance of the homepage, your first visit to the site may be met with some initial confusion. Front and centre is a teaser with information about the current issue. You won't find any of the current articles, but you will see stories that supplement those articles. A complete index to the most recent issue is found by clicking on the picture of the magazine cover on the right side of the page.

There are several small ads across the top and down the sides of the page. But if you can ignore the ads, you'll see that part of the reason for the clutter is the wealth of information available. Below the masthead, and down the left-hand side of the page there are links to pages that go well beyond what is found in the magazine: archived articles, links to other gardening sites, a discussion forum, a cross-country events list, catalogues, and book reviews.

Looking for information about tree peonies, growing vegetables in the city, or how to build a tomato cage? Clicking on "Plants", "Gardens" or "How-To" will allow you to access articles from back issues dating back to the year 2000. There are about 250 articles in all. A complete list is also available from the side-menu item "Selected Stories". And if you still can't find the article that you're looking for, you can purchase back issues for the past couple of years.

Of course, this isn't the only website that you'll ever look at. To help you find other sites with gardening information, the pages found at "Gardenet", "Garden

Clubs", and "Site of the Month" have a myriad of links to other gardening sites. A feature that shows the 10 newest links and 10 random links will take you off in new and interesting directions that you'd never thought of before.

There's also a free-of-charge newsletter that you can have emailed to your inbox every few weeks. In it you'll find stories that aren't in the magazine and information about upcoming events and new websites. The link to the newsletter won't jump out at you – you'll have to scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the "Free Newsletter" box or the tiny "Newsletter" link.

To fully appreciate the quantity of information on the site, you'll want to spend some time examining all of its pages. You'll find the answers to many of your gardening questions, and have an enjoyable read at the same time.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Canadian Gardening website. At the top, there's a banner for MochaSofa and a promotion for a free issue of Canadian Gardening magazine. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links to HOME, PLANTS, GARDENS, FORUMS, GARDENET, HOW-TO, CLUBS, and CATALOGUES. The main content area features a large section for the 'Best Magazine of the Year 2005\*' award, with a link to 'Find it Online!'. Below this, there are several articles and links, including 'Project Privacy Screens', 'Growing Crabapples', and 'Gardens'. On the right side, there's a 'GARDEN TALK' section with a list of recent posts, and a 'LOOK AT US NOW!' section with a photo of a family. The left side has a 'RESOURCES' section with links to various gardening topics. The bottom of the page has a 'CanadianLiving.com' logo.

## May & June Flower Shows

Despite our efforts to get the yearbook out early this year, we ran into a few snags, and may not have it available until April. With that in mind, we're including the schedules for the May & June flower shows here:

### May 18, 2006

ENTRY TIME: 6:30 to 7:10 pm. JUDGING: 7:15 pm sharp.

#### SECTION A – CUT FLOWERS

1. Bleeding heart, 1 stem
2. Hyacinth, any colour, 1 spike
3. Iris, dwarf, 1 stalk
4. Lily of the valley, 5 stems
5. Narcissus, (Daffodil), trumpet, 1 stem
6. Narcissus, large cup, 1 stem
7. Narcissus, small cup, 1 stem
8. Narcissus, any other variety, 1 stem
9. Polygonatum (Solomon's Seal) 1 stem
10. Tulip, single, red, 1 stem
11. Tulip, single, yellow, 1 stem
12. Tulip, single, any other colour, 1 stem
13. Tulip, double, any colour, 1 stem
14. Tulip, any other variety
15. Any flowering bulb, corm or rhizome, 1 stem
16. Violas, (Pansies, Johnny jump-ups), 5 blooms
17. Collection of rockery flowers and/or small flowering bulbs, 3 or more kinds
18. Any other flowering perennial, 1 stem

#### SECTION B – SHRUBS

1. Lilac, 1 branch, not to exceed 1 metre
2. Rhododendron/Azalea, 1 branch
3. Any other flowering branch, 1 branch, not to exceed 1 metre

#### SECTION C – HOUSE PLANTS

1. African violet, 1 crown, 1 pot
2. Cactus or succulent, 1 pot
3. House plant, foliage, 1 pot
4. Any other house plant, flowering, 1 pot

#### SECTION D – DESIGN CATEGORIES “The Roaring Twenties”

1. Prohibition - a design incorporating a bottle
  - a) Experienced exhibitors
  - b) Novice exhibitors (A person who has not yet won a first-place ribbon in a design category at an EYGC flower show.)
2. The Charleston - a design showing movement
3. The Spirit of St. Louis - an interpretive design
4. Laurel and Hardy - a design using two containers
5. Penny Pincher - a miniature design (no larger than 12.5 cm)

Cut flowers will be auctioned or sold at the end of the show.

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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)).

### June 15, 2006

ENTRY TIME: 6:30 to 7:10 pm. JUDGING: 7:15 pm sharp.

#### SECTION A – CUT FLOWERS

1. Aquilegia (Columbine), 1 stem
2. Clematis, with leaves, 1 stem
3. Hosta, one cultivar, 3 leaves
4. Hosta, different cultivars, 3 leaves
5. Dianthus (Pinks), 3 stems
6. Hemerocallis (Daylily), 1 stalk
7. Iris, bearded, 1 stalk
8. Iris, bearded, 2 stalks
9. Iris, Siberian, 1 stalk
10. Iris, Siberian, 3 stalks
11. Iris, any other variety
12. Lilium (Lily), 1 stalk
13. Oriental Poppy, 1 bloom
14. Peony, single, 1 bloom
15. Peony, double, 1 bloom
16. Peony, semi-double, 1 bloom
17. Peony, any other kind, 1 bloom
18. Peony, collection, at least 3 varieties, 3-6 blooms
19. Rose, hybrid tea, 'Peace', 1 bloom
20. Rose, hybrid tea, not 'Peace', 1 bloom
21. Rose, floribunda, 1 stem
22. Rose, grandiflora, 1 stem
23. Rose, polyanthus, 1 spray
24. Rose, climber or rambler, 1 stem
25. Rose, shrub, 1 stem
26. Rose, any kind not listed, 1 stem
27. Rose, floating in bowl with foliage, 1 bloom
28. Rose, full blown, 1 bloom
29. Rose, miniature, 1 stem
30. Rose, collection 5 or more cultivars
31. Violas (Pansies) 5 stems with leaves
32. Any other perennial or biennial, 1 stem
33. Any other perennial or biennial, 3 stems
34. Any other flowering bulb, corm or tuber, 1 stem, spike or spray
35. Container of flowers, 1 species only
36. Container of flowers, 3 or more kinds
37. Flowering tree/shrub, 1 branch, not to exceed 1 metre

#### SECTION B – PLANTS

1. African violet, 1 crown, 1 pot
2. Cactus or succulent, 1 pot
3. House plant, flowering, 1 pot
4. House plant, foliage, 1 pot

#### SECTION C – FRUITS & VEGETABLES

1. Rhubarb, 3 stalks, on a plate (trim stalks to a 2.5 cm fan)
2. Herbs, 3 or more varieties, displayed in water, must be named

#### SECTION D – DESIGN CATEGORIES “Swinging Sixties”

1. Rolling Stones - A Design Incorporating Stones
  - a) Experienced exhibitors
  - b) Novice exhibitors (A person who has not yet won a first-place ribbon in a design category at an EYGC flower show.)
2. Power Play - a design using “leafs”
3. Flower Power - a vertical design
4. Trudeaumania - a boutonniere
5. Tiny Tim - a miniature design (no larger than 12.5 cm)

Cut flowers will be auctioned off at the end of the show.

## From Midnight Mystique to Purple Haze

Malcolm Geast

If recent press reports are to be believed, we could be in for some weird and wonderful sights in our gardens. A few years ago a black delphinium made its debut in England (has anyone seen them over here yet?). In 2005 Thompson & Morgan carried the theme a little further, by introducing a black hyacinth, “Midnight Mystique”. The product of decades of effort and thousands of crossbreeding trials, three “ancestor” bulbs were purchased by the company for £50,000 each. They’re available this year for sale in the UK for the more reasonable price of £10 each; however, they’ll still be somewhat rare, and won’t be offered again until 2010.

Also in the UK, Glendoick Nurseries in Perthshire, has developed a bronze rhododendron, which it says will “revolutionize the use of rhododendrons in the landscape.”

On this side of the Atlantic, “Black Pearl”, an All-America Selection in 2006, is an ornamental pepper with leaves that start out green but turn completely black in the summer sun. Clusters of shiny, black, pearl-sized peppers turn red as the season progresses. They’re also extremely hot. If you’re going to try them, you’ll want to start early; the time to maturity is 20 to 24 weeks.

Another All-America Selection is “Purple Haze”, a carrot that, as the name suggests, is purple. I haven’t seen it in the vegetable section of Sobey’s or Dominion yet, but I’m sure that it will turn up on the specialty shelves soon. Grown from seed, the germination time is 14 to 21 days, with harvest following in another seven to eight weeks. Cutting one open will reveal a bright orange centre, which should make for some colourful salads. It should be noted that purple carrots are not a new development. In fact, when first cultivated in Afghanistan, nearly 5000 years ago, they began with a yellow flesh and a purple exterior. Over the next few millennia, they came in a multitude of colours: white, yellow, green, black and red. It wasn’t until the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that

some very patriotic Dutch growers bred a new variety to honour William of Orange.

Continuing in the colourful-vegetable theme, two new cauliflowers, one purple and the other orange, have been developed by Emergent Genetics, a Danish company. It’s at this point that we may wish to pause to consider how these unusual plants are being created. As its name suggests, Emergent Genetics develops its new varieties, not by crossbreeding, but by genetic manipulation (GM); the company is, in fact, a subsidiary of Monsanto, a rather large multinational that has a less-than-stellar reputation in much of the agricultural community. GM is a somewhat controversial technique (one which I won’t address here) and is certainly something that should be given some thought before you put any of its products in your garden.

Of course, to fully appreciate the flowers and vegetables that I’ve mentioned here, you have to be awake during the daylight hours. But a Dutch company has the solution for the insomniacs who wish to wander through their garden at night: glow-in-the-dark flowers. Roses and chrysanthemums that will give off a green glow for several hours were introduced in 2005. How did they do it? Not through the painstaking work of crossbreeding or the contentious GM method, but instead by spraying them with an invisible chemical that they claim is not harmful to either the plants or to people.

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## Environment Days

The dates for the City of Toronto’s Environment Days have been announced. There are two of them in East York: Saturday, April 8 at Dieppe Park, and Saturday, June 3 in the Stan Wadlow parking lot. Dropping off hazardous wastes for proper disposal, picking up recycling bins, and getting free compost (but come early!) are just a few of the reasons why you’ll want to be there.



## Open Gardens

Over the next few months you'll have several opportunities to visit the gardens of our February and March speakers.

Every year, Merlin's Hollow, David & Dierdre Tomlinson's garden is open to the public on four weekend days during the spring and early summer. A series of gardens within a garden, Merlin's Hollow has over 1500 different plants spread over three-quarters of an acre. It's open on the two Saturdays in May & June (May 13 & June 10), and on Saturday, July 1 and Sunday July 9. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It's free of charge, and plants from the garden are available for sale. Merlin's Hollow is in Aurora, on Centre Crescent, off Industrial Parkway, one block north of Wellington, about half-way between Yonge Street & Bayview Avenue.

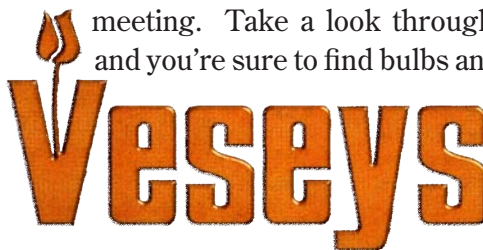
Marion Jarvie's open garden is also an annual event. Marion's garden is a wonderful example of a well-planned garden for all seasons. We'd give you a list of what you'll find there, but we'd likely run out of space. The garden is open on Saturday and Sunday, on the weekends of May 6 & 7, June 3 & 4, July 8 & 9, and September 23 & 24. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Marion usually has some of her plants for sale. The garden is located at 37 Thornheights Road, in Thornhill. Thornheights Road is a sidestreet off Kirk Drive. It's on the east side of Yonge Street, immediately south of the Holy Cross Cemetery, just south of Highway 407.



The newsletter of the OHA has been renamed and redesigned. Included in the articles in the spring issue is an inspiring story about one of Ontario's oldest gardeners. You can get your own copy from the OHA website ([www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)), or from the EYGC site.

## Spring Bulb & Seed Fundraiser

Included with this issue is an order form for our Spring Bulb & Seed Fundraiser described at the February meeting. Take a look through the brochure, and you're sure to find bulbs and seeds that will



brighten up your garden this summer.

Orders should be brought to our March or April meeting. Cheques should be made payable to The East York Garden Club. This is a fundraising effort that brings you quality bulbs and at good prices, and at the same time helps out the Club. We encourage you to show the brochure to your friends, relatives, neighbours, co-workers, or any one else who you think may be interested.

## Discounts

Don't forget that your EYGC membership card will get you a 10% discount at Bill's Garden Centre, Sheridan Nurseries, Plant World, and Sweetgrass Gardens, and a 5% discount at Humber Nurseries. As well, Humber Nurseries is offering a 30% discount off herbaceous perennials with the coupon below.

**HUMBER NURSERIES LTD.**  
2006 Exclusive Offer to Members of Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs

**30% Off Herbaceous Perennials**  
**One Day Only, Any Day of the Year**  
(With proof of membership and this coupon. Can not be used in conjunction with any other discounts)

Humber Nurseries and our butterfly conservatory, make a great destination for group tours. Just call, fax or e-mail your request.

8386 Hwy 7, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1A5  
Phone: 905-794-0355 or 416-798-8333 Fax: 905-794-8311  
[www.humbernurseries.com](http://www.humbernurseries.com)  
[humbernurserycentre.com](http://humbernurserycentre.com)

East York Garden Club  
Society/Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ President's Authorization \_\_\_\_\_

\* \$ 6 1 0 3 8 \*

## Upcoming Events

March 16 to 19

**The Successful Gardening Show and The Home & Garden Show** at the International Centre. The second of Toronto's two main spring gardening shows returns for its 14th year. Opens at 10:00 a.m. each day. Admission is \$12.

Saturday, March 18

**Seedy Saturday** at the Scadding Court Community Centre (southeast corner of Dundas & Bathurst) Set aside the day for this seed exchange, eco-fair and gardening event. Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

April 6 to 9 (Thursday to Sunday)

**Ontario Garden Show** at the Royal Botanical Gardens – The 9th annual edition of the RBG's outdoor gardening and design show, featuring garden products, plants and seeds, gazebos, furniture and books. Guest gardening experts will be on hand to give helpful tips.

Saturday, April 8

**Iris Types and Cultivation** at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Leslie & Lawrence) – A day of information sharing and fun presented by the Canadian Iris Society. There will be talks designed to help gardeners understand basic iris culture. As well, there will be a plant sale, draw prizes and other special events. Runs from 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Price is \$35 for CIS members and \$40 for non-CIS members. For further information, contact Kate Brewitt at 905-841-9676 or justonemoreiris@yahoo.ca

Thursday, April 13

**Monthly meeting of the Leaside Garden Society** at the Leaside Public Library (165 McRae Drive) April's topic is *Choosing & Caring for Garden Tools*, with David Gribble. Begins at 7:30 p.m.

April 14 & 15 (Good Friday & Saturday)

**For the Love of Gardening** at the Evinrude Centre in Peterborough – Two days of workshops, lectures, and garden displays presented by the Peterborough Area Master Gardeners. An annual show that you won't want to miss. Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day. Admission is only \$4.

*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