

The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

September & October, 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. Refreshments are available at 7:00 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

President:
Malcolm Geast

Vice-President:
Dawn McEachern

Newsletter Editor:
Malcolm Geast

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Speaker: Chris Graham
Topic: House Plants - Selection, Care & Propagation

Chris Graham is a horticultural consultant specializing in plant selection and maintenance for public, commercial and residential landscapes. For 27 years, Chris was employed by Royal Botanical Gardens as Director of Horticultural Services. He has lectured on a wide variety of horticultural topics at universities, colleges, and horticultural societies across Ontario and beyond and has appeared on several television programmes and open-line radio garden shows and regularly contributes articles to gardening publications. Along with his partner, Luba, he runs BritAli Gardens in Sutton.

This meeting will feature our final flower show of the year.

Members whose surnames begin with S through Z are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There will be a draw table at this meeting.

Thursday, October 19, 2006

80th Anniversary Meeting
Speaker: Allan Foster
Topic: Myths & Magic of Plants

Allan Foster was director of the Kortright Centre for Conservation before retiring after 33 years of service. He trained as a botanist and taught. However, he is renowned for story telling – he has a Ph.D. in how people learn through stories – and his knowledge of herbal lore.

This meeting will also feature our annual seed exchange. We ask that you label seed packets with the name and colour of the plant and any other useful information, such as height and sun/shade preference.

Entries for the 2006 photography contest will also be accepted at this meeting. Please make sure that you have your forms filled in. Details can be found on page 3.

To mark our 80th Anniversary, we're planning on having a few special items this evening. But you'll have to be there to find out what they are!



Don't forget...Our meetings begin at 7:30, but refreshments are available at 7:00. Come early to give yourself time to enjoy some conversation and cookies.

EYGC in 2007

As another gardening year comes to an end, many of us are already thinking about what changes we'll be making to the garden in the spring. There will be new plants to be added, some will be moved, and sadly, some won't be coming back.

It's also time to think what next year will bring for our Club. We have Board members who will be leaving, and a few who expect to be moving to new positions. And of course, we'll need to replace those who are leaving. If you've thought about playing a more active role in the Club, now is the time to come forward. Board members, committee members, and people to help out with our activities through the year are all necessary to keep our Club running. We're looking for people to help with the yearbook, the photo contest, the Rockery, Canada Day, Environment Day, to name just a few. Perhaps you'd like to contribute an article or two to the newsletter.

If any of the Club's events are to be successful, or if they are to occur at all, it is essential that the membership participates, whether in planning or by volunteering to help on the day of the event. Whatever way you find to more deeply involve yourself with our Club's activities, I'm sure that you'll find it to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Don't hesitate to let us know which activities you'd like to be a part of. Our Volunteer Coordinator is Lucie Simons. She will be glad to hear from you.

New Members

Please extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined the Club in the past few months. Please welcome them and take the time to answer any questions that they may have about our Club.

Ursula Archilles Margaret Spoelstra
Janet Carrington Richard Strong
Evelyne Ostenberg

2006 Photo Contest

It's time once again to get your pictures ready for our annual Photography Contest. As well as "Captured Beauty", our flower close-ups category that we have every year, there are opportunities for you to explore some subjects that aren't always thought of as horticultural, and avenues for you to show your creativity.

This year's categories are

Captured Beauty
Water Feature
Wildflowers
Just maples
Weeds
Down the Garden Path
Anything grows (children's category)
Anything grows (youth category)

Note that a family membership is not required for the children's and youth category. Any child or grandchild of a member is eligible.

This year, as well as awarding a first, second and third in each category, there will be a new trophy for the most points in the contest. Points will be awarded in each category on a 3-2-1 basis (3 for 1st place, 2 for 2nd, 1 for 3rd). We'll be "unveiling" the trophy at the October meeting.

Entry forms will be available at the September meeting, and on the Club's website. Entries will be accepted in September and October (final deadline is October 19). Our October meeting will be a busy one, and so we ask that you have your entries filled out when you come to the meeting. If you need more entry forms, or if you would like to submit them before the meeting, please call Dawn McEachern at 416-429-4719.

Full details, including the rules can be found on pages 32 & 33 of your yearbook.



Don't forget to bring in your Veseys bulb order for the September meeting. Cheques should be made payable to *The East York Garden Club*. Remember that this is a fundraising effort that gives you quality bulbs at good prices, and at the same time helps out the Club. If you have an order, but will not be able to make it to the meeting, call Veronica Callinan (416-750-9758).

'Who runs this club anyway?'

by Carol Dunk

The following article is reprinted from the Fall issue of OHA's newsletter, The Trillium. Carol Dunk is a member of the Gilford Horticultural Society (Gilford is on Lake Simcoe, about 20 km south of Barrie)

The speakers are arranged, the room is booked and paid for, the key for the Community Centre is picked up and returned, the coffee and goodies are ready, the seeds are collected and the seed exchange is organized, the books and other donated articles are sold, the yearbook and newsletters are produced, the memberships are recorded, the membership badges are made, the expenses are paid, the banking is done, the mail is picked up, the flower shows are planned, the newspaper notices are submitted ... by volunteers!

Let's be realistic. As valuable as volunteers are, they don't and shouldn't have to volunteer forever. Volunteering for a club isn't a lifetime commitment! So, positions become vacant. What then?

Without new volunteers, like you, those tasks won't get done. And the club just won't be the same. This is the time of year when new Board members and committee members are sought. Don't wait for someone else to join the Board. You are the one who is needed. If you've been enjoying the meetings and speakers... good! If you want the meetings and speakers to continue... speak up and volunteer. There are several positions available. Volunteer early and get your pick.

Reading Time...

The Fall edition of the OHA's newsletter, the *Trillium*, is now available. Included in this issue are reports from the 100th anniversary convention in Ottawa, articles about other clubs and societies in Ontario, a special magazine offer for OHA members, and more. You can find it

at www.gardenontario.org/gar/news1.php?news=133. To make it easier, you'll find a link on the home page of our own site (www.eygc.ca).

A full-colour 100th Anniversary Edition of the *Trillium* was produced for the Ottawa convention. We have several copies that will be available for your perusal at the next meeting.

As well as the offer found in the *Trillium*, we recently received an offer for a low-priced subscription to *Ontario Gardener*. You've probably seen it on the newsstands, and may have thought about subscribing. Now, as a member of an OHA club, you can subscribe for just \$18.00 a year (8 issues). You can also subscribe to *Canadian Trees* (4 issues a year) for \$18.00. Subscription forms will be available at the September and October meetings.



East York Blooming Contest

Malcolm Geast

The East York Blooming Contest has returned. On September 12, for the first time in several years, awards were given out at the East York Civic Centre for the best front gardens in our community. Starting out as The Mayor's Blooming Contest in the early eighties, this competition to find the best looking front gardens in East York soon became an annual tradition. After amalgamation robbed us of our mayor, it carried on for a few more years, renamed as the East York Blooming Contest. But it finally succumbed, never to return it seemed. But this year, as the result of efforts by our Club, the City's Parks Department, and Councillor Janet Davis's office, it has indeed made a comeback.

As many of you will recall, our role in the former contest was to search out attractive front gardens that were worthy of recognition. We would break the Borough up into about a dozen areas and then groups of two members would travel up each street in their assigned area to find the best gardens. The goal was to look at each and every property in East York. When that was done, the resultant list would be given to a final judge, who would pick out winners in a couple of dozen categories, such as Best Overall, Best Corner Lot, and Best Front Yard with Parking. "Gardens of Merit" were also awarded.

This year's competition was somewhat different. Instead of actively looking for gardens, we asked East York residents to nominate gardens that they felt worthy. And rather than have the multitude of categories that we had in the past, we had four classifications:

- Traditional (a predominance of grass)
- Environmental & Alternative
- Commercial & Industrial
- Other (churches, apartment buildings, etc.)

Our principal role was to judge the Traditional and Environmental/Alternative gardens. In late July and early August, 12 of our members, operating in teams of two, examined 76 front gardens. Care

was taken to ensure that no one was assigned gardens in their own neighbourhood. The judges' decisions resulted in a short-list of 13 gardens. Thanks go to our judges, each of whom took several hours of their time to closely examine the gardens in their assigned area (although, from all reports, it was a labour of love):

Susan Bartlett	Diane Bickers
Suzanne Bond	Hindy Bradley
Diane Brockman	Veronica Callinan
Barb Foster	Mary Furlong
Brenda MacKinnon	Dawn McEachern
Lee Pritchard	Rosalind Regnier

When it came time to choose each category's final three gardens, we recruited the efforts of two horticultural experts from outside of East York, Barbara Clarke and Liisa Wolfgram. Barbara, a member of the Etobicoke Horticultural Society, is one of the principal organizers of the Etobicoke/York Great Gardens Contest, a horticultural judge and a former President of the Canadian Rose Society. Liisa is Past-President of the Credit Valley Horticultural Society and a Past District Director for District 15 of the Ontario Horticultural Association. In August she was elected as President of the OHA.

One disappointment was the sparseness of nominations in the non-residential categories, where there were only six entries. After judges from the City's Parks Department evaluated these properties, it was decided to award "Gardens of Distinction" in a joint Commercial/Community category. Thanks go to the four judges: Christina, Sue, Cecelia and Leslie.

I'd also like to thank the four other members of the organizing committee, without whom this competition could not have taken place: from the Parks Department, Brian Green and Patricia Landry; and from Janet Davis's office, Liz Mannion and Graham Mitchell.

East York Blooming Contest Results

Traditional Gardens

Second Runner-Up: 306 Mortimer Ave

First Runner-Up: 183 Springdale Ave

Best Garden: 58 Barker Ave

Environmental & Alternative Gardens:

Second Runner-Up: 20 Warland Ave

First Runner-Up: 652 Mortimer Ave

Best Garden: 3 Holland Ave

Winners in the Traditional and Environmental & Alternative categories will be entered in the 2007 city-wide competition.

Commercial/Community Gardens

A1 Labels
32 Cranfield Ave

Kingdom Hall
64 Tiago Ave

Woodbine Heights Baptist Church
1171 Woodbine Ave

East Toronto Climate Action Group
Woodbine Subway Station

Kennedy Chiropractic Wellness Centre
702 Coxwell

Apartment building at 260 Gamble Ave



*East York Blooming Contest judges after the awards presentation
City of Toronto Photo / Zoran Matorcevic*

Picture Time

Malcolm Geast

We've all heard it said numerous times: A picture is worth a thousand words. If that's the case, then there must have been a few million words assigned to our Club's activities over the past few years. Digital cameras are noticeable at almost all of our events, enabling us to preserve a record of our activities in a way in which we never could before. Over the past 12 months, I've received copies of photos of our bus trip, our July pot-luck, the Canada Day Parade, and our booth at the East York Multicultural Day. Thanks go out to Veronica Callinan, Brian Rowe, Ruby Brett, Paula Cameron-Meaney, Paul Hirst, and Linda Boyko.

If you've taken pictures of Club events, and would like to share them, or contribute them to the Club's archives, please feel free to email them to us. A special email address has been set up to receive your photos, at archives@eygc.ca. High-resolution shots are encouraged, in order to give more detail. However you'll probably want to cap the size of individual files at about a megabyte, in order to facilitate emailing them. If you'd prefer not to email them, or if there are too many, give me a call at 416-429-4719, and we'll arrange an alternative method of getting hold of them.

Annual Show Results

This year's show had 321 entries, from 18 entrants. Here are the major winners:

Best in Show	Betty Meyers	Hanging Planter – Red Dragon Wing Begonia
Best Cut Specimen	Betty Meyers	Phlox
Best Rose	Janet Badali	Shrub Rose
Best Hanging Container	Betty Meyers	Hanging Planter – Red Dragon Wing Begonia
Best Collection of Planters	Betty Meyers	Dish Garden
Best Collection of Flowers	Betty Meyers	Collection of Flowers
Best Potted Plant	Vera Stoyanoff	Flowering Houseplant
Best Design	Betty Meyers	Toronto Skyline – Parallel Design
Best Preserve	Linda Boyko	Marmalade

Your Ideas are Invited.....

Attached to this edition of *The East York Garden* is a survey, asking for your ideas and suggestions for the upcoming year. We usually ask you to fill this in at our October meeting, when we hold our "round-table" discussions. But this year, to mark our 80th anniversary, we're having a special meeting, with a speaker and a few other items of business. And so we're asking that you fill out the survey and drop it off with us at the September or October meeting. If you prefer, you can send it by Canada Post (East York Garden Club, 10 Dustan Cres., East York, Ontario, M4J 4G5), email it to us (you can download the form from www.eygc.ca/survey2006.doc), or just drop us a line at eygc@eygc.ca. Whatever method you choose, remember that your ideas and suggestions are important to us when we're planning next year's activities.

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. If you're looking for back issues, they're available on the Club's website (www.eygc.ca).

A Reminder...

During the fall, from the week of October 9 to the week of December 4, yard waste can be put out every week, on the regular garbage day. The December pickup is the final yard waste collection until the spring.



A Day in the Country

Early this month, on a damp Saturday morning, a busload of gardeners departed from East York for a day of adventure in the wilds of the Ontario countryside. As we headed west, our worst fears were realized, as rain began to fall before we were even outside the bounds of Toronto. But luck was with us that morning, and it had stopped by the time we reached Milton, and headed for a “pit-stop” at a Tim Hortons. Wisely, not many of us decided to partake of a large double-double. However, the temptation of dutchies and maple-dips was too much for one or two members.

The rain had begun again when, a few miles down the road, we had our first horticultural stop, at the garden of Norm and Lynne Limpert. And what a garden it is! Hosta beds, 8-foot tall grasses, wildflowers, three ponds and a waterfall, and an amazing collection of Sempervivums. All this, and several acres of lawn (which we were told takes two days to mow). With so much to see, the rain was barely noticed.



Hens & Chicks everywhere....

All too soon, it was time to get back on the bus, and head off to our next stop, Lost Horizons Nursery, near Acton. With the rain coming to an end, we were told to be ready to leave in an hour and a half. What can you do for 90 minutes in a nursery at the end of the season? Getting back on the bus shortly after noon, we all had the answer to that question. The extensive display garden alone could have taken up all of our hour and a half. Pathways wound through an awe-inspiring variety of plants, a good number of which

many of us had never seen before. The well-stocked nursery was too tempting for most, so that when we departed, the cargo bays of the bus were considerably more crowded than when we arrived.

After an enjoyable, relaxing lunch at the Holiday Inn in Guelph, we were back on the bus, and off to our final stop, the Halton County Radial Railway. Here we were able to go back in time, riding on a 1926 Peter Witt streetcar through a forested section of the former right-of-way of the Toronto Suburban Railway. Located in Rockton, this working transit museum is a treasure trove for anyone who has ever taken a ride on a bus, streetcar, or train. Friendly volunteer guides were able to bring back memories or take us to times that we'd only read about. While it may have been difficult to find a horticultural slant to this part of the trip (although, there was a rock garden at the end of the streetcar ride), I'm sure that all who went found the afternoon to be an interesting and enlightening diversion. For many of us this was the highlight of the day.

But, all too soon it was time to get back on the bus, for the relaxing ride home. For some, the only regret was that we couldn't ride that Peter Witt streetcar all the way back to East York.



(Thanks to Veronica Callinan for the picture)

Thanks go to Roz Regnier and Anna Leggatt for organizing such an enjoyable and relaxing day, one that ran without a hitch from beginning to end.

Upcoming Events

September 23 & 24 (Saturday & Sunday)

Marion Jarvie, Open Garden (37 Thornheights Road, Thornhill) – The last of four 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.

Saturday, September 23

Urban Heirloom Harvest Fest and Farmers' Market at Withrow Park – The Urban Seed Savers Network presents a day of seed-saving demos, total tastings, winter gardening techniques, and more. Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 3

Fragrance in the Garden at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Leslie & Lawrence) – Garden columnist Steven Lacey will speak about scented plants in the garden. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15, free for members.

Tuesday, October 17

Gardening with Native Plants at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Leslie & Lawrence) – Ken Parker will discuss ways to incorporate native species in the home landscape. He will be highlighting perennials, grasses, trees and shrubs for clay, sandy soil, wet sites and shady gardens. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15, free for members.

October 20 to 29

2006 Chrysanthemum Show at Gage Park, Hamilton
This year's theme is "A walk in the Woods". Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. Admission is \$3.00, \$2.00 for seniors and children.

Sunday, October 22

Ponds & Plants Symposium at the Toronto Botanical Garden – The Greater Toronto Water Garden Society presents four speakers who will discuss plants, fish, and pond construction. There will be demonstrations, door prizes, auctions, and exhibitors. Pre-registration (before October 5) is \$20, at the door, \$25. Runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact 416-425-3329. Registration forms also available at the EYGC September meeting.

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

East York Garden Club Membership Renewal 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 2007 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