

# THE EAST YORK GARDEN

NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB



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, please contact Suzanne Boyd at 416-423-5857.

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

President:

Veronica Callinan

Vice President:

Linda Boyko  
Susan Bartlett

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Bartlett



## Thursday, July 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m. Members' Potluck Dinner

Anna Leggatt has graciously offered her garden as the setting for our summer potluck dinner. Her address is 2593 St. Clair Avenue, East (2 blocks west of O'Connor Drive, see map below).

Please bring a dish with six portions, a plate, cup, personal cutlery and a lawn or folding type chair. Drinks will be provided.



## Saturday, August 16, 2008, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Annual Flower Show & Tea

The Annual Show is our largest show of the year and an impressive display of what our members can grow. To raise your competitive spirit, the design categories this year Olympics themes.

Your entries for the show will be accepted between 7 o'clock and 8 o'clock on Friday evening, and between 9 o'clock and 11:15 a.m. on Saturday morning. Judging begins at 11:20 a.m. sharp, with viewing between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

If you'd like to help out on Saturday or with the setup on Friday evening, please give Cristina Brown a call (755-9077). For the afternoon tea, we would appreciate donations of desserts, cookies, or other goodies.

## From the President's Patch

by *Veronica Callinan*

Offering help usually comes easier to us than asking for it. But there comes a time, after years of volunteering and doing the help, that we can use a hand ourselves. Especially when it involves our love of gardening. How can we help each other?

While it has been fabulous to see all the new faces at our meetings, we miss the ones that have been there for years who are no longer coming out. If getting to our meetings has become a physical challenge for you, please let me know if you can use a ride. If you are willing to give a lift on your way to the meeting and home again, please let me know, too! We'll see if we can match Members up.

For those seniors who could use a little help around the yard, Community Care East York offers Home Maintenance services, which include general yard care. It's for a fee, and there are 2 categories (student – cheaper and Adult – less cheap). For more info, call 416-422-2026 x259. Be warned ... you won't be getting a Master Gardener! But every little bit helps, even if it's as mundane as cutting the lawn or raking leaves.

Are you an experienced gardener who needs some “better than general yard care” help, in exchange for your knowledge? Are you a novice gardener willing to volunteer some time and sweat to an experienced gardener, in return for tips and tricks? Again, please let me know! We'll see if we can match Members up.

While we could send the clipboards around to match Members up, something tells me that asking for help might be a little easier if the process wasn't so visible. Please contact me: [veronica@eygc.ca](mailto:veronica@eygc.ca) (email), 416-801-9659 (cell), 416-750-9758 (home - and don't laugh when my hubby answers the phone “East York Garden Club”!)

On a more sombre note...we had a “first” at our last meeting. For the first time ever, someone stole money from us. \$40 was taken from the 50/50 draw bowl. The winner of the draw received all the money she should have, but in the end the Club came away shorter than we started.

The Board has discussed this and in the future there will be 2 people doing the draw - one person counting off tickets and the other one dealing only with the money. Also, there will only be one activity at the draw table to reduce distractions. We aren't going to lock the place up or turn our meetings into a gated community; we're just going to take a couple of precautions.

Of far more importance to me, is the safety of our Members' purses, wallets and identification. Having had my wallet stolen a few years ago, I can attest that it is a very onerous task getting it all replaced. So, just as you would in any public place, please keep your purses/wallets on you - or ask a known fellow Member to watch them for you when you're participating in all our events. Our meetings are busy, noisy and fun.

And, we want to keep it that way.

I hope to see lots of you out to our Potluck Dinner in July, and at the August Flower Show and Tea. Both annual events are going to be a lot of fun. As most of you already know, EYGC is an amazing organization of committed, helpful, active people. When I hear the struggles other horticultural societies go through, it is an honour to be your President. Thank you for the opportunity!

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## Canada Day

by *Susan Bartlett*

Thanks to all our volunteers, Canada Day was a great success for the Club. The weather was beautiful, the crowds plentiful and our table made a substantial sum of money for the Club. If I may brag for a moment, our youngest member (my daughter) appeared on the front page of the *Toronto Sun* as she walked in the parade.

Thanks once again to all who donated their plants and time!

### Rockery Volunteer Schedule

Sun. July 13	10:00 am
Wed. July 23	6:30 pm
Sun. Aug. 3	10:00 am
Wed. Aug. 13	6:30 pm
Sun. Aug. 24	10:00 am
Wed. Sept. 3	6:30 pm
Sun. Sept. 14	10:00 am
Wed. Sept. 24	6:30 pm
Sun. Oct. 5	10:00 am

### CNE

*By Malcolm Geast*

Summer is here, and it's time to remind you that volunteers will be needed for the OHA booth at the CNE. This year the CNE runs from August 15 to September 1. Participants are asked to volunteer for three hours to provide information about joining horticultural societies and about the OHA in general. It's not a particularly onerous task and information on meeting dates and locations for all the GTA clubs and societies is provided. The booth is in the same area as the flower show and the horticultural speakers. It's also located right next to the Master Gardeners booth, which means that volunteers don't have to worry about being asked horticultural questions that they can't answer. Free admission to the CNE and free parking is provided.

Those who are interested in volunteering should contact Malcolm Geast at 416-429-4719 or [malcolm@eastyork.net](mailto:malcolm@eastyork.net).

### 2008 Garden Tour

*By Paula Cameron*

Our 2008 garden tour, THE WILD & WONDERFUL GARDENS OF EAST YORK will be taking place on **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6**, from 12 to 5:00 p.m. There are 10 gardens on the tour, including perennial gardens, ravine gardens, shade to full sun gardens. As well, you'll see ponds, native perennials, annuals and some unusual whimsical items.

Tickets are \$10 each and will be available starting August 1st at three locations:

#### **Bills Garden Centre**

903 Pape Avenue (on the east side, one block south of Mortimer)

#### **Peters Paint & Paper**

1062 Coxwell Avenue (on the west side, near O'Connor)

#### **Grassroots**

372 Danforth Avenue (on the north side, a few stores west of Chester)

In order to make this tour a success, we need your help. On the day of the tour, we'll require volunteers to assist in the gardens. We need to have a person to welcome visitors in the front of the house, and another in the back to help with questions. This doesn't require extensive horticultural expertise, as the garden owner will usually be available to answer any inquiries about their garden. This means that we need about 20 volunteers. If you would like to help please contact Roz Regnier at 416-759-6247.

## Yet Another Garden Pest...

by *Malcolm Geast*

Lily beetles, aphids, iris borers, squirrels, earwigs, slugs... We've all got a list of garden pests with which we do battle. This summer, Dawn & I added a new member to the group.

A few weeks ago, it was becoming apparent that one of our hydrangeas was growing at an exceptionally slow rate. Too much rain or not enough sun were the first suspects. But with the hydrangea on the other side of the garden enjoying its best year ever, it had to be something else. Sure enough, a close inspection showed that many of the plant's leaves were growing in an odd fashion. Instead of opening up as usual, they had the appearance of an elongated ball. But upon closer inspection, I could see that there were numerous places in which two leaves seemed to be joined together:



Cutting off one of the joined pairs and splitting it open revealed a mass of brown granules with a web-like attachment to the leaves:



And digging around in the brown mass exposed this interesting looking little creature:



A little investigation revealed that the creature I had found was a leaftier moth in the pupa stage. In the larval (caterpillar) stage, the leaftier ties leaves together with strands of silk and moves on to the pupa stage while living between them. While they don't appear to cause any chewing damage, an infestation will severely reduce the plant's capability for photosynthesis and growth.

Although the hydrangea was clearly infested – there were at least 20 pairs of joined leaves, halting the invasion was not difficult. It was as easy as simply cutting off each of the affected leaf pairs, stomping on them, and throwing them in the garbage. This removed all of the leaftiers, and the plant has steadily recovered. It's not doing as well as it did last summer, but there are at least a dozen flower heads and it's looking stronger each day.

A frequently suggested preventative measure is to spray the plant with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*, an environmentally friendly bacterial treatment) as the caterpillars begin feeding, and to repeat every week. But of course, for this treatment, you'll need to see the caterpillars on the plant. Once they've moved on to the pupa stage, and have begun sewing the leaves together, it's time to revert to the cut-and-stomp method.

## Toronto Master Gardeners – Testing & Interview Dates

Testing and interview dates scheduled for the annual fall recruitment of MGITs are to be held at the Toronto Botanical Garden this September.

The Orientation Session and Entrance Test will be held on Monday, September 15th, 2008, 7 pm - 9 pm (Garden Hall).

Those who pass the test will be invited for a twenty minute interview to be scheduled at the TBG on one of the following days:

Thursday, September 18th, 2008, 6 pm - 9 pm  
(Moriyama Boardroom)

Monday, September 22nd, 2008, 6 pm - 9 pm  
(Conference Room)

Wednesday, September 24th, 2008, 6 pm - 9 pm  
(Moriyama Boardroom)

If you are interested in applying to join the TMG, please e-mail [dawn.bell@sympatico.ca](mailto:dawn.bell@sympatico.ca) and for the information needed to get started.

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## Rain Barrels

*by Malcolm Geast*



Tired of the unsightly appearance of your city-issued rain barrel? Unwilling to get a rain barrel because you can't find one that can't be described as "ugly"? At last, there's one that can actually be described as attractive. Algranti, a Canadian company based in Cambridge, has recently introduced two locally-made models that will enhance the appearance of your garden. During a recent visit to Plant Paradise Country Gardens, in Caledon, we noticed rain barrels that appeared to be made of terra cotta. But instead, they were actually made of a plastic that's light-

weight, but strong. And on the top of each was a planting area, further enhancing the appearance. The two models have capacities of 50 gallons and 65 gallons, and cost \$99.95 and \$189.95. These are prices that are comparable to, or lower than what is charged for many of the less-attractive barrels currently on the market.

It was an easy decision to buy one, and we opted for the 50-gallon version, which has now replaced the unsightly black barrel that we bought from the city, and greatly improved the appearance of our patio. You'll be able to see it when you visit during the EYGC garden tour in September.



But of course you can have a first-hand look at both of them before September, by visiting Plant Paradise. While you're there you can also buy plants from a variety of grasses, hostas, and other perennials, many of which fall into the "hard to find" category. There are also demonstration gardens, which feature most of the plants for sale, as well as many others, in a variety of settings, in full sun, against a forest backdrop, and in the forest itself.

Plant Paradise Country Gardens is located at 6258 Humber Station Road in Caledon. More information can be found at [www.plantparadise.ca/](http://www.plantparadise.ca/)

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## Plastic Trays

Good news for those not wanting to throw away the plastic trays and pots purchased with plants that our recycling program doesn't accept - Loblaws stores will take these back.

## Upcoming Events

**July 12 & 13, 2008 (Saturday & Sunday) Marion Jarvie - Open Garden** (37 Thornheights Road, Thornhill)

The third of four weekends that Marion Jarvie has her garden open for viewing (the garden will also be open on the weekend of September 20 & 21). There are always many select plants for sale, and there is no charge for admittance. Open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

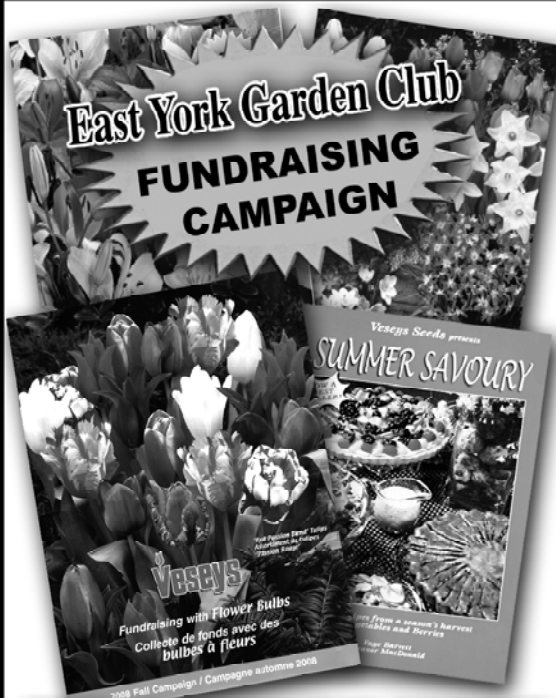
**Sunday, July 13, 2008 - Triffids Plants - Open Garden** (10612 Sixth Line, Georgetown)

Belinda Gallagher's nursery sells unusual, rare and rarely grown perennials, and is usually open only by appointment. This is the third of four weekends with an open garden this year. The nursery will also be open on September 12-14.

**Saturday, July 19, 2008, 10 am – 4 pm - Quinte Garden Tour**

Tickets: \$20.00 Further information 613-962-6323 or 613-966-5677

For those who want to make a weekend of it, and who also prefer to support other Garden Club members: there are 2 members of the Prince Edward County Horticultural Society that run Bed and Breakfasts. Let them know where you're from: Sandra Dowds 613-393-5577, ([centuryhouse@sympatico.ca](mailto:centuryhouse@sympatico.ca)) or Karolyn Goldie 613-393-5388. Other Bed and Breakfasts are listed under the Accommodation Association of Prince Edward County: <http://www.bbcanada.com/associations/princeedwardcounty>



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

### VESEYS FALL BULB CAMPAIGN

Included with your latest newsletter mailing is a BROCHURE and ORDER FORM for the VESEYS FALL BULB CAMPAIGN.

The ever popular bulbs are back. Take a look through the available packages for beautifying your garden. Remember that this is a fundraising effort that gives you quality bulbs at good prices, and at the same time helps out the Club.

#### PRODUCTS

MID SEASON TULIPS  
ASIATIC LILIES  
150 BULB GARDEN ASSORTMENT  
THE SUMMER SAVORY COOKBOOK

*Don't forget Veseys Bulbs make great gifts for family and friends.*

#### ORDERING

Orders should be brought to the **SEPTEMBER 18** meeting.  
Final deadline for ordering is **OCTOBER 03, 2008**.  
Orders will be collected by Paula Cameron.

#### PAYMENT

Cheques should be made payable to **The East York Garden Club**.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information or if you have an order but are unable to attend the meetings contact:

**Paula Cameron**  
309 Woodmount Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M4C4A4  
Telephone: 416-467-9553 Email: [witanhaunts@rogers.com](mailto:witanhaunts@rogers.com)