

November-December



"The East York Garden" is the Newsletter for **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 pm.

Refreshments are available at 7:00 pm. The Clubhouse is wheelchair accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$20.00 for a single, \$30.00 for a family. To inquire about membership, please contact:

Barbara Fairbanks at:  
416-755-0278

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

**President:**

*Barbara Fairbanks*

**Vice Presidents:**

*Rosalind Regnier and  
Linda Boyko*

**Newsletter Editor:**

*Michael Woods*



*Next Meeting:*

Friday November 17, 2017, 6:30 PM **Revised Date/Time**

*Topic: Annual General Meeting, Awards Presentation and Pot luck Dinner (Members Only)*

*Doors Open at 6:00pm, Dinner Begins at 6:30 pm.*

**NEW DATE: Friday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018—yes that is FRIDAY. We will also be starting a bit earlier: Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner tables will be called to the buffet starting at 6:30pm.**

*Dinner:* Plates, cups and cutlery are provided by the Club, as well as coffee/tea and non-alcoholic punch. Each member should bring a dish of food of at least 8 portions, and a serving utensil (please, if possible, put your name on all your dishes & utensils). You may bring a main dish, salad, or dessert, but no appetizers please. Any leftovers at the end of the evening will be donated to Kennedy House Youth Services on Pape Ave.

*Draw Prizes:* Tickets will be given out at the door. You can then view the prizes and put in one-half of your ticket for the item you want to win. The draw will take place at the end of the evening, so you have time to make your decisions.

*Club Business:* The Installation of the Executive Board, a review of our financial year, approval of minutes from 2016, flower show awards, fall photography contest awards with photos on display, and membership renewals accepted.

*Annual Photography Contest:* The photos that were entered will be on display in the lounge complete with prize ribbons.

*Yearbook Cover:* The final "People's Choice" photo contest of the year is held at the AGM. The winning photo will be featured as our cover on our 2018 yearbook. You may bring in one of your best garden-related photos from 2016 or 2017, however it must be in portrait orientation (i.e., taller than it is wide). You should select a photo that you think would look particularly good on the front of the yearbook. Carefully print your name on the top of the back of the photo. For this contest, photos can be entered even if you have already entered them in one of our previous contests. The winner will be selected by the secret ballot voting of members in attendance. **Entries must be received by 6:20pm.** All entries will be on display and voting will be open throughout the evening.

Questions regarding the AGM evening? Please call **Lynda Tanner at 416-465-7449**

*Remember there is NO meeting in December ~ Our monthly meetings will resume on Thursday, January 18th, 2018.*

## Certify Your Garden: *50 in 150 Update*



Please let us know when you have received your certification and we will let everyone know in the upcoming newsletters. We will be tracking names, but also the numbers so we know how we are doing in our goal of 50 certifications.

***The following gardens have received certification so far: (We're 3/4 way there!)***

- |                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Alan Barber & Michael Woods | 22. Lesley Grimshaw                  |
| 2. Austra Gulens               | 23. Barb Fairbanks & Gord Piercey    |
| 3. Rob Norquay                 | 24. Wini Stoddart                    |
| 4. Margaret McRae              | 25. Anne Stanley                     |
| 5. Diane & Peter Ronan         | 26. Rick & Wendy Plume               |
| 6. Nola McConnan               | 27. Dianne Cavanaugh                 |
| 7. Gail Gregory                | 28. Anna Leggatt                     |
| 8. Anita Millar                | 29. Karen MacDougall & Paul Sarjeant |
| 9. Kathy Paidock               | 30. Linda Boyko                      |
| 10. Mike & Susan Dolbey        | 31. Lesley Taylor & Dan Peterson     |
| 11. Laurel Angeloff            | 32. Monique Gauthier                 |
| 12. Giuliana Giacomini         | 33. Paula Davies & Steve Smith       |
| 13. Jennifer Smith             | 34. Valerie & Keith Saunders         |
| 14. Veronica Callinan          | 35. The Tanner Family                |
| 15. Mary Lou Burt              |                                      |
| 16. Rosalind Regnier           |                                      |
| 17. Suzanne Isaacs             |                                      |
| 18. Stacey Shannon & Sue Wells |                                      |
| 19. Sonia Van Heerden          |                                      |
| 20. Karen Bell                 |                                      |
| 21. Heather Landon             |                                      |



Valerie & Keith Saunders



Lesly Taylor (& Dan Peterson)

***Send us a selfie  
of you with your certificate  
& we'll publish it in the  
newsletter!***



## Prez Patch

by Barbara Fairbanks

### *Knock, Knock....*

East York Garden Club has had another terrific year. So many wonderful new members along with our “old” ones, meeting side by side at so many of our activities: the Farmer’s Market, the gazillion Pop-Up gardens, the 3 plant sales, the Canada Day 150 Parade!, the District 5 and OHA Annual General Meetings, the July Potluck, the Annual Flower Show and Tea, the Rockery maintenance as well as our regular monthly meetings.

I will have finished my first term as President at the AGM. We have such a great “vibe” at our club that cannot be compared to many other garden clubs. Thank you for all the ways you have made a contribution to make that happen. In order to keep that momentum and vibe going, we will be continuing to ask for your support by volunteering for any or many of our events and activities in 2018—some new, some old. Please consider giving some of your valuable time to EYGC—the Board, your fellow members and the community would appreciate it.

**See you at the Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> AGM** and have a safe and happy December and then I look forward to seeing you on Thursday January 18th, 2018

Barb

***I look forward to seeing you at our meetings this year and, as always, you can contact me at:***

**barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net or 416-755-0278**



## Members Articles

*Thank you to everyone who has responded to the questions we have been asking our members in past newsletters.*

*Please send in your responses to any of the questions we have posed, or pose one of your own! We'd love to hear from you.*

*MDW - Editor*



### *My Favourite Edibles*

*by Marion Stephens*

Reading Michael Woods's article in the July August EYGC Newsletter about his favourite edibles inspired me to share mine. Like Michael, I love to grow herbs. They grow well in the shade to dappled sun gardens that one finds in many East York neighbourhoods. Parsley, Sage, Tarragon, Basil and Thyme are some of my favourites. They provide interesting textures and shapes to small gardens. The blooms of Sage and Thyme in particular add colour and attract pollinating insects. Herbs offer wholesome and healthy ways to season a variety of dishes.

Lavender though, is my all time favourite edible. The blooms last, the smell is heavenly; even after the flowers are spent the fragrance lingers, and our pollinator friends the bees & butterflies really love it.

I have three small clusters of Hidcote Lavender growing well in my garden. The flowers of two clusters offer deep blue –purple flower. The flowers of the third cluster are a delicate pink.

I use the dried, ground flowers of Hidcote Lavender to enhance the flavour of my Crème Caramel mixture and to make the following recipe for **Lavender Shortbread**.



## Members Articles

### Marion Stephens Lavender Shortbread

#### Ingredients:

- 8 oz. Unsalted butter or margarine – softened slightly
- 2 tsp. Dried Lavender
- 4 oz. White, fine, Sugar (1/2 cup)
- 4 oz. Plain White Flour (All Purpose)(1 cup)
- 4 oz. White Rice Flour (1 cup)

#### Method:

1. Place softened butter into a mixing bowl. (I use my heavy duty electric mixer on a low speed. Do not beat till fluffy).
2. Combine dried lavender and sugar and add to butter. Mix together well until there are no detectable lumps of butter remaining. Test by rolling a teaspoonful between fingers.
3. Combine the two flours and mix well. Add to butter and lavender sugar mixture in two or three batches. Stir well between each on a low speed or using a wooden spoon. Finish by kneading gently with hands till mixture holds together. Flatten into a disc or square. Use sides of your hands to squish into shape. It will be a little crumbly at the edges. Wrap in plastic wrap and leave in a cool place to rest for 15 – 20 minutes.
4. For rolling out, dust rolling pin and rolling surface lightly with flour. Turning and dusting as you would for pastry. Roll out to ¼ inch or slightly thicker. Cut into desired shapes.
5. Place on baking sheet lined with parchment leaving about ½ inch between each. Prick tops with a fork. Refrigerate for 30 minute
6. Pre-heat oven to 300 °F. Bake shortbread until sand colour. Do not brown. Leave to cool on baking sheet. These freeze well.



November December 2017 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits:

Various Photos: [Veronica Callinan](#), [Barbara Fairbanks](#), [Monique Gauthier](#), [Malcolm Geast](#), [Anna Leggatt](#), [Diane Ronan](#), [Peter Ronan](#), [Anne Stanley](#), [Sonia Van Heerden](#), & [Michael Woods](#)



## *The Dog Days of Summer*

*By Sonia Van Heerden*

Sitting on my back deck or front porch in late July is the time to watch the activity of animal life, though I come out to read a book. The bird identification book & Butterflies of Toronto reside by my binoculars on the sofa. I should be weeding or mulching, but it is too hot in the sun. I have decided to try out Mark Cullen's suggestion of mulching and not weeding this year. Perhaps it is the Cat Days of Summer. My old 16 year old cat, Junior Miss, just lies on the back deck and does not stir when birds appear at the feeder, or even when butterflies fly around her. We have not had a gift of a bird or mouse from her for years.



*Monarch Butterfly*

The Monarch is back daily, or one of his relatives. He is flittering around the flowers - sitting on the tip of an orange day lily, side stepping a white cabbage moth, spending some time resting on a white gooseneck loosestrife. The monarch likes the pink phlox also, but has a longer stop at the gooseneck loosestrife.



*Viceroy Butterfly*

A Viceroy Butterfly comes through the yard as a companion to mimic him on the flowers.

Many of my milkweed have blossomed, but I lost the butterfly weed, (*Asclepias tuberosa*) I had purchased and planted in May. It was cut off at the ground. Some of the milkweed have pieces eaten out of the leaves. Is that the work of the monarch or a caterpillar? No caterpillars in sight. I fell down one day into a flower bed and had sap from a milkweed on the back of my pants. It sure is white. Other leaves are curled under. Is something living in the curl?



*A bee being a good pollinator*

A Mourning Cloak butterfly stopped at my cosmos. Perhaps he thought it was dill. A Red Admiral, Question Mark or Comma Butterfly liked the milkweed also An Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (Toronto's unofficial butterfly) rested on a neighbour's front planting before flying off. The White Cabbage male has 1 dark spot on its forewing, and the female has 2 dark spots, but they fly away too quickly to check.



*Red Admiral Butterfly*

A yellow warbler has found my rose of Sharon. He is smaller with more yellow than a goldfinch, though he was silent. A cedar waxwing rested on the front yard forsythia while I ran to find my bird book. A Carolina Chickadee was chewing on the leaves of a wild rose. I had left the rose hips on the tree, but they were not touched. A squirrel has climbed up my purple lilac trees and seems to be nibbling on the seed heads at the top – good, I won't have to cut them off.

A thunderstorm is imminent as sky becomes darkened. Sparrows zoom from the yard without stopping at the feeder. A little bit of rain and a drop in temperature and all flight vanished. They must all be hiding in a dry spot. Here is it late July and there are 2 light purple wisteria blooming, hanging around still. Daylilies I did not know I had have bloomed.

Again there is an early blooming of my rust chrysanthemums. They will flower again in September. Rose of Sharon is blooming early again this year also, 3 varieties, purple with red centers, white with a red center & white on white. A Rose of Sharon I purchased at the Mennonite market in St. Jacob's a few years ago is a slower bloomer of beautiful double light pink flowers. Even the pink magic carpet spirea bush is giving me a second bloom, though it was advertised as late spring blooming. The bees have left the yellow sedum of spring but bumblebees are covered with pollen from phlox and loosestrife. Then they find the white clematis and the coneflowers, and go mad.

Of the native plants purchased in May, only the coreopsis, white phlox and nodding onion have bloomed, but the bee balm keeps sending out half hearted red buds. As I had lost the butterfly weed, Richter's Herbs must have some plants or seeds. There were no plants, but its seeds were called Pleurisy Root (*Asclepias Tuberosa*), and now some are potted up, to hopefully be transferred to the garden before freezing. I also purchased another couple of plants but they too were cut down at the ground. A large red bug about 1 inch long was discovered on the milkweed, but an email photo was sent to Malcolm, and he assured me that this is the milkweed beetle and would do no harm. Perhaps tomorrow I will spread some mulch, if it doesn't rain...



*Question Mark Butterfly*

## Members Articles



### *My Favourite Gardening Blog...*

*By Diane Ronan*

#### **“A Way to Garden – Margaret Roach”**

<https://awaytogarden.com>

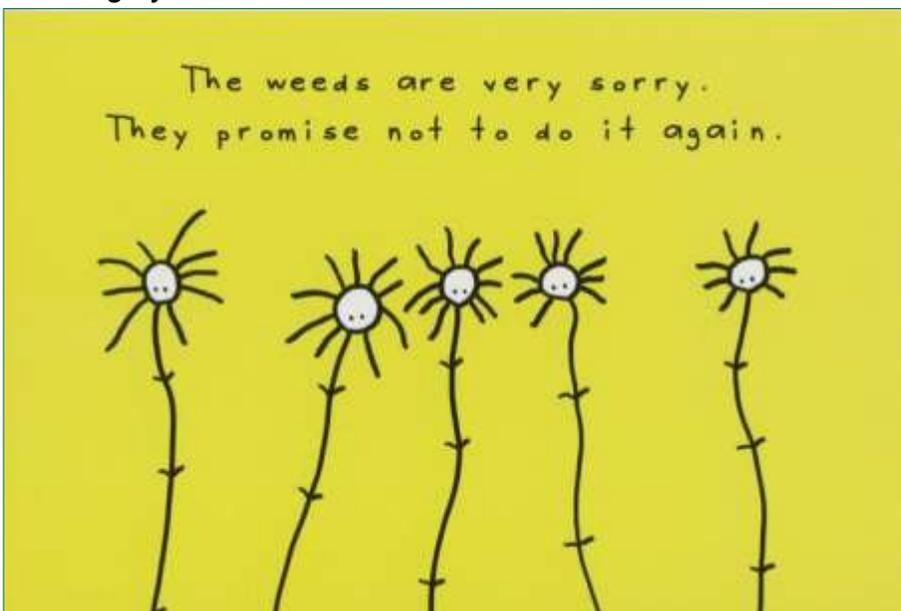
I have been following Margaret for about 7 years. I find her blog to be informative, inspiring and funny. Because she lives in upper state New York, her growing conditions are very similar to ours and so the advice given is applicable. I also like her passion to learn more about all the creatures who share her gardening life.

Her background is interesting. Having successfully climbed the corporate ladder to become Martha Stewart’s EVP/Editorial Director for Martha’s media empire, she fled New York City on 9/11 to her rural property in Copake Falls, NY. There she decided to change her life and become a fulltime gardener, writer and blogger.

I have visited Margaret’s garden; listened to her lecture on “*At Home in the 365-Day Garden*”; read her book “*And I shall have some peace there*” and been fortunate enough to receive one of her giveaways. Yes, she delivers to Canada!

I highly recommend this blog and be sure to check out the doodles by her friend, Andre Jordan.

*Drawing by Andre Jordan*



#### ***We want to hear from you...!***

There is no time limit on these or any past topics. Write about this question, or any of the questions from past issues, or any topics of your own choosing, please send your responses in to the newsletter anytime.

You don’t have to write a long article, as we are starting a new feature called “Member’s Soundbites”, where you can send your comments to us even if it’s only one sentence long.

Send to:

*Michael Woods, Editor at:*  
[woods-eygc@bell.net](mailto:woods-eygc@bell.net).

# EYGC September Flower Show



Anne Stanley's "Leading Lady"



Carole Aida's "Silver Screen"



Anne Stanley's "Close Up"



Vera Stoyanoff's "Double Feature"



*The September Flower Show is EYGC's last flower show of the year, and a chance to show your garden's last blast of colour and texture. This month's Design Theme was "Film Festival", and you can see here some of the dramatic results.*



## *Pop-Ups in September & October 2017*



*Diane & Peter Ronan's Beautiful Backyard Refuge*

### *Garden Pop Ups 2017*

When started in 2015, the idea of Pop Up Gardens was to raise funds to offset the cost of hosting the District 5 AGM. Since then it has mushroomed into an annual event that is well received and enjoyed by all members.

In 2015 we asked members to make a minimal donation when they visited the gardens taking part in the project. In 2016 and ongoing it was decided that a donation is not necessary. The purpose of Pop Up Gardens now is to allow EYGC members' exclusive visiting rights to other members' gardens, free of charge. It's a social opportunity to share visions, experience and the joy of gardening.

This year we had 27 garden pop ups and 3 front yard pop ups. In 2016 there were around 12 pop ups. You can see where this is going. You've had the opportunity to see a variety of gardens: sunny-shady; large-small; wild-tamed; whimsical-refined; brand new – years old. Our membership is diverse and so are our gardens. Let's keep the momentum going and encourage other members to pop up their gardens in 2018.

*Diane Ronan*



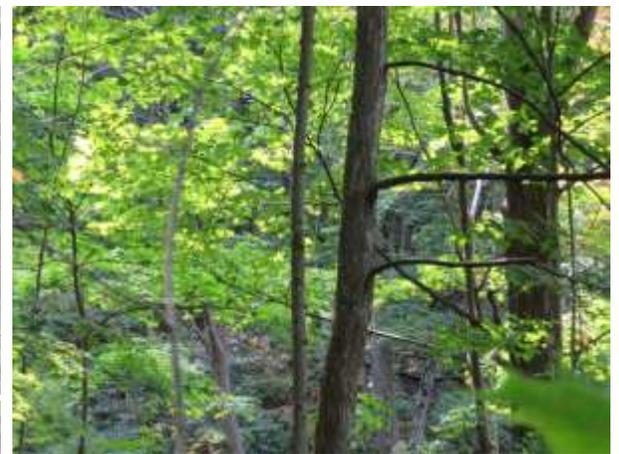
*Sue Wells & Stacey Shannon's Delightful Garden*

## *Featured Pop-Up - Lucie Simons*

This is an extraordinary ravine garden, much like its owner. Lucie is a Past President of the East York Garden Club 1997 and 1998. She is also a recognized artist specializing in serigraphs and you can see her work at [www.luciesimons.com](http://www.luciesimons.com) For more information, you can read the article about Lucie that was in our March 2013 newsletter. Past issues are on our website.

Lucie's garden is now home to over 29 Japanese maples. She describes the top level as being "tamed", but the rest is very natural and steep. If you can descend and return to the top, you will experience nature in the city. There is a natural water feature and there are viewing sites with benches for you to rest and contemplate your surroundings.

This was a special Pop-Up this year because Lucie has decided it's time to sell her lovely home & studio property, and move to smaller living quarters. If you didn't get to the Pop-Up, here are some photos for you to enjoy.



## Special Focus: Pruning Trees and Shrubs



### Pruning Trees and Shrubs

By Anna Leggatt

**Why prune?** It improves the health and looks of a tree. You may need to remove dead wood, or perhaps branches that cross over each other or form narrow angles. These will be weak points in a tree and may split later. You may also prune a tree to improve its natural shape, or remove a branch on a cultivar that is reverting to the parent plant (e.g. a variegated plant suddenly producing green leaves or a dense dwarf tree shooting up with loosely spaced branches.)

Removing branches to thin the crown or canopy of a tree will let more light in, enabling the tree to grow stronger, so resisting strong winds.

Pruning also helps a plant to produce fruit regularly and an even size (e.g. apples, grapes.) Removing old flowers stops seed production and encourages flowering the next year.

Ideally, you select trees and shrubs for your garden so they will fill a space and only need a little maintenance. Unfortunately I like plants and buy attractive ones without fully researching their growth patterns (or I believe misleading appearances.)

I have to prune many woody plants in our garden, as they are not in the correct place for their ultimate growth.

Take care not to cut leaves or needles as the cut marks darken and spoil the plant's looks.

**You should not be able to tell a plant has been pruned** (unless it is in a hedge or topiary)

Japanese gardeners say a butterfly should be able to fly through a well-pruned tree

### Some plants I grow that I have to prune, altering their natural shape

#### Conifers:

***Picea pungens*** – Blue spruce. Two were planted in our front bed as part of the original landscaping about 1950. One metre from the driveway! We had to cut branches back to drive past. Then cut them off so we could drive under. The trunk is now bare for the first 5m, without branches sweeping down to the ground. I bought another very blue cultivar, thinking it was a dwarf.

No. I couldn't easily move it so I removed all the lower branches and the new growth on the tip. Then I imagined a sphere around the remainder and cut the tips off all the shoots in June that projected past this shape. Now it will become a lollipop!



*Blue Spruce*

***Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Snow'** – a dwarf sawara cypress. This was a fist-sized bun in 1991. It grew slowly but eventually was too big for the bed. We cut off the lower branches, revealing the trunk. Still it grew! One day I put plastic bags over some of the branches and imagined what it would be like "poodled". Branches in the bags were left; all the rest was cut away. Now we just trim our cloud-pruned tree so we have new silvery shoot tips.

**N.B.** Coniferous trees and shrubs will not usually shoot out from old wood so do not prune below any green.



*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Snow'

***Ginkgo biloba***, the maidenhair tree. The city planted it after they removed a diseased crab apple. I knew I had a dying tree so I had planted a replacement near by. "You have got to have another" "But I have planted a replacement" "That doesn't count"!!!!. I didn't get my request either. Now I copy Japanese street trees and cut back the new growth on the Ginkgo so I have a green column.

*Maples:*

Choose dwarf maples. My ***Acer palmatum* 'Candy Kitchen'** is a small mound and will not need a trim for several years. I have two of the straight species. One I cut down, nearly to the ground as it was shading the greenhouse. The shoots from the stump do not grow as quickly (so far) and have a better bright red colour all summer. The other is by the front door and grows about 50cm each year. This has to be carefully pruned, as stubs are very obvious. Maples are opposite branching so when I cut back to a pair of branches, I remove one as well as the unwanted growth.



*Acer Palmatum* by the Front Door

## Special Focus: Pruning Trees and Shrubs

Weeping maples need some thinning as the overhanging branches cut off light from lower ones.

I grow ***Acer pseudoplatinus*** 'Eskimo Sunset' for its large variegated leaves with cinnamon colour underneath. This is carefully cut back each year.

***Acer palmatum*** 'Sangu Kaku' – the coral bark maple – is grown for the lovely colour in the winter twigs. This gets cut back severely in the spring to encourage new growth.

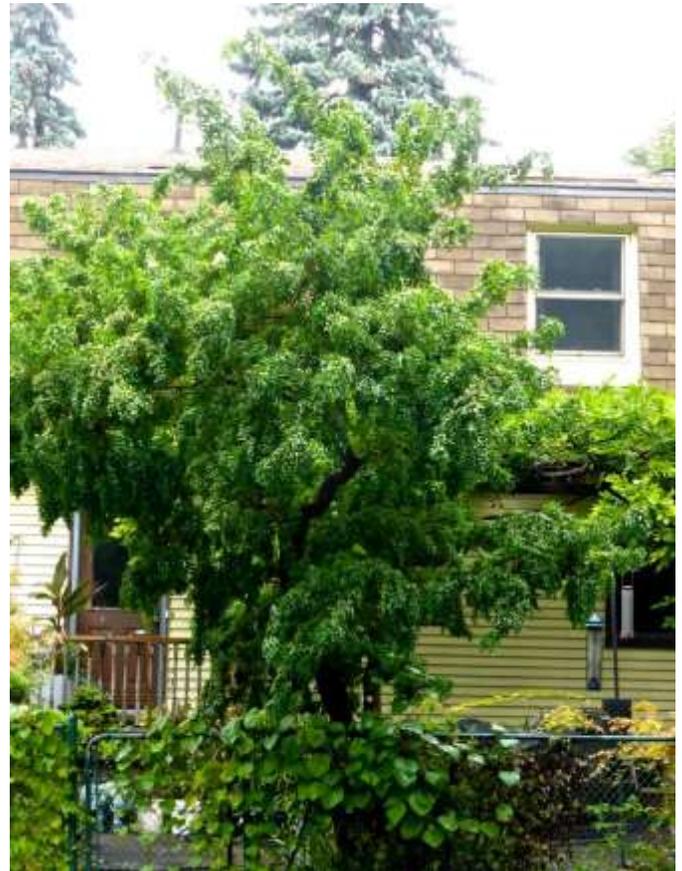
Similarly, I also grow ***Cornus sanguinea*** 'Midwinter Fire' and ***Cornus alba Siberica*** for winter stem colour. Remember the best colour will be on the sunny side so position accordingly.



*Acer Palmatum* Near the Greenhouse

*Others:*

***Robinia pseudiacacia*** 'Twisty Baby' and ***R. p.*** 'Frisia' both have great foliage. 'Twisty Baby' is a small tree but will grow a metre+ in all directions with mid green twisted branches and leaves – rather like Rastafarian dreadlocks. 'Frisia' is a lovely yellow most of the summer, growing 2-3m up. They both get cut back severely, often 2-3 times over the summer and again in the early spring.



'Twisty Baby' - Before



'Twisty Baby' - After

## Special Focus: Pruning Trees and Shrubs



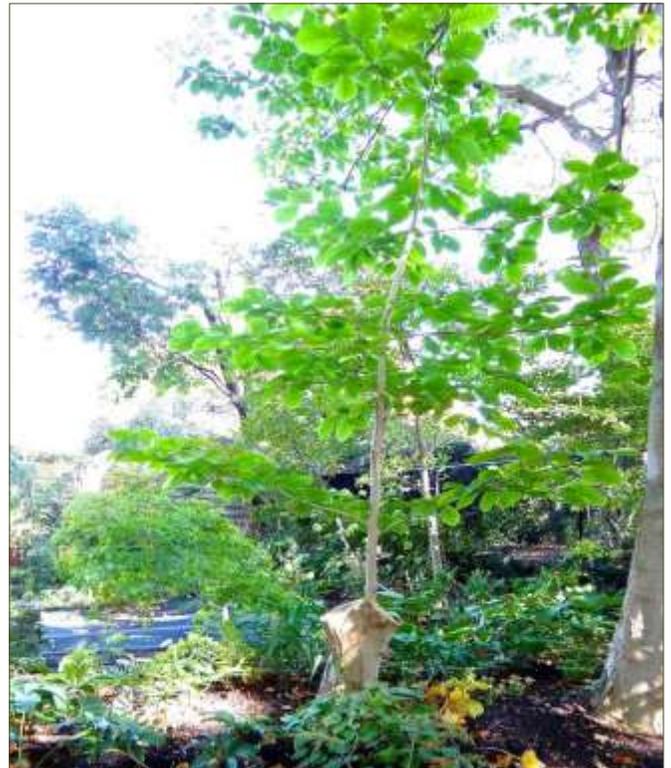
'Twisty Baby' - Photo Marked for Pruning

***Aesculus x negecta erythroblastos*** is a chestnut with fantastic spring colour and OK fall colour but is boring in the summer. This gets cut back every 2 – 3 years. I have to be careful about leaving stubs. They look ugly and will not sprout and may leave an entry for disease.

***Prunus maakii***, the Manchurian cherry has wonderful shiny bronze bark. I was told it was dwarf when I bought it. (Perhaps it was seed grown from a dwarf form – often dwarfs do not come true from seed). I cut this back, trying vainly to keep a graceful shape. I want the bark but not the shade!

***Magnolia 'Elizabeth'*** is splendid. It grows well with a long season of yellow flowers, as the buds do not open all at once.

The original tree had two trunks. I cut one down, which sent up several new shoots. Regrettably, I had the other trunk removed when it reached about 10m – it was in the south end of the garden and cast too much shade. One of the new shoots is taking its place and will not be allowed to grow so tall.



Many of my shrubs are multi-stemmed. I cut out about 1/3 of the thickest branches every 2 or 3 years to ground level. I sometimes carefully cut back the longest remaining branches, choosing a place where another branch will hide the cut.

A garden with well-pruned shrubs and trees will allow light in, giving soft shadows and gentle breezes to enhance the enjoyment of your garden.

*Note: Anna has a gardener and an arborist who prune under her directions. (Sometimes with protests! – as with 'Twisty Baby')*

## Rockery Update

### 2017 At The Rockery...

We ramped down our participation this year at the Rockery as we were unsure if we were going to continue with such a big community project. The terrain is not easy for some volunteers and time commitments for our younger ones are strained with so many other obligations to their families.

All the bulbs, sedums, roses, asters that we planted in 2016 looked splendid from spring through to fall.

We only went 6 or 7 times this season compared to almost every Saturday in the past. While we still put in 118+ volunteer hours, and seeing the compost heap and the garbage collected at the end of each visit was very satisfying, it was hard work.

The rejuvenation of the Rockery didn't happen as planned. The Executive Board took the opportunity to start considering other smaller, easier and more manageable community gardening projects to work on in the future. A communication was sent to Janet Davis's office (City of Toronto Councilor in whose ward the Rockery is located) to confirm our not continuing the maintenance in 2018. We are sure the City's Parks Department will be able to work to maintain and far surpass the standard for The Rockery that EYGC set!

We look forward to forming a committee to scope out new projects all over East York, so it will be easier for many more members to get involved when something is happening just around their corner.

A really big thank you to Diane Ronan for resurrecting her job as the official "Rockery/City Communication Coordinator" for these past many years.

Thank you to all the members who "signed in" this year and volunteered their time and muscle to work on our community project.

Thank you to all our past and present members who have given considerable time and energy to "The Rockery" since we took it on so many years ago. *Hip-Hip-Hooray!*

*Barb Fairbanks, President, EYGC*



*Rockery in April*



*Some of the dedicated volunteers who have helped with the Rockery*

# Rockery Photo Memories...



Jennifer vs the Goutweed



Roz supervises Alan & Paul



Maureen's ready to do battle



Lesly Working with the weeds



Bonnie's a Happy Weeder



Jacqueline gets dirty



Roz & Wini in June



Teamwork!



Roses in June



More of the 2017 Rockery volunteers



Rockery in September

## The Plant Corner



### *I Have How Many Amaryllis Bulbs ???*

*By Betty Meyers*

I love Amaryllis for their sheer strength to come back year after year. They come in so many colours and sizes, tall or short, different flowerings and they fully crowd my living room window in winter! What a show! How many do I have? I'm not sure, but I believe it is about 30 or so!

I don't buy all new bulbs every year as I store and revive the old bulbs. How do I choose which new ones to buy? I choose the biggest bulb I can afford. I check for red stripes on the bulb—if I see them, I don't buy them—there is a virus present. I like to buy ones I don't already have and I like a good boxing day sale at the nurseries. I often feel sorry for those ones pushing their leaves out of the boxes at the grocery store and pick up one or two. I'm a sucker for these beauties.

What next? I have green plastic 10" pots, I line the bottom with some landscape cloth so the soilless mix won't fall through. I know it seems that a 10" pot is a bit small, but Amaryllis like to be crowded. Depending on the size of the bulb, I fill the pot about a quarter the way up with the soilless mix, moisten the soil and then plant the bulb (roots down, tip up please!) and pack a bit more soil mix around the bulb—about ¼ to ½ of the bulb should be showing above the soil. Then I insert 2' or 3' bamboo stake with most of the bulbs. These will help to support the leaves, the flower stalk and heavy flowers once blooming, with raffia tied around them. I sprinkle a bit of the *Osmocote* slow-release fertilizer on top of the soil.

You can reference this website <https://www.gardencentre.com/tips-ideas/green-thumb-guides/> for the **Humber Nurseries "Green Thumb Guide"** which goes on to explain what happens next. I do store my bulbs and revive them each year to great success. I have had some of my bulbs for 8 years!

Some single-blooms to look for: Fantastica, Red Lion, Apple Blossom, Minerva, and Lucky Strike. Some double-blooms are: Blossom Peacock, Red Peacock, Aphrodite, Pink Nymph.

***Am I addicted to the stunning Amaryllis? You bet!***



*Many have Multiple Stalks*

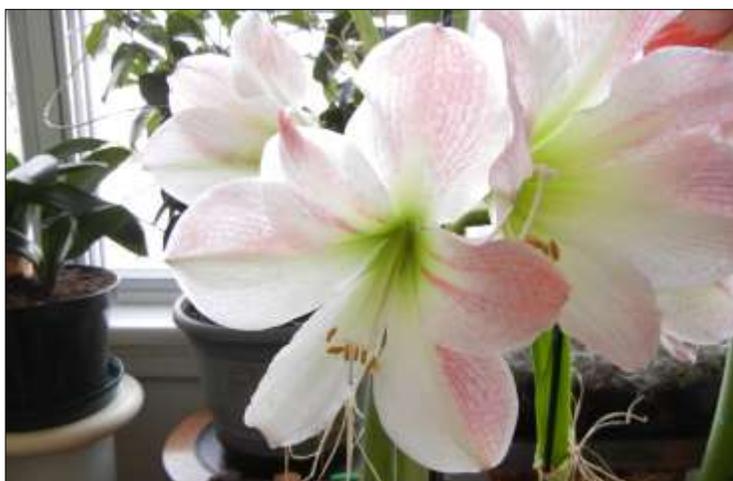


*Some of Betty's 30+ Amaryllis...*



*Leaves start like tongues*

# Betty's Amazing Amaryllis



## The Plant Corner

### Monkshood (*Aconitum*)

By Michael Woods

**Aconitum**, or Monkshood as it is commonly called, is a wonderful old-fashioned perennial that looks great in a perennial border. The reason for me writing this article is the *Aconitum Autumnale*, or Autumn Monkshood that is currently blooming in our garden. Yes, it is the middle of October and this hardy plant just started blooming about a week ago! It's as if this plant wants to be centre stage without any competition, so it waits until most of the other plants are done.

Yes, all parts of this plant are poisonous, so you need to treat it accordingly, and be careful when handling a mature plant. Use gloves, and wash your hands after handling. If you have young children, or small pets that like to chew things in the garden, you may want to select an alternative plant. Composting this plant is safe however, because the action of proper composting destroys the poisons, making it safe to use the resulting compost in your garden.

This plant has a lot going for it, as it does well in partial moist shade, forms neat manageable clumps, reliably comes back year after year, and the blooms are absolutely beautiful. Being related to delphiniums, it is fairly tall, and looks good at the back of the border away from curious fingers. The flowers are generally borne in racemes, and the blooms are long lived. It makes a wonderful cut flower, but be sure to wear gloves when cutting and arranging the flowers, and keep the bouquet away from children and pets.



*Autumn Monkshood (Aconitum Autumnale)*

Having a star in the garden like this so late in the season is a real treat, and the colour of blue is truly enchanting. There are varieties that bloom in the summer, some in late summer or early fall, and ones like this one that blooms very late. Treat it with care and respect, and you will have a beautiful garden performer.

Do you have a passion for a particular plant? Want to share that passion with other members? Why not write something about it and submit it to "The Plant Corner". Be sure to send a photo or two showing how it grows for you! *Send to:*

*Michael Woods, EYGC Newsletter Editor - woods-eygc@bell.net*

# EYGC Fall Plant Sale



This was EYGC's first Fall Plant Sale, and it was very successful.

We had approximately 15 people donating over 100 plants to the sale, and the sales were brisk throughout the day.

Starting in Michael & Alan's driveway on Sunday, it continued later in the week at Diane & Peter's driveway. The plants were well labelled, and there was a good selection of plants. We hope to make this an annual event!

Mary Lou Burt, Linda Tanner & the plants at EYGC's first Fall Plant Sale



Volunteers Mary Donovan, Jennifer Smith, & Linda Tanner



There were many waves of eager plant buyers





## *Mosaiculture in Gatineau, Quebec 2017*

*By Michael Woods*

Mosaiculture was founded by Lise Cormier in Montreal in 2000, and since then they have been having exhibitions around the world every three or four years. The original goal of highlighting the new millennium in an innovative and dramatic fashion with a focus on horticulture, also gave many organizations, municipalities, and communities the opportunity to participate in an international event.

Since its inception, there have been Mosaiculture installations in Montreal, Shanghai, and Hamamatsu. This year in celebration of Canada's 150 Anniversary, it was held in Gatineau Quebec, right across the river from Ottawa. Displays are designed to use plants like mosaic tiles to paint a picture, and the final product is truly amazing. If you haven't seen it before, try to get to their next exhibition.

The Mosaiculture in Gatineau this year took place from June 30<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, and was titled **MosaiCanada150**. They had 30 horticulturalists on staff every day for watering, trimming, and replacing plants as necessary, to keep the exhibition looking perfect. As you can see from the photos, it was beautiful and immaculate!





# Carved Pumpkin Contest



The annual carved pumpkin contest was once again featured in the October 19th meeting. There were seven spooky entries showing members' considerable wit and creativity, including our youngest entrant, Hugh Piercey (2yr 9mth old) with "My Creation". 91 votes were cast by a delighted and very captive audience.

Congratulations to the winners; in third place The Tanners' ghoulish "Trumpkin", Second place went to the mischievous "Beauty and the Beast" by Claudette Levesque and first place went to Dawn McEachern's spirited and exquisite "Witches House". Dawn also received a special homemade treat of pumpkin pie cooked by our very own President Barbara Fairbanks. Thank you to all who entered and voted, making this a *Spook-tacular* event. Happy trick or treating! *Lesley Grimshaw*



"Witches House" - 1st



"Beauty and the Beast" - 2nd



"Trumpkin" - 3rd

And the Rest of the Gang...



## 2017 Seed Exchange

By Roz Regnier



We had our annual seed exchange at our October meeting in which 14 members packaged & donated seeds from their garden. Lots of good descriptions were provided. Perennials can be sown now where they will grow next year or sprinkled on top of soil in a container with drainage & the pot buried in the ground. Don't forget to label the container. Mother Nature will look after your specimen in the winter & perhaps you'll have a surprise next springtime.

**Happy Gardening**

## Fall Recipe

From Mary Lou Burt

### Zucchini Relish

Makes about 20-22 jars

- 12 cups zucchini, chopped up
- 4 large onions, chopped up
- 2 red peppers, chopped up
- 2 green peppers, chopped up (or 4 red peppers instead, if you don't like green peppers)
- 1 large cauliflower, broken into small florets, & stem part sliced & chopped up
- 1/3 cup pickling salt

Put into pan with small amount of water (barely to top of vegetables)

Cover pan or large glass/firm plastic dish & leave overnight

In morning, rinse in strainer & put back into pot

Add:

- 3 cups white vinegar
- 4 cups white sugar
- 2 tbsp. each of celery seed, mustard seed & turmeric

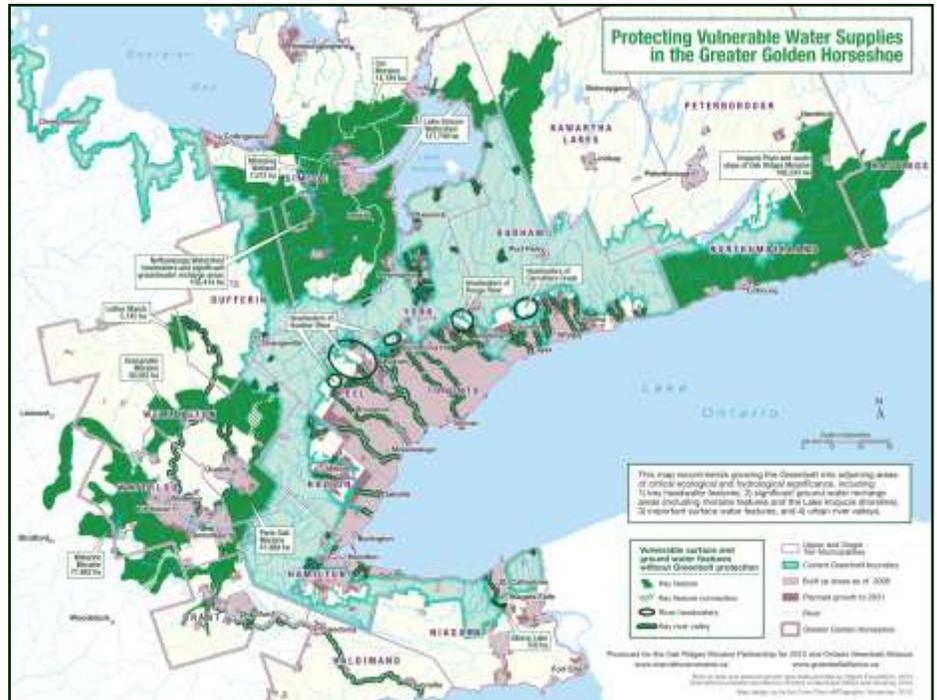
Boil in pot 1/2 hour and add 6 tbsp. corn starch (mixed with water) after 10 minutes of boiling

Pour into warm Mason jars (keep simmering relish while bottling)

*Editor's Note: It is recommended that you process the jars in a hot water bath for 12-15 minutes to ensure a good seal.*



Attention  
Photographers...



# Annual Greenbelt Photo Contest

*People in the Greenbelt...*

The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, and the Professional Photographers of Canada are proud to launch the third annual Greenbelt Photo Contest. This year's theme celebrates the human connection with nature, agriculture and the land across the Greenbelt.

Photos can capture the connections found every day by people visiting, living and working in our protected Greenbelt. Whether connecting with nature while hiking, enjoying farm fresh food, or working the land, these experiences embody the possibilities that grow in Ontario's Greenbelt, which is as diverse as its people.

Photos must be taken within the Greenbelt including the new 21 urban river valleys, (***Includes the Don River Valley***) and 7 coastal wetlands, the Oak Ridges Moraine or the Niagara Escarpment - collectively referred to as the "***Greenbelt Area***".

A panel of creative experts from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Professional Photographers of Canada and the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation will select the winning photos. Online voting will select the winner of the People's Choice award.

Submit your photos below until January 10, 2018 for a chance to have your work displayed at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, home to iconic Canadian works of art. The winning photos will also tour across the Greenbelt throughout 2018.

**Enter your Photos at:** [http://www.greenbelt.ca/photo\\_contest](http://www.greenbelt.ca/photo_contest)

Newsletter Articles ✚ Publicity ✚ Flower Shows ✚ Greeters  
Pop-Up Gardens ✚ Photo Contests ✚ Canada Day ✚ Audio/Visual  
Plant Sales ✚ Bus Tours ✚ Farmers Market ✚ Refreshments  
Membership Renewals ✚ Community Projects ✚ Seed Exchange  
Carved Pumpkin Contest ✚ Speakers ✚ Workshops  
Annual General Meeting ✚ Communications ✚ Administration

## Help for 2018!

*We really want our members to be involved in organizing and participating in our activities & events by wanting to be on committees.*

Your participation can be part of the planning team, or 'on the day' set up or oversee or both. We need to know now where you would like to help out.

Depending on the committee and the number of events within that activity, your involvement may be small or big. For example: one single meeting or many meetings as part of a group or team or with just the committee coordinator (may be phone or email in addition or instead of a physical meeting).

For more information to see how you can lend a hand in 2018, contact:

**Barb Fairbanks at 416-755-0278**





## 2018 EYGC People's Choice Photography Subjects

It's that time again – the unveiling of the People's Choice photography contest subjects for early 2018. Grab your camera or phone and keep your eyes open for that great shot you want to share with fellow club members. The subjects are:

**January** - *Garden Bones – Your garden in winter*

**February** – *Family Day*

**March** – *Ice*

Use your imagination, get creative or enter what you see in front of you. Everyone is encouraged to enter – no experience necessary.

1 photo per person, not to exceed 5" x 7". Please print your name on the upper back corner so we may align the photo correctly.

*Looking forward to many people entering in January.*

Anita Millar and Linda Boyko  
Photography Contest Co- chairs

## Save the Dates:

**District 5 AGM** will be held on **Saturday April 28th, 2018** and it is hosted by the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society. The theme is "Preserve our History, Protect our Future"

The 112<sup>th</sup> **OHA (Ontario Horticultural Association) Convention** weekend will be **July 27 – 29, 2018**. It is being held in Kingston and hosted by District 3. The theme is "Shore to Shield"



### *In Memoriam:*

*Sadly one of our members, Roseanne Carlquist, passed away in September. Our thoughts are with her friends and family.*

*East York Garden Club*



## *Articles and Photos Required for the Newsletter*

Our membership is full of people who have a lot of knowledge, information, experience and talent, and we would like to hear from you. This is your newsletter, so why not write something and send it in for publication? To spur you on, we will have a different question in each issue of the newsletter that will hopefully nudge some of you to do some writing. So this issues question is:

*“What plants are star performers in your garden?  
Are there plants with which you constantly  
struggle?”*

If you have a few photos to accompany your article, send those along too, preferably as JPEGs. Don't worry if your response is only a sentence or two long. You don't have to write a long reply. We will include your response in our new “Members Soundbites” section.

Please send your articles and soundbites to:

**Michael Woods, Editor, EYGC Newsletter**  
**[woods-eygc@bell.net](mailto:woods-eygc@bell.net)**

*If you have any ideas for questions that you would like to see posed to the membership,  
please send those along too.*

### *A Note About Pop-Up Photos:*

First of all, a big Thank You to all those individuals who have responded to my last minute requests for photos when I realized as we were going to press that I was missing some gardens! Your quick responses have been much appreciated.

On that note, in future, people hosting pop-ups are encouraged to send in photos of their gardens to the newsletter for use in the Pop-Up Photo pages. Because of limited space we can only show two photos per garden, but if you want to make sure a particular feature or plant is seen by others, who better to take some pictures than the garden owner.

Also, any other photographers who have been attending some of the pop-ups, a quick email to me telling me which pop-ups you have been to, would be terrific information for me to have. Your name will appear under “Photo Credits” for any photos that we use in the Newsletter.

**Thank You.**



# Hey... What's On...?

**Here is a very brief summary of some events that you may be interested in...**

Dates:	Title:	For More Info Contact:
3-Nov-2017	Ravine Symposium at the Toronto Botanical Gardens	<a href="http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/learn/adult/symposium/">http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/learn/adult/symposium/</a>
13-Nov-2017	Georgina-Brock Garden Club - Presentation, Craft Fair and Sale	<a href="http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/georgina/about/meetings/">http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/georgina/about/meetings/</a>
15-Nov-2017	Small Garden Design - At the Toronto Botanical Garden, \$30.00	<a href="http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/events/small-garden-design/">http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/events/small-garden-design/</a>
18-Nov-2017	Kris Kringle Crawl - 75 Portland - Shopping Spree and Feast for Foodies	<a href="http://foodiesonfoot.ca/">http://foodiesonfoot.ca/</a>
18-Nov-2017	"Holly & Ivy Christmas Sale" - Garden Club of Kitchener Waterloo-10:00 to 4:00	<a href="tel:5198936827">Phone for more info: (519) 893-6827</a>
25-Nov-2017	Documentary At the TBG - "Le Semeur" (The Sower) 4:00 to 5:30	<a href="http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/events/documentary-le-semeur-sower/">http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/events/documentary-le-semeur-sower/</a>
26-Nov-2017	Presentation: "From Snapshot to Great Shot - Garden & Flower Photography" at the Greater Toronto Bulb Society	<a href="http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/gtbs">http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/gtbs</a>
30-Nov-2017	Holiday Market and Open House at the Toronto Botanical Garden - 10:00 to 7:00	<a href="http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/holiday-open-house/">http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/holiday-open-house/</a>
10-Dec-2017	"Winter Wander" at the Tor.Bot.Garden - 10:00am to 12:00pm - \$12.00	<a href="#">Register with the Toronto Botanical Gardens</a>
Thursdays, 2:00 to 7:00	Organic Farmers Market at the Toronto Botanical Gardens	<a href="#">Toronto Botanical gardens</a>
Nov 17 to Jan 07	"12 Trees: Let There Be Light" - 12 Christmas Trees by 12 Toronto Artists	<a href="#">At the Gardiner Museum</a>
Nov 16 to Dec 23	Toronto Christmas Market at the Distillery District	<a href="#">Noon to Nine Every Day except Mondays - Christmas Market Closed on Mondays</a>
On-Going	Certify Your Garden Through The Canadian Wildlife Federation	<a href="http://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore-our-work/connecting-with-nature/in-the-garden/get-certified/?src=ws">http://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore-our-work/connecting-with-nature/in-the-garden/get-certified/?src=ws</a>

This list is to alert you to some of what's going on horticulturally in Toronto and the surrounding areas. Comprehensive information about each event is **not** listed here. We don't have the space for that. If you see something that interests you, then explore it further on your own. If you decide to go to one of these events, please let us know about your experience. **Thanks!**

**For a detailed on-line listing, go to [gardenmaking.com](http://gardenmaking.com), and select "Garden Events - Ontario"**



EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB



Website: [www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)  
MEMBERSHIP FORM  
Year: 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Your privacy is respected. We will only use your email address to send you EYGC information. We do not distribute your email address to anyone else.

New       Renewal      Payment       Cash       Cheque

Single Membership (\$20)       Family Membership (\$30)

Receive newsletter and club events via email

If new membership: how did you hear about us, e.g. the Mirror, a neighbour, our brochure?

Age Group:       Under 18       18-60       Over 60

Note: it is strictly voluntary if you choose to check one of these boxes. The rental rate at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse is a lower rate for organizations with a high number of seniors (over 60) and youth (under 18) therefore it is helpful, but not necessary, for us to have this information.

I would like to volunteer in some capacity with the Club

Membership fees are due by January of each year. 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, c/o Cristina Brown, 7 Knightsbridge Road, Scarborough, ON M1L 2A8

Personal Information & Privacy Act Disclaimer

*The information provided on this form is for the exclusive and confidential use of EYGC. Personal information of members, such as your name, address and telephone number is published in the EYGC Yearbook to identify a contact person for a specific event. This will be maintained in accordance with Canada's Personal Information and Electronics Document Act.*

Do you want your name in the yearbook's members list?       Yes       No

The East York Garden Club is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, District 5

## *Welcome to the New East York Garden Club Members!*

The following people have become members of the East York Garden Club since September 1st, 2017. Please join us in welcoming them to the garden club.

*Alma Bailey*

*Elizabeth King*

*Susan Lagosky*

*Patricia Mosdell*

*Susan Mosdell*

*Sandra Laforme*

*Ken Sugamori*

*Bev Vandahl*



*If you would like to make a submission to be included in the next issue of "The East York Garden" newsletter, the next deadline is:*

*December 22nd, 2017.*

*Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to Michael Woods at:*

*[woods-eygc@bell.net](mailto:woods-eygc@bell.net)*

*We're on the Web! Find out more*

*information and get back issues of this newsletter at our website:*

*[www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)*



**EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB**

*"The East York Garden" is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club*