

# The East York Garden

Issue Date: 2021  
November December



Photo Credit: Morning Glory by Jennifer Smith

*Garden Club meetings will continue to be held online through Zoom until the situation is resolved with the Corona Virus, COVID-19.*

*We hope you've been enjoying our Facebook page. Thank you so much to all those individuals who are contributing items for us all to enjoy.*

*We will continue to publish the EYGC newsletter. It's an opportune time to write that article for the newsletter that you never seemed to have enough time for before. We also want to hear from our members letting us know what sort of things they have been doing to help get them through this very difficult time. Are you creating holiday wreaths, floral centerpieces or potpourri? End your stories and photos to the newsletter team for our next issue. Please rename your photo files with the plant name if relevant. What are your winter garden plans?*

*newsletter@eygc.ca*



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 July, 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.

To inquire about membership, please contact:

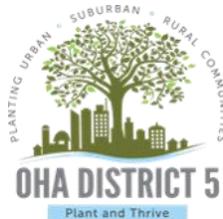
**Cristina Brown at:**  
416-755-9077

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

**President:**  
Diane Dyson

**Vice President:**  
Rosalind Regnier

**Newsletter Editor/Art Director:**  
Jennifer Smith  
and Maureen Ballentine



## Speaker Schedule for 2022

| Date        | Speaker                 | Subject           |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| January 20  | Claudia and Duncan Wood | Allotment Gardens |
| February 22 | Rob Grand               | ZooShare          |

**JOIN EYGC's Annual General Meeting**  
on Thursday November 18 at 7:00pm.

Zoom link to be shared.

Dial in by phone is also available.

Agenda includes reports,  
financial statements and elections.

**Our Scavenger Hunt theme is GARDEN THINGS**

## Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:  
"This is January February in  
East York"?

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the cover of the next Newsletter!  
(Landscape format is best)

[newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)

## November December 2021 EYGC Newsletter

### Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Alan Barber, Mary Lou Burt, Dianne Cavanaugh, Diane Dyson,  
Malcolm Geast, Barb Fairbanks, Gail Gregory, Suzanne Isaacs,  
Anna Leggatt, Pat Mosdell, Rob Norquay, Wendy Plume,  
Jennifer Smith, Caroline Smoyer,  
Vera Stoyanoff*

# Message from EYGC's President



## Prez Patch by Diane Dyson

The East York Garden Club Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held this month on November 18th. And, if I did the math correctly, we are in our 95th year. In a wonderful coincidence, EYGC's Greeting Card coordinator, Joyce Crook, recently celebrated her 95th birthday! (We should all send her a card!)

Once again the AGM will be online, but Kim Hewitt, one of our Board Executive, is planning some fun for us! The Annual General Meeting is also the time when we recruit new members to our Board, all volunteers who want to support horticultural community building.

So, the occasion of this annual meeting got me thinking about all the many good people who keep this club going.

Volunteers are what make the Garden Club so vital. Members such as Rick Plume and Linda Boyko who coordinate the monthly photo contest – something that has become more complicated since we can only meet virtually – are owed our thanks in this virtual world. Also, Maureen Ballentine and Jennifer Smith who both regularly create this award-winning newsletter you are enjoying right now.

EYGC has veteran and stalwart contributors, including Roz Regnier, Barb Fairbanks, Rosemary Vandierendonck, Cristina Brown, Susan Bartlett, and Barb Foster who have cumulatively given close to half a century of leadership to the club. And it is habit-forming: I recently spoke to a former president who joined the EYGC in the 1970s. She's still committed, so I phoned in order to update her contact information.

Stacey Shannon and Sue Wells faithfully deliver the printed newsletter to those without email. Master Gardeners like Veronica Callinan, Anna Leggatt, and Tena Van Andel are always so generous with their time and advice! Newer and equally keen members like Michelle Barraclough, Beth Binnington and Heather Whetstone are showing up, hands up ready to help out, too!

Sometimes volunteering is a family affair at EYGC. There are the powerhouses such as Lynda and Jacqueline Tanner, Paul Sarjeant and Karen MacDougall or Alan Barber (still active) and Michael Woods (still missed). Linda and Dan Heath joined EYGC together. Malcolm Geast and Dawn McEachern stand out, having gone further by supporting the Ontario Horticultural Association and District activities. (I see you too Rosemary, Joyce, and Maureen, among others no doubt, who are also active volunteers in other community groups outside our Club!)

This is a fool's endeavour I have begun, naming the people I have seen contributing so much to the EYGC. I know that I have missed so many more, including Wendy Plume, Dan and Nina, and Wini Stoddart, now passed but the one who first welcomed me to the Club.

The richness of this club is in the many ways it deepens our friendships across the community for all of us.

In closing, I invite you to renew your EYGC membership. Join with us again this year. Whatever it brings, we'll be sure to have some fun!

*Diane, [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)*

*416 786-6765*

# Member Photos

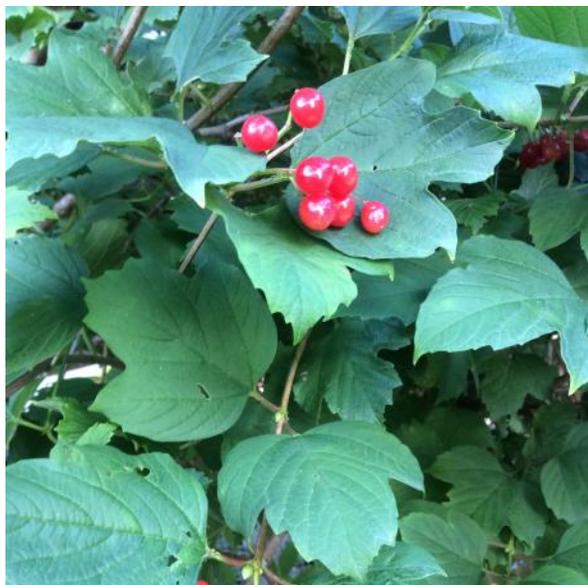
Send us some photos of your garden or your neighbourhood gardens and we'll put them in the next newsletter.

Please send photos to: [newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)

Right now (end of September) my High Bush Cranberry is in fruit. My plant came from a tiny piece that I nipped off a tree in the ravine. I planted it one spring and it has grown into a tree.

The original ravine tree succumbed to an insect that ate away its leaves. My tree does get some insect damage but has been thriving. The plant has distinctive white spring flowers. An image can be obtained in wildflower guides. These clumps of red berries are the fruit and a sour fruit it is! So like cranberries it would require a lot of sugar. I don't know if I'll get them harvested to make a sauce - but it is close to Thanksgiving so I ought to try. I wonder if any other members have this plant and if they have made a sauce from it. It rooted and grew quite easily and will not take up much garden space as it is tall and skinny.

*by Gail Gregory*



From my composter—by Mary Lou Burt

# September Photo Contest Winners

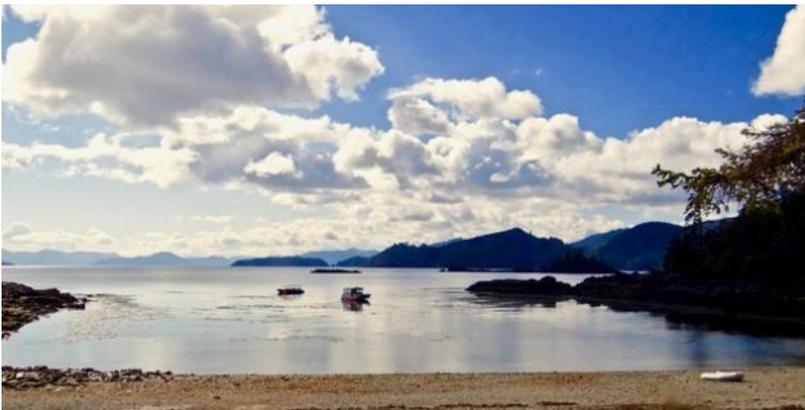
## “September Skies”



**1st place - Pat Mosdell**



**2nd place—Wendy Plume**



**3rd place—Anna Leggatt**

# October Photo Contest Winners

## “ Harvest”



**1st place—Vera Stoyanoff**



**2nd place tie —Caroline Smoyer**



**2nd place tie—Wendy Plume**



**3rd place tie—Dianne Cavanaugh**



**3rd place tie—Suzanne Isaacs**

# Facebook News!

Our **East York Garden Club** Facebook group has grown to **103** members. If you haven't had a chance yet, come and check us out. We are a private group open to anyone who wants to join, EYGC member or non-member. Everyone must answer the three questions and agree to our rules before joining. Invite your fellow gardener friends to join. We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!

*Cheers, Kim*  
Kim Hewitt



 **Nola McConnan**  
October 12 at 2:50 PM · 🌐

We always knew this plant as Wintergreen when it grew at our cottage on Lake Rosseau. The Latin is Gaultheria.

I had it in the wrong spot for a couple of years at the front of the house. Transplanted it last spring to under the Clematis. It is now a very happy plant. It is even sending out runners. And Yes, it's delicious!



👍 10      Seen by 60

👍 Like      💬 Comment

**Group Rules from the Admins**

- 1 Be Kind and Courteous** ...  
We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.
- 2 No Hate Speech or Bullying** ...  
Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.
- 3 No Promotions or Spam** ...  
Give more than you take to this group. Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed.
- 4 Respect Everyone's Privacy** ...  
Being part of this group requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but may also be sensitive and private. What's shared in the group should stay in the group.

 **Michelle Barraclough**  
📷 · October 3 at 9:25 AM · 🌐

Around. Combermere. The trees are starting to change. Beautiful.



👍 Rosemary Vandierendonck and 21 others    4 Comments    Seen by 72

👍 Like      💬 Comment

# Our September talk by Aileen Barklay

## Oak Ridges Moraine

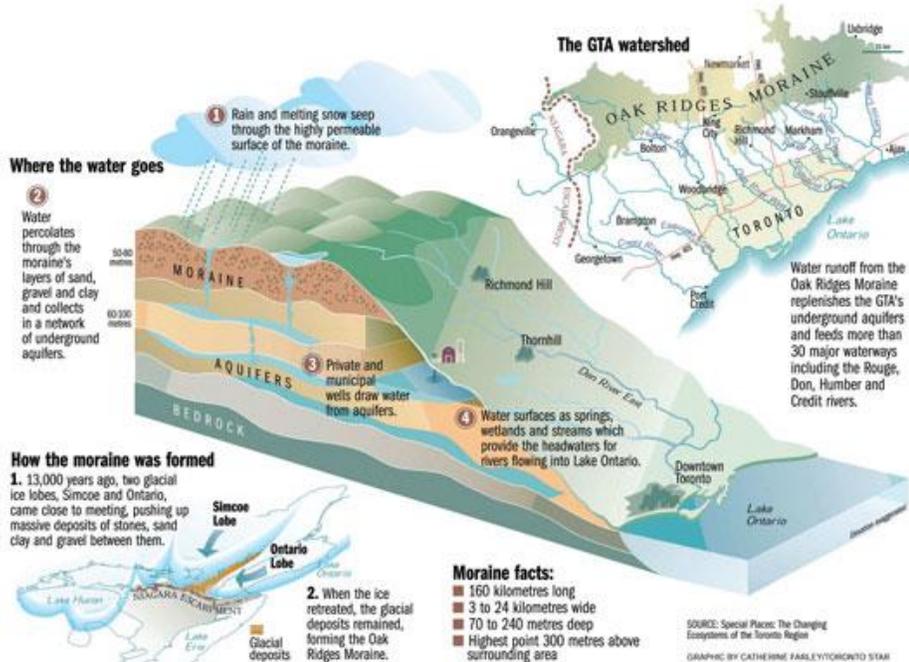
Summary by Jennifer Smith



Aileen Barklay is an enthusiastic and dynamic speaker. She describes herself as an ecologist and a sustainable gardener. She has held many jobs focused on the natural world and feels very fortunate to now work for the Land Trust.

A moraine is material left behind by a moving glacier. The mounds of sand and gravel that compose most of the Oak Ridges Moraine absorb water quickly. Instead of running off into streams and ponds as it would on some other soils, water that falls on the Moraine often seeps straight down into the Moraine's sandy core. The clean water that bubbles up from this aquifer feeds 65 river systems and provides drinking water for about a quarter of a million southern Ontarians. So far the Oak Ridges Land Trust has protected 60 properties

on the Oak Ridges Moraine, totalling 4,480 acres of precious habitat land that is safeguarded from development. The Moraine is crucial and ecologically sensitive land. Consider what just one acre of green space, covered with forest, wetland or open meadow does for you: cleans the air, cleans and regulates water, (including assisting with flood control), shelters wildlife, supports pollination, provides space for recreation, protects us from run-off and erosion, ensures dispersal of seeds, and more.



Aileen told us that grasslands are the most threatened habitat on Earth. They provide as much diversity and sequester as much carbon dioxide as forests but receive relatively little recognition.

She also said that misuse of land by humans is nature's biggest problem. Hence the importance of this and other preservation organizations. She added that humans' fear and misunderstanding contributes to the increase in species at risk: humans sometimes kill flora and fauna if they fear it—e.g. Massassauga rattlers—instead of just leaving the creature or plant alone.

## She described 5 categories of significant species.

- 1) species at risk: at least 88 of these on the Moraine; these plants and animals no longer have the right conditions in which to exist
- 2) invasive: plants/animals not native to this area whose existence inhibits the growth of natives
- 3) indicator: These species need a very specific habitat. Therefore, if they exist, they “indicate” the presence of this habitat. For example, brook trout need cool water. They die off when the water becomes too warm.
- 4) locally rare: the species may still exist elsewhere, but is no longer able to grow in this area
- 5) adaptive: some species have adapted to the changing climate and are thriving. For example, the Eastern Coyote fares very well in the city. Aileen said that some of these animals have learned to obey red lights in order to safely cross busy roads! Likewise, as we are well aware, raccoons, skunks, robins, and other species live very comfortably in urban environments. Various raptors recognize bird feeders as “buffets” stocked with easy prey.

Biodiversity is essential for climate change mitigation. We humans have made the mess to the environment; we need to clean it up. Aileen encourages us to use native plants as much as possible. Ontario used to be covered by forests and wetlands. Therefore, these habitats are best for a majority of species.

She used the term “nativar”. In the Fall 2021 issue of the TBG’s Trellis magazine, this term is defined as a “cultivar of a native plant”. This issue of Trellis has an interesting discussion about how to curb the threat of invasive plants and, indeed, what is an invasive. It’s a complicated issue. We can do our part by researching a plant before purchasing it to learn more about its origin and its habit: for example, does it spread so easily that it will outgrow other species that we want to maintain? If so, we might pass it by.

Aileen encourages us to replicate a number of habitats in our gardens: thickets and hedgerows, beloved by birds; layers, to have a variety of heights; understory, to provide leaf litter so important to many small plants, insects and other animals. Be sure to provide shelter and natural nesting sites such as wood piles, old stems, and exposed soil. Our dogs need to be leashed when in sensitive areas such as our parks and our cats need to be kept inside. (In a recent TVO documentary, some scientists have labelled feral cats as an invasive species across the world.)

We need to think about the repercussions of our actions: if we put out poison in our homes to kill mice, the sickened mice may leave our homes, die outside, be consumed, and thus poison a predator such as a hawk.

I am often left quite depressed and saddened after a talk about the havoc that humans have wrought on our planet. This time, Aileen’s love of nature and her gentle suggestions left me excited to do what I can to help.



Aileen Barclay’s talk can be rewatched on YouTube. Click on this link—[https://youtu.be/3mPucSH\\_U2o](https://youtu.be/3mPucSH_U2o)

# In Memorium...

## *Remembering Wini Stoddart*

Wini Stoddart was one of the best volunteers a club could have—always cheerful, willing and positive. As long as she didn't have any conflicts with her many other interests, she helped on our gardening projects at the Rockery in Stan Wadlow Park and at the Legion garden on Pape, clerking at the flower shows, helping at our Annual Flower Show and Tea, greeting and mentoring new members, selling our logo t-shirts, etc. As a President I truly valued Wini. She was always a cheerleader for me personally. When I wanted to make changes or try something new she jumped in to help out; she listened and commented helpfully. Her "Sure, I can help" was music to my ears as was, "You're doing a great job, Barb!"

I last saw Wini and her daughter in early August at the boardwalk. She was looking good, but walking with a cane. I kidded her about having a "gardener's knee replacement" like many of our members, but was so surprised to learn of her rare cancer. She was so open about her diagnosis and prognosis, though it must have been very hard for her and all of her family.

I think of Wini often and I thank her for being such a truly nice person. She will not be forgotten.

— Barb Fairbanks



Wini at the Rockery Garden 2010 by Malcolm Geast



Presidents Award —2016

Wini Stoddart passed away in mid-September of this year. She joined the garden club in the summer of 2002(3). She was a very kind and welcoming person. Jennifer Smith remembers encountering Wini and her daughter in Dec. 2017 at a community event which involved sorting donated gifts for neighbourhood children. Susan Bartlett offered this comment: "How sad. Winnie was one of the stalwart volunteers at the Rockery, and it seems she was always around to help out at a plant sale or event, with a cheerful hand and an attitude of 'let's get this done'." At the AGM in 2016, Barb Fairbanks presented Wini with a President's Award for her many years of service to the garden club. Roz Regnier remembers that Wini attended Probus meetings and enjoyed playing Scrabble. Jacqueline Tanner echoed Susan's statement: "Wini was always so cheerful and helpful when she regularly came out to help at the Legion." Linda Heath recalls Wini as a her "wingman" and a vital part of the welcoming committee that Linda and Barb Fairbanks created. Wini warmly welcomed new members and introduced them to other garden club people. Linda added that Wini assisted with the Flower Shows in a number of ways, including staying after to help with any job that needed doing. Wini gave of her time freely and quietly, even anonymously; she never expected any recognition or praise. Susan May enjoyed playing tennis with Wini. She said that Wini was a very good tennis player and then, when Susan joined our garden club, Wini made her feel very welcome. Susan fondly remembers Wini riding her bike everywhere she went. Wini will be sorely missed in our club.

- Jennifer Smith



Rockery Garden 2016—by Barb Fairbanks



The Legion garden crew—2018, by Barb Fairbanks

Gail Gregory has a video of Wini Stoddart's Celebration of Life. If you would like to view this, please contact Gail at (416) 538-4713. Please note that she will be away from mid-Nov. to early Dec. Or you may telephone Diane Dyson at (416) 786-6765.

# Our October Talk with Emma Biggs...



## *Extraordinary Edibles*

### Summary by Jennifer Smith

Emma Biggs is a very articulate and passionate 16-year old gardener, author and radio + podcast host with her father. <https://www.foodgardenlife.com/food-garden-life-show> She is also a busy person: ours was the third club she spoke to this week! She has gardened with her father in Willowdale (in North York) from an early age. She loves that gardening involves trial and error and learning as you experiment.

She attributes her love of tomatoes to Linda Crago. Linda sells heirloom seedlings through <http://treeandtwig.squarespace.com/> 74038 Regional Rd 45, Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0

Emma informed us that there are over 15,000 varieties of tomatoes. She plants about 80 varieties of tomatoes and as many as 100 plants. She grows extra for the squirrels, so she is not too disappointed if the critters eat some of the crop.

*Emma divided her talk into five sections.*

- 1) **Miniature:** The cucamelon (aka mouse melon or Mexican sour gherkin) is a thumb-sized fruit. It doesn't succumb to the same diseases as "regular" cucumbers and will produce for months. Pluto basil, a globe variety, is another miniature favourite. Emma explained that microgreens can be grown indoors year-round. They will grow back after a first cut, although after repeated cuttings they will die off. She showed us a "coyote tomato" that is a currant tomato: yellow and the size of a pea. A "shadow boxing tomato" is a dwarf plant suitable for growing in a container. What a great name! Emma mentioned this book: *Epic Tomatoes. How to Select and Grow the Best Varieties of All Time* by Craig LeHoullier.
- 2) **Massive:** A Zucchini Rampicante squash can be as long as a guitar! Lebanese Mountain tomatoes sometimes weigh up to 3 pounds.
- 3) **Mouthwatering:** Emma assured us that figs can be grown in Toronto; her father grows this very tasty fruit. She reminded us that the pawpaw tree is native to our area and has very delicious fruit. Kumquats are small and orange-flavoured while a Ponderosa lemon is very large. A ground cherry has an intriguing pineapple/butterscotch flavour. A Green Giant tomato is ripe when it is still green. A Habanada pepper has good flavour and no heat.
- 4) **Magnificent:** A "fish pepper" has very pretty variegated foliage as well as a variegated pepper which gradually turns red. A Jigsaw pepper changes colour from purple to red and its foliage is tri-coloured. Emma and her father use irrigation containers which may be bought—Lee Valley sells them—or constructed at home.



# Emma Biggs



receive lots of warmth and therefore need a lot of water. Emma also likes to grow beans. This year she grew over 20 varieties, including Dragon's Tongue, which is a flat bean with purple streaks, and Chioggia, which is striped like a candy cane. I think some of us were surprised when Emma displayed zinnias. Apparently these are edible! She likes to dip them in chocolate. Queeny Lime Orange and Candy Cane zinnia are two very beautiful varieties.

- 5) **Misfits:** Emma experimented with growing a Fastigata Pin Striped peanut, which has purple stripes. She grew Magenta Spreen, which is related to Lamb's quarters; both are edible. The Murasaki Purple pepper has very pretty foliage while the Sugar Rush Peach pepper is hot.

Emma's talk was visually appealing and got us excited about perusing seed catalogues during the long winter months. Emma recommends the following seed companies: Matchbox Seeds <https://matchboxgarden.ca/shop/> located on the Grand River in Haldimand County, ON and Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds in Missouri—<https://www.rareseeds.com/>

## Publications by Emma include:

*Grow Gardeners. Kid-Tested Gardening with Children: A 4 Step Approach*—Jan 1/2015

*Gardening with Emma: Grow and Have Fun: A kid-to-kid Guide*—Jan 22/2019

Find Emma at [emmabiggs.ca](http://emmabiggs.ca) or  
on Instagram @emmabigs\_grows

# Member Interviews...

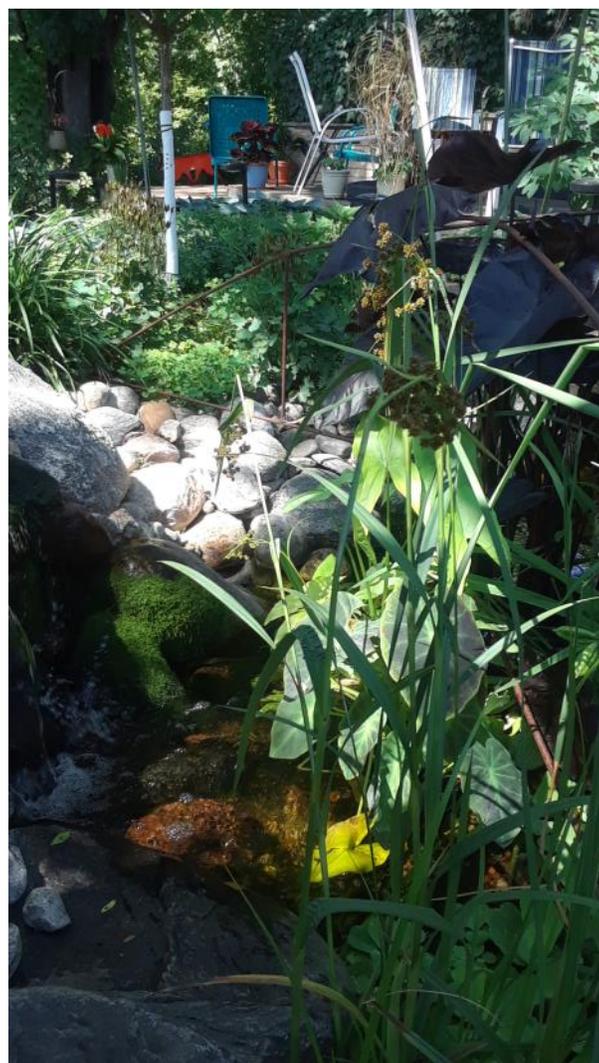
## *Rob Norquay*

By Jennifer Smith, July 1, 2021

I was very fortunate to be treated to a private tour of Rob Norquay & Chris Johnson's extensive ravine garden. Some members of our club may recall the presentation Rob gave about the huge transformation of this property. In autumn of 2015 the lower garden was planted with many native plants and in the spring of 2016 the upper garden was completed. There are many different areas to enjoy: a pond that extends on each side of the walkway; a bench; two seating areas with a couple of chairs each. There are also raised beds with herbs as well as many different trees. Rob has installed a lot of impressive infrastructure such as plastic underneath certain areas to increase the amount of water a plant receives and metal edging along a walkway in which grows a species of ajuga.

Like many gardeners, Rob grew up surrounded with gardens. His grandparents had big gardens. Rob and his siblings picked apples from their orchards every Thanksgiving. As a teenager, Rob grew plants on glass shelves built in his bedroom. Even when he lived in a bachelor pad he created a light stand on which to grow plants. I think he was hooked from an early age! As an adult, Rob managed a tropical plant store and then received a two-year diploma in horticulture from the University of Guelph. He then worked for the Ministry of Labor, starting off by watering their plants (you can bet this job no longer exists!) and working his way into Human Resources. (from managing plants to humans!)

In 2017 Rob organized two tours for garden club members of Ryerson University's Andrew + Valerie Pringle Environmental Green Roof. Apparently, by the second visit the Ryerson gardeners had added bee hives and greatly increased their harvest. Yay bees!



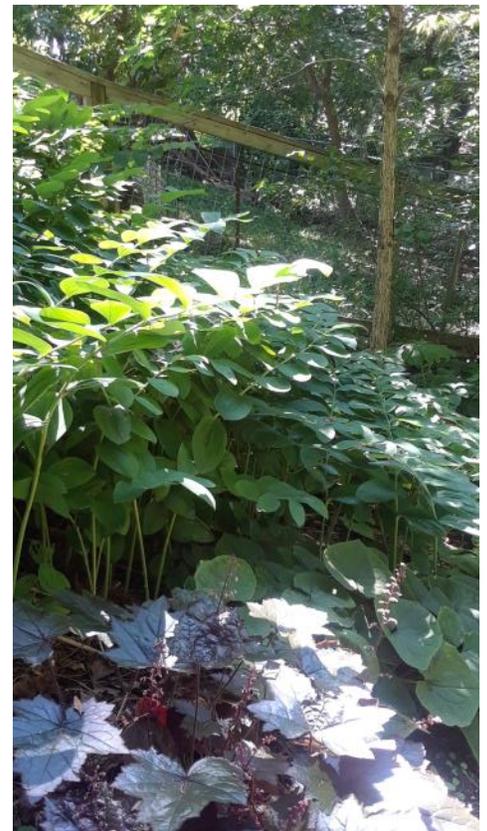
# Member Interviews...

## *Rob Norquay*

By Jennifer Smith

Rob says that he is very fond of trees, particularly evergreens with coatings of winter snow. His worst gardening adventure was planting one hundred Canadian Hemlock seedlings in the ravine just beyond their yard only to have the deer eat every last one! He prefers simple flower forms to those with multiple layers that appear “to be on steroids”. He likes to have colour throughout the season and is quite fond of the Rozanne hardy geranium and its extended blooming season.

Rob encourages new gardeners to not be afraid to experiment. As we toured his garden, he described having to move some plants repeatedly as he learned more about the amount of sunlight or water that a particular plant needed. Or a rabbit or deer discovered a plant and then he needed to find a way to protect the plant or to dispense with it. Also, use Google! There is so much information available on the web.



All photos by Rob Norquay

# Member Interviews...

## *Alan Barber*

By Jennifer Smith, June 2021

I had a lovely time chatting with Alan as we sat on his covered porch admiring his beautiful backyard. He hails from a gardening background—mother, grandparents, siblings—and believes that a love of gardening is inherited. He received a degree from the University of Toronto in Landscape Architecture and had a long career with the City of Toronto's Parks Department. He notes that horticulture in the public realm is vastly different from that in the private. Our city parks work within specific guidelines of what can be planted and also strive to meet the often conflicting needs of many users: dog walkers; plant lovers; gathering spots for large groups and festivals; the list goes on.

Michael Woods, Alan's husband for many years, edited our newsletter from January 2017 to spring 2020. When Alan and Michael joined the garden club in 2016, Michael quickly became involved in many of the board's initiatives. He used his managerial and design skills to assist with the rebranding of our club logo and the designing of the club merchandise. He also helped to promote the "50 in 150" endeavour to have at least 50 members of the garden club have their yard certified by the Canadian Wildlife Federation as a backyard habitat. (See March-April 2017 issue for more about this.) Alan and Michael have generously opened their gardens for many pop-ups over the years. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to his spring garden in early May of this year, at which time Alan created the "visiting stick" to help us to adhere to CoVid gathering rules. Very clever!

Alan says that his first priority in gardening is aesthetics. He wants his gardens to be visually appealing. He believes that a garden is an



# Member Interviews

## *Alan Barber*

By Jennifer Smith, June 2021

expression of one's individual personality. Sometimes this means that following sound horticultural practice takes a back seat. He follows Vita Sackville-West's motto to "Cram, cram, cram every chink and cranny". His gardens feature a multitude of plants with many blooms throughout the growing seasons. Alan appreciates that there is always something more to learn as a gardener. For instance, it can take a gardener some time to learn what will and won't readily grow in one's garden. And then even more time to actually accept this fact! No matter how much he may love delphiniums, they don't flourish in his backyard. He prefers plants that clump as opposed to those that will happily send out endless runners through his sandy soil. He quite likes lilies; I admire his Martagons with their fancy blooms. He focuses on perennials although tucks in a few annuals here and there including a very pretty annual asclepius, beloved by Monarch caterpillars. Alan encourages novice gardeners to realize that there is always another year in which to plant something new or to see how a plant that had a bit of difficulty one year might do next time around. For instance, his red climbing rose is more robust this year than usual. And this year for the first time Alan is growing cherry tomatoes in hanging baskets. One's garden is never finished! P.S. At the plant sale in late September, Alan reported that the cherry tomatoes grew very well in the hanging basket and that he may repeat this next year.

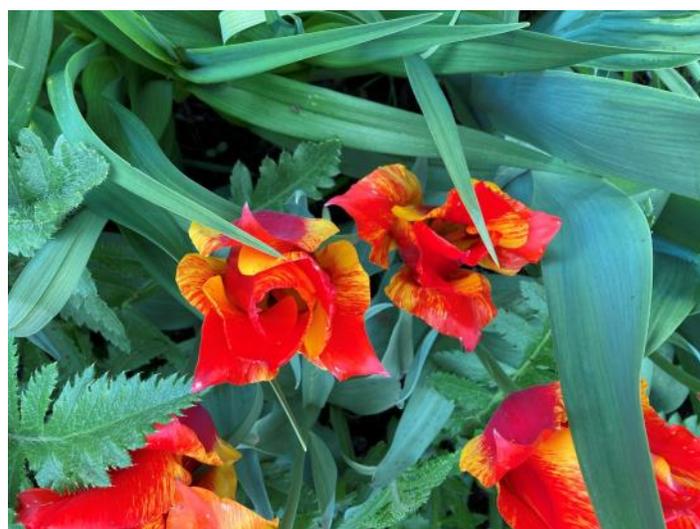


Photo Credit: Jennifer Smith

# How To and Who Knew

## **Gardening Fun at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10**

by Jacqueline Tanner

Starting in May and running until November, several volunteers and I have been

gardening at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10 on Pape near O'Connor. We usually meet every two or three weeks on Wednesdays around 6 to plant, weed, deadhead and more as needed. This year we planted many items that were left over from our EYGC plant sale, so next year the garden is going to be especially lovely. The members of the Legion are so grateful for our help and passersby often comment on how lovely the garden looks. Every EYGC member is welcome to come out and help. Our stalwart and regular volunteers are Alan Barber, Velma Ko, Sue Mason, Diane Dyson, Roz Regnier and Susan May.



## **The Big Red Oak Tree**

An Update by Jacqueline Tanner

You may remember reading about the gigantic 250-yr-old red oak tree in North York in last year's November-December newsletter. This tree has grown on land near the Humber River since before Toronto was a city. Its trunk measures five metres in circumference and it stands at least 24 metres high.

The property on which the tree grows was put up for sale in 2019, placing the tree at risk of destruction by developers.

Local neighbours started a fundraising effort to buy the property and build a parkette around it. City Council said it would match the fundraised amount. EYGC donated \$250 dollars. Unfortunately, the fundraising efforts came up short but city council contributed the money so that the property could be purchased.

The City takes possession on December 1st. A parkette will be built around the tree so that all can bask in its immense glory.

# Made from my backyard harvest

Send us your recipes that include seasonal ingredients, ideally from your own garden but not required. Include a photo if you have one. Pictures get the tastebuds going!

## Pumpkin Muffins

from: *The everyday squash cook* by R. Firing, I. Knight & K Knight (2014)



1/2 cup raisins  
1/3 cup apple cider (or any juice)  
1 and 3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1/4 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 cup veg. oil  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup applesauce (unsweetened)  
1/2 cup canned unsweetened pumpkin puree  
1/2 tsp vanilla extract  
pumpkin seeds (not sure of quantity)

Preheat oven to 375°F. Prepare two 12-cup muffin pans.

Soak the raisins in the juice while preparing the muffin batter.

In a medium bowl, mix dry ingredients.

In large bowl, combine oil and sugar, then mix in the eggs, applesauce, pumpkin and vanilla. Drain the juice into this mixture. Gently stir the dry ingredients into this mixture. Fold in the raisins. Sprinkle tops with the pumpkin seeds.

Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups until 3/4s full.

Bake for 18 minutes; may need more time. Done when toothpick inserted into centre comes out clean.

Remove from oven and let cool in pan for 5 mins., then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Yield: 15 muffins

*Thank you Jennifer Smith for this recipe.*

# The Meadoway by Anna Leggatt

I frequently drive up Bermondsey Road (on the East York, North York border). Four years ago, I noticed the ground in the Hydro corridor was being ploughed up. This continued for the next two or three years with signs saying “Naturalization Project”. This sounded good, but I did not have high hopes.

Then this summer - “Wow!” The area was full of colour with yellow daisies of several kinds, white Queen Anne’s Lace, pink milkweed and touches of mauve and blue from Bergamot and Verain. Butterflies were flitting around.

I Googled and discovered this was the 200 hectare Meadoway, costing \$85 million. It will, when completed in 2025, be 16 km of linear green space, linking the Don Valley Ravine with the Rouge Urban National Park. It passes through 34 neighbourhoods, 15 parks and 7 ravines. The areas were mostly seeded in 2020. It will be home for over 1000 species of flora and fauna, providing scientific research possibilities. It also has 10 agricultural gardens. The path beside the Hydro lines is open to cyclists and pedestrians, but not to motorised vehicles. This path is almost complete - driving along, we cannot yet see a link from the Don Valley. A new bridge will link the eastern end to the Rouge. It will then be possible to cycle from Downtown Toronto to the Rouge without going on a street (only crossing them!). It will be the largest linear park in Canada and has won a 2021 Design Award. In mid July, we drove east through Scarborough, trying to keep close to the Hydro lines, stopping when a street crossed the corridor. There was colour all the way along, but with different combinations. Some had more Bergamot.

I stopped again to take photos in early October. The yellows were then Evening Primrose and Goldenrods, with blueish accents from Fall Asters. There were brown spikes of seeds from earlier Evening Primroses and Mullein. The picture was softened by tawny grasses, undulating in the breeze. I saw a late monarch floating around and a few other butterflies. I was excited by the almost deafening twitter of small birds. I could see Goldfinches and House Sparrows and I thought many others. We have several species of Hawks in this area so we expect they will be hunting rodents and birds. Go and visit - don’t wait till summer - a winter walk or bike ride.

The Meadoway is being led by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation in partnership with the City of Toronto and Hydro One, and is made possible through the generous support of the Weston Family Foundation.

[themeadoway.ca](http://themeadoway.ca)



*October 5—Evening Primrose, Fall Asters, grass seed heads and more—photo by Anna Leggatt*



*July 19 —Black-eyed Susan and other daisies, Bergamot, Queen Anne’s Lace, Evening Primrose— photo by Anna Leggatt*

## EYGC Memberships 2021

**Memberships: Individual—\$20/year, Family - \$30/year.**  
Send cheques payable to “East York Garden Club” to:  
East York Garden Club,  
c/o Cristina Brown,  
7 Knightsbridge Rd,  
Scarborough, M1L 2A8

Our membership form can be found online at <http://www.eygc.ca/ClubInfo/HowToJoin.html>

**NOTE: If paying by e-transfer NO PASSWORD is required. Please add your full name and address in Notes section of the e-transfer .**

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY—PLANT SALES

It was so nice to see so many faces and get to talk to everyone.

The plant sale was a great success and in summary we made \$652.00.

On Saturday, it was warm day and we closed up just in time before the rain. We had 35 people at the sale, including 8 volunteers, and made \$325.00.

On Sunday, it was another beautiful day, and we opened the sale to non-members, and it was only open for 2 1/2 hours. We had total of 47 people (does include some cute children), also included 6 volunteers and we made \$313.00.

The remaining unsold plants, left at Alan's house, made the club another \$14.

The last Plant Sale was Sept 29 & Sept 30, 2019. Day one sold \$551 and 2nd day was \$207 for a total \$758. So considering the pandemic we did very well.

Thank you for the great visits at the sale!

Rosemary Vandierendonck, Treasurer

# Fall Plant Sale

In September, Alan Barber hosted our plant sale. Thank you Alan!

One time, years ago, when I worked at a large community service agency, we received a donation of more than one hundred plants after I saw a Tweet from the annual Garden Show, looking for someone to adopt them. We distributed them to the residents across our scattered housing, to the Seniors' building, to the family housing, and to the four-year transitional housing program that supported men moving off the street. The tenants were delighted, picking among the many offered, to take one to their unit.

A man who had led a hard life and been "living rough" outside before he came to our program also chose a plant to adopt. After choosing carefully, he said, "If I can care for this plant and keep it alive, maybe then I can get a pet. And if I can care for my pet and keep it well, maybe then I can get a girlfriend!" I don't know if he ever got his wish but I think about his hopeful tone that day.

I was reminded of that story after the EYGC Plant Sale this month. We sold hundreds of plants. And yet, at the end of the week, a number remained unsold and homeless.

So, I scooped up a dozen of the \$2 houseplants: a few Spider plants, some tiny Jade plants, a couple of aloes, and even one thin stalk of an Oxalis, each in their own small pot. I placed them out at the edge of my front yard, under the branches of a large Yew. The sign read for all: Have a plant!

Children stopped as they passed by and debated an adoption with their parents. Teenagers huddled over the pots. But the first one was an old fellow who regularly wheels by my place, pushing a cart of collected tin cans. He chose a Jade, one of my childhood favourites.

I see him pass by still. And I wonder if, perhaps in the spring, he'll have a dog.

- Diane Dyson



Photo credits: Diane Dyson, Alan Barber

# Jumping worms found in East York

By Tena Van Andel

Much to my dismay, earlier this summer, I found invasive jumping worms in my garden. They hadn't been officially reported in Ontario, and I was mortified to think I was patient zero as these worms are devastating to our natural areas. I have reported these worms to various invasive plant/animal organisations as well as a researcher at University of Toronto and the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency.

It was the first credible report of this worm in Toronto and as word has been spread, unfortunately, these worms are being discovered in more places than just my garden.

East York Gardeners should be on the lookout for these worms and should not be moving soil from one area to another. I know it's a real nuisance - I had to replot over 300 native plants in clean soil just to make sure I wasn't further spreading the worms or their tiny eggs which do winter over. If they take hold in our natural areas, it will be an environmental disaster.

**WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT INVASIVE JUMPING WORMS** - *Amyntas* sp.

Most worms feed within the soil layers. Asian earthworms are detritivores, feeding on leaf litter on top of the soil.

You can use a mixture of dried mustard and water to pour on a suspected area as a test. They don't like the burn and will emerge.

I had better success just poking around. A dead give away is an area of bare soil that has large, crumbly, water resistant worm castings. Also areas of mulch where you are so impressed how the weeds haven't grown. I have a *Stewartia* that looks like it suffered from chlorosis and has stunted growth. Lo and behold, remove the mulch and out jumped the worms.

Remove the mulch to soil level, again looking for crumbly soil. They are surface worms so if you disturb the mulch or soil, they appear. Like a horror sci fi movie, they frantically emerge from the soil and move like little tiny snakes. They will also lose their tails in an effort to escape. It's really creepy.

The other distinguishing factor is the clitellum (the band around the worm). It is milky white, entirely circles the worm and is fairly smooth to the body of the worm. I had a hard time seeing this when they were young, but as adults it's very easy to see.

**Here's more info:**

<https://laidbackgardener.blog/2021/01/05/jumping-worms-the-upcoming-environmental-disaster/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WkBkscat6s>

[https://www.eomf.on.ca/media/k2/attachments/Asian-Worms\\_16-January-2019.pdf](https://www.eomf.on.ca/media/k2/attachments/Asian-Worms_16-January-2019.pdf)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/22/realestate/invasive-jumping-worm-garden-summer.html>

If you find these worms in your garden, you should report them to Dr. McTavish at University of Toronto - michael.mctavish@alum.utoronto.ca and the CFIA - 647-790-1011

So sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but it's really important that we gardeners stop these worms from wiggling into our gardens.



# Upcoming Speakers

## *Allotment Gardens*

Presented by Claudia and Duncan Wood—Thursday January 20th, 2022

Claudia and Duncan Wood, both retired, were members of the Beach Garden society for 15 years and served on the Board for 10 years. They recently joined Riverdale Horticultural Society and The Greater Toronto Bulb Society. They are enthusiastic gardeners who enjoy learning by doing! When they obtained an allotment garden permit from the City of Toronto 10 years ago, Claudia felt like she had won the lottery. They have tried growing many vegetables and flowers and have learned that every year is different with different results! They also maintain their shady Beach garden and work on a team of former BGS members to maintain the Main St. Library Garden.



## *ZooShare*

Presented by Rob Grand —Thursday February 22nd, 2022

Rob Grand is an experienced entrepreneur and business manager with expertise creating, developing, and consulting with successful businesses, social enterprises, and non-profits in the Environmental and Renewable Energy sectors. Rob is currently the General Manager of ZooShare Biogas Co-operative, Canada's first Zoo-based biogas plant. Rob has served as a Director and Advisor to more than a dozen organizations including the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Green Enterprise Toronto, The Coalition for a Green Economy, and Fashion Takes Action. Outside of the office, Rob coaches hockey, teaches skiing, paddles whitewater, hikes trails, climbs rocks, and can often be found with camping gear strapped to his touring bike.



# Notices to Members

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2022

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| January  | <i>January in Toronto</i> |
| February | <i>The Colour Red</i>     |
| March    | <i>Black and White</i>    |

**Entries accepted from 1st to 14th of the month.**

\*Please note, if we are able to resume regular in-person club activities, we will return to our regular format for photo contests including a judged show in November 2021.

[photocontest@eygc.ca](mailto:photocontest@eygc.ca) or  
**416-469-5593**

## EYGC Code of Conduct

In keeping with the City of Toronto's Anti-harassment policy when using any City of Toronto properties, East York Garden Club, with the kind assistance of the Leaside Garden Club, has designed an **EYGC Code of Conduct** to adhere to the City's regulations.

In short it says: ***A guiding principle of the East York Garden Club is that everyone is entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. Although EYGC promotes freedom of expression and open communication, we expect all members to adhere to this principle as outlined in the full "Code of Conduct".***

*Since we did not have a printed year book for 2021, Alan Barber's winning photo for 2020 will grace the cover of our next printed yearbook.*

### EYGC MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

"CANNABIS, IN ANY FORM, IS NOT TO BE AT ANY EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB MEETING, ACTIVITY OR EVENT, SUCH AS, BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO, OUR REFRESHMENTS, FLOWER SHOWS, PLANT SALES, SEED EXCHANGE."

# The Back Page Garden

Show us your backyard! (or front yard, or balcony...)

Send a photo of your garden at its best, or at your favourite time of year. Show your whole yard, a cozy corner, or any “vignette” that you love & want to share with EYGC members.

Be selective and send only one or two photos, preferably in jpeg format - fairly high resolution is best for clarity. Send to the newsletter at:

[newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)

*Shown—Blondy Euonymous by Jennifer Smith*



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:

**January 5, 2022**

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to

[newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)

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)



“The East York Garden” is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club