



'The East York Garden' is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

Issue Date: 2023
September October

The East York Garden



Photo Credit: Mary Lou Burt

Our ***East York Garden Club*** Facebook group has grown to **156** 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 and post items you think our members might enjoy. We look forward to seeing you post on our Facebook Group.



Send us your photos for our next newsletter. Let us know what type of content you would like to see in issues going forward.



The **East York Garden Club** is
a member of:
The Ontario Horticultural
Association, District 5.

Meetings are held on the third
Monday of each month (except
July, August and December) in
the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373
Cedarvale Avenue, at 7:30 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

President:
Diane Dyson

Vice President:
Rosalind Regnier

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



Speaker Schedule for 2023

Date	Speaker	Subject
September 18	Ursula Eley	Sustainable Design
October 16	Javad Mozarari	Urban Farming
November		AGM

People's Choice Photo Contest

Deadline—September 28, 2023

"Trees"

Submit to photocontest@eygc.ca

Watch your email for voting

Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:
***"This is November/December in
East York?"***

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the
cover of the next Newsletter!
(Landscape format please)
newsletter@eygc.ca

Sept/Oct 2023 EYGC Newsletter Photo

Credits Various Photos:

*Michelle Barraclough,
Beth Binnington, Mary Lou Burt, Dianne Cavanaugh, Barb
Fairbanks, Malcolm Geast, Ann Nicholson, Jennifer Smith,
Monvie Utami, Heather Whetstone*

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson

East York Garden Club members have been busy this summer with a number of Pop-up Garden Tours (thanks to Beth for coordinating!), a mid-summer potluck (hosted by Dianne Cavanaugh!), and the first public Flower Show since the pandemic (many thanks Heather, Barb, and Kim for leading the day!). Notices were posted in the local paper and Paula Fletcher's office shared the announcement. The day was well-attended (despite the promise of only two cookies), and some new members even joined up.

At our next meeting, long-time flower show judge and gardening expert Ursula Eley will lead us through the topic of Sustainable Design. It's a topic I have seen other garden clubs get quite passionate about, worried that designs will suffer with newer materials, or adamant that these changes are necessary. We should learn a lot this month. In October we will host Javad Mozafari from FoodShare who will talk about food sustainability and urban farming.

These coming weeks will be busy. Here's a snippet of local gardening events:

- The Agincourt Garden Club is hosting a "Big Flower Show" on Saturday Sept 16, 2 – 4 p.m. at the Knox United Christian Education Centre, 2575 Midland, at Rural Ave.
- The Canadian Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society Annual flower Show, Sept 23, 2 – 4 p.m. at the Agricola Finnish Lutheran Church, 25 Old York Mills Rd. (www.mumsanddahlias.com)
- In collaboration with two artists and Nuit Blanche, the Toronto Botanical Garden is hosting a free night-time event, Saturday, Sept 23, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Cliffcrest Butterflyway's 4th Annual Native Tree giveaway. Place your order through their website by October 5th: cliffcrestbutterflyway.com/native-tree-giveaway

But before I lose you to the pages of the rest of the newsletter, a few more Club notes:

- If you haven't picked the 2023 Yearbook and/or your membership card up yet, please do so at an upcoming meeting! We are not delivering these, as we did during the height of the pandemic.
- EYGC is getting more techie. Look for a minor by-law change at our Annual General Meeting in November to allow easier use of technology with e-transfers.
- The garden at the Legion on Pape is weedy again, yet EYGC volunteers to tend it are scarce. We need your help! Please watch for the announcements.

Finally, my four years as President are winding down this fall. It's been a darn ton of fun! Despite the more distanced activities we have all endured since 2020, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know so many of you and to share our love of green and flowering things. I encourage you each to take the opportunity to join and volunteer whenever you have the chance. The Club has thrived since 1926 because of local people's commitment. Thank you to all of you for the time, talents, and treasure you give.

Grow on!

Diane, gardenclub@eygc.ca 416 786-6765



Tiger Bee Fly

By Dianne Cavanaugh

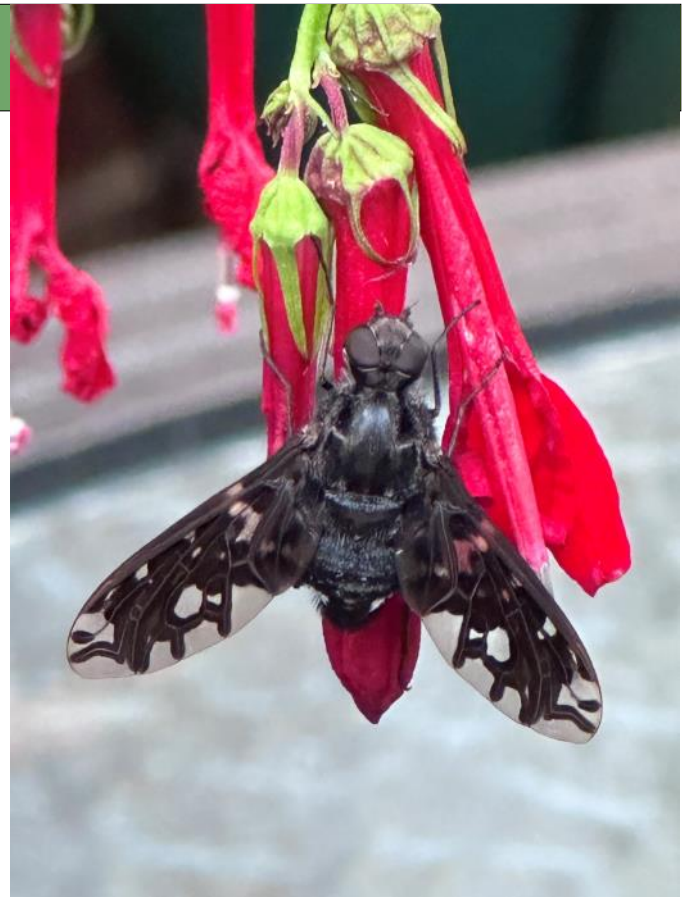
Have you seen a Tiger Bee Fly? This insect is not a bee at all; it is a true fly.

I saw my first one in August this year in my backyard on a cut stem of a Cardinal Plant (North American *Lobelia cardinalis*). I think it was enjoying the nectar flowing from the flowers; it stayed on the flower for a day and a half.

Based on what I read, the Tiger Bee Fly (*Xenox tigrinus*) is Mother Nature's #1 control agent against an insect known as the carpenter bee. The female carpenter bee bores holes as long as 10 inches in bare wood on our homes, decks and other structures to lay their eggs.

After the Tiger Bee Fly mates, the female hunts carpenter bee nest sites. As such, she is often seen hovering near carpenter bee nests. Once the female Tiger Bee Fly finds a nest containing carpenter bee eggs, she lays her eggs alongside the eggs left by the bees.

The fly's larvae are parasites. On hatching, they are extremely active and move about seeking carpenter bee larvae. The tiger bee fly larvae then attach themselves to newly hatched carpenter bee larvae and methodically drink them dry. When each tiger bee fly completes this vampire-like task all that is left of the carpenter bee is an empty hull. The carpenter bee is literally eaten alive.



Though you might have never seen a Tiger Bee Fly, there is a chance one is living in your backyard, so, before you go swatting or killing it, it is important to know that it is not a stinging or biting insect. In truth, the tiger bee fly is harmless and highly beneficial; it is a member of a suite of native pollinators that inhabit our backyards. If you are looking for an ally to help control carpenter bee damage to your home and property, it makes sense to encourage Tiger Bee flies to take up residence in your backyard.

One of the simplest ways to do this is to stock your yard with a variety of native nectar-bearing plants such as coneflowers, cardinal flower and asters and reduce or eliminate the use of insecticides.

Our 2023 Annual Flower Show and Tea...

By Barb Fairbanks

We had lovely weather for our Annual Flower Show and Tea on Saturday August 19th . Our President, Diane Dyson, wore a lovely flowered sundress in honour of the event!

The flower show impressed the judges as usual and they were more than happy to use their skills in all the sections in the show schedule.

We had a total of 219 entries in 82 different classes from horticultural specimens, potted plants, hanging plants, dish gardens, herbs, fruit and vegetables and designs.

We had 22 members competing, and 4 first-timers (that includes 2 children under age 10!).

The Awards:

- Best in Show: Heather Whetstone for her yellow gladioli
- Best Cut Specimen: Daisy Auer for her dahlia
- Best Rose: Heather Whetstone for her golden yellow rose
- Best Hanging Planter: Alan Barber for his huge begonia
- Best Collection of Flowers: Heather Whetstone (she grew them all from seed!)
- Best Potted Plant: Leely Chong for her succulent dish garden
- Best Vegetable: Erin Spencer for her Cherokee purple heirloom tomatoes
- Best Design: Anne Stanley for her “Mad Hatter” interpretive design in a teapot

Thank you to our Show Chair, Heather Whetstone, our Annual Flower Show committee, the volunteers and our judges.

This was our first time running the Annual Flower Show since 2019 and the annual flower show committee decided to pare it back a bit so we could easily get back into the swing of it all. Malcolm Geast was our official show photographer and we offered a free refreshment of lemonade and locally sourced bakery cookies. We had Paul Oliver of the Urban Nature store give a talk on birds and feeders and lots of very useful information. We also had our 2023 yearbooks available to hand out to members—better late than never!

Thank you to all our members who came to the event and for bringing a friend.

Thank you to all the members who entered items for the show. Congratulations to all. It takes some thought and time to prepare and enter, but it wouldn't be a flower show without you.

Our 2023 Annual Flower Show and Tea...

Photos Credit: Beth Binnington



Dennis Jones & Rosemary Vandierendonck



Speaker—Paul Oliver



Erin Spencer & Dianne Cavanaugh



Heather Whetstone & Shanaz



Roz Regnier & Kim Hewitt



Margaret McCrae, Jennifer Smith & Judy Douglas



Friday Drop-off—
Dan and Linda
Heath



Staging Table—Linda Boyko & Allie
Piercey

Our 2023 Annual Flower Show and Tea

Photos Credit: Malcolm Geast



Hostas

By Barb Fairbanks

I love hostas. Many others love hostas too. I have discovered through Facebook that there are tons of hosta lovers all over North America!

I was late to joining Facebook—I never wanted to be “out there”. However, I did have items I wanted to sell to help fund the grandson’s future education, so I reluctantly joined. With very few “friends” (enough to make me appear legitimate) plus the East York Garden Club, I got involved.

Recently I saw an ad for the Ontario Hosta Society and clicked, liked what I saw and joined. Yikes! It is addictive! The beautiful photos, the interesting comments, the knowledgeable individuals—it is incredible. I am not an expert by any means, but bit by bit I am becoming more informed.

A woman named Ann Bockes Frederking has some wonderful posts to educate hosta lovers. A recent post included information on HVX a virus affecting hostas all over North America. She included photos, and tips about garden hygiene and the spread of the virus. She ended her post with a list of websites to help educate and here they are:

The Hosta Library: <http://www.hostalibrary.org/>

My Hostas Database: <https://myhostas.be/>

The Hosta Treasury: <https://hostaregistrar.org/>

The Ontario Hosta Society: <https://www.ontariohostasociety.com/>

It is like falling down a rabbit hole reading the posts and looking at the photos and making lists of hostas I would love to have—time flies when reading so much so that I now put on a timer! Here are a few of the hostas in our garden.



Goodness Gracious & Rainbow’s End



June



Waterslide



Popcorn



Luna Moth

Compost Tea Miracle

by Roz Reignier

This is a picture of 96 year old Joyce Crook standing beside her rose that used to win prizes at our flower shows. I decided to try our famous Compost Tea. About 2 weeks ago, I started the process by removing all dead wood back to new leaf growth, then pouring about 2-3 quarts of compost tea on the soil and finally adding last year's leaf mulch. One week later I drove by and counted 8-10 flowers blooming. I decided we needed a picture and left it for another week. Of course, I forgot my camera. Mary Lou suggested we use her cell phone. When we arrived at Joyce's place there were lots of spent blooms and only 3 flowers. I removed all spent blooms and took Joyce's picture with 2 flowers. I think the bush was saying "WE NEED MORE COMPOST TEA".



Joyce Crook



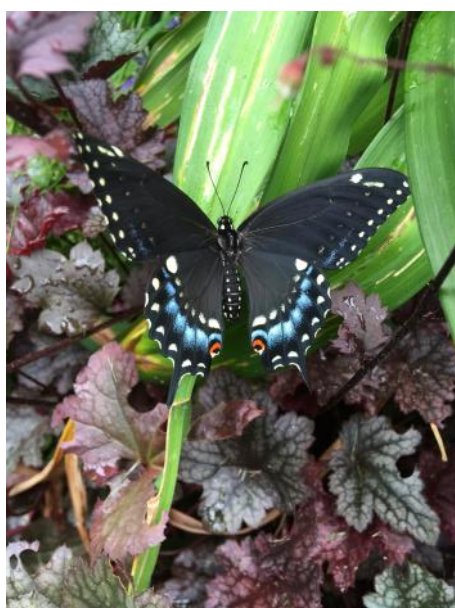
Pop-Up...

July 15—Host Mary Lou Burt

Photos by: Beth Binnington



July 15—Host Alan Barber



Pop-Up

August 5 —Host Debra Lewis



Photo Credit: Jennifer Smith



Photo Credit: Beth Binnington



Photo Credit: Beth Binnington



Photo Credit: Beth Binnington



Photo Credit: Beth Binnington

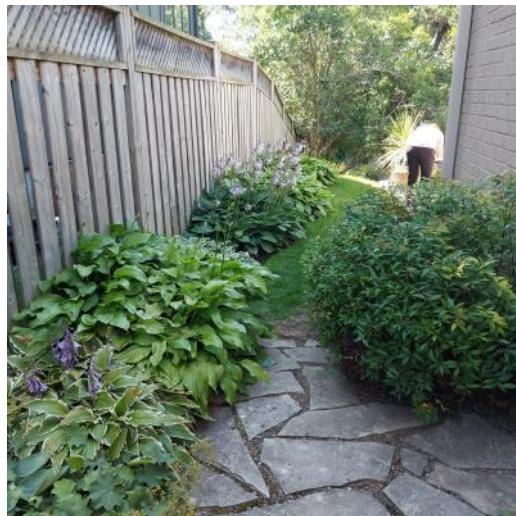
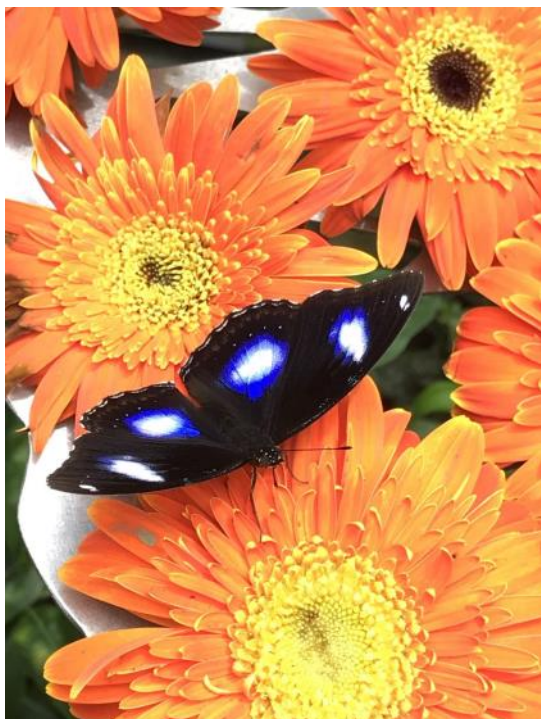


Photo Credit: Beth Binnington

July Photo Contest Winners – “Bursting with Colour”



1st place—Monvie Utami



2nd place —Beth Binnington



3rd place —Michelle Barraclough

Dr. Michael McTavish

“Jumping Worm Activity”

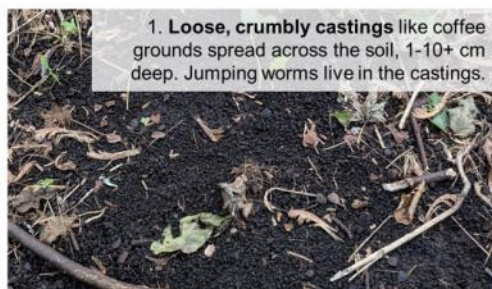
I'm reaching out because we've been in touch previously about jumping worm monitoring/reporting/community science. As we move into the later summer and fall, this is when jumping worm activity becomes the most obvious and easiest to spot. We've already had a handful of new observations reported through EDDMapS. In light of this, we're continuing to encourage community members to know what to look for, keep their eyes open, report any new possible sightings, and try to limit further spread.

ATTENTION: Invasive jumping worms in Ontario

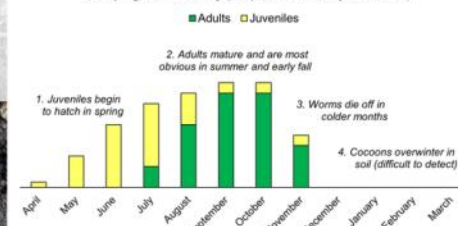
(Prepared August 2023 by Dr. Michael McTavish, University of Toronto)

- **Jumping worms** include several species of non-native, invasive earthworms that have recently been found in Canada and can spread quickly into new habitats.
- Jumping worms rapidly deplete organic matter near the surface, exposing soils to **desiccation, erosion and nutrient loss** and **harming plant biodiversity**.

What am I looking for?



Jumping worm activity (adapted from McCay et al. 2020)



What should I do?

1. **Inspect** new soil amendments and plants for jumping worms and their casts and **watch** for invasion in local parks and natural areas.
2. **Report sightings** to EDDMapS (<https://www.eddmaps.org/>). Collect photos and video of casts and earthworms and upload to *Report sightings > Wildlife > Ontario > jumping worms*.
3. **Limit the spread** by not sharing plants or soil amendments from infested locations and clean off all footwear and tools when working in or walking through an infested area.
4. **Eradicate** small populations (when practical) by euthanizing jumping worms in alcohol and solarizing soil under dark plastic, aiming to achieve at least 40°C for 3 days.

Where can I find more information?

- Invasive Species Centre profile on jumping worms (<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>).
- Contact Dr. Michael McTavish at the University of Toronto (michael.mctavish@alum.utoronto.ca).

July 17 Potluck Dinner

Hosted by Dianne Cavanaugh



Photos Credit: Diane Dyson

Meet a member—Sonia Van Heerden

By Jennifer Smith

It's so interesting to talk with our members and learn more about their interests. Sonia is a rock hound! She and her husband collected gems and minerals and made some of them into jewelry. Who knew!

Sonia first joined our club many years ago. When Home & School committees at her children's schools took precedence, she stopped attending meetings but continued to receive the newsletter. She is not sure when she became an active member again. She is one of two auditors for our financial records. She did the books for lawyers throughout her work life, so now shares this skill with our club. She assists her sister Rosalind Regnier with planning our bus trips and used to help at the Rockery.

Sonia's most rewarding plant is a red climbing rose that was on her property when she moved in 55 years ago. We talked about how some roses thrive with "neglect" while others need special care. She has several other roses; she is shown here in front of her fairy rose, which gave a second, vigorous bloom after an application of compost tea. She is gradually adding more native plants to her gardens in order to support pollinators. She has several types of asters grown from seeds that she harvested in the ravines. She has a nine bark, a serviceberry and a red osier dogwood. She didn't realize that she had so many varieties of hostas until she started to move them around in her gardens. She is a bit frustrated that she converted so much backyard lawn to flowers; it's a lot to take care of. Fortunately, her sons provide assistance with some of the chores. Her advice to novice gardeners is: Don't make your garden beds too large!



Sonia enjoys attending events organized by Probus. The "goal of this club is to provide Fellowship, Friendship, and Fun for men and women in their retirement and semi-retirement years." For over forty years she has also been researching her genealogy. She has learned a lot about her South African husband's relatives and her own Ukrainian history back to the 1700s. She has located living Ukrainian relatives who have emigrated from Ukraine. She is still a member of the Toronto Field Naturalists. We talked about the wildlife we see around us. She has had a fox and raccoons take morning naps on the couch on her back deck. She is an excellent photographer. The EYGC Newsletter Committee really appreciates her photographs of hawks, butterflies and flowers. She attends Woodgreen's online meetings about a wide variety of topics and also attends the YMCA's online gardening group. She is a very busy person!

Our Upcoming Speakers

Ursula Eley—September 18

I've enjoyed gardening all of my life and designing with flowers for over 20 years now. In 2006 I graduated as an accredited judge of floral design, and 5 years later as a judge of horticulture.

COVID brought the international community of floral design clubs closer together, with new opportunities to compete in virtual shows and judge with fellow judges from distant places like India, the UK, South Africa, and Australia. Demonstrating and teaching allow me to share my passion for plants and design and to make even more flower friends.



Javad Mozafari—October 16

Javad Mozafari holds a PhD in Plant Genetics, University of Guelph, Canada; MSc in Plant Breeding, Massey University, New Zealand; and BSc in Crop Science, University of Tabriz, Iran. He is an expert, educator and community leader in sustainable agriculture, agrobiodiversity, food security, and their interfaces with climate change.

Javad's work as professor in Iran's Agricultural Research and Education Organization and Tarbiat Modares University has led to the conservation of thousands of accessions of genetic resources and publication of many research papers in international journals. He has also a long experience working with the United Nations agencies (e.g., FAO, WIPO, CBD, UNEP, UNDP) where he has chaired UN-FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (IT-PGRFA); and many other international agrobiodiversity related fora.



Since his return to Toronto in 2019, Javad has been teaching Vegetable Container Gardening and Vegetable Home Gardening, advocating for conservation of biodiversity, environmentally friendly foods of the future, and adapting urban food systems to climate change. He joined Foodshare in 2021 as Community Engagement Coordinator at Flemo Farm where he worked on building the capacity of the community for enhancing food security through developing: a community education platform on urban farming, local entrepreneurs in urban food production, local farmers' market for providing access to affordable high-quality food, community compost exchange program, crop integrated conservation and environmentally sustainable community. Javad is, presently, coordinating CAMH Sunshine Garden and Community Gardens programs in Foodshare.

Guerrilla Gardener

by David Payette

My friend Kevin Hancey is a guerrilla gardener.

Kevin and his wife Fan Rong live in a rented townhouse condo in Barrie.

Kevin has always been an avid gardener, especially during his time as a farm owner in both Mulmur and Melancthon townships.

But during the decade he and Fan Rong spent living in Singapore his green thumb had to be content with growing plants in pots as is the case now in Barrie.

However, Kevin has cultivated a long row of tomatoes, peppers, beans, cucumbers, and herbs like dill, basil and sage along the length of the 60-foot area of fence covering his backyard and that of two other neighbours separating their townhouses from a Conservation area.

“We are not actually allowed to have vegetable gardens,” Kevin confides, and as a result he has taken it upon himself to fill his front porch and stairs with containers of vegetables, as well as on the stone wall which acts as a boundary between the townhouses and the Conservation area. Based on what he thought was a reasonable technicality, he forged ahead with his garden project without the due consent of his landlord.

Initially, with pots, seeds, soil, fertilizer, and a mini-irrigation system, he states he spent between \$500 to \$600 the first year but now through collecting used pots from a nearby road landscaping project, seed-saving and refurbishing what soil he can, his outlay is about \$250 a year for a 53-pot container garden. He feels, however, that this is a small cost when he can get his exercise and commune with nature during the summer season as well as enjoy the harvest all year long.



Kevin Hancey has created a guerrilla garden along the narrow strip of land separating his rented condo complex and a Conservation area in Barrie.

Photo by Fan Rong



LOOKING FOR NEW EYGC BOARD MEMBERS

As Past-President of the Club, one of my roles is to seek members who can give some time to lead the Club for the next 2 years.

We are **currently in need of 4 to 5 new Directors** to ensure we have a full Board to help lead the Club forward. The time commitment is approximately 2-3 hours a month at Board and Club meetings plus additional time on leading or assisting in on-going or new Club activities.

We know that every community group is struggling to find volunteers nowadays. We want you to know that any skills you can bring to us will be appreciated, valued and will not be wasted. We do have “job” descriptions for the Director position and all the other activities we do to give you scope and time commitment guidelines.

If you are interested, or want more information about the board or volunteering in general, please call or email me at

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

Thank you.
Barb Fairbanks

BY-LAW CHANGES

The Club has now entered the modern era and accepts e-transfers for payments. However, our Treasurer has realized that our by-laws do not permit refunds to members by e-transfers. As an example, a bus tour was proposed in 2023 and some members bought tickets through e-transfer, but the Treasurer must refund members by cheque which is a laborious process. The proposed amendment would streamline any refund process.

By-Law 4(k)

Existing By-Law

Duties of the Treasurer are to maintain accurate financial records, receive all monies; give receipts for the same; deposit monies in the name of the Club in a chartered bank approved by the executive; pay all accounts by cheque signed by any two signing officers consisting of the Treasurer, the President and Vice-President or another Executive Board member; report all financial standings of the Club at the meetings; prepare a financial statement at the end of the fiscal year for the auditors and government departments.

Proposed Amendment

Duties of the Treasurer are to maintain accurate financial records, receive all monies; give receipts for the same; deposit monies in the name of the Club in a chartered bank approved by the executive; pay all accounts by cheque signed by any two signing officers consisting of the Treasurer, the President and Vice-President or another Executive Board member (in the case of refunds, where the original funds were received by e-transfer, an e-transfer payment can be made as payment without the two signing officers' signatures); report all financial standings of the Club at the meetings; prepare a financial statement at the end of the fiscal year for the auditors and government departments.

Notices to Members

PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2023

September: "Trees"

October: "Black and White"

November: "Year Book Cover"

December: "Joy"

Entries accepted until the 28th of the month.

photocontest@eygc.ca or

416-469-5593

CORRECTION

The photograph of Roz Regnier in the Canada Day parade, on page 8 of the July-August '23 newsletter, was mistakenly credited to Karen Bell. It was actually taken by Ann Nicholson.

The editors regret the error.



EYGC Memberships 2023

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 .

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".***

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



Frolic gladiolus from Jennifer Smith's Grandmother's garden

Here we Grow Again...Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent member:

Elizabeth Adam



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:

October 22, 2023

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



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