

# East York Garden Club

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January & February, 2003

## Thursday, January 16, 2003

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

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except August and December) in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Avenue at 7:30 p.m. The Clubhouse is wheelchair-accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$10 for a single, and \$15 for a family. To inquire about membership, contact Rosalind Regnier at 416-759-6247.

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

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Betty Goldring

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**Speaker:** Anna Leggatt

**Topic:** Wildflowers of the Drakensburg - some we can grow, some we keep trying.

Anna Leggatt, botanist, master gardener, and a longtime member of our club, visited the mountain kingdom of Lesotho (surrounded by South Africa) looking for wildflowers that may be hardy in Southern Ontario.

This year, we've decided that, instead of having a mini-topic presentation at the end of each meeting, there'll be a question and answer period. Members are encouraged to bring their gardening questions for other members to answer. This meeting will also see the return of the draw table.

Members whose surnames begin with A, B, or C are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

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## Thursday, February 20, 2003

**Speaker:** Larry Sherk

**Topic:** Rhododendrons and Other Acid-loving Plants

Larry Sherk recently retired from a 32-year career at Sheridan Nurseries, where he was the chief horticulturist. He is also one of the authors of the 1967 Canadian Plant Hardiness Zones map, still one of the most widely used gardening references.

Following the meeting will be another question and answer period

Members whose surnames begin with D, E, or F are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

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**Upcoming in March:** Martin Galloway, speaking about "Water Gardening the Natural Way"

## A Word from the President...

With this first issue of the East York Garden Club Newsletter of 2003 I'd like to welcome everyone to another year of gardening. Even though we can't get outside to garden quite yet, many of us will be busy with seedlings, and we'll all be happy to see the days getting longer. In the meantime we have our meetings and wonderful speakers to look forward to each month when we learn more about gardening. The complete program for the whole year can be found on the club's website, and will be in the 2003 Yearbook, which we anticipate will be hot off the printing presses for distribution at the February meeting.

The East York Garden Club monthly meetings have been held at the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse for many years, and it has been a very good location for several reasons. The permit to meet at the Clubhouse has been sent in annually covering the whole year. But over the past year or two we have occasionally had some difficulties with the booking of some of our meetings. This past year, for example,

there was some confusion around our meeting in August; and when we called the Permit Department to be sure we were booked for September, we were informed that they had no record of our booking; and in fact, another group was booked for that date. You will recall that in September we met at St. Columba and All Hallows Anglican Church.

However, we hope things will improve in 2003. We have written confirmation from the Permit Department for each monthly meeting; but there is one important exception. The Seniors' Room where the Flower Shows are held has been booked by another group for the entire year. This will pose a real problem for us for the flower shows in May and June. On the bright side, there are no problems with the Annual Show in August or the September flower show. Your Executive Committee and I will keep you informed of any new developments as we seek a solution to this problem.



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## New Members

These members have joined our club in the past few months. Please extend a warm welcome to them. Their name tags will have a blue star, to make them easier to recognize.

Diane Bickers  
David Brooks

Robert Cowan  
Lynn Austin

Joan O'Grady  
Michael Austin

Glenna Duguid  
Brian Rowe

## Photography Contest ... 2002 & 2003

At the club's November meeting, the winners of the 2002 Photo Contest were announced. Recipients of First Prize awards in the five categories were:

- **Captured Beauty** – Linda Boyko
- **Container Gardening** – Sheila Clarke
- **Gardens In Winter** – Anna Leggatt
- **Ferns & Fungus** – Linda Boyko
- **Garden Architecture** – Denise Alexander

You'll be able to find a listing of all the prize winners in the 2003 yearbook, and on the club's website ([www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)), where pictures of the winning entries are also on display. All of the entries will be available for viewing at the January and February meetings.

Since the inception of the contest in 2000, we've made some minor adjustments to the rules each year, to make things a little easier for the contestants. In 2001 we changed the size requirement of the pictures, so that any photo, no matter what the size, would be acceptable. Last year we decided to allow entries that were taken with a digital camera. Although there were no digital photos entered, we expect that that situation will not last for long. The usage of digital cameras has increased dramatically over the past 12 months, and is expected to keep growing. It is quite possible that within a few years, digital photography will become the rule instead of the exception. By the end of the decade, digital cameras may do to film photography what CDs did to record players. With this in mind, we have decided to make another change to the rules

for 2003. Because there can be significant differences in how photos are taken using the two types of photography, we are providing separate categories for digital and film. This year there will be an additional category, devoted entirely to digital photography. Since we are still a little unsure of the number of members who have digital cameras, we've left it as an open category. Any subject, as long as it's of a horticultural nature, will be acceptable. The first five categories will be open only to pictures taken with film cameras.

Here's the list of categories for 2003:

- **Captured Beauty** (flower close-ups)
- **Plants that Live in Your House**
- **On the Rocks**
- **Vertical Gardening – Vines and Climbers**
- **Insects in the Garden** (includes spiders and other arthropods)
- **Anything Grows** (any horticultural subject, open only to photos taken with a digital camera)



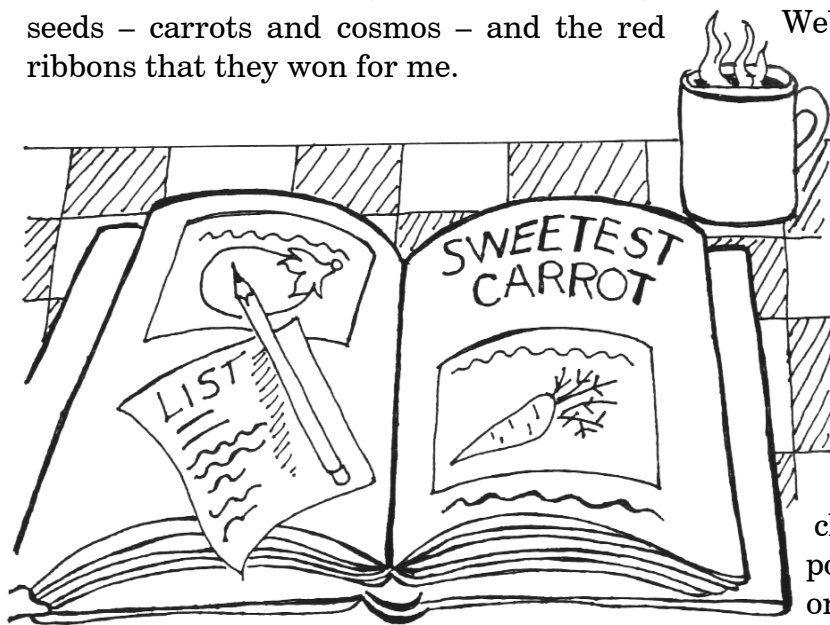
LINDA BOYKO

FIRST PRIZE, FERNS & FUNGUS

## Seed Shopping

by Diane Ronan

I'm addicted to seeds. I love the look of seeds, the feel of seeds and the promises that seeds make... "The earliest, sweetest tomato! The biggest pumpkin! The most exotic, unusual zinnia!" I was hooked at an early age. Stokes sent free packets of flower and vegetable seeds to our school and our teachers gave us one of each. Then we were encouraged to grow them and show the fruits of our labour at the local Fall Fair. I still remember those seeds – carrots and cosmos – and the red ribbons that they won for me.



Today I have many sources to fuel my needs but on a cold winter's night there's nothing like a good seed catalogue to satisfy the cravings. So I've decided to share a couple of my favourites with you.

**T&T Seeds Ltd.**, Box 1710, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3P6

Tel: (204) 895-9964 Fax: (204) 895-9967

Website: [www.ttseeds.mb.ca](http://www.ttseeds.mb.ca)

**McFayden Seed Co. Ltd.**, 30 – Ninth St., Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6N4

Tel: 1-800-205-7111 Fax: 1-877-625-1888

Website: [www.mcfayden.com](http://www.mcfayden.com)

I like to order seeds from the two companies mentioned above because I have found that new introductions are usually listed at a lower price than offered by our Ontario seed companies. And, you don't have to pay provincial sales tax!

**Terra Edibles**, Box 164, 535 Ashley St., Foxboro, Ontario K0K 2B0

Tel: (613) 961-0654 Fax: (613) 968-6369

Website: [www.terraedibles.ca](http://www.terraedibles.ca)

I support this small company that offers a good selection of organically grown, heirloom seeds because I believe in what they're doing. I recommend trying Aunt Alley's green beans, Amish Paste tomatoes and Painted Lady sweet peas.

There are so many seed catalogues available and all you have to do is request them. Most are sent free of charge but for some you have to pay postage or a small fee, usually redeemable on your first seed order.

*Canadian Gardening* magazine offers an excellent annual guide to Canadian Seed Catalogues. Their 2003 round-up appears in the Dec'02/Jan'03 Issue or visit their website, that's available as a link on our own East York Garden Club website ([www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)). The Ontario Gardener magazine will also have a seed catalogue guide in their Winter Issue, which will be on the shelves towards the end of December or early January.

So, get some catalogues, sit back and start shopping. Seeds are a good addiction.

## The Novice Gardener - Part One

By Karen Bell

In June of 2000, after twenty years of balcony gardening, I bought a house in East York and was finally able to realize my dream of having my own yard. The September move-in date revealed that the nice, clean vegetable patch of June had morphed into a forest of three-foot weeds.

October saw me pulling and digging those weeds with a garden fork borrowed from a kindly Scottish neighbour who was delighted that I was taking an interest in the property next to him. (He referred to the fork as a “grape.” Go figure.)

**Lesson One: weeds can take over in a mere two months.**

**Lesson Two: enlist the help of other gardeners by asking for advice.**

Upon closer examination, the front lawn was dead or dying from an infestation of

grubs. I could have gone the poison route, but since I’m not very fond of chemicals (or lawns), and it fit in with my desire to have an Annex-style perennial garden in front, I opted to speed up my timetable. I borrowed the “grape” again and started tearing up turf.

**Lesson Three: digging up turf is heavy work.**

Exhausted, I settled for a small front garden that first fall, and left the dying lawn to its own devices. After transplanting some chives, rue and lavender from balcony pots into my backyard and planting a couple of small evergreens in the front, I retreated inside to read books and plan my garden.

*This is the first in a continuing, semi-regular series by Karen. Next Time: **The Plan***

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### Club News

The club’s Annual General Meeting was held on November 21 at the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse. At that meeting, elections were held for the 2003 Executive Committee. Along with several who were re-elected, the upcoming year’s executive includes three new members: Denise Alexander, Mary-Jean Joys, and Lana Soosar. A complete listing of the executive will be included in the yearbook.

At year’s end, membership in the club stood at 147.

Take a look in the latest issue of *Ontario Gardener* for an article entitled ***Bog-a-holic!*** featuring our own Dianne Dietrich.

**Don’t forget that your membership fees for 2003 are due at the January meeting. You’ll find a membership renewal form on the next page.**

## Upcoming Events

February 16

**Getting the Jump on Spring** at the Civic Garden Centre (Lawrence & Leslie). For the 7<sup>th</sup> year the Civic Garden Centre will bring together garden experts and vendors under one roof. Spend the day at the Civic Garden Centre and soak in all of the information you'll need to prepare for the coming spring. The first 250 visitors will win a free "loot bag." Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission and parking is free. If you need more information, call 416-397-1340 or visit the CGC web site at [www.civicgardencentre.org](http://www.civicgardencentre.org)

March 12-16

**Canada Blooms** at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building (Front Street or Bremner Blvd, west of Simcoe Street). *A Symphony of Gardens* is this year's theme. Six acres of gardens (featuring 30 professionally designed gardens in full bloom), flower shows, informational displays, lectures and demonstrations, and a marketplace with over 200 vendors. Admission is \$18.00 for adults, \$15.00 for students and seniors. More information is available by calling 416-447-8655 or 1-800-730-1020, or at [www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

March 13-16

**The Success with Gardening Show** at the International Centre (Airport and Derry Road). Run in conjunction with the co-located International Home and Garden Show, the show has over three acres of plants, seeds, and bulbs plus gardening products and services and daily seminars. The show also features the Ontario Horticultural Association's Plant and Garden Competition. Admission is \$10.00, parking is free. More information is available by calling 416-512-1305 or at their website: [www.home-show.net/successwithgardening/](http://www.home-show.net/successwithgardening/)

### 2003 Membership Renewal

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postal Code ..... Phone # .....

Fees: Single \$10.00    Family \$15.00

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees can be paid in person at the next monthly meeting, or by mailing this form and a cheque to

Rosalind Regnier  
82 Presley Avenue  
Scarborough, Ontario  
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