North York Blooms

For those who love gardening.

Meetings

The fourth Monday of the month

Our last meeting for 2022: November 28th

In Person @ Willowdale Presbyterian Church

38 Ellerslie Avenue, North York

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Fall Beauty—Campanula Rapunculoides
Photo courtesy of Janine Dyck

info@northyorkgardenclub.ca

www.northyorkgardenclub.ca

Visit us on Facebook

President's Message: Mary Ann Nelson

Ontario's fall leaves were spectacular this year with lots of red leaves. Could it be that God honored Garden Ontario's 2022 theme to plant red by blanketing Ontario with lots of red leaves this year?

Above all, our club was able to enjoy in-person flower and vegetable shows once again this season. What freedom to meet and enjoy flower and vegetable shows again! An activity we took for granted prior to COVID-19, but now we value the privilege. Club members showed us they hadn't lost their green thumbs during COVID-19, but had been working hard in their gardens producing beautiful produce and flowers. Next year we look forward to your entries at our flower and vegetable shows.

Thank you to each volunteer from the garden club who came out to clean up, water and keep the gardens at the Willowdale Presbyterian Church looking their very best. I don't know what we would do without your help; each of you bring your own expertise, thank you. We have put the gardens to bed for the winter as you have your own gardens at home. The garden we planted by the church digital sign in May with the Community grant we received is flourishing. Please consider volunteering next season (kicking off in May 2023); it is good exercise, learning and sharing.

Now we prepare for the holiday season. At our final meeting of the year (November 28th), Dorothy Grecki, Nursery Plant Sales Supervisor, Scarborough Garden Centre - Sheridan Nurseries will instruct us on how to create a table centerpiece and keep it fresh.

Enjoy a wonderful holiday season and we will see you Februay 27th, 2023 at our next in-person meeting. Have a safe holiday!

Mary Ann

Letter from the Editor

Thank you all for your ongoing contributions to our newsletter. It is great to see photographs of your gardens and favourite plants in bloom. As we head into our 99th year, please continue to send pictures of your gardens and plants for future newsletters. Keep us in mind when you are attending other gardening events and send a photo to share with the membership. Photo contests and flower shows continue to be a way for us to share our love of gardening so please plan to participate next year. And share the newsletter with friends who are interested in joining the club!

Janine

Meeting Schedule

Meetings

We've had the opportunity to hear from some amazing speakers already this year. Pat is working hard to continue to bring new and exciting people to share their love of plants with our Club. If you know of anyone who might be a good speaker and you think our members would enjoy, let us know!

February 28th **Zoom**	**Demonstration: Easy Centre Pieces & Floral Displays** Ursula Eley
March 28th **Zoom**	**Growing a Successful Seed Saving Garden** Bob Wildfong Executive Director, Seeds of Diversity **Photo Contest - "What winter means to me"**
April 25th **In Person**	**The Natural Gardener** Pat De Valence
May 30th (5th Monday) **In Person**	**Growing your own Food** Suzanne Zacharaczyk Etobicoke Master Gardener
June 27th **In Person**	**Gardening in the City** Jim Graham Etobicoke Master Gardener **Flower Show - Dragon Boat Festival**
September 26th **In Person**	**Invasive Species!** Colin Cassin Invasive Species Manager, Invasive Species Centre (ISC) **Flower Show - Harvest Festival**
October 24th **In Person**	**European Gardens 2022** Diane Wilton **Photo Contest**
November 28th **In Person**	**Demonstration: Holiday Centerpieces** Dorothy Grecki Nursery Plant Sales Supervisor, Sheridan Nurseries **Annual General Meeting**

Invite a guest...let your friends and neighbours know!!

Let us know if you have someone you think would enjoy the opportunity to hear interesting speakers, share gardening knowledge and learn a few things along the way.

Forward the meeting details for an upcoming meeting to a possible new member and the first meeting is FREE.

Speaker Summary

2022 Review: Past Meetings

A brief summary of our presentations this year.

February: Demonstration: Easy Centre Pieces & Floral Displays [Zoom]

Ursula Eley is a certified judge of horticulture and design, with more than twenty years of experience in the field. She has taught floral design at the Toronto Botanical Garden in the Floral Design Certificate Program, at numerous horticultural societies and garden clubs around the province, and as far abroad as Bermuda and Ireland. Ursula was also one of the principals in a recent OHA Judges Course.

For the past few years her floral designs have had a particular focus on the use of environmentally friendly and sustainable materials. Although it may seem more difficult to do sustainable design, it also presents unlimited possibilities for creativity!

March: Growing a Successful Seed Saving Garden [Zoom]

Bob Wildfong has been saving seeds and teaching about garden biodiversity for over 30 years. He mixes science and storytelling to reveal the secret lives of seeds, plants, and pollinators. Bob has been a member of Seeds of Diversity since 1988, and became its first Executive Director in 2002 following a career in software engineering. He teaches garden and food history at the Waterloo Region Museum and, as a board member of Pollinator Partnership Canada, helps to build the movement to preserve pollinators. Bob is a past president of the Culinary Historians of Canada and delights in explaining how we can learn about food sustainability.

April: The Natural Gardener [In-Person]

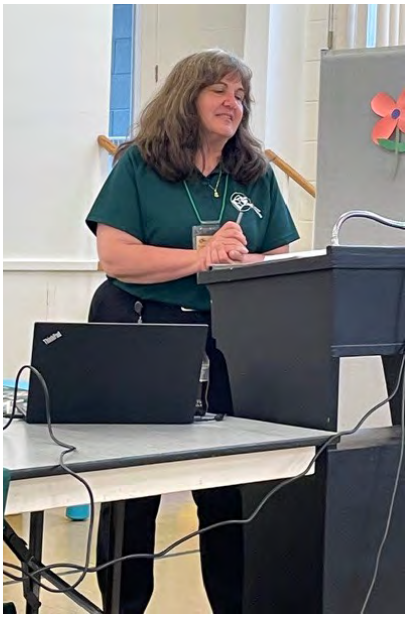
Pat de Valence has been gardening in the Greater Toronto area for over 25 years and has been a Master Gardener for more than 10. Pat's approach to gardening is to invest the effort, up front, to design and install a garden that will be low maintenance. She favours native plants, because of their value to local wildlife. She's a big fan of a new style of garden design using Matrix Planting because of its more informal style and lower maintenance. Learn how to approach your garden design and maintenance as something to be a collaboration with nature rather than treating nature as something to be controlled and overcome.

Check out the Credit Valley Conservation website, under Urban Homeowners, for guides, plant lists and factsheets on subjects such as native plants, planting pollinator gardens and naturescaping. Visit https://cvc.ca/urban-homeowners/.

Speaker Summary

2022 Review: Past Meetings ...continued

May: Growing your own Food [In-Person]



Suzanne Zacharaczyk has been an active member of the Etobicoke Master Gardeners since September 2009. She currently supports the group as its Past-Coordinator and as past Director of Operations for Master Gardeners of Ontario (MGO). While working full time, Suzanne continues her part time studies in horticulture. She has been gardening locally for many years and her interests in foliage plants, hostas and wildlife are reflected in her personal garden which was featured in Community Garden Tours in 2012 and 2019. As an active community member, Suzanne has been involved with multiple events, speaking at community garden workshops and acting as a coordinator of fundraising plant sales. Suzanne is also the Past-President of the Applewood Garden Club in Mississauga where she lives.

Suzanne shared locations where you can grow your food and what to grow, including plants for sun, shade and flowers for food. She spoke about soil health, preparing the garden, planting, ongoing maintenance and how to extend the growing season as well as the good (and bad) bugs that visit our gardens.

June: Gardening in the City [In-Person]

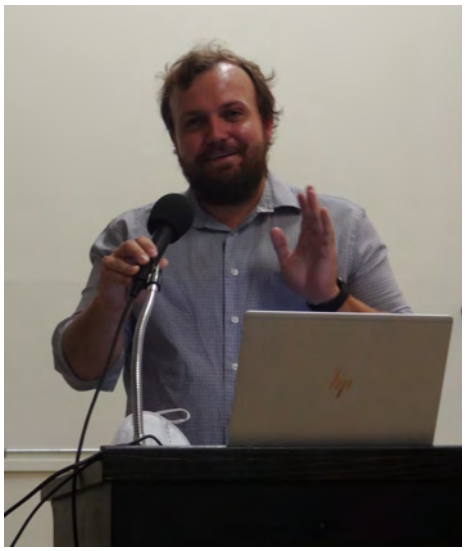
Jim Graham has been an enthusiastic member of the Etobicoke Master Gardener for the past 14 years. He has been actively involved in starting up and running community gardens, workshops and children's environmental education programs in local schools. Jim has achieved a Horticulturalist Certificate through the University of Guelph, in addition to completing landscape design courses. His current passions include anything to do with native plants and hosting nature walks.

Jim shared tips on how to design wildlife friendly gardens for small urban backyards and how he has created raised beds on his driveway to take advantage of the additional space (since he doesn't have a car). He talked about his favourite native plants and how he overwinters larger trees/shrubs in raised beds and containers.

Speaker Summary

2022 Review: Past Meetings ...continued

September: Invasive Species! [In Person]



Colin Cassin has worked in conservation and invasive species management for nearly a decade. He leads the ISC's invasive species policy files, including assessing ways in which related policy and legislation can be best used to protect Ontario's interests from costly invasive species. In his role as Co-Chair of the Horticulture Outreach Collaborative he has led a number of updates to the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's popular 'Grow Me Instead' guide.

Colin holds a M.Sc. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology from the University of Toronto and a B.Sc. in Restoration Ecology from Trent University. He is Chair of the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre, a member of Ontario's Species At Risk Program Advisory Committee and a member of the Ontario Biodiversity Council.

Colin shared with us the definition of an invasive species and provided some examples of invasive species in the garden and native alternatives for us to consider.

October: European Gardens 2022 [In Person]

A long time North York Garden Club Member, Diane Wilton shared some of the spectacular European gardens that she visited in 2022. Diane travelled extensively through Europe this summer, visiting wonderful gardens along the way.

Examples: London's Superbloom, the new pollinator and wildflower garden in the moat of the Tower of London; the lands and gardens of Muckross, a traditional Irish farm within Killarney National Park, preserved as it was prior to electrification and mechanization; and the once-in-a-decade Floriade in the Netherlands!

2023 Meeting Dates

2023...

We're still hard at work landing speakers for 2023 but we wanted to share with you our meeting dates for next year and give you a sneak peak into our February speaker.

At this time, assuming no changes in public health guidelines, we are planning to have all of our meetings in person at the Willowdale Presbyterian Church on the 4th Monday of the month, with the exception of May which will be on the 5th Monday of the month because of the Victoria Day long weekend. As a reminder, no meetings are held in January, July, August or December.

Looking forward to another amazing year - # 99 in the life of the North York Garden Club!

2023 North York Garden Club meeting schedule:

Monday, February 27th	**Demonstration: Caring for House Plants** Gail Bebee
Monday, March 27th	Speaker - In Progress **Photo Contest**
Monday, April 24th	Speaker - In Progress
Monday, May 29th *(Exception: 5th Monday of the month)*	Speaker - In Progress
Monday, June 26th	Speaker - In Progress **Flower Show**
Monday, September 25th *(Yom Kippur)*	Speaker - In Progress **Flower Show**
Monday, October 23rd	Speaker - In Progress **Photo Contest**
Monday, November 27th	Speaker - In Progress **Annual General Meeting**

Hold the Date! 2023 OHA Annual Convention

The 2023 Annual Convention for the Ontario Horticultural Association will be held in person July 21-23, 2023 in Kanata at the Brookstreet Resort ($165/night).

Topic: "Rock our Garden World". Includes speakers, tours and a flower show.

Bus tour with lunch will be offered on Thursday, July 20th as a pre-convention event option.

Flower Show: Harvest Festival

Our annual September Flower Show, with a theme of Harvest Festival, was held on September 26th. There was an amazing number of both flower and vegetable entries.

Thanks to David Arnett for capturing photos of some of the winning entries and thank you to everyone for your participation in the flower show - it's always a great time!

October Meeting - Photo Competition

Winning photos, clockwise from top left:
Fall Beauty: Gail Bebee
Festivals: Gail Bebee
Creepy Critters: Uldis Broks
Yearbook Cover: David Arnett
Cute Critters: David Arnett
Celebration: David Arnett

Community Events

Willowdale Christmas Market and Walking Parade

Saturday November 26th: 3:00-8:00pm at **Willowdale Presybyterian Church**

Shop 40+ local vendors and artisans, dine at delicious food trucks, and enjoy festive live entertainment. The market will also feature free hot chocolate and kids crafts. Advanced tickets at www.neighbourlink.org/christmas.

General Admission is $5, Youth Under 13 are FREE! Funds raised go directly to purchasing fresh food for families experiencing food insecurity in Willowdale.

Artisan Holiday Market

Saturday, December 10th: 9:00am-6:00pm at **John Mckenzie House (34 Parkview Ave)**

The Second Annual Holiday Market will feature a wide variety of artisan vendors and could become the start of a more regular market to support local small business owners. Be sure to come and check it out - please let any of your artisan friends know about it as we would like to network!

This event is looking for volunteers; contact sboyleto@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

GardenOntario—50/50 Raffle

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Launched	Sales End	Draw Date	Draw Location
Sat Sep 17 2022	Thu Dec 15 2022	Fri Dec 16 2022	56 Glen Cannon Drive, Stoney Creek ON L8G 4E1

Members in the News

2022 Canadian National Exhibition

When: August 19 to September 5, 2022

Two of our North York Garden Club members participated in this year's CNE flower competition and had winning entries. Congratulations to Diane Wilton and Gloria Broks!

Left, Shrub Rose - Roxy: 2nd Place

Right, Shrub Rose - Solero: Honourable Mention

Gloria Broks

Right
Shrub Rose -
The Fairy:
1st Place

Diane Wilton
Left to Right,
Clockwise

Kid's World: Most
Creative Design

The Place: 3rd Place

Agricultural Fair:
1st Place

CNE Souvenir:
1st Place

Lantern Festival, a
design in the Oriental
Manner: 1st Place
and Judges Choice!!

Article - Rose Petals

Rose Petals

Submitted by: Gloria Broks

Did you know that it takes 50,000 rose petals to make only 600 grams of rose oil? An article in the Kit section of The Star peaked my interest.

The town of Grasse in southern France is known as “the city of flowers and perfume”. A few kilometers further south is Pegomas where a rose grower by the name of Joseph Mul tends his fields of flowers. The rose he grows is Rosa centifolia known as the May Rose of a hundred petals. It only blooms once a year for a few weeks and must be gathered in the early morning. That is when it is the freshest and most fragrant. Harvesters must be quite careful in how the flowers are picked. They must enclose the whole rose and pinch it off the bush before carefully placing each one in their aprons. The loose flowers are placed into burlap sacks which are loaded onto flatbed trucks and taken to an onsite location. The flowers are then poured into metal vats where they slowly oxidize and ferment to extract the oils.

In order to grow these roses organically, the Mul family has found that playing music in the fields works for them. They play piano pieces three times a day from speakers placed around the bushes to ward off fungi and rust. The sound frequency prevents the disease so common to roses. It might be something to try in our own rose gardens, if it doesn’t annoy neighbours!

The family also grow jasmine, iris, perennial geraniums and the tuberose. These are used in the production of perfumes like Chanel No. 5 created by Coco Chanel.

Article - Four Seasons

Four Seasons of Urban Wildlife and Botanicals

Photography: June D'Souza Garden Venue: Courtesy of Joan Andreychuk
Submitted by: Janine Dyck

Joan Andreychuk has been a long-time member of the North York Garden Club and has an amazing garden. She invited me over to experience her garden and to share her story about how the book "Four Seasons of Urban Wildlife and Botanicals" came to be.

COVID. Isn't that the way so many stories have started recently? Joan's niece was a member of a photography club and during COVID, she and a friend of hers (June) would regularly go around the city photographing nature. June was looking for more locations to practice her photography skills and Joan's niece suggested she visit her Aunt Joan's garden.

And the rest is history - or at least, a book! Joan and June struck up a wonderful friendship and would meet multiple times a week in Joan's backyard, enjoying the urban oasis that is Joan's garden. For those that may not know, Joan's garden has the honour of being a Canadian Wildlife Federation Certified Backyard Habitat and she regularly opens her garden to garden lovers and researchers (she's currently in the middle of supporting a study!).

Joan is an avid lover of critters (her email address starts with "crittercrazy" after all) and in addition to having pets (2 cats and a dog), she knows many of her wildlife visitors by name. Joan and June got to know the wildlife over the year that they spent connecting and experiencing nature during the pandemic. Their book is a testament to their friendship, the beautiful environment that is Joan's garden, June's amazing photography skills and a once-in-a-lifetime experience of forced slow down that allowed them to meet and become fast friends.

This book shows our urban environment through the seasons as experienced in Joan's back garden. If you would like to purchase a copy, please let us know - it is a beautiful ode to the four seasons of wildlife and botanicals...just as it says on the cover.

Above: Joan Andreychuk
Below: June D'Souza

Views from our Members' Gardens

Angela Bontje

Angela spent some time in Arizona and California earlier this year and shared some of her amazing photographs. I definitely need to see these in person! (I love Dale Chihuly!!)
Top photos: Giant Tecolote Ranuculus flowers in The Flower Fields; Carlsbad, California
Bottom left: Saguaro cactus(with Angela for perspective)
Bottom right: Dale Chihuly glass sculpture at the Desert Botanic Garden; Phoenix, Arizona

Views from our Members' Gardens

Rosalie Selick

Rosalie sent a picture of her climbing rose, still lingering on the pergola at the end of October. Such a beautiful pale pink against the natural wood tones.

Rocco

Rocco's garden was also going strong late into the season - his hibiscus moon plant and beautiful pink rose provided a little bit of lasting colour at the end of the gardening calendar.

Views from our Members' Gardens

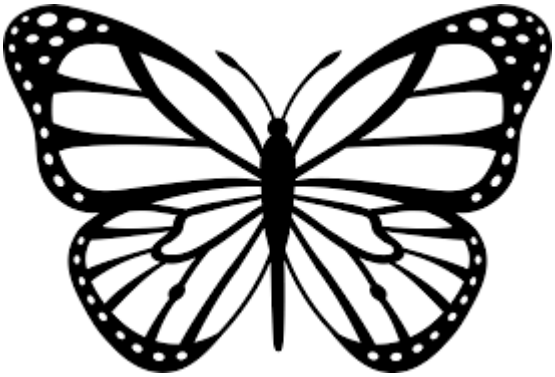
Sarah Fernandes

Beautiful fall colours, courtesy of Sarah. I know it feels like fall is but a memory, but it was an amazingly colourful season for us this year and Sarah captured some beauties!!

Views from our Members' Gardens

Edward Macdonell

On September 10th, Edward experienced what could be a once-in-a-lifetime event; he was visited by this beautiful blue butterfly. Normally seeing a beautiful butterfly would not be considered that extraordinary, but the Karner Blue Butterfly is considered "extirpated" which means it doesn't exist in the wild in Ontario. Edward was able to take some photos of it and he then reported his sighting to the Ministry of Natural Resources. She is a beauty!!



Committees & Committee Chairs

Community Outreach	Mary Ann Nelson	nmaryann56@gmail.com
Flower Shows	Janet Love Mary Ann Nelson Rocco DeMiglio	2014lovewolf@gmail.com nmaryann56@gmail.com rdemiglio@gmail.com
Flower Show Judges	Diane Wilton	thewiltons@rogers.com
Hospitality/Raffle	Mary McLean Sarah Fernandes	marykmclean@rogers.com spfernandes25@yahoo.ca
Membership	Richard Sage	richard_sage@sympatico.ca
Newsletter	Janine Dyck	janine.dyck@rogers.com
Photography Show	Pat Cappelli	patcappelli8@yahoo.com
Program		
Publicity	Pat Cappelli	patcappelli8@yahoo.com
Sunshine	Mary Ann Nelson Pat Cappelli	info@northyorkgardenclub.ca
Web Site	Joan Shean	sheanjoan@yahoo.com
Workshops	Pat Cappelli	patcappelli8@yahoo.com
Yearbook	Janine Dyck	janine.dyck@rogers.com

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