

## Presidents' Report

2022 was an extraordinarily positive year for the Society: Our membership increased, we had a varied lineup of excellent speakers at our general meetings, we had two lucrative pop-up sales of donated plants, and we had a very successful garden tour. The June show was our first 'real' show since the pandemic began and was a welcome event to accompany the tour. The September show, with its associated children's activity was also very well received. What's more, we were the proud recipients of a second prize in the city-wide Garden Contest for the canoe garden near the library!

All this while the threat of COVID continued to disrupt our normal operations. This meant that we had all our meetings via Zoom with no opportunities to socialize, we were unable to hold our usual much anticipated indoor plant sale at Trace Manes Community Centre, and children's programming was 'on hold'.

2023 marks the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Leaside community, and with this in mind we are looking forward to another equally positive year. It has already started well: we have more new members joining our ranks, we have a stellar lineup of speakers for the year, and on the strength of the success of the 2022 tour the board has decided that for 2023 we will increase the amount of the scholarship to \$2000.

We are planning another garden tour in June, and we are planning to organize social events to compensate for the fact that our meetings will continue to be via Zoom, at least for the first part of the year. We look forward to working with the city on refurbishing the garden beds in front of the Leaside library and are hopeful that this year we will again be welcoming local school children to help with some of the planting, as well as sponsoring classes from Thorncliffe Public School to participate in the educational programme at the botanic garden. All these events will need our members' active support – please watch the monthly newsletter for information about volunteer opportunities as they arise.

We are so grateful to you all for hanging in with us as we work with you to find new and innovative ways to uphold our mission statement, and for the Society to remain vibrant and relevant in the Leaside community. Thank you!

*Joanna Blanchard and Nora Campbell*