



North York Blooms

For those who love gardening.

Meetings

The fourth Monday of the month
@ Willowdale Presbyterian Church

38 Eilerslie Avenue, North York

Meetings begin at 7:30pm

Our next meeting will be held in
2025 on Monday, February 24th
via **Zoom**

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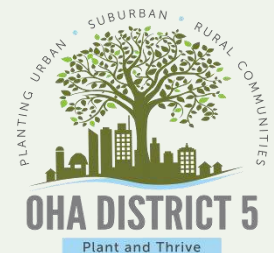
Celebrating 100 years at the 2024 Annual General Meeting. Guest, Councillor Lilly Cheng, Natasha Mansouri and NYGC President Christine Pierroz



info@northyorkgardenclub.ca

www.northyorkgardenclub.ca

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President's Message

As I write this, the temperature has dropped below zero and the forecast is hinting at snow. The 100th anniversary year for the North York Garden Club has come to a close, with the recently held Annual General Meeting & Potluck. Mary Ann Nelson and her volunteers have put the church gardens to bed for the winter, and we have elected a new Executive Committee who are committed to volunteering their time and their love of gardening to building a community of like-minded people.

I thank everyone for welcoming me into the Club and the role of President over the last two years. It has been an amazing experience and I have seen the passion that our volunteers and members have for this 100-year old organization.

I welcome Christine into the President role and know that her passion will continue the club toward it's next 100 years.

The below photo is only a subset of the amazing volunteers who give of their time and passion on the Executive Committee but they bring smiles and a love of plants that bind us all together.

Good luck to the organization and it's members as we continue the journey of a club committed to growing, whether that be community, friends or plants.

Janine

From left to right: Gloria Broks, Tom Cloutier, Janine Dyck, Mary Ann Nelson, Rocco Demiglio and Janet Love. Photo by Natasha Mansouri



Year in Review

2024 was a memorable year for the North York Garden Club - we turned 100 years old!! The highlight of our 100th anniversary year celebrations was the hosting of the OHA District 5 Annual General Meeting event in April. Gloria Broks led a team of volunteers in the planning and delivery of a highly successful event. Tom Cloutier did a dive into the archives and created a historical slideshow of the club's 100 year journey, reminding us of the dedication to community, volunteerism and growing that has been the hallmark of the club throughout its 100 years.

To continue the 100th birthday celebration, three flower and vegetable shows and competitions were held during the year with themes reflecting a century of gardening and growing. To cap off the birthday revelry, the NYGC's Annual General Meeting and potluck was held in November with entertainment by Joe Thomson and a visit by Councillor Lilly Cheng who helped President-elect Christine Pierroz cut the birthday cake.

In addition to celebrating, the club continued to care for the Willowdale Presbyterian Church's gardens throughout the year. In addition to the regular gardening activities of weeding, deadheading, watering and mulching, volunteers helped plant a new tree and a new flower bed. A budding relationship with the Montessori school housed at the church has seen our second year of engaging with the students and educating them about the growing world.

Growing our membership is an ongoing activity for the club and participation in local events is a great way to spread the word. Volunteers attended the Taste of North York Food & Drink Festival for the second year and had fruitful discussions with prospective new members.

Monthly meetings with interesting speakers is the foundation of our club's calendar and we made an effort to reintroduce time at meetings for time to socialize with those in attendance.

Pop-up gardens, seed and plant sharing, and talking with our fellow members allows us all to learn ever more about gardening. 2025 will bring more opportunities to learn and grow and we look forward to seeing you there.

2024 - it was our birthday!



2024 Meetings

Meeting Schedule

February 26 th via Zoom	Finding Inspiration in Personal Flower Photography Projects Theresa Moore, Photographer and Author
March 25 th	NYGC Expert Panel: Preparing for Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloria Broks, NYGC Past President, Director of Flower Shows and experienced Rose Judge • Pat Cappelli, Master Gardener and Accredited Flower & Horticultural Judge • Lorraine Luski, Accredited Flower & Horticultural Judge
April 22 nd	Seed Propagation Workshop Jim Graham, Etobicoke Master Gardener
May 27 th	Spring & Forest Flowering Plants - David Bostock Flower & Vegetable Show: Our 100th Anniversary - 1920's & 1930's
June 24 th	One Story at a Time: Humber Nursery Founders Astrid Peters, Author Flower & Vegetable Show: Our 100th Anniversary - 1940's, 1950's & 1960's
September 23 rd	Pruning Your Garden Plants - David Bostock Flower & Vegetable Show: Our 100th Anniversary - 1970's to the present
October 28 th	Indoor Plant Gardening Suzanne Zacharczyk Photo Contest: Celebrations, A Look at the Past, Heritage Plants & NYGC 2025 Yearbook Cover
November 25 th	Annual General Meeting & Potluck Entertainment: Joe Thompson

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.

2024 Meetings: In Review

A brief overview of our presentations this year to date.



November: Annual General Meeting

Our annual potluck tradition returned this year with a special visit from Councillor Lily Cheng to celebrate the club's 100th anniversary in 2024. In addition, entertainer Joe Thomson joined us to cap the gardening year in song.

2025/2026 President, Christine Pierroz, shares her thoughts on the evening on page 11.

Speaker Summary



October: Indoor Plant Gardening

Etobicoke Master Gardener Suzanne Zacharczyk joined us to present a program on indoor gardening. She spoke about selecting the appropriate indoor plants for your environment, how to grow them successfully and keep them happy, as well as how to deal with some of the unique challenges of indoor gardening.

She also shared tips and tricks for indoor plant propagation, like considering the angle that you place the cutting in the soil (to replicate how the mother plant grows).

September: Pruning Your Garden Plants

David Bostock, from Toronto's Urban Forestry Department, joined us for the second time this year for a discussion on pruning.

He discussed all things pruning, from when to prune, which tools to prune with and why pruning is important for our gardens.



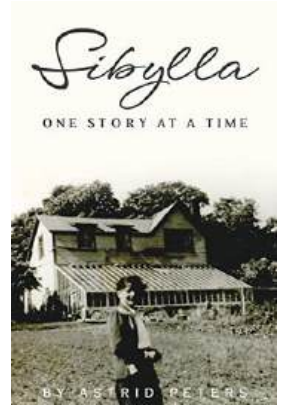


2024 Meetings: In Review

A brief overview of our presentations this year to date.

June: One Story at a Time - Humber Nursery Founders

Author Astrid Peters presented a program on the founding and history of Humber Nurseries. Astrid is the daughter of Frans and Sibylla Peters, the founders of Humber Nurseries. She shared stories of her mother's youth, emigration to Canada and gradual development of the iconic nursery, all encapsulated in Astrid's recent book 'Sibylla, One Story At A Time'.



In addition, we held our June Flower & Vegetable Show with the theme of "Our 100th Anniversary - 1940's, 1950's & 1960's".

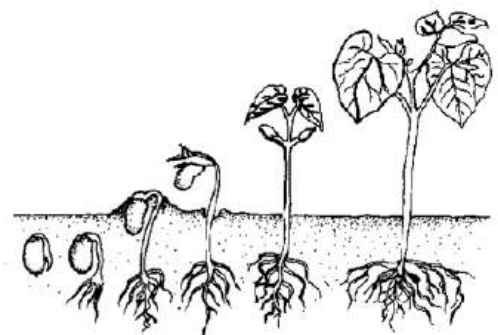
May: Spring & Forest Flowering Plants

David Bostock joined us from Toronto's Urban Forestry Department to discuss all things forest fauna, ecology and spring ephemeral flowers. David grew up in Willowdale, and for the past decade he has worked in the permitting branch of Toronto's Urban Forestry department where he supervises the North York District Tree Protection & Plan Review Team. Prior to that, he was a consulting arborist and customer service representative for 10 years with Bartlett Tree Experts

David shared photos of forest flowering plants found on his walks through Durham Region's Walker Woods with his dogs and answered questions from attendees about spring flowering plants.

April: Seed Propagation Workshop

Jim Graham is a longtime member of the Etobicoke Master Gardeners. His primary focus is on growing plants (both native and exotic) by any means possible whether seeds, cuttings or division. As a result, his own garden is both frustratingly small and yet packed with plants, spilling over into large pots or raised beds on the patio, porch and driveway! Jim shared his tips and tricks on propagating seeds to help members as they build and maintain the garden of their dreams.



2024 Meetings: In Review

A brief summary of our presentations this year.



March: NYGC Expert Panel - Preparing for Spring

A question and answer session on 'Preparing for Spring' led by a panel of experienced NYGC member gardeners:

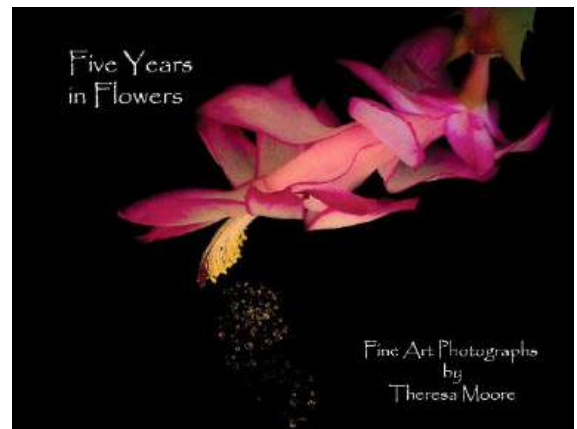
- Gloria Broks: Past President of the NYGC and now our Director of Flower Shows. Gloria is a very experienced Rose Judge and member of both the Hamilton/Burlington and Canadian Rose Societies (CRS)
- Pat Cappelli: Master Gardener, Accredited Flower & Horticultural Judge, member of the Bulb Society and a successful Canada Blooms competitor for many years
- Lorraine Luski: an OHA Accredited Flower & Horticultural Judge and in the process of acquiring her certification as a CRS Judge

In addition, the 100th Anniversary Committee met with volunteers for the April 20th OHA District 5 AGM to outline how the day would progress and the responsibilities of all of our selfless volunteers.

February: Finding Inspiration in Personal Flower Photography Projects [Zoom]

Photographer and author Theresa Moore presented a series of videos to illustrate her theme of Finding Inspiration in Personal Flower Photography Projects:

- 'A Year in My Garden'
- 'Early Summer on the Duncan Creek Trail'
- 'A Garden in Four Seasons'



2025 Meeting Dates

As we close out the 2024 year and our 100th anniversary, we look forward to more opportunities to share the love of gardening with our members and the wider community.

2025 meeting dates are outlined below so you can put them in your calendar as you plan your engagements for the coming year.

February	Monday, February 24 th <i>Via Zoom</i>
March	Monday, March 24 th In-person
April	Monday, April 28 th In-person
May	Monday, May 26 th In-person - Flower & Vegetable Show
June	Monday, June 23 rd In-person - Flower & Vegetable Show
September	Monday, September 29 th In-person - Flower & Vegetable Show
October	Monday, October 27 th In-person - Photography Show
November	Monday, November 24 th In-person - Annual General Meeting & Potluck

Meeting Schedule



Flower & Vegetable Shows

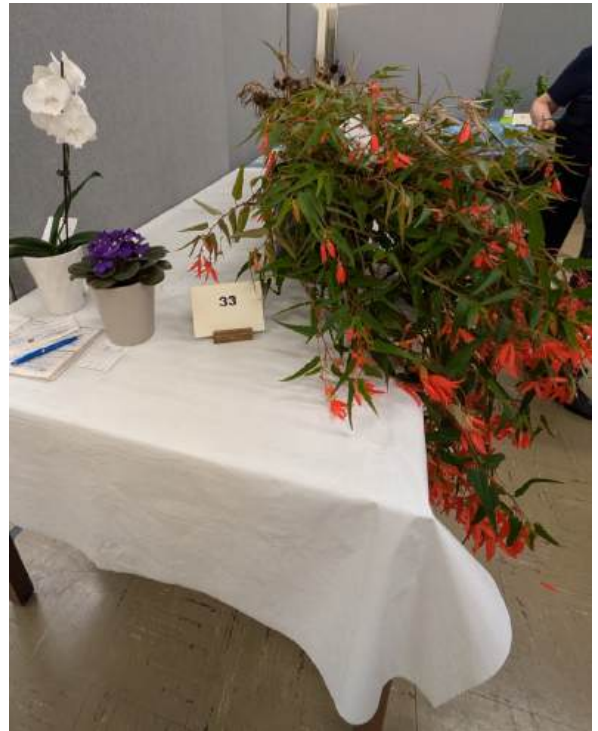
This year's flower and vegetable shows were themed to align with our 100th anniversary and focussed on specific decades across the past century. All shows include categories for cut plants, fruits and vegetables, house plants and roses, as well as decorative classes.

September: Our 100th Anniversary - 1970's to Present

Our September Flower & Vegetable Show had 95 entries from 15 garden club members. Giovanni Cappelli, a long time winner for her amazing vegetables, won Best in Show for her Leafy Vegetable - a curly kale.

Congratulations to Giovanni and thank you to everyone who participated.

Photos by Natasha Mansouri



Photography Show

Each year the North York Garden Club has a contest to select the photo that will be used on the front page of the following year's club yearbook. This year was the first time that the voting was held online! Twenty-seven (27) entries were received with the winning photo announced at the November 25th Annual General Meeting. The top 5 photo entries, as voted on by our membership, are included below.

The winning photo was the Black-Eyed Susan and pure green sweat bee, submitted by Anne McConnell.



Winning photo by Anne McConnell

Photography Show



Far left:
Anne McConnell



Near left:
Gloria Broks



Left:
Avram Selick



Right:
Sandy Cloutier

2024 Annual General Meeting

By Christine Pierroz

Forty-seven members came ready to celebrate the North York Garden Club's (NYGC) 100th anniversary at our seasonal potluck and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 26, 2024. The AGM, chaired by Past President Gloria Broks, marked the culmination of an epic year made possible by a host of volunteers including inspirational president Janine Dyck, board members, committee members and chairs, and all who gave of their time to beautify spaces and share our love of gardening with the public at every turn.

Congratulations flowed, commencing with a letter read by guest Monika Schneider from Reverend Matthew Sams on behalf of the Willowdale Presbyterian Church's Board of Directors (or "Session," as we learned). The church is the host location for our monthly in-person meetings and shows held primarily throughout the Spring and Fall.

In addition to the evening's business, which included approval of minutes of the prior year's AGM, approval of the audited 2024 Financial Report by treasurer Soo-ling Huang, and passage of a motion to increase individual and family membership fees each by an incremental five dollars, a slate of awards were presented to outstanding members.



In her role as Flower Show Director, Gloria Broks presented the first place Flower Show Award of a gift card and certificate in recognition of the most points earned at shows throughout the year to Mary Ann Nelson.

President of OHA District 5, Ursula Eley, presented Gloria Broks and director Tom Cloutier with a certificate of appreciation for a job well done by the NYGC team that expertly organized and hosted the OHA District 5 AGM at the Toronto Botanical Garden on April 20, 2024.

Lastly, Tom Cloutier showcased the five finalist entries from members aspiring to have their photo grace the front cover of the 2025 issue of the NYGC Yearbook. The winner, by majority member vote, was Anne McConnell, with her photo of a pure green sweat bee atop a Rudbeckia bloom. We learned that another tiny pollinator, the metallic green sweat bee, is the City of Toronto's official bee. Who knew?



Above: Mary Ann Nelson receiving her Flower Show Award from Gloria Broks. Right: Anne McConnell, winner of the 2025 Yearbook photography contest, with Tom Cloutier.

Photos by Natasha Mansouri

2024 Annual General Meeting

Before turning to elections, Ursula Eley offered congratulations on the NYGC's 100-year milestone, reminding us that the Ontario Horticultural Organization (OHA) has 19 districts, and that District 5 alone has 14 horticultural societies, of which the NYGC is a shining example of a well-run club that is financially in the positive.

The evening's election was a time to recognize Janine Dyck for her excellence as president, and Janet Love, for her generous contribution as board director. It was also time to usher in board members who will begin their two-year terms, as others look to complete their terms in 2025. The following members will now serve:

Acclaimed for 2-year term (2025 & 2026)

Christine Pierroz, President
Tom Cloutier, Director
Sheri Ferdinand-Brugel,
Director & Secretary
Mary Ann Nelson, Director

One Year of Term Remaining (2025)

Gloria Broks, Past President &
Corresponding Secretary
Patrizia Cappelli, Director & Speakers
Rocco Demiglio, Director
Soo-Ling Huang, Treasurer
Richard Sage, Memberships

Rounding out a wonderful evening, Ward 18 Toronto City Councillor Lily Cheng, accompanied by team member Sarah Jafari, presented a 100th Anniversary certificate to the club. Councillor Lily Cheng and newly installed president Christine Pierroz cut a cake decorated in rainbow motif against the backdrop of entertainer Joseph Thomson's pop tunes that drew impromptu revelers to the dance floor, including honorary lifetime member Mona Gibson, whose surprise appearance charmed the crowd.



2024 NYGC Annual General Meeting

2024 Annual General Meeting



The evening in photos

Top left: Sarah Jafari, Mary Ann Nelson, Sheri Ferdinand-Brugel, Tom Cloutier, Pat Cappelli, Soo-Ling Huang, Rocco Demiglio, Gloria Broks, Christine Pierroz and Lily Cheng

Top right: celebrating 100 years in cake!

Middle: Entertainer Joe Thomson

Bottom: club members enjoying the evening and getting ready for the potluck and entertainment!

Previous page: Soo-Ling Huang and Mona Gibson dancing to Joe Thomson singing Billy Joel's "Piano Man"

All 2024 Annual General Meeting photos courtesy of Natasha Mansouri



Willowdale Presbyterian Church



The church gardens have been 'put to bed' for the winter, but much work was done this year to keep the gardens looking amazing. Led by Mary Ann Nelson, with the support of volunteers, the church gardens saw the development of a new flower bed, the planting of a new Boulevard Linden tree, and amazing fall colour.

Thanks to Mary Ann and all the volunteers that come out and help make these gardens look beautiful. We look forward to your support in 2025 as we continue to tend these gardens in exchange for meeting space to hold our monthly NYGC general meetings.



Photos by Mary Ann Nelson



Taste of North York Food & Drink Festival

Mel Lastman Square
Saturday, September 7, 2024

The second annual Taste of North York Food & Drink Festival was held at Mel Lastman Square on a windy and cool September weekend. Volunteers from the NYGC attended to promote the club and share the love of gardening.

Thank you to Mary Ann Nelson, Natasha Mansouri, Tom Cloutier, Janine Dyck, Janet Love, Sarah Fernandes Rocco Demiglio and Swan Li for helping organize and promote our club to potential new members.

In support of the Taste of North York's commitment to support Neighbourlink and the 415 Food Hub, members donated non-perishable food at the September and October meetings. Thanks to Tom Cloutier and Mary Ann Nelson for taking our donations to the food bank.



Tom Cloutier & Roberto Castillo Elizondo at the 415 Food Hub. Photo by Mary Ann Nelson

Tom Cloutier, Natasha Mansouri & Mary Ann Nelson at the North York Garden Club booth. Photo by Natasha Mansouri



2024 Canadian National Exhibition

August 15 - September 4, 2024

The CNE Garden Show is home to one of the largest flower and vegetable growing competitions in Canada. The Garden Show Competition (otherwise known as the CNE Horticultural Competition) goes back to the CNE's agricultural roots.

Gloria Broks is a regular participant in the CNE Garden Show Competition, most frequently in the rose category. This year saw Gloria take home accolades for three of her entries:

- Carpet Rose (a shrub): first place, Best in Show and the Dave Money Memorial Award (*photo on the right*)
- Green Ice (miniature rose): first place and Judge's Choice (*photo below on the left*)
- Spray of Green Ice (miniature rose): first place and Best in Show (*photo below on the right*)

Congratulations, Gloria! Thanks for representing the NYGC so well in the community.



Photos by Gloria Broks



The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) is regularly looking to find new and innovative ways to fundraise to support the organization. A portion of Sipology sales using the Ontario Horticultural Association Fall 2024 code will go to support OHA programming. Enjoy your tea and support the OHA!



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 <p>MAGICAL FRUIT TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <i>Ingredients:</i> Apple pieces, Pineapple pieces (pineapple pieces, cane sugar, citric acid), Mango pieces (mango, cane sugar, citric acid, sulphites), Papaya pieces (papaya, cane sugar, citric acid), Butterfly blue pea flowers, Spearmint leaves, Raspberry pieces, Natural flavors. <i>Contains:</i> Sulphites. ☹</p>	 <p>BUBBLY CHERRY BOMB BUBBLY TEA, 2.12 oz (60 g) <i>Ingredients:</i> Pineapple pieces (pineapple, cane sugar, citric acid), Blueberries (blueberries, sugar, sunflower oil), Basil seeds, Lucuma powder, Organic banana (banana powder, silica), Cherries, Hibiscus powder, Natural flavors.</p>	 <p>NATURALLY SWEET PEACH BLACK TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <i>Ingredients:</i> Black tea, Stevia leaf, Peach pieces, Calendula petals, Natural flavor. ☺</p>	 <p>CINNAMON BUN ROOIBOS TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <i>Ingredients:</i> Rooibos tea, Cinnamon, Cardamom, Black pepper, Ginger, Cloves, Calendula petals, Natural flavors.</p>
 <p>RASPBERRY CREAM SODA FRUIT TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <i>Ingredients:</i> Mango pieces (mango, cane sugar, citric acid, sulphites), Pineapple pieces (pineapple, cane sugar, citric acid), Blueberries (blueberries, sugar, sunflower oil), Hibiscus, Raspberry pieces, Calendula petals, Natural flavors. <i>Contains:</i> Sulphites. ☹</p>	 <p>EARL GREY DE LA CRÈME BLACK TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <i>Ingredients:</i> Black tea, Cornflower petals, Natural flavors. ☺</p>	 <p>BERRY MANIA FRUIT TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <i>Ingredients:</i> Elderberries, Currants (currants, sunflower oil), Hibiscus, Beetroot bits, Natural flavour.</p>	 <p>REAL DEAL HOT CHOCOLATE HOT CHOCOLATE, 3.53 oz (100 g) <i>Ingredients:</i> Cocoa powder, Sugar (organic cane sugar), Salt, Xanthan Gum, Organic stevia extract, Natural flavors. ☺</p>

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The OHA Garden Ontario 50/50 draw is here again...with an opportunity to win just in time for the holidays! Buy your tickets online.

OHA - District 5

Garden Ontario™

50/50 Draw

Next Draw: December 14, 2024

Ticket Packages

- A - 10 for \$10.00
- B - 100 for \$20.00
- C - 500 for \$50.00
- D - 800 for \$75.00

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Keeping Ontario Beautiful®
by way of
grants and education

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

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The Vegetable Garden Journal is available for purchase online at the Garden Ontario website. Sales of the journal support OHA programming.

OHA - District 5

Garden Ontario™

OHA Fundraiser

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2024 Committees & Committee Chairs

Community Outreach	Mary Ann Nelson
Flower Shows	Gloria Broks
Flower Show Judges	Gloria Broks
Hospitality/Raffle	Sarah Fernandes
Membership	Richard Sage
Newsletter	Janine Dyck
Photography Show	Gloria Broks
Program	
Publicity	Pat Cappelli
Sunshine	Mary Ann Nelson Pat Cappelli
Web Site	Joan Shean
Workshops	Pat Cappelli
Yearbook	Janine Dyck

