

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

2026 ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION

Hosts: Districts 4 & 17



BUS
TOURS



GardenOntario®

WELCOME!

We are pleased to be able to offer three bus tours on both Friday and Saturday. There is limited space on each of the bus tours.

Please read the descriptions carefully. One tour is offered on both days; others have elements offered one day but not the other, so there is some overlap between the two days.

We are using school buses for transportation on the Red Tour and the Orange Tour. The travel distance is a maximum of 6 km on any leg. The use of school buses on these two tours has allowed us to keep the overall tour costs low.



The Red Tour is a special guided tour of the National Historic Site, Parkwood Estates. The tour includes both the interior of the mansion and the 11-acre garden.

Please note there are no public washrooms on the Blue or Purple Tours.

As with any garden tour, please be aware that there are many different surfaces and transitions from one surface to another (grass, gravel, flagstone, paved walkways). There may be slopes or stairs in the different gardens.

We encourage you to choose appropriate footwear and be aware of the terrain and transitions, recognizing your personal capabilities.



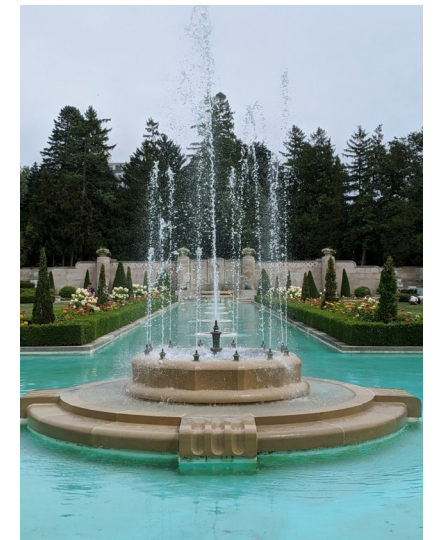
Friday - Red Tour

Please note - Public washrooms are available on site. Transportation to this site will be by school bus. The distance between the two sites is 6 km.

We are pleased to be able to offer this extensive **guided** tour of Parkwood Estates which include a 60-minute tour of the Parkwood Home and 60-minute tour of the 11-acre Gardens found in the heart of Oshawa. (It is a two-hour tour broken into 60 minutes for each, the house and the garden).

Parkwood Estates was the home of Sam McLaughlin (founder of General Motors) and his family from 1917 - 1972. Designed by Darling and Pearson, this 55 room (15,000 sq. ft) mansion is representative of early 20th century design and has unique elements such as hidden panels and stairways. The National Historic Sites and Monuments Board describes it as “a rare surviving examples of the type of estate developed in Canada during the inter-war years, and is rarer still by its essentially intact condition, furnished and run to illustrate as it was lived within.” following its designation in 1989. It provides a glimpse into the philanthropic auto-baron’s life-style. You may even recognize it from different movies and TV shows!

The Parkwood Gardens illustrate the design work of Harris and Hall (1910s), Howard and Lorrie Dunnington-Grubb (1920s) who created the Italian Garden, the Sundial Garden, the Summer House and the Sunken Garden, as well as John Lyle (1930s) who created the award winning 2-acre Formal Garden which is in an art modern style. In addition to these elements, there are three greenhouses which are home to the Japanese Garden and Greenhouse Tea Room. The greenhouses are also used to produce much of the plant material for the gardens. Since 2019, the Oshawa Garden Club and Durham Master Gardeners have been working with Parkwood on the rejuvenation and revitalization of the Tennis Court Gardens. There is something awe-inspiring around every turn through-out this amazing garden. (A public washroom is available on site.)



Friday - YELLOW TOUR

Elements of this Tour will be repeated on the Saturday Green Tour.
Public washrooms are available at the Park of Reflection.

Brian McLatchie's stunning rural property sparkles with whimsy at every turn. From the large pond surrounded by hostas and ferns, to the reclaimed barn foundation you will find a variety of garden spaces with a wide variety of plant materials and unique ideas for every garden. The garden has inspired Brian's poetry which accentuates points throughout.

The Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection is located on the former Cullen Gardens property. This garden is a living tribute to all of Canada's uniformed service personnel and their families who served domestically or internationally and became ill or injured in the line of duty. This garden is maintained by the Brooklin Whitby Horticultural Society. It is a calming and soothing space, perfect for quiet contemplation. (There is public washroom at this site.)

The Barrett Centre of Innovation in Sustainable Agriculture is an award-winning hub of excellence in urban agriculture, sustainable growing practices, research, education and training. Established by Durham College, a recognized leader in food farming and horticulture science education with the generous support of the Barrett Family Foundation. It features a state-of-the-art vertical indoor farm and offers experiential education programs for students and the community.



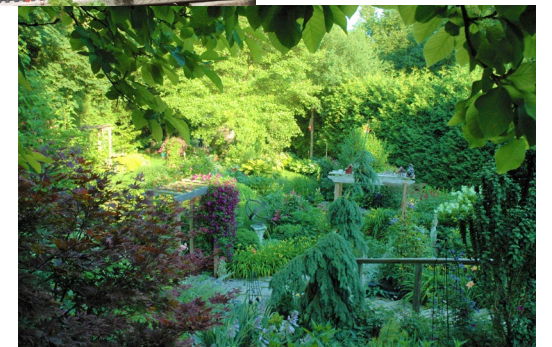
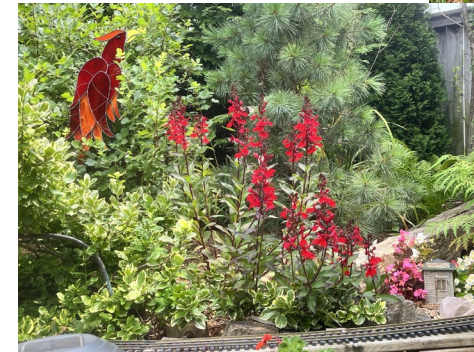
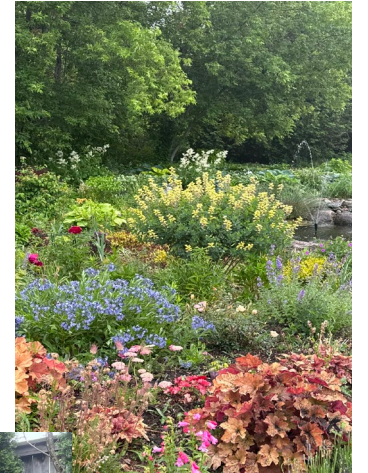
Friday - BLUE TOUR

**This tour will be repeated on Saturday as the Purple Tour.
Please note there are no public washrooms on this tour.**

Lina Tureski's rural property features several garden areas. Perennial gardens showcase ornamental grasses, a collection of peonies and hydrangeas. Guests are encouraged to stroll the grounds, discovering the native pollinator garden which incorporates medicinal herbs, the 10 raised beds devoted to vegetables and an unheated greenhouse.

Vic Walker and Tori Dodd welcome you to "Lake Merlot". The cheeky garden name provides some insight into the sense of whimsy that welcomes you. Described as a visit to a cottage property within the city, there are many plant and art elements to catch your eye, even before you discover Vic's extensive train collection which winds its way along the water's edge.

Jill Snape's a ravine garden is full of surprises both horticultural and architectural. Unique art accentuates the different spaces throughout the garden. The property hosts many native plants, multiple pollinator specimens amongst unique trees and shrubs. This garden seems to go on forever and just when you think you have seen it all, a bridge leads you across the creek to even more.



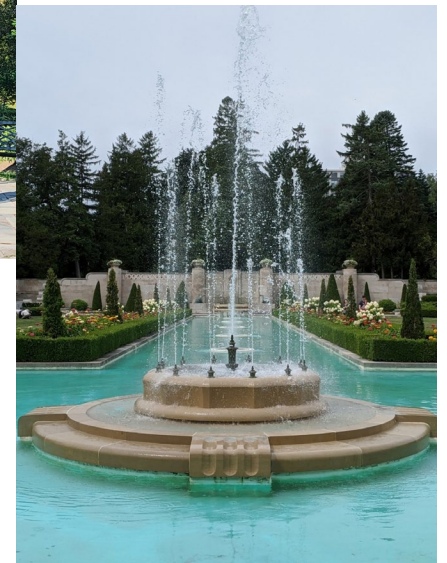
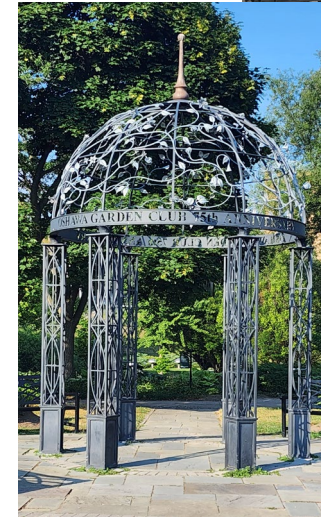
Saturday - ORANGE TOUR

Please note this tour includes a garden from the Friday Red Tour. Transportation on this tour is by school bus. All legs of the tour are under 6 km. Public washrooms are available at Parkwood Estates

Oshawa Garden Club's Giving Gardens is leased from the Salvation Army's Community Garden. Using succession planting methods and choosing 25 different crops which could be harvested throughout the growing season, the five, largely full sun 5 ft. x 15 ft. gardens (3 ground level, one waist height raised bed and one slightly shorter raised bed) yielded over 1000 lbs. of fresh vegetables for the local food bank in 2025.

The Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens envelope the Oshawa Creek as it winds its way through Oshawa's downtown and incorporates many unique features. The Michael and Judi Denny Peony Garden displays more than 300 varieties of peonies including the original 100 donated by the Canadian Peony Society, and hosts the annual Peony Festival, a Top 100 Ontario Festival and Event held in June. The winding paths will lead you past the locally hybridized Daylily Collection to the Memory Garden with a variety of seasonal plants and the unique architectural features. A lovely waterfall feature takes advantage of the natural topography of the area.

This self guided tour of the 11-acre **Parkwood Estates Gardens** will provide illustrations of the design work of Harris and Hall (1910s), Howard and Lorrie Dunnington-Grubb (1920s) who created the Italian Garden, the Sundial Garden, the Summer House and the Sunken Garden, as well as John Lyle (1930s) who created the award winning 2-acre Formal Garden which is in an art modern style. In addition to these elements, there are three greenhouses which are home to the Japanese Garden and Greenhouse Tea Room. The greenhouses are also used to produce much of the plant material for the gardens. Since 2019, the Oshawa Garden Club and Durham Master Gardeners have been working with Parkwood on the rejuvenation and revitalization of the Tennis Court Gardens. There is something awe-inspiring around every turn through-out this amazing garden. (A public washroom is available on site.)



Saturday - GREEN TOUR

Please note that this tour is a variation of the Friday Yellow Tour.
Public washrooms are available at the Park of Reflection.

Four Winds is the lifelong creation of Rodger and Grace Inglis. The initial reclamation of the gardens on this 34-acre property began with Grace's father in the 1950s. Today this curated garden boasts a variety of unique conifers, rare deciduous trees, 20 varieties of lilacs, perennials, alpine plants and shrubs. It features dry stone walls, sculptures and uses reclaimed materials to create sweeping views and a variety of garden spaces.

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Saturday - PURPLE TOUR

Please note that this a REPEAT of the Friday Blue Tour.
There are no public washrooms on this tour.

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