

OPEN GARDENS TORONTO 2007

Open Gardens Toronto is a program modelled on the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) in Britain. Since 1927, the NGS has been raising money for worthwhile causes by opening private gardens to the public.

In Toronto this year, 26 private gardens, grouped in different areas of the city, will be open to the public on the long evenings of May, June and July and on weekend afternoons in September and October.

The proceeds from Open Gardens Toronto will go to the Canadian Women's Foundation (CWF), Canada's first and only national, public foundation for women and girls. CWF raises money and makes grants to stop violence against women and build economic independence for women and their children.

Entrance fees

Single visit: \$3.00  
Mini-passport: \$10.00 Four gardens  
Full passport: \$25.00 All gardens

Planning Your Garden Visits

From the calendar choose the dates that are convenient for you to visit a group of gardens.

At each garden, you can pay the single entrance fee, purchase a mini-passport for four gardens or a full passport for all the gardens. A full passport is the best buy.

The gardens are open four times, twice in the evening and twice on fall afternoons.

TTC access is given for each group of gardens.

The Gardens

Descriptions of the gardens follow.

ETOBICOKE  
(Royal York north of Dundas & Old Mill)

**19 Westridge Road (Pat Lang)**  
*Subway: Royal York. Bus: Royal York North 73.*  
May 30, June 19, July 18  
This sunny garden is designed with living spaces to enjoy the surrounding beds and pond. A weeping beech and flowering shrubs provide on-going colour while peonies, hydrangea and other perennials create seasonal interest. A crabapple shades sweet woodruff, hostas and wild poppy. Akebia covers the arbour while climbing hydrangea and porcelain vine establish themselves on neighbouring fences.

**20 Westridge Road (Mary Ann Lawrie)**  
*Subway: Royal York. Bus: Royal York North 73.*  
May 30, June 19  
Designed for privacy, the front garden has evergreens hiding the house from the street and corkscrew willows with wildflowers and moss beneath. The shady back garden, ringed with hemlock, is full of rhododendrons, hydrangeas, bleeding hearts, hostas and ferns. A stone patio leads to a statue of St. Francis surrounded by sweet woodruff and Japanese fern.

**18 Ashley Park Road (Shari Esyk)**  
*Subway: Royal York. Bus: Royal York North 73.*  
May 30, June 19, July 18  
The award winning front garden features an inter-locking brick courtyard, a berm, small trees and flowering shrubs, perennials, grasses and bulbs. An ancient White Pine shelters the back garden which features a tri-colour beech, Acer Griseum, and Bristlecone Pine. The acid border with rhododendrons and companion plants, the small woodland garden with trilliums, and the mixed borders are all maintained organically. This garden won a “Canadian Gardening” Award in 2005

**37 Old Mill Terrace (Sharron & Gary Colbert)**  
*Subway: Old Mill.*  
June 19, July 18  
The gardens near the house, under a canopy of oaks, are a mix of shade and sun-loving perennials, shrubs and annuals to maintain constant colour. The beds lead to a “bench place” overlooking the Humber ravine. Cedar lined paths wind through large, shaded woodland gardens with a wonderful mix of perennials that thrive in spite of the visiting wildlife.

ETOBICOKE  
(Royal York to Parklawn, south of Bloor)

**43 Winston Grove (Sandra Niemy)**  
*Subway: Royal York. Bus 76 to Glenroy.*  
June 7, June 14, Sept 8 & 9  
Rhododendrons and azaleas thrive in the acidic soil under the beautiful white pine that provides the “bones” for this shade garden. A small perennial border on the east side is filled with continuous colour while a path leads to a “retreat” at the northwest corner of this relaxing garden

**10 Bethnal Ave. (Marsha Gettas)**  
*Subway: Old Mill. Bus Prince Edward South 66*  
June 7, June 14, Sept. 8 & 9  
The sunny front garden has a mix of small trees, flowering shrubs, organic roses, perennials, annuals, vegetables and 700 bulbs. The back garden has sun and shade with the challenge of a large Maple. Paths divide this garden into 10 sections which include a wall of clematis, double arches of climbing roses, foliage and textural plants, hanging pots and another 700 bulbs.

**14 Edwalter Ave.**  
*Subway: Old Mill Bus Prince Edward South 66.*  
June 14, Sept. 8 & 9  
The backyard garden is shady with varieties of hostas and other perennials. The deck garden is wall-to-wall-to sky containers filled with annuals, succulents, tropical plants and vines. The courtyard in front of the deck is home to herbs and more succulents. The front garden is a xeriscaped rock garden along with grasses, daylilies and anything unusual that strikes the fancy of the two passionate plant people who tend this garden.

**182 Humbervale Blvd. (Suzanne & Spencer Barrett)**  
*Subway: Royal York. Bus 76 to Glenroy.*  
Sept. 8 & 9  
This property has gardens on different levels. An English cottage garden in the front is full of colour and texture created by perennials, bulbs, rock plants, climbing roses, clematis, trees and shrubs. In the back, there is a sunny deck with two ponds connected by a waterfall with many aquatic plants and a bog garden. At the lower level there is a shade garden with a wide variety of trees and shrubs and finally there is a wild area bordering Mimico Creek.

ETOBICOKE  
(Islington Ave. to East Mall, Bloor to Rathburn)

**6 Echo Valley Road (Pam Collie)**  
*Subway: Kipling. Bus 45 and 46.*  
June 5, June 12, Sept. 22 & 23  
This large city garden (50 x 100 ft) faces south and gives the gardener a head start on the growing season. It's filled with many flowering shrubs and perennials. A particular feature are the many daylilies with several named varieties.

**48 Maydolph Road (Bev Dawson)**  
*Subway: Kipling. Bus East Mall 111.*  
June 5, June 12, Sept. 22 & 23  
On a corner, this large garden is both sunny and shady. A natural knoll at the eastern edge of the property is a “rocky perennial border”. Around the house are shrub and perennial borders. The eclectic mix reflects the gardener's love of plants and the soft hues of pinks, purples, yellows and silver/white

**11 Oregon Trail ( Jean Sinclair)**  
*Subway: Kipling Bus. Markland Woods 49.*  
June 5, June 12, Sept 22 & 23  
The front garden, under two Crimson King maples comprises two steep banks covered with ivy, vinca, creeping jenny and lady's mantle. A sunnier border has iris, sedums, lamb's ears and cosmos. A large, naturalized pond fills the shady back garden where rhododendrons, azaleas, clematis and heuchera thrive. The tall, cedar hedge gives privacy.

**22 Golfcrest Road (Helen Whiteman)**  
*Subway: Islington. Bus Islington North 37.*  
June 12, Sept. 22 & 23  
The south facing front garden has mostly dry tolerant perennials and low maintenance shrubs such as Worcester gold caryopteris along with a Japanese maple, a blue spruce and cedars. To the west of the house, a shady area features woodland poppy, hostas, heucheras and ferns. A putting green covers a third of the back yard and a black walnut presents challenges, too.

**PARKDALE**  
**(Jameson - Bathurst btwn Dundas & Richmond)**

**164 Cowan Ave (Denis Lefebvre)**  
*Streetcar: Queen (to Brock) or King.*  
June 6, June 13, Sept. 15 & 16  
A secluded urban retreat, formally structured with stone pathways and boxwood hedges. Planting, by contrast is an uninhibited mix of small trees, shrubs and perennials. Other features include a circular pool and large, paved entertainment areas decorated with imaginative container plantings.

**11 Melbourne Ave. (Barry Parker)**  
*Streetcar: Queen or King to Dufferin..*  
June 6, June 13, Sept. 15 & 16  
A garden oasis in the middle of the city, divided into compartments, it contains an eclectic mix of interesting plants. It is well designed to make use of limited space and to accommodate growing collections of both hardy and tender plants. Current phase of enthusiasm is for hardy Cyclamen and Saxifraga fortunei hybrids.

**Melbourne Place - Opposite 11 Melbourne Ave.**  
June 6, June 13, Sept. 15 & 16  
Melbourne Place is a unique enclave in the City of Toronto, made up of 7 Victorian houses in a secluded courtyard. The residents are happy to show visitors the pleasantly landscaped common space as well as some cleverly designed, small private gardens.

**238 Lisgar St. (Coleen Clark)**  
**236 Lisgar St. (Jamie Whitney)**  
*Streetcar: Dundas to Lisgar.*  
*Enter from the alleys south and behind.*  
June 6, June 13, Sept. 15 & 16  
These two gardens, separated by a fence and joined by a gate, have lots of sun. Jamie's garden is lively, diverse and bright with colour coming from small trees, shrubs and flowers. Coleen's garden is more subdued and restful with softer colours from the vines along both fences and contrasting foliage.

**193 Crawford St. (Maureen Whitehead)**  
*Streetcar: Dundas or Queen to Shaw.*  
June 6, June 13, Sept. 15 & 16  
This small, inner-city garden backs onto Trinity-Bellwoods Park and a magnificent vista of the downtown skyline. A limestone berm creates privacy without sacrificing the park connection and provides a pleasant view for passers-by. The space is mostly shady with hostas and woodland plants. Some sun-loving perennials have managed to find a place for themselves.

**703 Richmond St. West (Elizabeth Stewart)**  
*Queen to Tecumseth/Palmerston.*  
June 6, June 13, Sept. 15 & 16  
A "downtown working farm" describes this narrow backyard chock-full of plants, both beautiful and edible. Beyond the black, iron gate are ten kinds of fruit, ten varieties of heirloom tomatoes, other heritage vegetables and herbs that combine with perennials and annuals in south-facing raised beds. This jam-packed potager is framed by flowering vines, shrubs and trees – including a completely blue tree.

**SEATON VILLAGE**  
**(Bloor to Barton between Bathurst & Christie)**

**97 Barton (Marjory Embree)**  
*Subway: Bathurst or Christie*  
June 20, June 27, Sept. 29 & 30  
A Japanese maple, crabapple and redbud have made the back garden which faces south relatively shady and dry. The garden is planted with a focus on the texture of the plantings and includes native plants, Japanese plants and rare plants that flower from spring to late fall. A stone path winds from the back garden to the front of the house through a mix of perennials, shrubs and grasses.

**597 Palmerston (Charles Danzker)**  
*Subway: Bathurst or Christie*  
June 20, June 27, Sept. 29 & 30  
This 18' x 60' garden is blocked from good sunlight by three, large trees in the neighbour's garden. It began as a vegetable garden and has transformed to an English style garden with roses and many other poorly understood plants. The layout is meant to extend the design principles of the renovated house.

**588 Palmerston (Linda Read)**  
*Subway: Bathurst or Christie.*  
June 20, June 27, Sept. 29 & 30  
From spring ephemerals such as trillium, bellwort and Virginia bluebells to the taller cupflower, milkweeds and Joe Pye weed of summer to fall with asters and goldenrod, this front garden of Ontario native plants brings surprising benefits. Native plants survive and flourish in extremes of weather, do not require much care and self seed so there is constant change and plants to give away. On a hot day, the air hums with bees and butterfly visits are common. Birds clean the seeds and berries in the fall and winter.

**ANNEX**  
**(West of Spadina, East of Bathurst)**

**80 Walmer Road (Linda Dushman)**  
*Subway: Spadina*  
June 21, June 28, Oct. 13 & 14  
You enter this garden through an iron gate, passing by a trellis covered with wisteria. The creative use of stone, raised beds and shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen, lead the eye through the quiet "rooms" to a seating area under the trees at the end of the garden. Woodland plants thrive under the choke cherry tree whose changes in colour are "highly entertaining". Carefully chosen perennials provide interest from early spring to late fall.

**129 Albany Avenue (John Therrien)**  
*Subway: Bathurst*  
Oct. 13 & 14  
This well-proportioned garden hosts curving flower beds that lead the eye to a rustic garden shed, sheltered by birch trees, at the back. Highlights include Jurassic-sized solomon's seal, native bloodroot and a small, proud pear tree with highly pleasing pears in late summer (if the squirrels don't get them first).

**205 Albany Avenue (Noelle Richardson)**  
*Subway: Bathurst*  
June 21, June 28  
In the dappled shade beneath a grand old pear native shrubs and perennials thrive in pear composted soil. Grass curves around a Japanese maple and a redbud to a rustic seating area at the end of the garden

**211 Albany Avenue (Amanda McConnell)**  
*Subway: Bathurst*  
June 21, June 28, Oct 13 & 14  
The wild garden at 211 Albany is being re-designed to prepare for hotter, drier summers ahead. Wilderness plantings have been (somewhat) simplified and tamed, new stone shades the small goldfish pond, while new shrubs and small trees protect the perennial borders. Ferns and native spring flowers fill the shady beds in the side garden and a small vegetable garden claims a sunny spot beyond the arch.

**217 Albany Avenue (Brigid O'Reilly)**  
*Subway: Bathurst*  
June 21, June 28, Oct. 13 & 14  
This long, narrow garden winds its shady way between two branching evergreens to a raised bed beneath an enormous black walnut. Borders of native woodland plants, perennials and flowering shrubs are planned to provide continuous bloom.

OPEN  
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TORONTO



2007

Do you like to visit other people's gardens, meet the gardeners, share ideas and inspiration? We want to share our city gardens with you. So we're opening them to visitors, in the interest of a worthwhile cause.

visit our website  
[www.opengardenstoronto.com](http://www.opengardenstoronto.com)