

Garden Tour 2017 Garden Descriptions

A ROCKY RETREAT SURROUNDED BY CEDAR WOODS

0109 Oliphant Street, Everton - Peggy and John Lewzey

The smell of cedar and the sound of rippling water welcome visitors to our rocky retreat. Eight years ago we replaced the two existing straight flights of concrete steps on our steep lot with meandering limestone paving and 37 steps (No railing). A man-made waterfall flows over a naturally occurring 20' limestone cliff at one end of our large spring-fed pond, home to several rainbow and speckled trout ... the ones that have survived the attention of herons and mink! Impressive vistas from both above and below can be enjoyed from benches, patios and bridges. The garden's colour palette is derived from plants with interesting foliage. Among our favourites are hostas, ferns and Japanese forest grass.

Artist: Pat Armstrong

A WILDLIFE RETREAT

144 County Club Drive - Karen McKeown

Everyone is welcome to this garden, designed to be functional and beautiful. Precipitation is collected in rain barrels, a front yard rain garden and a side yard walkway with an underground catchment system. There is also a composter system which uses household greens and garden browns to amend the clay soils in the vegetable garden. Our garden, with its many native and pollinator plants, is designed to attract wildlife and provide all season bloom. The relaxing sound of splashing water in the small pond can be enjoyed from the comfort of the shaded patio. Thirty-three trees, including rare Carolinians, are strategically placed and pruned to shield the house and patios, creating privacy, a shady retreat, wildlife habitat, and a place of beauty.

Artist: Irene Kunhegyi

FRIENDS IN GARDENING

313 & 315 Delhi Street - Elizabeth & Bob Fell and Marilyn & Irvine Bruce

Welcome to 313 and 315 Delhi St., overlooking Riverside Park. The owners share and enjoy the fruits of their labour as friends in gardening for 20 years, transforming each garden lot to suit the comfort and enjoyment of their families. At 313, gardens, shrubs and perennials provide privacy and interest for the Fells. A garden barn dates to around 1900. A 50 year old pink flowering crab is always a star in May. At 315, the Bruces, with their love of colour, design and building expertise, have created a gardener's dream. Special areas of interest and seating invite friends and family to enjoy their one of a kind oasis abounding with perennials, annuals, a kitchen garden, evergreens and a whimsical faux shed.

Artist: Dawn Labelle

GARDENING ON A DIME

76 Marlborough Road - Geryl and Lorie Thatcher

When we moved into our current home in 2009, the yard was a blank slate. The first year we removed all the grass in the front yard and the second we created the front garden. Each year garden rooms were added, including a vegetable garden. The design continues to evolve. All plants have been obtained from friends, garden sales and seed starting. Garage sale finds, sculptures, and a friend's glass ornaments have been tucked into corners. Lorie, the "hardscaper," has built, among other things, a fish pond with waterfall. This is a favourite sitting place to watch fish swim, birds drink, tadpoles emerge, and the spiders spin their webs. We have created a natural habitat for bees, butterflies, rabbits, hummingbirds, squirrels and chipmunks - all on a dime.

Artist: Liz Poulton

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BIRD PARADISE

19 Lincoln Crescent - Bill, Linda and Armand McCorkindale

We moved here 18 years ago to discover the backyard touches 7 homes on 3 streets. Over the years we have expanded the original 2 small gardens and put in new ones. The stone steps and rock landscaping were added 6 years ago to create different levels. Each year the gardens bloom with our personal collections of perennials (hostas, peonies, hydrangeas, 3 varieties of iris), ornamental grasses, many clematis, bulbs (100 or so each of gladioli and calla lilies) and our son's 25' by 50' vegetable garden. Focal points in the garden include several bird feeders and a large free-standing birdhouse. Mature trees invite the birds and give total privacy to our little piece of paradise.

Artist: Heather Robinson

URBAN OASIS

35 Galt Street - The Brydges Family

Since last being on tour this historic property has continued to mature with timeless elegance. The newly built two car carriage house has settled itself into the landscape. The traditional turf has been removed and white clover now acts as groundcover for the front "yard" area. The dry stack stone courtyard wall finishes the side and rear yard landscaping. This wall and the new barn timber pergola tie the stone house and carriage house together architecturally. Now mostly mature, the original specimen plantings are showing their glory. The in-ground plunge pool/spa with waterfall is nestled into the garden and creates a sense of a northern Ontario retreat in an urban city core.

Artist: Katherine Mambourg

WOODLAND GARDEN

39 Emslie Street - Martin Ford and Judy Roeder

Finding a woodland garden in a city is rare. Here 26 varieties of trees (including a 200 year old oak and its seedlings) live in harmony with the 170 year old stone house - set in the lot's corner, leaving as much garden as possible. A mature wisteria winds around the house, up into the tall trees and over a trellised entrance, offering glimpses of an old brick patio through the many understoried dogwoods. This is a naturalized home for both plants and people, with places to rest, a small lush lawn, stepping stones through native sweet woodruff, corydalis and a bed of 15 different ferns. Many shades of green predominate, creating shadow and mystery (which children love) - emphasized by the sound of falling water. It's how people and trees enjoy each other - and still, it's downtown Guelph!

Artist: Irene Smedly

A TWISTY, CURVY, FUNKY SPACE

10 Flanders Road - Mira and Sieglinde Soni (daughter and mother)

Seven years ago, this garden on a large city lot began as an overgrown, weed-infested, very sandy ant hill! Now a lovely waterfall, designed and installed by Robin Aggus, welcomes birds and provides year-round enjoyment to the owners. Countless truckloads of topsoil and mulch were required before introducing a growing collection of plants, shrubs and trees, many unique and rare. We credit Chris Campbell, a local landscape architect, for his role in pulling together a harmonious flow through this space. Nature lovers will enjoy this garden - and those who love rocks, garden art, and bling will understand Mira's self-confessed addiction for these 'extras' set amongst the beautiful plants.

Artist: Graeme Sheffield