

SWEETNAM HOUSE

7858 Highway 7 East – Ann Hollings and Alex Harrington

Parking: Available on site. Enter by the east driveway.

Our 2-acre country garden is shared with a multitude of wild-life visitors who make full use of the pond and waterfall, the bubbling rock, the small woodland trail and, to our dismay, much of the perennial garden. Birdfeeders are located throughout, attracting an impressive variety of birds as well as squirrels, bunnies and chipmunks. Potted vegetables are raised out of critter reach on the back of a rusty 1948 Chevy truck, where tomato and squash plants flourish and a potato crop grows in bags. On the west side of the house, straw bales are used to grow another small vegetable garden that includes zucchini and green beans. In the perennial garden, traditional selections such as delphinium, rudbeckia, echinacea and campanula combine with new plant varieties that we cannot resist trying, with varying degrees of success!

Artist: Heather Robinson

Musicians: Emily and Daniella Kistemaker

A GENERATIONAL GARDEN

50 Ottawa Crescent – Dawn and Paul Keating

This garden has been in the family for 62 years. An English man and his Italian wife designed the original landscape of this backyard, incorporating both nationalities with English-style vegetable and flower gardens and an Italian-inspired grapevine arbor. The present owners (their Italian nephew and his English wife) moved into this house 14 years ago. In keeping with the bi-national theme, further transformations took place: more English-style gardens, water features, pathways, decks and an Italian pizza oven. This is a garden designed for entertaining and comfortable outdoor living, welcoming friends and family alike. An al fresco dining room, decorated by a beautiful Tuscan scene, hand-painted by the daughter of the original owners, brings the garden and family connections full circle.

Artist: Kristen Boyle

Musicians: Gary Lazzari and Victor Faeinza

ON THE BANKS OF THE SPEED RIVER

50 & 52 Arthur Street North – Leanne Johns and Stan Kozak

The Speed River forms the backdrop of this garden that is just steps from downtown Guelph. The garden is planned and

maintained to reflect a natural setting and to encourage wild-life. The grass at the front of this 1875 semi-detached stone home has been replaced with low maintenance bushes, hosta and ferns. The back of the property features an alvar with prairie plants, ponds, a stream, sunny perennials and seating areas to enjoy the passing river. There are many native tree and plant species including dwarf hackberry, Kentucky coffee tree, prairie smoke and lakeside daisy. Our challenges are gardening under a towering walnut tree and a commitment to refrain from using power tools and chemicals. Sit awhile among the limestone ruins and experience the calm of a riverside garden in the core of Guelph.

Artist and Musician: Cynthia Trombley

A SHELTER IN THE SOUTH END

36 Brazolot Drive – Kevin and Beverleigh Broughton

When the owners moved in 19 years ago, a bare yard greeted them. Since that time the gardens have grown each year with new beds and plantings as time and money permitted. The front yard features a large city-planted oak, a new Japanese maple and a white mulberry that self-seeded 4-5 years ago. The backyard consists of a number of small gardens representing the owners' different interests: a rock garden, native/shade garden, rose garden and contemplative garden. Recent focus has been on native plants to encourage insects and birds. The plants come from a variety of sources: nurseries, seed catalogues, family, friends and roadside discoveries. Noteworthy plants are the prickly pear cactus (inspired by Point Pelee), a bur oak from an Arboretum plant sale and a Saskatoon serviceberry bush from the prairies.

Artist: Dawn Labelle

WELCOME TO VILLAGE ON THE GREEN

295 Water Street #191 – Merle Griffin

Parking: on Water St. or the First Christian Reformed Church. Enter by the second (west) entrance.

I moved here in January, 1992 - snow everywhere. After the thaw, my tiny backyard was a blank slate covered in weeds and moss. Since this east-facing garden gets little sun, I started a border with shade-loving plants. Over the years, I have extended the beds with a very narrow path down the centre. Next to the house is a row of Solomon seal (from my previous garden) with sweet woodruff as ground cover. My

beds feature painted ferns, hosta, cranesbill and astilbe. Along the fence pink and white phlox stand tall along with baby's breath, fiddlehead ferns, lady's mantle, hellebore, hosta and bleeding hearts. My garden is a beautiful blend of many shade-loving plants. A small garden with a very large heart.

Note: You are welcome to stroll through the community woodland garden at the end of my street.

LABOUR OF LOVE

4 Elmhurst Crescent – Marti and Larry Valeriote

When we moved into our home 34 years ago, grass and shrubs dominated our grounds. Each year, we have chipped away at removing them and have now created many unique gardens adorned with whimsical ornaments. A luscious curly willow (grown from a decorative stick a decade ago) and a beautiful ivory silk lilac tree greet you on your arrival. Many gardens of hydrangeas, lilies, hostas and groundcovers punctuate both front and back yards. Look closely for fairy gardens hidden throughout. A flagstone path leads you to the secluded backyard, where numerous mirrors on the back cedar fence add depth to this quiet refuge. Enjoy tasty food samples, cooked on a wood smoker, provided by Valeriote's Market. Listen to soft cello music, played by our niece, drifting over the garden. We look forward to your visit.

Musician: Anita Valeriote

SUGAR BUSH SPLENDOUR

12 Pickwick Place – John and Mary McGimsie

While my home was being built 35 years ago, I discovered 3 very large rocks in an open field behind my property and moved them onto my front yard. This was the beginning of a long journey gardening with rocks. Since I love rocks and the Niagara Escarpment, I felt in some small way I could re-create a bit of the Escarpment on my property. As my passion for gardening grew so did my passion for rocks: today they are throughout the 1/3-acre property. Over the years I introduced a small vegetable garden, shade trees and perennials, including 25 varieties of hosta. Lastly, I built a small cottage-like outbuilding to display my collection of hundreds of vintage lights.

Artist: Irene Kunheygi

Musicians: Lillan Rosendal, Freda Wrench, Angela Hammar