

An invitation to residents of
Wards 1-7, 11-13 & 17

The City of Toronto
Etobicoke York District's

Great Gardens Contest 2011



Nominations are being accepted for the 2011 City of Toronto, Etobicoke York District's Garden Awards Competition. This is Toronto's way of recognizing the efforts of residents, businesses and other property owners in making their neighbourhoods beautiful. Each garden nominated will be judged during the preliminary phase of the contest and the finalists will be rejudged by a panel of experts from local horticultural societies. Winners in each area and category will be honoured at an Awards Ceremony in the Fall. The Best Residential Garden in Etobicoke York will be selected from the first place winners in each area and will go on to compete for the Toronto's City Wide Garden of the Year.

Nomination forms are to be sent to the addresses listed on the back of this form by **Wednesday, July 6, 2011**. All winners will be contacted and the results will be announced in local newspapers in early August.

Who may nominate a garden?

You may nominate your own garden or someone else's. You do not have to be a resident of Toronto to nominate a garden.

How to enter:

Just fill out the nomination form on the next panel of this brochure. Nomination forms may be copied and written facsimiles will be accepted. No more than 8 gardens may be nominated by any one person.

Community Partners:

The partners in the Great Gardens Contest are horticultural societies of Etobicoke, Roseland, Swansea and Westway.

Nomination form

Deadline date:
Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Form may be copied for
additional nominations.

Please print
I nominate:

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Nominated by:

Name _____

(optional)

Telephone _____



For more information call 416-392-7052.

How to enter:

Fill out the nomination form and return it by mail, fax, email or drop-off to the addresses listed below by **Wednesday, July 6, 2011**.

Return by mail:

Etobicoke York Garden Awards
c/o Rockcliffe Yard
301 Rockcliffe Boulevard
Toronto, ON M6N 5G6

Return by fax:

416-392-0044

Return by email:

greatgardens@toronto.ca

Drop-off:

Etobicoke Civic Centre
Parks, Forestry & Recreation Reception Desk
399 The West Mall (at Burnhamthorpe Rd)
Main floor



Garden Award Categories

Residential Gardens

Residential Gardens will include only the front and side yard which can be judged from the sidewalk (backyards are excluded). The gardens will be judged in one of the following categories:

Traditional

This is a garden with a predominance of grass. A first, second and third place winners will be named from each area.

Environmental/Alternative

An 'Environmental/Alternative Garden' for the Toronto Etobicoke York Garden Contest is a garden that substitutes plants for lawn, or significant areas of lawn, and utilizes environmentally sensitive gardening practices. The use of organic gardening methods including the elimination of garden chemicals is essential. Although points are awarded to gardens that have native plants and help create wildlife habitat by providing food, shelter and water for indigenous birds and animals, an alternative garden does not have to include these components. A first, second and third place winner will be named from each area.

Commercial and Industrial Gardens

These properties will be viewed from all sides and from within property limits. These properties will be judged by District. A first, second and third place winner will be selected from Etobicoke York as a whole.

Other Properties

This category may include apartment buildings, churches, townhouse complexes, schools and any other properties that do not fall into the above categories. This category may be subdivided if there are significant numbers of entries. **These properties will be viewed from all sides and from within property limits.** A first, second and third place winner will be selected from Etobicoke York as a whole.

What will the judges be looking for?

The judges will look for the gardens that reflect an effective and creative use of available space. The size of the property is not important. The judge will evaluate the garden based on inspiration and creativity and the garden's contribution to the surrounding community. Upon arriving at an address, the judge will take a few moments to get an overall view and feeling of the space, and will then evaluate the garden using the criteria listed. Bonus points will be awarded for the planting of native species and the use of environmentally friendly gardening practices.

Judging Criteria

Scale of Points for All Gardens:

Design: 30%

Creativity and originality of design. Balance and scale of garden to building. Selection and arrangement of plant material including placement of trees & shrubs giving the garden overall year-round appeal. Use of colour and texture in relation to building (at time of judging). Design of traffic flow, both pedestrian and vehicular.

Use of Plant Material: 20%

Use of plant material that is suitable to the location. Use of perennials and annuals as to diversity, suitability, spacing and balance. Use of plant material that encourages beneficial insects, butterflies, birds, toads etc., indigenous plant species.

Condition & Maintenance: 15%

Overall cleanliness of property including driveways, parking areas with respect to weeds and garbage. Hedges, flowerbeds, borders with respect to pruning, edging of beds, control of weeds, disease and insect damage. Lawn or ground covers - good colour, dense growth, well maintained. Some unobtrusive weeds may be considered acceptable.

Hard Landscaping: 10%

Condition of driveway surface and walkways. Appropriate use of stones, rocks, walls, fencing, statuary, garden art, containers, water features, outdoor structures and furniture, bird houses and toad houses etc.

Environmental Practices: 10%

Use of good environmental practices such as mulches, rain barrels, compost, etc. Overall reduced pesticide use.

Community Contribution: 10%

How the property contributes to the beautification of the neighbourhood as viewed from the street.

Distinction: 5%

Impact and special overall appeal and special features.

Total Points: 100%

Judges reserve the right to withhold the award in any category if they feel the nominations are not worthy. They have the right to award honorable mentions in any category they wish. The decisions of the judges are final.