

Schomberg Horticultural Society's 20th anniversary Garden Tour June 23

Written By MARK PAVILONS

The upcoming 20th anniversary Garden Tour, put on by the Schomberg Horticultural Society, promises to be a cornucopia of colour and inspiration.

Join on this self-guided tour that runs Sunday, June 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The tour will give participants a nice selection of art and artistic landscapes, thanks to local property owners and artists.

Organizers are delighted to collaborate with ASK this year and local artists will be displaying their art throughout the gardens and paint en plein air. On site artists include Janna Kozoub, Mary Morganelli, Lynn Wilson, Hendrika Ono, Janet McLeod Wortel, Inge Dam, George Burt, Ona Kingdon, Chris Kingdon, Muriel Chestnut-Sorokova, Veronica Meloche, Tom Wray and John Panopoulos.

Here's a sneak peek of some of the fabulous gardens participating in this year's Garden Tour.

At stop #8, an elegant country estate awaits and this stunning landscape pays tribute to the rolling hills of King Township and its gorgeous vistas while the hard scaping and plant material is Muskoka inspired. The maple-lined drive way leads to a stunning home surrounded by perennial gardens and entertaining areas. Most notable trees are weeping beech, magnolias, red buds, lilacs, birch trees and red buds. Extensive plantings of perennials like phlox, geraniums, lavender, heuchera, echinacea, black-eyed Susans, just to name a few.

Climb the 'Stairway to Heaven' at stop #2. The sign says it all! Magnificent, multi-level gardens hug this elegant country estate. A dry river bed leads to a private lake. A state of the art vegetable garden boasts of seasonal vegetables and herbs. Mature trees, lilacs, mock orange, flowering quince, heuchera & lilies galore are in the perfectly manicured garden beds! Annual flowers add a splash of colour.

A Canadian Wildlife Habitat Accredited Property awaits at stop #3. 'In symbiosis with Mother Nature' was the mandate for the landscape designer, when the mainly native plant material was picked by the owner, a master gardener. Mature white pines, beech trees, native birch trees and maple trees are the anchor trees in the multi leveled terraces and gardens. An extensive collection of hostas, peonies, irises, lilies and other carefully selected plant material complements the native assortment of plants. Vegetables and herbs are found among the gardens and planters.

Other properties include three gardens in the exclusive Carrying Place Estate area. One of them is a perennial garden lover's dream, it features ponds, a waterfall and a collection of art work besides a stunning collection of unusual perennial flowers, trees and shrubs.

The Schomberg Community Farm is a must-see. Explore and admire the many vegetable plots and go on a scavenger hunt. Master gardeners hold a workshop on square foot gardening at 10:30 a.m. and again at 2:30 p.m. Native plants and garden related items are for sale.

At Pine Farm Orchard, explore the rustic gardens and this first high-density apple growing farm of 23 different dwarf espaliered apple varieties. Visit with the artists in the Orchard gallery at the back of the property. A special garden tour lunch and home made pies and coffee is waiting for tour visitors.

Organizers recommend that you book lunch ahead of time by calling 905-833-5459.

The Grackle Coffee Shop on Main Street offers special garden tour breakfast and lunches. In a hurry? Take it to go. Weather permitting, the owner might invite you to have the coffee in her enchanted back yard behind the coffee shop. Book ahead by calling 905-590-0069.

Wild Birds Unlimited of Barrie will have a pop-up shop at garden # 2.

Garden tour tickets are available on tour day at the Community Hall at 325 Main Street from 9:45 or at Blackforest Garden Centre and Pine Farm Orchard.

For online ticket purchase visit eventbrite.com/e/anniversary-garden-tour-tickets-55719252785#tickets.