



the Garden Club of Toronto

777 Lawrence Ave.E, Toronto, ON M3C1P2 Tel: 416-447-5218

office@thegardencluboftoronto.ca

www.thegardencluboftoronto.ca

Dear Prospective Member:

Thank you for considering membership in the Garden Club of Toronto. The attached application package contains information on the application process, a list of required and optional activities and brief information about the Club. Your Member Contact* can answer any questions you may have and help you complete the application form.

To give you a flavour of what you can expect when you join the Garden Club, we asked members what they like most about the Club and what they have gained personally from membership. Their comments repeatedly echoed the following:

- Making new friends in a group of like-minded, interesting and accomplished people
- Enjoying a sense of teamwork and camaraderie
- Gaining knowledge and education in floral design and gardening
- Experiencing new challenges
- Providing a fresh direction in life
- Developing leadership skills
- Participating in our charitable projects
- Having fun together!

After completing your provisional year, you will join a committee of your choice, e.g., Archives, Awards, Communications, Development, Floral Design, Horticulture, Membership, Programme, Projects, Provisional, or The Toronto Flower Show Committee. You can also participate in courses, workshops, special trips and outings. Please ask your Member Contact* to give you more information about these activities.

We hope that you enjoy your membership in the Garden Club of Toronto and look forward to getting to know you! Please contact us if we can be of assistance.

Joy Waldie
Membership Chair

* an existing member of the club whom you know or a designated member who will meet with you

PROVISIONAL ACTIVITIES

Substantial completion of these activities is required before a Provisional becomes an Active Member. Provisional and all club activities occur on weekdays during daytime hours. They may be completed over a 24-month period and certain other courses/activities may qualify. Specific dates will be distributed in late summer.

September

Orientation Meeting ½ day

Welcome Lunch ½ day

October

Basic Floral Design course 4 consecutive Tuesdays, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Throughout the Year

Horticulture Course – 4 sessions

Each Provisional will attend one monthly meeting of five committees. This will be helpful when selecting a committee to join after graduation.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

General Meetings take place the afternoon of the fourth Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, April and May. Flower Shows are held the morning of each General Meeting, with the exception of February. Although attendance is not compulsory, the meetings are the backbone of the Garden Club of Toronto programme.

The Club offers many other educational and social events for members and there are many ways to get involved. More details will be available at the Orientation Meeting.



WHAT IS THE GARDEN CLUB OF TORONTO?

- We are the only garden club in Canada that is a registered charity.
- Our 300+ members share a passion for flowers, gardens, the environment and beautifying public spaces.
- We are co-founders of Canada Blooms with Landscape Ontario.
- Since inception in 1946, the Club has contributed to the betterment of Toronto through projects which include gardens at The Toronto Botanical Garden, St. James Cathedral, Casa Loma, Spadina House, June Callwood Park and Highway of Heroes to name a few.
- Scholarships are awarded annually to horticultural students at Fanshawe College, Humber College, University of Guelph and University of Toronto.
- We meet at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto.
- The Club was incorporated in 1947.

Our aims

- To stimulate a knowledge and love of gardening amongst amateurs
- To aid in the protection of native plants, trees, birds, and soil
- To take an interest in civic planting

Our vision

- Sharing the wonder of nature through education, engagement and creativity

Our mission

- Volunteers inspiring our community through a focus on floral artistry and horticulture with a commitment to education and charitable initiatives.

Our values

- We are respectful, dedicated, resourceful, enthusiastic, charitable, innovative, creative and nurturing.

For more information, please refer to our website at www.thegardencluboftoronto.ca or, phone our office at 416-447-5218.

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- We LEARN from experts by attending courses in floral design and horticulture, and from the speakers at our general meetings.
- We GIVE BACK to the community through our involvement in charitable projects, maintaining specific public gardens (e.g., The Teaching Garden at The Toronto Botanical Garden), Outreach programs such as Gilda's Place and by volunteering at Canada Blooms.
- We CREATE floral designs, plants, and gardens and have an opportunity to compete in floral design and horticultural shows.
- We PARTICIPATE in social events such as a December holiday party, luncheons, and trips of various lengths with a focus on gardens.

TO BECOME A MEMBER

- Complete the application form included in this package or use the online application available from our website (<https://thegardencluboftoronto.ca/page-18120>). Contact the office to have a form mailed to you if needed.
- If you are acquainted with a current Garden Club member, please ask that person to be your Member Contact. If you don't know a current member, we will arrange for you to connect with a member from our Membership Committee.
- Submit your completed application form and fees. Details on the Application Form.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- First year members, called Provisionals, pay \$325 to cover the cost of membership and courses in floral design and horticulture. An additional \$50 to \$100 should be budgeted for plant materials.
- After the first year, annual dues are \$225 (as of 2022) payable by May 31. Unlike donations, fees are not tax deductible.
- If an applicant who has paid fees and been accepted decides to withdraw
 - i. after August 15 but before the Provisional programme begins, they will receive a refund of \$225 (\$325 less \$100 programme fee)
 - ii. after the start of the Provisional programme, they will not receive a refund, but may defer their membership for one year.
- All requests for withdrawal must be made in writing to the Provisional Chair. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration.

TIME COMMITMENT FOR PROVISIONALS

- In your first year, you will set aside approximately 20 days, from September through June.
- All Provisional meetings and events are held on weekdays. Some courses run from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, others from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. There are no evening or weekend activities.
- September and October are especially busy months with an Orientation session, a Welcome Lunch, a Horticulture session and a Floral Design course.
- After completing all the requirements, the Provisional 'graduates' in May and becomes a voting member of the Club. If, for some reason, the Provisional is unable to complete all required activities, it is possible to extend their Provisional status for two years.

TIME COMMITMENT FOR MEMBERS

- We are a registered charity, with one part-time employee. Our activities are supported by Club members who serve on committees such as Archives, Awards, Communications, Development, Floral Design, Horticulture, Membership, Provisional, Programme and Projects.
- Provisionals attend meetings of most of our committees to enable them to decide which ones they would be interested in joining.
- After completing the Provisional year, a member is expected to serve on at least one committee. A minimum of 4 hours each month (excluding July and August) should be set aside for this.

The Garden Club of Toronto
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please Print

LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

MAIN PHONE: _____ ALTERNATE PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

LICENCE PLATE: 1. _____

2. _____

(You may register up to 2 licence plates for free parking for vehicles you drive to meetings at the Toronto Botanical Garden.)

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE CLUB? _____

NAME OF MEMBER CONTACT: _____

DATE: _____

Submitting your application

Mail your application along with a cheque for \$325 payable to the Garden Club of Toronto.

The Garden Club of Toronto
777 Lawrence Avenue East
Toronto, ON M3C 1P2

Alternatively, email your application to office@thegardencluboftoronto.ca.

To send your fee by e-transfer to gct-treasury@bellnet.ca with your name and "Application Fee" in the comment section.

(416) 447-5218 or office@thegardencluboftoronto.ca

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire below will be entered into our database of interests and experience for all Garden Club of Toronto members. These notes are used by committees to identify members who could fill specific roles. It also helps members to communicate their interest in joining a committee or working on a special project. Please **mark with an X** all categories that apply to you.

Name: _____

Provisional Year: 2023-24

INTERESTS

- Archives Committee
- Awards Committee
- Communications Committee
 - Advertising
 - Newsletter
 - Publicity
 - Social Media
- Development Committee
 - Fundraising
 - Special Events
- Floral Design Committee
 - Teaching
 - Staging
 - Exhibiting
 - Judging
- Horticulture Committee
 - Teaching
 - Staging
 - Exhibiting
 - Judging
 - Gardening
- Programme Committee
 - Hospitality
 - Cooking
 - Travel
 - Trip Planning
 - Show Experience
 - Special Events
- Projects Committee
 - Community Projects
 - Environmental Issues
 - Landscaped Gardens
 - Teaching/Edible Gardens
- Visual Arts And Crafts
 - Photography
 - Painting
 - Crafts

Experience

- Accounting
- Administration
- Advertising
- Archives/Library
- Board Experience
- Catering
- Computer Skills
- Design (Staging For Shows)
- Event Planning
- Financial
- Floral Design
- Fundraising
- Graphic Design
- Horticulture
- Hospitality
- Landscaping
- Legal
- Management
- Marketing
- Master Gardener
- Media
- Mentoring
- Photography
- Project Management
- Publicity
- Recording Secretary
- Statistics
- Teaching
- Trip Planning
- Visual Arts
- Website Design
- Writing/Editing