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TORONTO GARDENS

ABOUT THE GARDENS OF TORONTO - REAL GARDENS BY REAL PEOPLE - AND HOW
TORONTONIANS GARDEN IN THEM.

MONDAY, MAY 26, 2008

Danforth East Tree Tour



It was quite a crowd last Sunday when arborist Todd Irvine and LEAF organizer Susan Gulley got us together to fall in love with trees. I learned plenty about the East Danforth treescape. And now I'm trying to see how it all fits in with my own garden.



My own garden, if you've read one or two of our posts, sits above untold feet of yellow sand. Well, now I can tell you that all that porous, inert stuff under there is the 14,000-year-old vestige (give or take a few thou) of a sandbar in the ancient [Lake Iroquois](#) that once lapped up against the top of our hill or just beyond.

That sandy land was the ideal growing conditions for oak savannah, which rather than boreal forest, was the natural state of tree-ffairs in this neck of the woods. Oak savannah is what is being nurtured over in [High Park](#). It's the combination of prairie dotted with trees, such as, well, oak -- but also sugar maple or beech. The towering red oak on the left (or above, depending on how this type arranges itself) is an example. The white oak below is another.

I want an oak tree now. Oak trees tolerate sand.



WELCOME TO TORONTO
GARDENS

This is a blog about gardens by sisters, and neighbours, Helen Battersby and Sarah Battersby, who come from long, long lines of English gardeners. Our gardens are in Toronto's east end, but that won't stop us from poking our noses into green spaces all over the city. Please, drop in, and don't hesitate to drop us a line.

HELEN'S PHOTOS ON FLICKR



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