

Losing the battles of the garden but winning the war

Adulting (v): to do grown-up things and hold responsibilities, such as, a 9-5 job, a mortgage/rent, a car payment, or anything else that makes one think of grown-ups. — UrbanDictionary.com.

The war against my garden wages on — and the weeds and wildlife are winning. That beautiful allium I grew from a bulb harvested from the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital legacy site is no longer with us because a squirrel (or a pack of them) decided to gnaw at its base, bringing the vibrant purple flower to its demise. In the following days, lilies also went down,

Julia Le

Oakville Beaver news reporter



like a forest being clear-cut. The squirrels have no mercy. Pepper plants have been dug up whole from our vegetable garden, although the tomato, zucchini, squash and herbs, have been spared.

Perhaps it's not even the squirrels, and the culprit is some other critter, in which case, I'm sorry squirrel, but not so sorry I'm blaming you (after all, I see how you taunt me as you dig a big hole in my planter of flowers). But here's the thing, squirrel. The joke is on you — and all your little friends. That's right. We don't need your help killing our garden. We're already doing a great job of it — all on our own. Just take a look at our grass that barely shows any trace of green. You can hear the straw-like texture crunch with every step you take. And the weeds... those darned weeds just keep multiplying. For every one I pull, another

four pop up the very next day. And have you seen the clematis plant that was slowly making its way up our trellis? It gave up on us probably because we weren't watering it enough. I don't blame it. But in our defence, we were trying to let nature 'do its thang.' For the record, our spirits — the hubbie and I, that is — aren't broken. After all, we get a pass for being newbies this year, right? We continue to attempt flipping through the stacks of old magazines and books a friend of mine gave us, listing tips and tricks on how to garden.

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