



Keith, Mark and George Poulos size up one of the new "sea-doo's" on the lot at Outdoor Power Equipment at 61 Guelph St. in Georgetown. The new sea-doo's, just like ski-doo's, are proving to be a popular item. (Herald photo)

## See the "Sea-doo" at Outdoor Power in Georgetown

With spring in the air more and more people turn their attention to the outdoors and if water sports are your fancy then you can check out the new line of "sea-doo's" right here in Georgetown.

Outdoor Power Equipment, a family owned business now in its third year of operation has added sea-doo's to its line of products.

The sea-doo is a two-seat motorized vehicle similar to a ski-doo except it skims along the surface of water. Sea-doo's are powerful enough to pull a water skier and they are guaranteed fun for the whole family, said George Poulos, owner and operator, along with his sons Mark and Keith, of Outdoor Power Equipment.

The biggest change in the public's attitude of outdoor power equipment Mr. Poulos has noticed is that people are buying better quality, higher performance name brand products. Mr. Poulos thinks the trend towards better quality name brand equipment is due to the quality and warranty offered through leading name brands.

People are willing to pay for the very best, said Mr. Poulos. It's for that reason that Outdoor Power Equipment carries the well-known names at the store at 61 Guelph St.

Outdoor Power also carries ski-doo's, canoes, fishing and pleasure boats up to 25 ft. long, Nissan outboard motors, fishing tackle and bait, life jackets, paddle boats, water skis, wet suits and much

more, said Mr. Poulos.

Outdoor Power also carries a variety of garden equipment including the full line of Bolens and Toro equipment, Husqvarna chain-saw, and the original multi-mower for which the store received an outstanding achievement award from Bolens for its high rate of sales.

Outdoor Power Equipment has sold more multi-mowers than any place else in Canada, said Mr. Poulos.

A large percentage of the store's sales comes from out-of-town customers living as far away as Peterborough and Owen Sound, and as close as Milton and Oakville but Mr. Poulos wants to sell more locally.

Outdoor Power is not restricted to sales, the store also offers full service and rentals for their garden equipment, said Mr. Poulos.

## Halton Hills homeowners like "do-it-yourself" improvements

Outdoors fans, especially those with backyards, are on their way to local lumber stores to load up with wood for do-it-yourself improvements.

"Fences and decks are the big thing at this time of year," said George Arnold of Leathertown Lumber Ltd. in Acton. "People like to get a lot of their outdoor projects out of the way in the spring to free up the summer."

The most popular wood types are pressured and western red cedar. They are generally used for constructing fences and patio and pool decks.

But some people get involved with bigger projects, says Ken

Smith, owner of the Beaver Lumber Co. Ltd. franchise in Georgetown.

"People do a lot of painting... or they build a garage, or a house," he said.

Patio stones, chain link fencing and shingles are also popular items.

Mr. Arnold said wood is used for building a variety of things in backyards and around the home.

"Somebody's imagination is about the only limit," he said.

Mr. Smith added that parents build playhouses and swings for their children at this time of year.

If people aren't building new fences and decks, they are repair-

ing last year's or 1980's fences and decks. Stains are a big seller this season, as are outdoor paints.

But the focus is outside the house for the spring. And despite the cold weather, people are gearing up for the warm weather.

People will install aluminum or vinyl "soffits" or "fascias" (for the area surrounding the eavestroughs), said Mr. Smith. Often, he said, there is wood underneath the eavestrough that begins to rot.

If not staining, nailing, sawing, or going over do-it-yourself plans, the do-it-yourselfer might be dashing off to the nearest store to find a good, solid hammock.

## Cutting grass is for the birds

GUELPH —If you are the owner of a home which has a large yard, you are fortunate indeed.

You may not think "fortunate" is quite the right word though, as you push the lawn mower once more across that green expanse.

However, with a little planning and some special plantings from your local nursery, you will not only decrease the amount of grass which seems to endlessly need cutting, you'll attract birds and perhaps butterflies.

"You must agree, sitting and watching birds and butterflies beats grass cutting as a backyard pastime," says biologist Alan Watson at the University of Guelph's Arboretum.

To help you in your pursuit of backyard bliss, it is important to consider what aspects of plants will attract birds.

These include cover, food, and nesting material.

The cover can be important from the standpoint of safe places for birds to nest (robins and cardinals will nest in thick vines), to offering areas where birds can roost at night, or escape the neighbour's cat.

With respect to food, it is necessary to plan to have fruits and seeds becoming available over a period of time, rather than just in the fall.

For example, serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) yields bird-attracting fruit in June; raspberries (*Rubus* sp.) are ready in July and elderberries produce fruit in late August or early September.

Also, don't forget, it is not just the birds that you are after; butterflies can be attracted to your yard if you plant flowers such as foxglove (*Digitalis* sp.).

At The Arboretum, the Gosling Wildlife Gardens are well under way, following the design developed by Landscape Architect, Katherine Dunster.

The gardens, which were officially opened last May, take their name from Philip and Jean Gosling of Guelph, who have provided financial support for the project.

The Gosling Wildlife Gardens are made up of five "backyards", which include structures such as fences, garden walls and patios, planted with a large number of plants, ranging from trees and shrubs to herbaceous material to fulfill the requirements of cover, food and nesting material.

There is a pathway system through the gardens; brochures are presently

being developed to help the homeowner identify the plants and their value to wildlife.

Some of the plants you will find in the gardens include: Snowy Mountain Ash (*Sorbus decora*); Red Jade Crabapple (*Malus "Red Jade"*); Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*); Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum* NOT *Viburnum opulus*, the European Highbush Cranberry; it has fruit that is so sour, no self-respecting bird will go near it); Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*); Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*); Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*); Red raspberry (*Rubus strigosus*) (the birds will share these with you); Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*) and Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*).

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