

Canadian Garden Council

# Autumn chores must be completed

Just before you put away all your gardening tools until next spring, there are a number of Autumn chores you may not yet have completed.

The Canadian Garden Council says that the fine sunny days of late October and early November are excellent for working and the more you can accomplish now while you are in good physical condition, the less backaches you'll have in early spring. Digging the vegetable garden and working in lots of compost or decayed leaves is the number one task on the list. If your soil is a heavy clay, this operation is all the more urgent, for Autumn spading will ensure a much easier-to-work soil next spring.

Leave the ground as rough as possible. Do not break each clod of soil - let the winter frost and weather do this for you. Put a layer of hydrated lime over the top of heavy clay soils before digging; this also helps make it easier to work next spring.

Now is the time to begin winter pruning. Once the foliage has fallen from deciduous trees, you may start and keep right on until the end of March, if you should happen to have a great many misshapen, or badly neglected trees.

Right now, during warm sunny days, the pruning is much more amenable. To remove large branches of mature trees, first make an incision 2-3 cm deep on the underside of the branch, about 30 cm from the trunk. Then saw from the top of the branch, about 30 cm farther along. Using this method, when you cut the branch, it will break off clean and not peel down the bark of the trunk, which, if it happens, often ruins the tree.

When each large branch has been removed, finish by cutting the jagged stub of each back even, just at the collar: ie. not quite flush with the trunk. Leaving the collar of the cut branch intact is important to quick healing of the cut. Most arborists

now recommend not treating the cut further, but in any case, it should NOT be painted. If you wish, a tree wound dressing available at your local garden centre may be used, according to the label directions.

As long as there is no more than a slight surface frost in the ground, it is not too late to plant deciduous hedges, trees and shrubs. It is, however, too late for junipers, cedars and other similar evergreens unless these are being planted by professionals using modern equipment, and they are willing to supply a guarantee as to survival. It is likewise rather late for planting daffodils, crocus, snowdrops and most other spring-flowering bulbs, except for tulips, which may be successfully planted as late as Christmas provided the frost is only a shallow layer, and you are able to set the bulbs at their proper depth.

If you are planting late, regardless of whether it's a tree or a large group of tulips, buy a bale of straw and cover the planted area right after planting. Remove it a month later to let the frost penetrate. This will give the plants/bulbs an opportunity to make some root before frost stops the growth process. Leaves piled loosely may be used in the same way.

Overwinter protection for roses should be undertaken only just before the ground is about to freeze solid for the winter. Then, prune back the canes about 30 cm, not more. This is done to allow easy access between the bushes, and to stop the canes from twisting excessively in the wind.

All leaves on the ground should be removed, and any remaining on bushes removed, and these should go in the garbage, unless you are sure that your compost pile reaches a temperature of 65-90 C, which will destroy the organisms of disease such as black spot and powdery mildew.

If you should have a dry autumn season in your area, it is very important to water the evergreens in your foundation planting, or any cedar hedging, etc., very well prior to freeze-up. Usually Mother Nature takes care of this task with Autumn rains, but occasionally it may be dry. In any case, evergreens beneath wide overhangs on some modern houses will have to be watered. This watering should not be just a sprinkling, but several real good soakings to prevent burning of the bushes during the winter.

Late Autumn is also the time for a

final garden clean up. Any newly fallen leaves should be raked, and dead tops of perennials removed, unless they're in an area that is badly windswept, then some "stubble" can be left to catch the snow as protection for the plant crowns and roots. If the grass has grown again

since what you thought was the last clipping a couple of weeks ago, it is as well to cut it again.

Once all the Autumn garden chores are done, it will be time to put your feet up, and read some good gardening books; and soon to begin planning next year's garden.

## Historic moments



**BABY'S FIRST STEPS**—Treasure precious memories forever by capturing special moments like baby's first steps on videotape. Today's wide selection of lightweight "camcorders"—all-in-one video camera/recorders—makes it easier than ever to preserve your memories. Camcorders like Zenith's VM7050 use popular VHS tapes and offer advanced features including auto focus and power zoom.

## Call blocking services introduced by Bell

If your telephone bill frequently reflects unauthorized charges to either 900 Service or 976 Service programs, then you should know this. Bell Canada introduced a call blocking service last July for those customers who want to block calls being made from their telephone lines to 900 Service and 976 Service programs.

"The addition of call blocking is good news for customers," says Louise Villeneuve, associate director - product management for Bell Canada. "In the past, Bell has urged parents to establish telephone guidelines for 900 and 976 Service calls, but another means of controlling telephone activity was required. Call blocking provides the additional means to control access to these services," she adds.

As a further measure of protection, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) granted Bell permission to discontinue long distance calling to 976 Service programs within its territory, making it impossible for customers to reach Bell 976 Service programs outside their area code. Long distance calls of this sort have been automatically blocked since August 24, 1990 and a recorded announcement presently advises customers that such call can no longer be placed.

### A LONG PROCESS

The new service gives parents greater peace of mind. It means they can feel secure knowing their children will be unable to place unauthorized calls to sponsor advertised 900 and 976 Service programs.

These decisions came more than a year after Bell notified the CRTC of its intention to withdraw 976 Service because it was not economically feasible to offer and customer demand for the service had not materialized.

Almost a year later, on November 14, 1989, the CRTC responded with the suggestion that Bell "consider the possibility of continuing 976 Service on an alternate basis." Their proposal included call blocking at a compensatory rate to all customers who requested it, waiving reasonably disputed 976 Service charges and charging them back to

the service providers.

Villeneuve also explains, "Bell has had high levels of uncollectibles associated with 976 Service calls. We informed the Commission of our intention to make service providers responsible for bad debt or uncollectibles following Bell's initial collection effort.

A new Accounts Receivable Management (ARM) agreement making service providers responsible for bad debt took effect August 14, 1990.

976 Service was introduced in 1986 as an information and entertainment offering which, by dialing specific 976 Service programs, enables customers to access health, promotional, trivia and party lines at a charge set by the sponsors.

900 Service, a national mass calling service, has been available to Bell customers since 1984. By calling a selected 900 prefixed number, callers can have their opinions counted or hear a service provider's message.

Resident and business customers can subscribe to call blocking service at monthly rates of \$4.00 and \$6.00 per line, respectively. One-time administrative charges of \$14.00 and \$25.75 also apply.

# SAVE 20%

## ON ALL HOME IMPROVEMENTS

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Residential Renovations
- Rec Rooms
- Commercial Renovations
- Family Rooms
- Additions
- Windows/Sidings Etc.

**SAVE, SAVE, SAVE — CALL NOW!**

**Halton Builders/Renovators 853-3401**

Licensed, Insured, Guaranteed, FREE Estimates



**Canada Trust/Realtor**

The Canada Trust Company



**REDUCED! REDUCED!**  
**A BARGAIN AT \$199,900**

**GRACIOUS & SPACIOUS DETACHED!**

Space and grace in this charming 4 bedroom home located just steps from downtown Acton and "GO BUS". Formal centre hall plan with a large bright country kitchen. Walkout from sunroom off the kitchen to a gorgeous deck, patio and huge yard! Great income property! Three separate entrances (orig. a triplex, can easily be converted back)! Call Nilufer Mama at 453-6621.