

Seniors

Special seniors centre meeting scheduled

By ROSS BETHEL

In recent weeks we have certainly had a great selection of entertaining and pleasant reading by some of our gifted seniors authors. Let me break in with something more business-like, but which I believe should still be of interest to all senior readers and particularly to present and future members of the Georgetown and District Seniors Association.

As you know, your Association continues to work towards a Seniors Centre, recognizing the growing awareness and concern that such a facility is rapidly becoming a requisite for the Georgetown district. This work has also been a great learning process enabling us to establish our procedures and define our objectives. In this we have drawn from not only the diverse pool of talent of member seniors, but also from the experiences of many Seniors Centres in Ontario and from the established support groups at various levels of government.

We believe it is now time to share our background, our hopes, and our objectives more fully with our members and, importantly, with the community at large. Toward this end an open information meeting has been ar-



anged for the evening of Wednesday, March 20, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. in the Holy Cross Parish Hall on Maple Avenue. Speakers, with concerns for seniors affairs, from different levels of government, as well as Association officers and guests, will be at hand for discussion.

Letters of invitation, together with informative material, have been sent to some 300 community leaders, businesses and associations in the Georgetown area. It is our hope that, having explained in the program for the evening the rationale, procedure and benefits of a Seniors Centre, we may receive from the community at large a positive expression of recognition and appreciation of our aims. Please note this is an information and discussion evening, and is not a fund raising objective at this time. To further the social and information aspects, the evening will end with refreshments and the opportunity to view displays of Senior Centres and their facilities. We plan also to have a conceptual model of what a Georgetown district cen-

tre might be like.

As well as our community leaders we would like to see a good representation of Association members present. It is important, however, that we have an idea of numbers for best planning. If you will be there please call one of our Executives at 877-7749, 877-1105 or 877-4466, or let one of the Board members know.

We believe we are entering an important and critical phase of the Georgetown and District Seniors Association objectives for which support must be positive and determined. One such way is, of course, active and continuing membership in the Association. On that theme let me quickly change hats to that of Chairman for the Membership Committee.

Do you know that at the end of 1990 we were approaching the 800 mark in membership? This is a positive expression of Seniors support for the objectives of their Association. The important thing now is to maintain that number by timely renewal, and indeed to

further increase it through new membership.

Several months back most members received an envelope package with a news update together with a request for voluntary renewal of membership with a 1991 Membership Card in anticipation of that renewal. The results have been very encouraging.

Your Committee, however, hopes there has not been any misinterpretation or misunderstanding that all members are expected to renew early in 1991. Rather, as your membership anniversary date approaches we would like to hear from you. Unfortunately, it is a fact that our memories seem to play tricks on us, so if your anniversary month is foggy or if you have mislaid your information package, or if indeed, you did not receive one, please let us know. Your Membership Committee members are Alice Gray 877-2814; Maddie Howat 877-3947; Lauretta Mills 877-3915; Jim Rawlings 877-4460; Sheila Ward 877-2731; Ross Bethel 877-1105. Let's hear from you, both for renewing and for new membership.

Finally, a reasonable question often asked. How much is membership in the Association? The answer, we do not have and cannot set a fee at this time since we do not yet have a facility or Seniors Centre. Therefore, we ask for a donation which is your decision to make and with which you are comfortable. We are now registered with a charitable organization number and therefore a donation (unlike a fee) will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. All member donations go fully into the Building Fund which presently, with profits from fund raising events, stands close to twenty-five thousand dollars. Still a long way to go, you say. But it can be done with your support and with that of the community.

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Town Gardener

Planning the Spring garden

By TOM CAVAN

With spring just around the corner, it is time to start planning the garden. Confident gardeners pull out any and all containers to assess how, when and where they will initiate this year's hopes of fruition. By starting your own seeds you can time your needs for spring transplanting, select varieties that otherwise are not available and save money.

Centuries ago when gardeners first started collecting seeds and categorizing them, they accepted much less sanitation. Obviously they experienced poorer germination rates than the gardeners of present day. This is due to the advanced knowledge and improved varieties. So, when you find yourself standing in front of that mile-long seed display, so colourful, so inexpensive and so informative, consider the work that goes into supplying those Canada no. 1 seeds. I think we should all agree these are the best of times. So overwhelming is the display that you find yourself with 50 packages of seeds and thoughts of fresh vegetables for the dinner table (and the freezer). Perhaps flowers for your favorite vase, or herbs to insure fresh cuisine. Well, my friends, there is more to consider than the price of the seeds! My experience is that most people

buy without thinking of what they're doing and then they get discouraged by waste or failure.

Before you hop into your car, consider the size of your garden, the size of your freezer and the size of your stomach. Location is all important when determining what varieties you intend on growing, whether they are vegetable or floral. What's the exposure to sun and the controlling elements of air movement, soil fertility and drainage?

Once you guesstimate your situation, chosen the varieties, it is time to determine the starting medium. I would recommend a soil mix for starting seeds. This eliminates any disease or insect potential. Soilless mix retains moisture longer than soil and will meet the requirements of seedlings, even moisture retention and good water and air movement through the soil particles and developing roots. Soilless mixes don't compact when watered, unlike soil, and they stay loose when drying out unlike soil. Therefore, there is no compaction, public enemy no. 1 to the roots of any plant. These soilless mixes are formulated with the proper slow release nutrients and micro nutrients so the potential of burning roots is eliminated.

When choosing starting trays think back to when you've

damaged seedlings trying to pry them from an egg carton. Proper seedling trays are designed to starting and removing your prized babies. They are made from plastic (soon to be recycled plastic I hope!) and can be easily cleaned to be used over and over again, year after year. Initial investment is more than an egg carton but the higher germination rates and ease of removal will soon compensate for the expense. Stronger, healthier plants will provide you with a prize-winning garden and satisfy the gardener within.

SPRING SEEDING TIPS

Time to start: six to eight weeks prior to transplanting into the garden for most varieties. Check germination time on package instructions. Use a soilless mix to insure uniformity of water retention and consistent soil particle size so the clumps of soil don't interfere with those emerging babies.

Sow seed according to depth indicated on package and use Canada no. 1 seed.

Evenly water soil surface, place in a consistently warm location and avoid temperature fluctuations.

If you have any questions call The Town Gardener at 833-2117.

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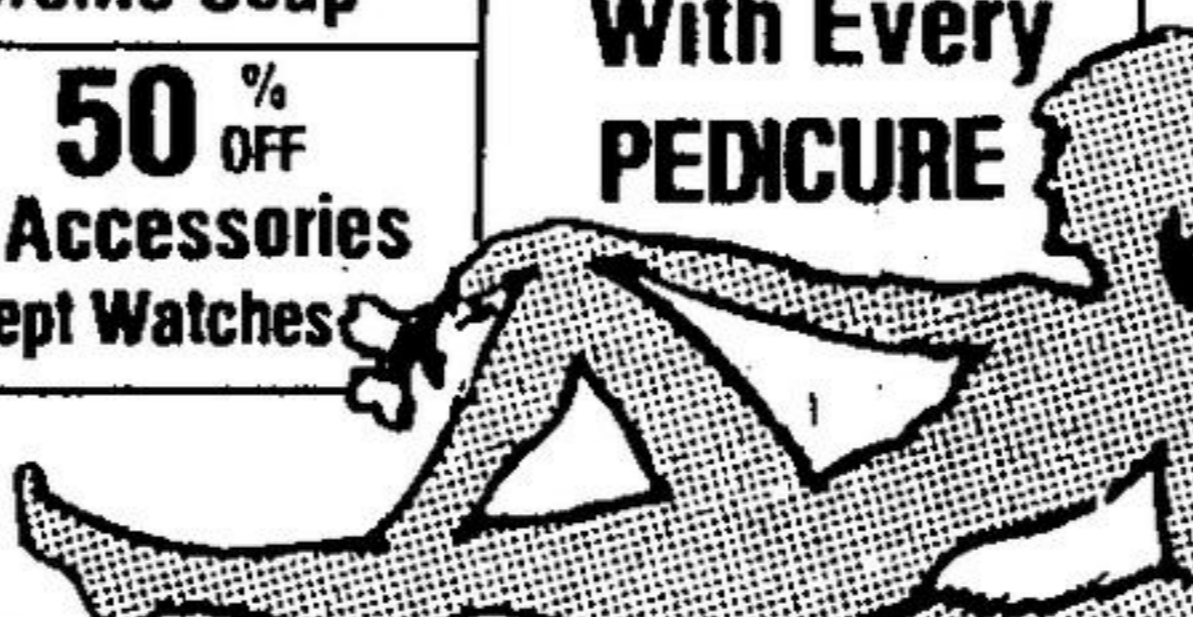
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