

Town Gardener Perennial crowd-pleaser

By TOM CAVAN
Primula SP (Primrose)

This one is for everyone, from the avid gardener to the beginner. A perennial little crowd pleaser that has been hybridized right across the rainbow to provide a multitude of colors for both indoor and outdoor gardening.

Now don't confuse this with the evening primrose (oenothera). The reason once again stems from common names like baby primrose, fairy primrose, polyanthus primrose, Chinese primrose, the beat goes to the tune of 400 species but the genus primula remains constant. So my common name for primula SP is primula.

Primula are cool flowering perennials that grow quickly from seed and forced early to bloom on our window sills from January to May. Choose any window that doesn't receive direct mid-day sun unless temperatures are cool. An east or west window seems to be perfect. Keep evenly moist but do not allow it to stand in a tray of water. If allowed to dry out, all the flowers wilt and deteriorate. After lightly watering the plant back from wilt, give it a moderate watering and feed

with flowering plant food (phostrogen), Safers Liquid seaweed or fish emulsion. When I grew primulas I used to spray them with liquid seaweed and I could recognize a definite change for the better, leaf colour, vigour and crispness of leaf. Flowers galore!

If and when your primulas stop flowering, keep feeding but allow to dry between waterings. If possible, move to a cooler spot, say a north window to prepare them for transplanting into a shady spot in the garden.

Primula require a rich, well-drained soil. With our sandy starter soil in this area, I would recommend 1 part peat, 1 part well rotted manure, 1 part black earth and 1 part existing soil for drainage. Dress the surface with bonemeal and work in before transplanting to its new home. Water thoroughly with a liquid transplant solution and watch them go.

If you have any questions about primulas, call the Grapevine Hotline at (519) 833-2117, or write to "The Town Gardener", R.R.2 Erin, Ontario NOB 1T0.

Children's group receives funding

The Children's Services Co-ordinating Advisory Group (CSCAG) of the Regional Municipality of Halton will receive \$30,000 in one-time funding. The CSCAG will use the funding to provide a joint staff training program for three agencies operating children's residential services in Halton. The announcement was made by Zanana Akande, Ontario's Minister of Community and Social Services.

Halton Adolescent Support Services, Woodview Children's Centre and Community Youth Programs Inc. are residences funded by MCSS to serve up to 26 children aged seven to 18. They are co-operating in developing this project in response to the identified difficulty in maintaining a full complement of qualified staff. The training will take place on site and will be provided by

Mohawk College teaching staff.

"There are so many talented and committed individuals working in these residences who can benefit from immediate and more intensive training," said Mrs. Akande. "By enhancing the abilities of these workers, this funding will reinforce the quality of residential support services for children in these programs."

It is intended that other children's residences in Halton will participate in this training venture, and it is hoped that it will be the start of an ongoing co-operative approach to residential training needs in the region.

The CSAG is funded 100 per cent by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The agency provides a co-ordinating, planning and advocacy function for children's services in Halton. It is based at 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville.

Woodbridge pleads not guilty

Stephen Woodbridge, of Halton Hills, pleaded not guilty to

Donation boxes

The Town of Halton Hills is placing donation boxes in the Civic Centre, the Georgetown and Acton Arenas and the local libraries until March 28 in an effort to help the Love and Christ Food Bank in Georgetown collect much-needed non-perishable food items, said food bank director Laura Ellison.

Since the food bank's inception last April, the number of people using it has grown from 28 to 543, she said.

Diabetes meeting

The second meeting of the newly-formed Halton Hills Chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association will be held Monday at the Lions Hall on Mill Street behind the old arena.

Officers for the chapter will be elected and interested people are invited to come and add to the chapter's membership to help local diabetics.

For more information on the chapter and the meeting call Don Cogliati at 877-3562.

charges of assault causing bodily harm and forcible confinement in Milton Provincial Court March 18.

Woodbridge, 27, was charged by Detective Constable McNally after he surrendered himself to 12 Division in Milton on Feb. 18.

He is charged in connection with the beating of a Halton Hills female on Valentine's Day. The 26-year-old woman was visiting a friend in Mississauga when her common-in-law husband attended the residence and began to assault her, Halton Regional Police say.

He then forced her into his vehicle and for approximately two hours, drove around the northern part of Halton, beating her continuously.

When they reached the area of Hwy. 25 and Hwy. 401, the victim was able to free herself from his grip and jump from the moving vehicle. She ran to a transport truck which was moving slowly down a ramp and jumped inside. The driver telephoned the Halton police and an ambulance.

The female was taken to Milton District Hospital where she was admitted and treated for multiple facial injuries, severe bruising and possible internal injuries.

Woodbridge will appear in Milton Provincial Court July 23 for his trial.



Safe refuge

Though the bell no longer rings in the bell tower above the Acton Social Services and Information Centre, the picturesque tower still serves as a home for pigeons who find it a safe refuge after a flight in the sky. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Book appraisal

Mr. Norman Holt of "Oxbow Books" will be at the Georgetown Library to appraise your old books, on Sat., April 13, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Drop by and find out how much money those old books are really worth! There will be no charge. For more information call 873-2681.

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