

Spring Fling Fashion Show

An enthusiastic and appreciative audience crowded into Action Legion last Tuesday evening to view ladies and childrens spring and summer casual wear, courtesy of Elizabeth's Fashions, Bridal Boutique and Victoria Lane Children's Wear at last Tuesday's Spring Fling Fashion Show.

Proceeds from the fashion show were donated to the Acton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, helping the Unit get off to an early start for its April Cancer Month campaign.



Eleanor Inglis, wearing a London Fog casual wear outfit, courtesy of Elizabeth's Fashions, Bridal Boutique and 8-year-old Nicole McNeilly, wearing a summer casual wear outfit, courtesy of Victoria Lane Children's Wear, parade down the ramp during last Tuesday's Spring Fling Fashion Show.



Four-year-old Bobby Burke sports summer casual youth wear, courtesy of Victoria Lane Children's Wear at last Tuesday's Spring Fling Fashion Show.

Herald photos by Colin Gibson

Town Gardener

Gardens are control of nature by man

By TOM CAVAN

Many gardens differ in purpose, size, shape and style. The content of any garden is different from another but all gardens have one thing in common and that is the control of nature by man. The essence is control to what ever the degree. Without this perspective of control the garden will quickly return to a state similar to what is growing around the garden. The indigenous plants will move in and infiltrate the controlled garden. The significantly more controlled garden the more problematic the circumstance. This is not just a matter of not watching growth and keeping it checked like pruning a shrub or cutting the grass. A good heavy rainfall can alter your annual planters and in the heat of summer you are attending a plant funeral. Your gardening tools and calendar of re-occurring events are the essential instruments of a successful garden.

All plants have requirements that must be met for attainment. In every plant there is an inherent characteristic which allows it to be competitive so it may hold its own in the struggle to survive. Light, water, soil, temperature, and nutrient requirements are the guiding factors for prosperity. With these combined ingredients plants find their niche in the world. The genuinely indigenous community of plants are at constant warfare to

absorb their fill of nourishment to sustain existence.

Alas the maintained garden is not as competitive as their natural forefathers. We separate plants to suit our structured world for aesthetics, for hardier varieties, for more disease resistance, and now man can make a plant from a single cell. Soon man will have plants that will perform incredible tasks to feed this world without poisoning our planet. But for now the plants in our gardens behave according to soil and exposure in their new locations. We must still work for true mastery in the garden. Some react poorly to travelling around in pots in the back of our vehicles. Many have protectors in their own natural habitat but once removed and placed in a new location they may lose their guardians and must be pampered. I like to think of it as gentle persuasion.

Much of the competition between plants you never see because it takes place underground. Ultimately the plants that root deeply and produce the quickest canopy of foliage will out compete with slower species because they block out the sun, drink all the water and eat all the vitamins. Its a survival of the fittest at its purest form. The faster a plant removes these essentials from the soil the swifter the search for more. So remind yourself of this the next time you offer to plant a

poplar near anything you have respect for. The speed in which a plant matures is relative to its longevity, so plant a maple or oak instead.

Pushing and shoving for space is the type of battle we gardeners spontaneously keep under control with our pruners in hand for some resemblance of order and direction in the garden.

Most plants are planted for their specific attributes which will lend variety and contrast to our gardens. We demand more flowers, fragrance and fruit. Thicker leaves, stronger stems and straighter trunks. With different tastes in style we call for different degrees of control. On the west coast gardeners demand character in their plants while traditionally the eastern gardeners demand sheared perfection without a blemish. What this means in a nutshell is work and work is out of fashion. Quality time is vogue and one must plan carefully for this new relaxed style of gardening. Gardeners are demanding plants that can look after themselves and persist year after year with as little care as possible. This utopian form of gardening can be achieved with proper planting methods, selective choices of plans and timely maintenance.

If you have any questions call the Grapevine Hotline - 519-833-2117, or write "The Town Gardener, R. R. 2, Erin, Ontario, N0B 1T0.

Contract recommended

Halton Region Planning and Public Works Committee recommended Wednesday that Thornhill-based company, Dawn Enterprises, be awarded the contract to replace a watermain on Scene Street in Acton.

The recommendation will go before Regional Council this Wednesday for final approval.

Dawn Enterprises bid of \$49,357 was the lowest of any of the 22 companies that bid on the contract, according to a Regional staff report. The highest bid was submitted by Toronto company, Pencon Construction Canada Corporation, which bid \$138,600.

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