

Seniors

Gardens are to be enjoyed

By FLORENCE WILKINSON
Some older people are interested in antiques. However, many of the older generation grew up with antiques and so don't feel the need to fill a new house with them, unless they hold some special family or community connection, and are glad to find something a bit newer. Young people who like the solid older furniture are glad of those who wish to get rid of it.

Recently I got thinking about antiques which are not in the furniture or dishes class. When one lives in a house for more than one generation, often the very plants become antiques.

For example, in my sister's garden there are little red double tulips with flecks of yellow on the edges. These were left in the garden by our grandmother when my parents moved there in 1915, and my mother and family have tried to keep them blooming each spring. Then there is the yellow rose which has been there as long as I can remember, which also

Seniors for the Future

came from grandma's; the pink rose (which scratches the window and frightens our guests) and has also been there as long as I can remember and came from some aunt; the lilac and spiraea which also are remembrances of aunts' and friends; then there is the baby tears.

The baby tears came from the next door neighbour's. Our neighbours were older than our parents, the youngest children being the same age as the oldest in our family. My mother was given a great deal of help in parenting, and there was friendship between us as well as neighbourliness, and so the baby tears has real meaning, especially to the older ones.

Our neighbours were market gardeners who had a large family and a small house, and the one plant that was always on the table for a green spot for all to enjoy was a baby tears. My mother was given slips, and she passed on slips to people. My sister has given slips to the grandchildren of the neighbours, who in turn have passed them on to the

children who were too busy or not able to grow slips from the parent's plant. The baby tears still thrive, and graces a cherished spot in the kitchen where it has been for these many years.

Recently I talked to a friend about a trip to a museum which housed the memorabilia of the community. In the garden of the grounds she found an old fashioned peony, and was thrilled by the uniqueness which it presented in the middle of new varieties.

Wherever we look we see the effects of change. However, if we are observant we can find many things around us which have stood the test of time, and still bring joy to the viewers. These are reminders of the influence upon all of us of the sharing and friendships built into our own life story by a previous generation. Just as beautiful dishes and furniture can tell the history of a nation, so also can the ordinary and beautiful plants of a garden. May you all enjoy the wonder of gardens and the garden of the world as you live through the summer.

Correction

In the weekend edition of the Halton Hills Herald, a cutline beneath a picture of a boy selling sweet corn along Hwy. 7 stated the corr. was owned by Sta-Mar Pony Farm. However, the corn is actually owned by Carl Sinclair of Limehouse who rents land at the farm.

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*Values Effective Saturday, August 3rd through Saturday, August 10th, 1991