

TOWN GARDENER

Time for work on your perennial gardens

By TOM CAVAN
Herald Special

Herbaceous perennials are flowers and grasses that bloom for more than one year. All foliage and blooms die back when Jack Frost comes to town in September.

Has he been to your garden? If so, it's time to start working at refurbishing your perennial gardens. The tops may be dead but the roots persist. Some perennials can live forever it seems, but the fact is the soil deteriorates and the plants weaken. Even though you can keep up nutrient availability with chemical fertilizers, the soil structure loses its capacity for optimum air and water movement.

With chemical fertilizers another thing you must contend with is turning your perennial garden into a voracious herbaceous monster. The perennial then takes over the yard!

Fall is an excellent time to dig, divide and replant those amazing root systems. Just as those dependable bulbs of spring get bedded in for winter, perennials too can be planted for next year's performance. It's a great time to plant!

As perennials establish themselves they increase their root systems. Many perennials form what is known as a crown. Take a close look and you will see the crown consists of an older harder centre which was the original plant. Set out surrounding this parent plant will be a multitude of baby plants.

Lift the root clump with a digging fork and loosen the soil so you can determine easy separation. Place your E.T. fingers at the narrow points and pull apart. If it's a tough bond use a sharp knife at the narrow area. The segments or plantlets should have fibrous roots. These little youngsters are ready to

leave the nest and be planted independently. Taking note of where stems came up will also direct you in determining what is worth planting.

Inspect your roots and make sure any older parts are discarded. If any parts of roots are soft or infected they too are destined for the compost. Plant only what is healthy and firm.

So you're ready to replant. Hardly! You must now start all over again. Yes, you must rototill or fork your soil working it to a depth of 12"-15". Add in the proper amounts of peatmoss, manure and bonemeal, remember these plants will need enough for another three to five years to perform to blue ribbon status.

In our sandy soils, I would recommend minimum one third peat moss, one third black earth or loam, one part existing soil. Use 2 oz. per square yard of bonemeal and thoroughly, and I mean

thoroughly, mix to a consistent, uniform appearance. Now you're ready to plant those youngsters.

During the time between digging and replanting you should lay these offsets on trays and moisten them with a fine mist to hold them until all the preparation is done.

If you are moving perennials from one location to another, be sure the exposure is suitable for that particular plant type.

It is also advisable to do a pH test prior to planting to be sure conditions are just right. Soil pH should be neutral 6.5. If it's too low add dolomitic limestone at the recommended rates on the bag. Likewise if the pH is too high add aluminum sulphate to reduce the pH to the appropriate level.

Mark out the area and position of plants before setting them out.

After planting, thoroughly soak your soil with transplant solution. Water soluble transplant solutions are available from almost all

fertilizer companies with the analysis of 10-52-10 on the package. It's immediately available to the plant and really promotes quick root growth. This should only be applied once to healthy plants.

Mulch can be applied immediately to retain warm moist soil, form good rooting and an excellent responsive garden next year.

Q: My pine trees are turning brown on the inside. Are they dying?

A: No. Your trees are not dying. In fact, what your trees are telling you is they've had a hot summer and they're now reducing their moisture content for over winter. White pine retain only one year's growth of needles. Red, and Scotch pine hold 2 years growth, so it's a sign of survival.

The Grapevine hotline is (519) 833-2117.

Delacour's
For All Your Fine China, Silver, Crystal & Giftware
227 MAIN ST. MILTON
878-0050

Anna Christine's for Hair
Our Low Price of **\$19.00** S/C & STYLE
Includes GST
Book with **MONICA &**
Receive **10% OFF** ANY Hair Service
873-6027
310 GUELPH ST. BEHIND PIZZA HUT

PHOTO SPECIAL
1 HOUR SAME DAY NEXT DAY SERVICE
\$9.99 For 24 Exposure on Next Day Service
Passport Photos in 3 Min. WE RENT VIDEO CAMERAS
CRAIG'S PHOTO
NORMANDY PLAZA Next to Kentucky Fried Chicken
877-5945

Captain FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.
FOR ALL YOUR **MORTGAGE NEEDS**
CALL "CAPTAIN" **DAVE KRAUSE**
20 Years Lending Experience
Personalized Service & Great Rates
873-4991
FAX: (416) 873-3931

SAME DAY WINDOW AND SCREEN REPAIR SERVICE
15 Years Experience
• Custom Mirror & Plexiglass Cutting & Shaping
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL - RV'S AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
24 HRS. 7 DAYS A WEEK
Call Paul
(416) 873-8722

Community Service Bulletins

CSBs
If you are a non-profit organization, service club or charity or church group and would like us to publish your community service announcement of community interest, call us at 877-2201 during regular office hours. There is no charge for this service to Halton Hills community groups. The deadline for submissions is Friday at Noon for publication for the following Wednesday. Deadlines will not be extended under any circumstances. Although we will do our best to print all announcements, space is limited and there are no guarantees of insertion.

Happenings
Are you expecting a baby this Fall? Halton Regional Health Department offers a series for expectant parents! You will gain the most benefits by attending as early as possible. If your due date is in Oct./Nov./Dec./Jan. 92 register now for the early series by calling Milton, 878-7261.
Want to go back to school? But you can't find child care? If you are a pregnant teen or young mother, then TEAM may be the program for you. Child care is provided while you work on your high school credits. Work at your own pace, with supportive staff to help you. Program to be offered in Georgetown this Fall. Phone Anne Day at 333-3499 or 878-1246.
"Education is Ageless", our Fall '91 Program Brochure, is now available. If you haven't received your copy, please pick one up at any Library, Information Centre, local school or call us for additional pick up locations. 333-3499/878-1240 Adult and Continuing Education, Halton Board of Education.
Pine Valley Dancers will have 2 free nights of square dancing, Wednesday, September 11 and 18 at Pineview Public School, Trafalgar Road and 5th Sideroad at 8:00 p.m. Beginners welcome. Come and join us. For more information call 877-6264.
Infant/Child Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation Course offered at Peel Memorial Hospital, Wed., Sept. 18 and Tues., Sept. 24, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Participants attend both sessions. Peel Memorial Hospital Educational Services Classroom, 20 Lynch Street.

Meetings
The Halton Hills Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society will hold their Annual Meeting on Mon., Oct. 7 at 8:00 p.m. in the Community Room, Georgetown Detachment of the Halton Regional Police Service, 217 Guelph St., Georgetown.
Halton-Peel Communications Association will be holding its annual general meeting and first social event of the season on Tues., Sept. 24, 7:00 p.m. at Mississauga City Hall, Committee Room B. For further info contact Carol Molnar, (416) 820-7103.
Meetings of the Region of Peel VBAC Support Group held the 1st Tuesday of each month and offer post-caesarean support and discuss birth options. Call 826-9467 or 873-2779.
Special Needs Drop-In Centre of North Halton meets every Wednesday at the Acton Legion, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call Susan at 873-1534 or Jane at 853-1756.
Pregnant teens: Prenatal classes designed specifically for teens, free of charge. Transportation provided, pregnancy counselling available. Call Susan Stuart at 844-5502 or Public Health Department for more information.

Volunteers
Red Cross Georgetown and District requires volunteers to assist in Finance and Publicity, driving and First Aid instructions. For more information call Bernice at 877-5233.
Alcoholic Anonymous can help. Call 877-1211 for more information.
Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region Branch, needs volunteers for recreation programs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings in Burlington, Oakville and Acton. For more information call Laura McCallum at 845-5044.
The Salvation Army will pick up appliances in working order. For more information call 853-3321.
Volunteer drivers for the Canadian Cancer Society, Georgetown Unit, needed to transport patients to and from the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. Reimbursement for mileage will be paid. Please contact the Georgetown Unit's office at 164 Guelph St., Georgetown, between 1-4 p.m. daily, or call the cancer office at 877-1124.
Halton Support Services is looking for mature individuals who are interested in contract positions working 4-15 hours per week teaching life skills to children with developmental handicaps. Instruction takes place in the child's home. If you are 18 or older call (416) 849-8000 for more information.
North Halton Distress Information Center - Fall training for volunteers will begin on Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. For more information call 877-1811.
Big Brothers is looking for men 18 years or older to volunteer 4 hours a week to a young boy from a father-absent home. For more information please call 847-7267 or 878-4756.

OFFICE MAGIC
877-2300
FOR ALL YOUR OFFICE & STATIONERY NEEDS
265 Guelph St., Georgetown

STEVEN C. FOSTER
B.A., LL.B.
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR
37 MAIN ST. SOUTH
GEORGETOWN, ONT.
L7G 3G2
873-4961 FAX: 873-4962

CROSSWAYS DONUTS
Always Fresh! Always Better!
LUNCH SPECIAL
Soup, Sandwich, Small Drink
\$3.50
118 Guelph St., Normandy Pl.
877-4633
348 Guelph St., Kitchener City
873-7822

WE'RE YOUR INSURANCE BROKERS WE UNDERSTAND!
PAUL C. ARMSTRONG
INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.
143 MILL ST.
Halton Hills (Georgetown) Ontario
877-0133

HOP SKIP JUMP FIGHT DANCE SKATE
AGAINST CANCER
DONATIONS FROM BARBEQUE
Sat., Sept. 14, 21 & 28
Go To **THE TERRY FOX RUN**
ROCKED MEATS FROZEN FOOD
GEORGETOWN 217 Guelph St. 877-8721
OPEN SUNDAY

ELECTRONIC SERVICE
• VCRs • HOME & CAR STEREOS • PORTABLES • CD's • TURNTABLES • VIDEO GAMES
• COMPUTERS • ETC.
90 DAY GUARANTEE • FREE ESTIMATES
ALL SERVICE PERFORMED ON PREMISES BY QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS
FOR THE BEST SERVICE AT THE BEST PRICE CALL
GEORGETOWN CUSTOM CAR SOUND
TUES. - FRI. 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
SATURDAY 9:00 - 5:00
33 MCCLAIR AVENUE UNIT 3, GEORGETOWN SERVING HALTON HILLS AND AREA SINCE 1978
877-2425