Ice fishing for walleye on Lake Scugog no treat

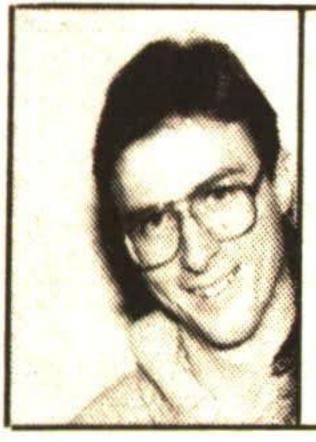
Last week a couple of friends, whom I had previously worked with while at the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters main office, invited me out ice fishing on Lake Scugog.

I was a little hesitant at first, spending my day off looking down a dark hole in the ice, toes and fingers turning numb from the cold. But both Chris and Bill ensured me that fishing for winter walleye on Scugog would be anything but boring!

Early Wednesday morning, dressed to the hilt with bulky winter apparel, I waddled onto the frozen lake and tip-toed the full 30 yards out on the ice.. We eagerly drilled a number of holes, scooped them clear, baited hooks with shinners, and lowered our lines six inches off the bottom.

Minutes had passed when Bill yelled out, "here's the first catch of the day boys," and pulled a three inch perch out from the 12 inch diametre hole a bad omen for any avid ice fisherman.

Two hours had passed and the small perch remained to be the first and only catch of the day. The only thing biting was the bitter northern wind wipping across the lake. With temperatures continuing to drop Bill exclaimed, "well boys, drastic times calls for drastic mea-



Nature's Way **KEVIN CALLAN**

sures," and from his day pack he pulled out an array of miniature liquor bottles and served us all Irish coffee.

Another hour had passed. Freezing rain began to fall, fogging up my glasses and leaving me totally blind. The fish still were not co-operating, and bottles of baileys lay empty in the

Bill kept busy building a snowman to help watch his line. Chris teased my lack of sight by having me run from hole to hole on false alarms. It wasn't until 4 p.m. when Chris no longer cried wolf, and our luck started to change for the better.

In an hour we had caught five fish. Chris pulled up two, Bill two as well, one being over three pounds. And even I caught a decent size walleye.

Six hours on Scugog, fighting bitter cold, heavy winds, and ice pellets gave us five tasty winter walleye and countless coffee breaks - not bad for looking down a dark hole in the ice all day!

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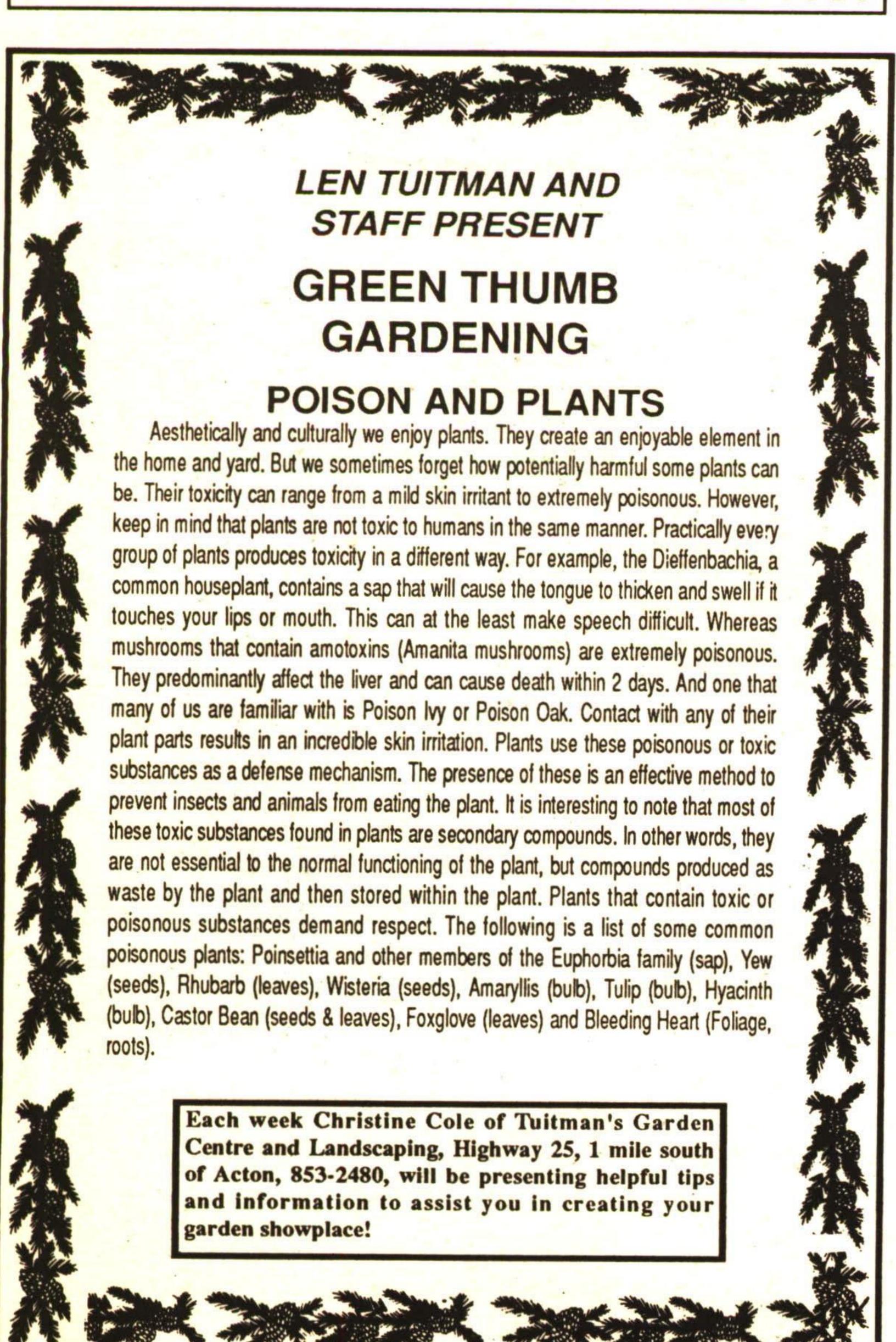
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