

GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE
SHADE TREES
FOR SMALL SPACES

The difference is their size. Most "normal" shade trees become sprawling giants on small or even average sized town lots. Some shade trees such as Maple, Weeping Willow, Oak and Spruce become so large that it is difficult to grow a variety of plants in the yard. Only the most shade tolerant plants will survive - and the selection of these are small. However, a house and yard seems incomplete without shade trees.

The solution to this dilemma: shade trees with a smaller stature. You get all the benefits of the larger trees (shade, picturesque setting for your house) and they are in proportion with the size of an average home and lot. Little Leaf Linden (45 feet), Birch trees (30 feet), Purple-Leaf Plum (20 feet), and Russian Olive (20 feet) would all be suitable deciduous shade trees. The Little Leaf Linden has long been planted by many cities as a boulevard tree because of its desirable mature size and dense pyramidal head. And, because it is very tolerant of city conditions (pollution and salt spray). It has glossy, heart-shaped leaves and sweet smelling (inconspicuous) flowers in June-July. Birch trees are widely known and appreciated for their distinctive white, peeling bark. And make an outstanding specimen tree. The Purple-Leaf Plum is not as well-known but is outstanding in its own way. In the spring the leaves are green at first and then gradually change to reddish purple. Russian Olives grow to about the same size as the Purple-Leaf Plum but have a magnificent silver-green foliage. Even the bark has a silver cast when young. One interesting aspect of this tree is that it can grow in poor soils because it is able to produce its own nitrogen.

Some shade trees have ornamental flowers and/or fruit. Fruit and Crabapple trees, Magnolias and Mountain Ash trees all have showy flowers in the spring, and colorful fruit in the fall (except Magnolias).

If you love Maple or Catalpa trees but can't afford the space in your yard then Standard trees are a solution. A Standard Tree is one that has been double grafted (one at the soil line and one just below the head of the tree). This process dwarfs the tree. It results in a tree that does not grow any taller, just the head grows. The Standard Maple is referred to as a Globe Maple since its head grows into a dense globular shaped ball of 15 feet. Standard Catalpas or Top-head Catalpa has similar characteristics and growth habit but with its extremely large, distinctive leaves.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden show-place!

TUITMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE
ACTON
853-2480

Police Beat

\$18,000 in brass, tools stolen from Smith and Stone

Thieves made off with \$18,000 worth of brass and tools from Smith and Stone in Georgetown Monday night, Halton Regional Police said.

Another 2,500 pounds of brass and copper were left outside on the grass, as well as a bin of brass terminals and power tools. Police believe the suspects were scared off when they saw an employee, and they didn't come back for these items, saving the company from more losses.

Police said the suspects pried open a door and then used a dolly to move brass coils and tools. They entered a tool room, where they took two large tool chests and several power tools.

Police believe they made several trips to take the goods away to an unknown location. The incident is still under investigation.

Stolen car in accident

A stolen Ford car was involved in an accident sometime Wednesday. Police said the car was being driven on Trafalgar Rd. at Maple Ave, when it entered the west ditch, rolled over once and came to rest on its roof. The driver fled on foot. Police said when they had tracked down the owner of the car, she had reported it stolen.

School window smashed

A window on Joseph Gibbons School was broken sometime over the weekend, police said. The incident of vandalism was reported Monday morning. A rock caused the damage.

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This home made way for the Holcro residence at the corner of Main St. and Maple Ave., Georgetown Monday and it's now in its new location on Delrex Blvd. near Maple.

Councillor calls it a 'sell-out'

Developers will pay 39% of servicing

By STUART JOHNSTON
Developers in Halton will now have to foot the bill for approximately 39 per cent of servicing costs for most of their non-residential developments in the Region.

Regional councillors approved Wednesday the fee of \$1.10 per square foot, as required by the Provincial Development Charges Act, on all non-residential development.

The new rate will recover roughly 39 per cent of the costs of services such as roads and utilities whenever new or expanded development occurs. That translates into approximately a \$7 million loss in projected revenues for the Region over the next two years.

Residential developers will be charged the full costs of servicing, while the first 5,000 square feet of expansion or redevelopment of non-residential projects will be exempt from the fee. Until now, Halton had been charging a flat rate of \$9,815 per acre for new business development, but it maintains that doesn't cover the rising costs of servicing.

That was the argument several councillors used Wednesday while

they tried unsuccessfully to persuade their colleagues to raise the fee to cover 50 or even 100 per cent of servicing.

Councillors debated the issue at length, before a recorded vote resulted in the approval of a \$1.10 per square foot charge.

Dr. Duncan McEwan, representing Halton's Taxpayers Coalition, also pleaded with councillors in vain to charge developers the full cost of servicing, noting anything less would "enrage taxpayers because it is so unfair and inequitable."

"It would be fair all around to look at (\$1.35 per square foot), which is roughly 50 per cent recovery," Burlington councillor Tony Whitworth said before the vote. "It goes a long way to meet the concerns of the development sector. We will have the opportunity to review it over the next two years, so I believe it is a fair compromise."

Burlington's Walter Mulkewich agreed wholeheartedly, but suggested that a full recovery charge would be preferable.

"There is enough information to make a decision, it just needs the political will at this point to make a decision that is in the interests of the majority of taxpayers," he said. "I'd prefer to see it at 100 per cent, but I don't know if I have the support to do that. I'd like to see the rest of council have the political guts. It's better than a sell-out for 39 per cent,

and that's what it is, a sell-out."

However, their arguments were refuted by many of their colleagues who believed a higher charge will only drive businesses out of Halton, as some had already threatened to do, or discourage new business from relocating here.

"We have all become amateur economists since this started...but I think having business and industry and therefore jobs in the Region is in the interests of the majority of taxpayers," Oakville's Janet Mitchell said. "This is a good time for people to expand their businesses, it isn't the time to hit them with 100 per cent."

Halton Hills mayor Russ Miller and Acton councillor Rick Bonnette both agreed that the compromise fee is "very responsible," and urged their colleagues to support it.

For the past few months, the Region has been inundated by verbal and written submissions by developers and business people that an increased charge on development will hurt their industry, given the current economic climate.

The approved fee is considered by Regional Treasurer Joe Rinaldo as a "good compromise," noting it will only be effective for the next two years. In the meantime, the Region intends to review the charge with the hope of increasing the rate.



ACTON LIONS ARE SEEKING THE



ACTON CITIZEN of the YEAR

The Acton Lions Club is again looking for the "Citizen of the Year", someone who has given unselfishly to the Community.

The Lions Club want help from you in picking our most deserving citizen or group for 1990. Nominations are now being received for Acton's Citizen of the Year.

Please mail nominations with supporting resume, postmarked not later than Apr. 30/91 to: Acton Lions Club, Citizen of the Year, P.O. Box 28, Acton, Ontario L7J 2M2.

The winner(s) of the award will be made known in May at a dinner to be held at the Acton Legion on Friday, May 24th. The public is invited to attend this special evening. Tickets are available from Lions Club members.