

GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

DANDELIONS

The Dandelion is the most common broad-leaved lawn weed—its puffy yellow flowers are familiar to everyone.

Dandelions are the one weed that we all love to hate. Most home owners have an annual battle with them in their lawns every year. But, don't feel alone, dandelions flourish in every temperate region of the world. The name Dandelion could possibly be derived from the French "dent de Lion" or Lion's Tooth. It could be compared to a lion's tooth because each tiny yellow flower of the flower head resembles a tooth. The deep-cut, jagged leaves and long white root are also tooth shaped.

Dandelions are so prolific because they have so many seeds and a most incredible seed distribution system. Each seed head develops into a round ball with 200 or more seed. Each seed is equipped with a tiny parachute to carry it to nearby yards.

Dandelions can be physically removed (with a dandelion digger) or with 2.4D and mecoprop (broad-leaved weedkillers). These herbicides are most effective if applied when the weeds are actively growing. For lawns full of dandelions and other broad-leaved weeds apply in late May/early June and again in early August. The herbicides can be applied as a granular in fertilizers or as a concentrate liquid that can be mixed with water and sprayed on or as a liquid with a hose end attachment that dilutes to the proper concentration when sprayed on. Do not apply during windy weather for the herbicide will damage other desirable broad-leaved plants (annuals, perennials and shrubs). Your favorite plants can be severely damaged with the careless application of weedkillers. Measures to control dandelions must be done each season since seeds naturally "blow in" from surrounding areas.

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!

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Lordy! Lordy!
Look who's 40



Happy Birthday
Izzy
"The Maloneys"

Councillor to help abused women

By JANET BAINE

One in four women in Halton is abused, but services for these women and their children are lag-



COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON

ging far behind those offered in other parts of the province.

Halton Hills Councillor Pam Johnston is working to change that. She brought people concerned about the problem together at a meeting at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre Tuesday night. The group was looking at ways to provide housing for abused women and children for up to one year after they leave their spouses.

"I really thought it was a wonderful turnout," Johnston said. "It isn't a topic that people like to discuss. I was happy to see that lots of men also came, which shows this is a family issue, not just a woman's issue."

Presentations were made by four women and then Johnston outlined a number of different approaches to improving services.

Johnston said she has become very interested in the subject over the past year, through friends who have been abused and from sitting on the social services committee.

"I have been on the social services committee at the Region. Even with Children's Services we're spending a lot of money and sometimes I feel it's a band-aid solution," Johnston said. Adults who abuse have been abusing themselves at some time in their lives, she said.

"If you tackle the problem of family violence, in the long term, the need for Children's Services will decrease" as will other social services spending, she said.

Elaine Eastman, executive director of the Halton Social Planning Council said there are four different ways in which women are abused: physically, emotionally, sexually

and economically. In a Halton study released a year ago, all women in the shelters said they had been emotionally abused, 8 out of 10 said they had been physically abused, 6 out of 10 had been economically abused and half had been sexually abused.

In addition, the study found that 40 per cent of women on assistance had been abused and 40 per cent of women who belonged to women's clubs had been abused.

Women in abusive relationships have nowhere to turn once their six-week stay at the 18-bed shelter in Milton is over. Yet it often takes a year or longer for a woman to get back on her feet again. Johnston wants to help women through what is called second stage programming: services to help women readjust once they leave the shelter operated by Halton Women's Place.

Halton Regional Police Constable Janice LaRose said that her work with abused women is frustrating.

"It's frustrating for the police. We feel out hands are tied," since it is limited to the time of the dispute, she said. "We depend on the services of our Volunteer Victim Services Unit to give information and support to the victims."

People attending the meeting broke up into smaller groups to discuss the issues and make suggestions. There was consensus that a committee would be formed to work with Halton Women's Place to set up transitional services for women, Johnston said. She will go over a list of people who indicated they would be interested in assisting the committee, she said.

Second shelter top priority

The top priority of Halton Women's Place is to establish a second shelter in the region by the fall of 1992.

The current 18-bed shelter in Milton just isn't enough to serve a population of over 300,000, said director Theresa Greer.

"We're saying that with the number of abused women in Halton, we only have 18 beds. In Simcoe County there are five shelters," she said. "For the number of crisis calls and the intakes, a second shelter is our top priority."

The organization has applied to both the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health for funding, and hopes to hear back by this fall. The new facility would be in Burlington or Oakville, since women from these areas often have a difficult time arranging transportation to the shelter in Milton.

This makes second stage services "a longer term goal" of Halton Women's Place, she said.

The committee which will look at setting up second stage programming in Halton may work with Halton Women's Place, Councillor Pam Johnston said. It would mean no duplication of services and would eliminate the cost of having two boards and administrations, she said.

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Very special thank you from the management and staff to all of you and your companies for helping to raise over \$4,500.00 for the Sick Children's Hospital". We are very appreciative of your community minded spirit and devotion to a cause well worth its weight in gold.

Special thanks to Gary Price, Terry and Leslie Jones, Nancy Knowles and Davey Paterson for their extra efforts. I would also like to personally thank Bev Gates and Lori Bell for the excellent direction and assistance, I'll be looking forward to your aid next year.

Thank You
Glenn Allen

Also, in addition to our weekly Singing Machine Night on Wednesday, we have the biggest treat of the evening on Saturday, June 8th. You can actually be video-recorded singing the lead for a real band. Any song you want and for the cost of the tape (cheap) you keep the tape. I know this will intrigue all the closet singers.

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