

## GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

### GROUND COVERS

Our lawns can be considered a large area planted as a ground cover. However, steep slopes, rocky terrain, and deep shade under trees can all be trouble some areas to establish a lawn. Other ground covers can be a practical solution. Ground covers (other than turf grass) do not have to be regularly maintained and their dense foliage suppresses weeds. In addition many have evergreen foliage and attractive flowers. Therefore, they provide colorful, low maintenance solutions for areas that are not suitable for grass.

The following is a sample of the many plants suitable to use as ground covers.

Ajuga or Bugleweed have shiny bronze/green or variegated foliage that forms a dense mat in a sunny or shady location. In early spring Ajuga produces small spikes of blue flowers.

Crown vetch is excellent on steep, sunny slopes because its deep root system spreads quickly to retain a bank of soil. Once established it can withstand heat and drought and its pink flowers will continue to bloom for months. Crown vetch reaches a height of approximately 15 inches.

Goutweed has variegated white and green foliage that contrasts with other plants. In partial shade it'll grow rapidly to a height of one foot.

Periwinkle or Myrtle is a common ground cover. It has small, oval, evergreen leaves on long creeping stems. Periwinkle thrives in sun or shade and produces purple/blue flowers during midspring.

Pachysandra or Japanese Spurge also has evergreen foliage with a creamy white flower in late spring. It is especially useful in the heavy shade of Maple trees where little else will grow. Pachysandra grows to a height of 8-10 inches.

Cotoneaster is a low growing, broadleaf, evergreen shrub. It produces an abundance of dainty white flowers in the spring and vivid red berries in the fall. IT is best planted in a sunny to partially shaded area.

### Pest Diagnostic Clinic July 17-18

Visit the Garden Centre over the weekend to discover common garden pests and their damage.

Samples for identification welcome!

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  
 GEORGETOWN 375 Guelph St. (Beside Georgetown Motor Inn)

# Children's Aid Society pleads for funding

Two Halton regional councillors who are also board directors for Halton Children's Aid Society (CAS) urged the agency be spared proposed across-the-board cutbacks in funding.

Speaking at a Halton regional council meeting, Burlington councillor Don Carter said "I suggest we should probably have a very grave concern with the (proposed) funding withdrawal from CAS. The society could well be faced with the closure of centres. We would be threatening care and the provision of services."

Under recently unveiled budget cutting strategies to cope with provincial belt tightening, Halton Region has detailed plans to slash almost \$2 million from expenditures this year. Halton proposes to pare approximately \$1million from the boards and agencies it funds, such as CAS, and the rest from its own operations.

In the Halton plan, the CAS would lose \$41,000 in regional funding, to drop from \$1,864,600 in regional dollars to \$1,823,600. That's consistent with Halton's general guideline of trimming an average 2.2 per cent from agencies it finances, as well as its own departments.

Ron Coupland, the executive director of Halton CAS, warned in an early June letter to regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo that the total impact on his organization of the cuts would be \$205,105, when one factors in provincial clawbacks as well.

Halton's chief administrative officer, John Burke, said he believed the province "is going to be reducing funding for all agencies," including the CAS.

Ontario pays roughly 80 per cent of CAS costs, and regional government underwrites the remainder. If Ontario shrinks its 80 per cent, Halton's matching 20 per cent, for example, would automatically be less.

In his letter, Coupland said the Halton CAS had seen a 69 per cent increase in costs since 1988, due to demand for its services. That translates into \$3.7 million, yet in each of those years CAS has slashed its operating budget, he stressed.

"The society has no service left that it can cut, no property it can sell and no amount of private funds it can spend," Coupland wrote.

By way of illustrating the efforts that go into aspects of Halton CAS work, Coupland pointed out that his organization investigated the

deaths of "three infants and toddlers" in Halton this year. "These particular situations reflect the

growing demand upon the society to deal with family environments of immense complexity and danger."

## Holy Cross School honors graduates

Holy Cross School in Georgetown celebrated the graduation of its Grade 8 students June 24. The following are the special award winners.

**Recipients of Awards:**  
 Valedictorian - Inga Raguz  
 Most Improved Student Award - Jennifer Peuker, Jennifer Blackbeard  
 Citizenship - Elizabeth Raposo  
 School Spirit - Suzie Alilovic, Sean Durken  
 Molly Fitzsimmons Award for Christian Living - Inga Raguz, Sherrie McKinnon  
 Athletic Award - Mariana Hrkac, Valerie Hudec, Sean Durken  
 T.A. Hennelly Sportmanship -

Stephen Orticeilo  
 Academic Excellence - Mariana Hrkac, Given Kerr  
 Students of the Year - Mariana Hrkac, Stephen Orticeilo  
 Academic Achievement of 80 per cent and over:  
 Suzie Alilovic, Marissa Fowler, Kathy Jurcic, Katica Juric, Elizabeth Raposo, Laura Gipp, Mariana Hrkac, Angela Harlow, Valerie Hudec, Christina Saloio, Jennifer Blackbeard, Siobhan Blake, Lynn Dales,  
 Tammy Dooley, Given Kerr, Sherri McKinnon, Lisa McNeil, Christopher Meyers, Stephen Orticeilo, Cheri-Anne Paisley, Denise Peddle, Justin Singh, Joanne White, Michelle Wilson, Robert Wright

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