



# Lawn & Garden TIME

Advertorials  
By: Jane Dougan

## Natural stone colour and sparkle for your garden or landscape project

It's easy to spot The Corner Stone at the corner of Highway 7 and Jones Baseline. Dozens of natural rocks and stones are on display, their crystals glistening under the spring sun. Outside the office a bubbling fountain of water cascades up and over a mass of curved rocks. Owner Barb Vos explains that husband Steve "put it together on a Saturday morning," just one example of the many creative possibilities to be found here.

The Vos family bought the business six weeks ago, with over 35 years of business experience in Northern Hardwood. It's very much a family affair, Barb says. She takes delight in promoting the varieties of natural stone they carry for garden and landscaping projects, big or small.

Limestone step-stones can be cut to any size. Durable armour stone "is

great for everything from a retaining wall to a dividing row or rock garden." They carry armour stone in grey, blue-grey and a dark-brown that "some customers find more natural looking". I look for fossils, a common natural feature of this stone which "comes from about 80 feet down".

Barb moves on to the wide variety of cut stone on display. "The neat thing about cut stone is you can create anything from table tops to benches." Who needs cut glass or candles with all that natural colour and sparkle built right in? There are many designs, each as unique as the forces that shaped them. Stones may be sealed to bring out more colour. "That's what these rocks would look like if it rained, but it's permanent,



The Corner Stone's Barb Vos

rain or shine."

Some people use the taller cut-stone granite for engraved address signs at their entryways. Barb points out that "the great thing about a granite stone address at your entryway is that if it snows, it can still be clearly read." Months of spring-summer outdoor enjoyment lie ahead, made all the more pleasurable through the use of these beautiful natural stones.

## It's more than flowers, it's the overall experience and the custom-design

It's been nine years since owner Julie Speck started running The Flower Shed from her farm on the Nass.-Esq. Town line; a lifelong dream that started "behind my husband Charlie's welding shop in Milton".

"Coming to the Flower Shed is more than just about buying flowers for your garden, it's an overall experience," Flower Shed staff member Talynn Martin enthuses, "It's the feeling of the farm and the love that [owner] Julie puts into the displays." The evidence is everywhere. Brightly-painted car tires hang swaying in the breeze, their rims spilling over with flowers and vines, surrounded by an artful mass of planters of all shapes and sizes.

Custom-designed planters are The Flower Shed's main focus. They look after the hanging baskets for the Towns of Milton and Georgetown. "The qualified staff have a real feel for what work's best and what doesn't,"



Flower Shed owner Julie Speck

Julie explains. Requests for specific displays start coming in over winter so that there are "stacks of planters lined up ready to go" once the season starts. Sometimes people come knowing what they want; at other times, she and her staff make personalised suggestions. Either way it's hands-on for The Flower Shed with a beautiful and vibrant result. "Often it's more economical for people to come and let us take care of their container planting, rather than buying the planter and the soil and the different plants

and doing it themselves." Younger buyers especially look for an "instant garden that looks pretty".

The Flower Shed is also known for its vegetables and herbs. "A lot of country people want their own vegetable garden. The demand for vegetables has quadrupled." So has business overall. Julie's "a lot busier this year, very much so, all of a sudden. I would say business has grown at least one-third," but its nothing that Julie can't handle. As Talynn Martin puts it, "Julie is the everything person. She does 20 things at once."

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