

Spring Flowering Shrubs and Trees

By Grace C. Lockwood
Special

After a long cold winter, there is nothing that lifts the spirits quite like the sight of the first spring flowers. One of the more spectacular ways to bring in the new season is with spring flowering shrubs and trees. With care, they will grow larger each year and reward you with a stunning show of beauty. Everyone is familiar with forsythias, lilacs and flowering cherry trees. I will mention a few of the lesser known but equally lovely shrubs and trees.

Two of the earliest flowering shrubs are the witch hazels and corkscrew hazels. Both begin to bloom as early as late February if the weather permits and through March. Witch hazels (*Hamamelis* spp.) have scented yellow to reddish flowers with strap shaped petals. They grow to 20 feet high in ordinary garden soil and sun to partial shade. "Arnold's Promise", with clear yellow flowers, and "Jelena" and "Ruby Glow", with coppery flowers, are good, vigorous hybrids to look for. The corkscrew hazel (*Corylus contorta*) named for its strangely twisted, coiled branches bears small drooping, yellow catkins. The branches provide winter interest in the garden and can be cut for long-lasting dried flower arrangements. Grow as the witch hazels.

Viburnums are a group of shrubs



to small trees with highly scented flowers blooming in May. Our native highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*) is a shade tolerant woodland shrub with flat heads of white flowers followed by red berries. *Viburnum carlesii*, *Vib. carlcephalum* and *Vib. burkwoodii*, known as Korean spice bushes year round balls of highly scented white flowers, pink in bud, followed by red or black berries. *Viburnum carlcephalum* grows to about 12' by 12'; the others are more compact. Another is the Japanese viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum* spp.), a large shrub to small tree with horizontal spreading branches similar in growth habit to the dogwood.

The white flowers are borne in flat clusters along the branches like fine lacework. The variety "summer snowflake" flowers from May through August. All tolerate full sun to partial shade in ordinary soil.

Magnolias provide us with some of the most unforgettable spring scents. *Magnolia soulangia* or saucer magnolia is the most famil-

iar with its large white to pink chalice-shaped flowers in April/May.

It can grow to 30 feet so give it some room. *Magnolia salicifolia* has smaller white flowers that smother the tree with blooms before the leaves come out, making a spectacular show. *Magnolia fraseri* or the Fraser magnolia has creamy white flowers followed by bright red cones in the summer. *Magnolia stellata* is a smaller floriferous shrub with white to lilac pink star-like flowers.

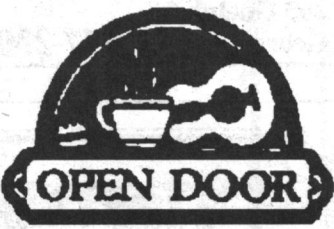
It is also known as the star magnolia and will flower when quite young. A later blooming magnolia is *Magnolia sieboldi* with fragrant nodding white flowers and purple interiors. Later in summer it bears large red fruit cones.

For magnolia lovers, there is an article on them in the April issue of *Harrowsmith*. They are all hardy here, prefer a slightly acidic, rich soil and protection from winter winds. Young specimens should be mulched for the winter.

A little known spring flowering tree is *Halesia carolina*, the Carolina silverbell. It grows to 30 or 40 feet, ultimately up to 80 feet in proper conditions with dark yellowish green leaves, handsome bark and exquisite clusters of white bell shaped flowers in April to early May. It grows in sun to part shade in neutral to slightly acidic soil. It makes a lovely specimen tree for a front yard.

Open Door responds to needs of youth

By Ann Scheepers-Nevins
Special



Have we failed our youth? Recent events in the world have led me to ask this question. How can it be that a young person's life is so miserable that they hurt themselves or each other? We are in a technological age. We have everything. Yet the youth seems alienated from their feelings, their parents and their own lives.

They feel they are alone in the most crucial part of their development, burdened inextricably with violence and addiction. In helping our youth, would not the answer lie in embracing and recognizing them as viable members of the community as opposed to letting them drift on their own?

For many years the residents of Georgetown have responded to the needs of our youth in the form of the Open Door Youth Centre. In fact, Georgetown is alone in this unique endeavor. Nowhere in Halton Hills is there a place like the Open Door Youth Centre. The centre has been so successful that other communities seek to emulate us. Other communities realize, as we have, that allowing youth to direct their own lives with guidance makes the most sense, something both adults and teens can live with. Effectively, Open Door seeks to close the gulf between generations.

The Open Door operates out of two churches — St. George's

Anglican Church for the teen drop-in and St. Andrew's United Church for the Young Parent Program. Basically, we try to meet the needs of young people.

We have been helpful in finding jobs, handling teen's problems associated with family break-up, teen pregnancy and the dilemmas of peer pressure. We are trained counselors who offer understanding, referrals and help only when the young person feels he/she wants to address the problem. It gives the young person freedom to be themselves in a safe place without the structure of an institution. The staff and board of the Open Door as well as the community care that our kids stay in school, grow and become prosperous citizens.

However, The Open Door needs your help in continuing to respond to the needs of youth. The board of directors needs new members to give of their time and be involved in leading this much-cherished organization onward. If you feel the need to affect youth in your own community and have the time to spare, please contact us at 873-2966.

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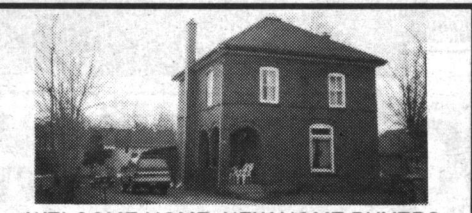
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