

COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE: GLEN GOLDSTRAW

by Donna Danielli

It wouldn't feel like Christmas without the annual Campbellville Christmas Parade and that parade wouldn't be possible without the dedication of volunteers like Campbellville's Glenn Goldstraw.

"I wanted to be part of the community," explains Mr. Goldstraw, who has chaired the parade committee for the past five years. "I really like doing it. It's a lot of fun and you certainly get a sense of accomplishment."

The work on the parade usually begins in late September or early October each year, when the committee begins obtaining all the official permissions from the Town of Milton and Halton Region. The insurance for the parade is also arranged in this beginning stage, as well as consultation with the police and fire departments and Community Services as to the extent of their involvement.

"There have been a few years though, when the fire department got a call to go to a fire in the middle of the parade and had to leave," laughs Mr. Goldstraw. "Hopefully, that won't happen this year."

Volunteering his time is something that comes naturally to Mr. Goldstraw. Community involvement is somewhat of a family tradition for him, as his father was one of the founding members of the Campbellville Lion's Club. In addition to the hours spent working on the parade, Mr. Goldstraw, along with wife Donna and daughter Meghan, have built their own float for the parade to represent their home at 69 Main Street almost all of the past 23 years.

"We've used a variety of big and little trailers over the years," says Mr. Goldstraw. "I had a covered wagon once. I've pulled the

floats with everything from tractors to trucks." An active volunteer in the community, Mr. Goldstraw also acts as President of the Nassagaweya Tennis Club, is on the Board of Directors of the Allendale Foundation and is newsletter editor for the Clan Cameron Association of Ontario.

"I've always had my roots here," explains Mr. Goldstraw. "Yes, often there's work to be done, but it's also fun."

The Campbellville Christmas Parade is a much anticipated event each year, and will continue to be so for a long time yet, according to Glenn Goldstraw.

"I'm Parade Marshal for life" he laughs. "I guaranteed the Lion's Club there would be a parade for many more years yet."

The 2001 Christmas Parade was well attended by enthusiasts



from near and far.

"I think the casualness of it is a big part of the appeal," explains Mr. Goldstraw. "A lot of people come back year after year because they have roots. It's fun to be here and it's a wonderful community parade."

Givin' you the dirt
by Sean James

Winter form in the garden

When you're done reading the paper, go look out the window. Anything worth looking at?

Now, as you drive around this winter, look for things that you can incorporate into your yard. Take your cues from nature. Let's go through some plants to beef up your winter garden.

Winter used to be a season I despised. Eventually I got tired of feeling down and made an effort to see the beauty. Even in that drab period before the snow falls there is a lot to look at.

Look at the forms of wild grasses, soft, feathery evergreens, black seed heads, purple branches, and red berries.

The first mistake many gardeners make is to cut down perennials in the fall. There are several reasons not to do this but the most shallow and most rewarding, is the physical beauty of the seed heads as they hold snow and contrast with each other in colour and texture.

Don't think about tomorrow or next year. Think about ten years from now. If there is a view you would like to block out, if you have the space, plant a White Pine. Not only will it give shelter to birds and add a soft whisper to your yard, it will be stellar weighed down with fluffy snow.

Perennials such as Stonecrop, Coneflower and Astilbe all have great winter interest. Even the seed heads from Hosta are interesting.

I'm a huge fan of ornamental grasses since they evolve through the season. In winter, with seed heads held high and leaves bleached soft yellow, they add a softness and a type of form to the garden offered by no other group of plants. Don't be afraid of grasses taking over the landscape. Ribbon Grass and Blue Lyme Grass (*Elymus glaucus*) are the only really invasive types. Some, such as Northern Sea Oats

(*Chasmanthium*) are even shade tolerant.

Many shrubs hold berries deep into the winter. Three of my favorites are Washington Hawthorn, Highbush Cranberry and Sparkleberry, although there are many great plants available. Make sure you have the room for the plant when it reaches its mature height and breadth. Cranberry holds its berries right into March. Sparkleberry is great for wet corners.

Some shrubs and trees just have great bark and coloured twigs. Dogwoods have nice twigs. Birch has lovely bark but does not like dry feet. Find a damp corner for it. Beautybush (*Kolkwitzia*) has feathery bark as it ages, as does Oakleaf Hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*). Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia*) have great textured bark in the winter. There are also a couple of shrubs such as Witch Hazel which flower in the late fall or very early (March) spring with delicate yellow flowers.

Don't be afraid to take a winter walk at a botanical garden such as the Niagara Parks Botanical Garden and School of Horticulture or the Arboretum at Guelph University or the Royal Botanical Garden in Hamilton. Take a notepad and camera for recording ideas. It's also a great way to see plants in their more mature form instead of the babies you see in the nursery.

Don't be afraid to ask your local garden centre to bring in plants that interest you. It may take them some time but if they're good they'll do it for you. It also serves to broaden their horizons a bit.

Don't worry. Soon it will be spring and plants will be growing again!

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Funny Valentines
by Deborah Quale
This winter and spring The Arboretum at the University of Guelph will present "Funny Valentines," directed by John Snowdon, Artistic Director of Theatre Downstairs.
Children's book author Andy Robbins, has been an unhappy bachelor since his divorce eight months before from his former collaborator, Ellen. On one incredible day, Ellen re-enters his life eight months pregnant, his agent arrives with a TV contract that needs both Andy's and Ellen's approval, a beautiful lawyer appears to wrap up the TV deal and seduce Andy, and Andy's mother-in-law makes an unexpected appearance. Completely rattled, Andy decides to lie and introduces the lawyer as his agent's fiancé, while he tries to get Ellen to sign a contract she opposes. As usual, the premise of the play leads the characters into situations entangled with hilarity and wit.
"Funny Valentines" runs February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, and April 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2002. Tickets are \$49, all inclusive with a hot and cold buffet. Call The Arboretum at 519-824-4120, ext. 4110

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