



## Givin' you the dirt

By SEAN JAMES



# The importance of patience

Gardening is not a past time for those in a rush. Slow down your pace and your expectations.

If you plant a perennial or clematis this year, what you see is what you get. You'll not get too much more growth this year. If you plant a tree or shrub in from June on, expect nothing else. (If you plant annuals, ignore this entire column, probably forever, since I'm not a big annual fan.) Patience is the watchword of gardening.

Set your goals and expectations in the long term. Think about how big a plant will get next year and in five years from now. Plant allowing enough space for that growth and fill in with low, small annuals in the mean time.

Regarding trees, think about the tree in five, ten, and 20 years. When asked what kind of a tree folks want, most reply "ummm...something fast growing, after all I don't know how long I'll be around." Why do people suddenly sound so old when talking about trees? You'd think they expect to kick off any second!

Trees are only half for you. They are for the people who come after you also and of course for the planet Earth itself. Think about a slow, strong growing oak instead of a fast, weak growing silver maple. Better still, plant a small tree such as a paper bark maple (*Acer griseum*) and wait for it to get big enough to fill the space.

Also, a very young sapling is a

better choice than a spaded tree. If you plant a three foot tall sugar maple today and a large, spaded sugar maple (60 - 70 mm in trunk diameter), in ten years they will be the same size.

Further more, the young tree will live 200 years and the spaded tree will be lucky to outlive you. My experience is that in 15 years the spaded tree will be suffering from fatal diseases associated with old age.

The instant landscape may be appealing but it is very expensive and only a short term fix.

If you have questions of a horticultural nature, e-mail me at [sdjames@on.aibn.com](mailto:sdjames@on.aibn.com). If it's of interest to the general public it may make it into the column.



Photo By DONNA DANIELLI

Wednesday, June 19, 2002 was a very special day for Halton Region. It marked the official opening of the completely renovated Halton Region Museum.

On hand for the event were (left to right) Milton Councillor Cindy Lunau, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle, Paul Attack, Halton Region Manager of Heritage Services, Halton Region Chairman Joyce Savoline and Milton Councillor Barry Lee.

## Dr. Bug's

# Bugbytes

by ROBERT CAMERON

## European Paper Wasps

Last summer the Asian Lady Beetle and Asian Soybean Aphid were major problems here in Ontario.

Another introduced insect that we have been encountering over the past few years and whose numbers seem to be increasing is the European Paper Wasp.

These wasps were first recorded in Massachusetts in 1980. They have been spreading rapidly ever since then. This insect is native to an area stretching from the Mediterranean to China. They are similar in appearance to our regular paper wasps but are slightly smaller and have brighter yellow bands on the abdomen. They prey on caterpillars, feeding them to their larvae in the nests.

Paper wasps are the ones that build upside down umbrella type nests in protected areas such as under eaves, behind shutters, in garden sheds etc. Unlike our native species, the European Paper Wasps will build their nests just about anywhere including the exposed sides of homes, along fences, in bird houses, gas vents and innumerable other, often strange, locations. They also seem to be more prolific and will build up large populations

in a short time.

Last summer, we found anywhere from 2 to 3 nests, up to 40 or 50 nests on some larger homes. Overwintering queens may stay in the nest all winter and use them again the following season. These wasps can be quite aggressive and have the habit of buzzing you if you start to get close to the nest. They

will sting if threatened or provoked.

Control involves treating individual nests and removing them if possible. If the wasps are going into the soffit and fascia areas, these areas have to be treated. Nests are often built on the sunny sides of a house. People with allergies to bee and wasp stings should use caution around the nests of these wasps.



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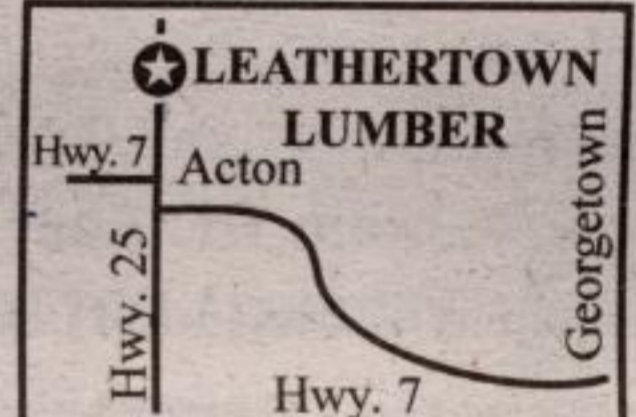
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