



BUNGALOW ON SPACIOUS LOT
 • great view of Niagara Esc.
 • 3 bedroom • eat-in kitchen
 • large living room
REDUCED \$229,000



A BIT OF COUNTRY IN TOWN!
 • bungalow • 3 bedrooms
 • eat-in kitchen • gorgeous family room • beautifully landscaped
\$389,000



• 3 bedrooms
 • potential in-law suite
 • large sunroom
 • in-ground pool
\$239,000

Season's Greetings from **Jack McCrudden**
 Associate Broker
 Tel: 905-878-7777 Fax: 905-878-7029
 Blue Springs Realty (Halton) Corp.
 22 Ontario Street South, Milton

Free Property Evaluations!

North Halton Home of the Month

Century home



This four bedroom century home offers large country kitchen, main floor family, dining, living and laundry rooms. Newer windows, furnace, plumbing and electrical. The home has been nicely updated with new Berber carpet, neutral colours. The home is situated on a double corner lot within walking distance to school, rec center, IGA. The property also offers a huge deck, two ponds and a two-and-a-half car, two storey garage. The garage is four years new, completely finished with wood burning stove, carpet, drywall and trim. One bay is open for parking and storage. The possibilities are endless for the usage of the garage: **great in-law potential or great office/workshop.** Call Hillary Eby today for your personal viewing.



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Season's Greetings to all my friends and clients!

Hilary Eby
 Sales Representative,
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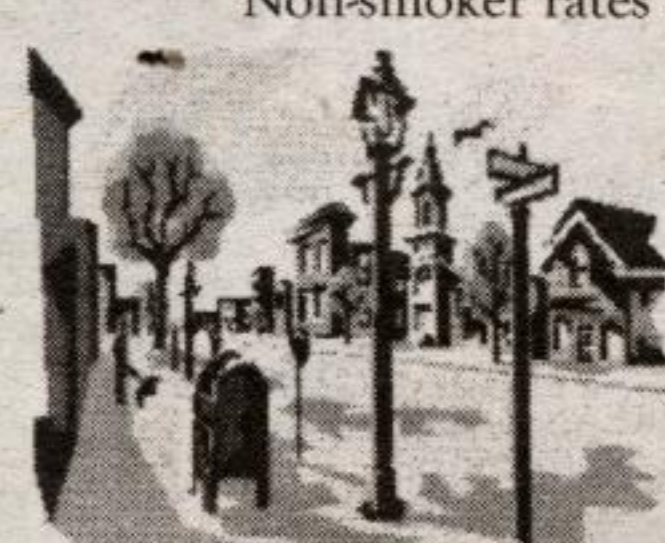
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 *** Non-smoker rates as of June 13, 2003



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Giving You the Dirt

BY SEAN JAMES, N.P.D.

Winter Planters

Believe it or not, there's still one project to do outside. Whether you wish to add a festive air or just chase away winter, planter arrangements are a great way to liven up the outside of your house. Beat the winter blahs before they get started.

Just like the ferns in flower arrangements, the greens are anything that has no flowers. Greens are the anchor to an arrangement. They offer texture and form. A great source of greens is your own garden. A few branches can be nipped off your spruce, pine, and yew without making it obvious. Even some leggy bits of the Euonymus can be taken. If you're lucky enough to have a hemlock tree, the branches turned upside down and used in the arrangement have a great blue tinge although they may not last as long as spruce. Try to find branches that need pruning anyway such as those reaching out into pathways. Cut them back to a side branch making a nice clean cut. Be sure not to leave stubs. Especially, don't be out nipping bits of the neighbour's pine without per-

mission! Just because you can reach it from the road doesn't make it yours. (Although, you might try offering them a bit of free pruning and offer to share the clippings.)

Look for plants with good winter interest such as ornamental grasses, teasel, mullin, shrub roses, corkscrew willow and hazel, and redbud dogwood. There are certain crab-apples which hold their berries through the winter that are also useful. Even three different lengths of small, dead birch branches in the centre of an arrangement can add a dramatic high point of interest. If it suits your style, teasel, mullin and other structural plants can be spray-painted silver, gold or copper to jazz it up although that's not for everyone. I take pride in using only real materials but there are some great fake berries and other things available at garden centres for winter arrangements.

This year, I planted evergreen perennials in my fall arrangements that I'm leaving in all winter. In the spring, I'll plant them into the garden. If they live, and they should, I'm ahead of the game. Perennials suitable for this

include Bergenia, blue fescue grass, Christmas fern, ice dance sedge, evergreen oatgrass (Helictotrichon) and bugleweed to name just a few.

Those of you who read me on a regular basis know I lean toward... frugal. As such, another trick is to buy shrubs with good winter interest, such as sparkleberry (Ilex verticillata), bayberry or even highbush cranberry. Carefully prune off ten-inch twigs which are heavily berried, taking care to leave some side branches. The remains of the shrub can then be planted in your yard in a suitable place. Considering how expensive sparkleberry branches are to purchase, this way you have your cake and eat it too.

Last year, I used lemons and oranges jammed onto sturdy wires hidden in the greens. If they turned soft, I just pulled them off and installed fresh ones. It sounds rough but the effect was great.

After the annuals have been removed and the mums have done their bit, a mix of greens and berries will last through the holiday season and make the winter less bleak. As with all things gardening, you can be as creative or as conservative as you like. It's your landscape. Enjoy.