

ChampionCountry

Visionscapes brings all types of gardens into bloom

No project too big or too small: rural landscaper

By Robin Downton-Poirier
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Everyone has a different vision of what they would like their garden to be. Some people like to have flowers in every shape, size and colour; some like to have a water feature; and some would like to have a quiet place to sit and relax.

It is Virginia Burt's job to take those ideas and dreams from her clients and turn them into a reality.

Burt, owner of Campbellville architectural landscape firm Visionscapes, was in search of a life with more spiritual meaning more than a decade ago when she had the idea to meld her personal quest with her career as a landscape architect to create healing gardens and spaces with meaning.

"I was on a personal journey looking for something more. Eleven years ago I had an epiphany that my personal journey and my profession needed to come together," said Burt. "Traditional landscape architecture didn't fulfill all my wants and needs so I created a business that builds and designs healing gardens and sacred spaces."

Burt has designed gardens, both residential and commercial, across Canada and the United States and is hoping to travel beyond North America in the future to do more. To date, she has designed and built more than 200 spaces ranging in size from 400 square feet to 140 acres.

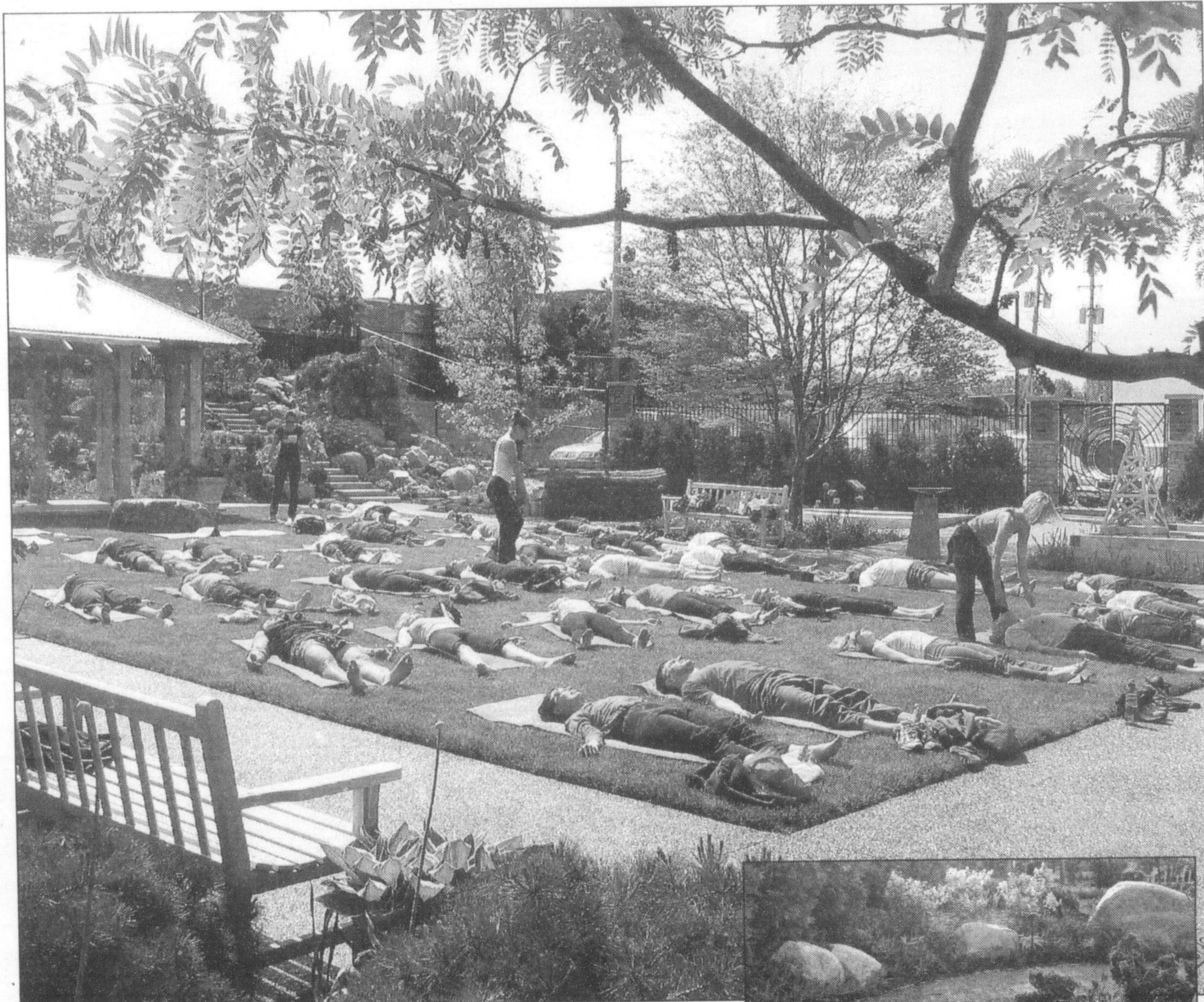
She has also designed labyrinths for therapeutic facilities as labyrinths represent a journey and are used in therapy programs. Each design is a reflection of the customer's vision incorporated with the uses, present and future, and the location of the space.

About 60 per cent of Burt's clients are residential owners who want to enjoy their properties to the fullest. First, Burt gets acquainted with the client and learns what is most important to them and what they would like to have in their garden. She then designs the space taking into consideration the way the house flows from the inside to the outside, the different views of the space, and how the design elements will complement each other. Each space is as unique as its owner, said Burt.

"Every garden has joys and gifts that it gives their owner because it is designed specifically with them in mind. I love bringing their vision into fruition and seeing the joy it provides them," she said.

Businesses and organizations that need a design for a space that will be used by the public need to be approached differently, said Burt.

She added that some need to be completed in phases as part of a master plan, such as the grounds of the Royal Military College of Canada.



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?: Visionscapes has created a myriad of gardens — some traditional and others quite unusual — across Canada and the United States.



Having grown up on an apple farm in Brooklin, Ont. and receiving her degree in landscape architecture from the University of Guelph, Burt has always recognized the importance of being outdoors and close to nature. She strives to bring the spirit of her client and the spirit of nature together in each design, she said.

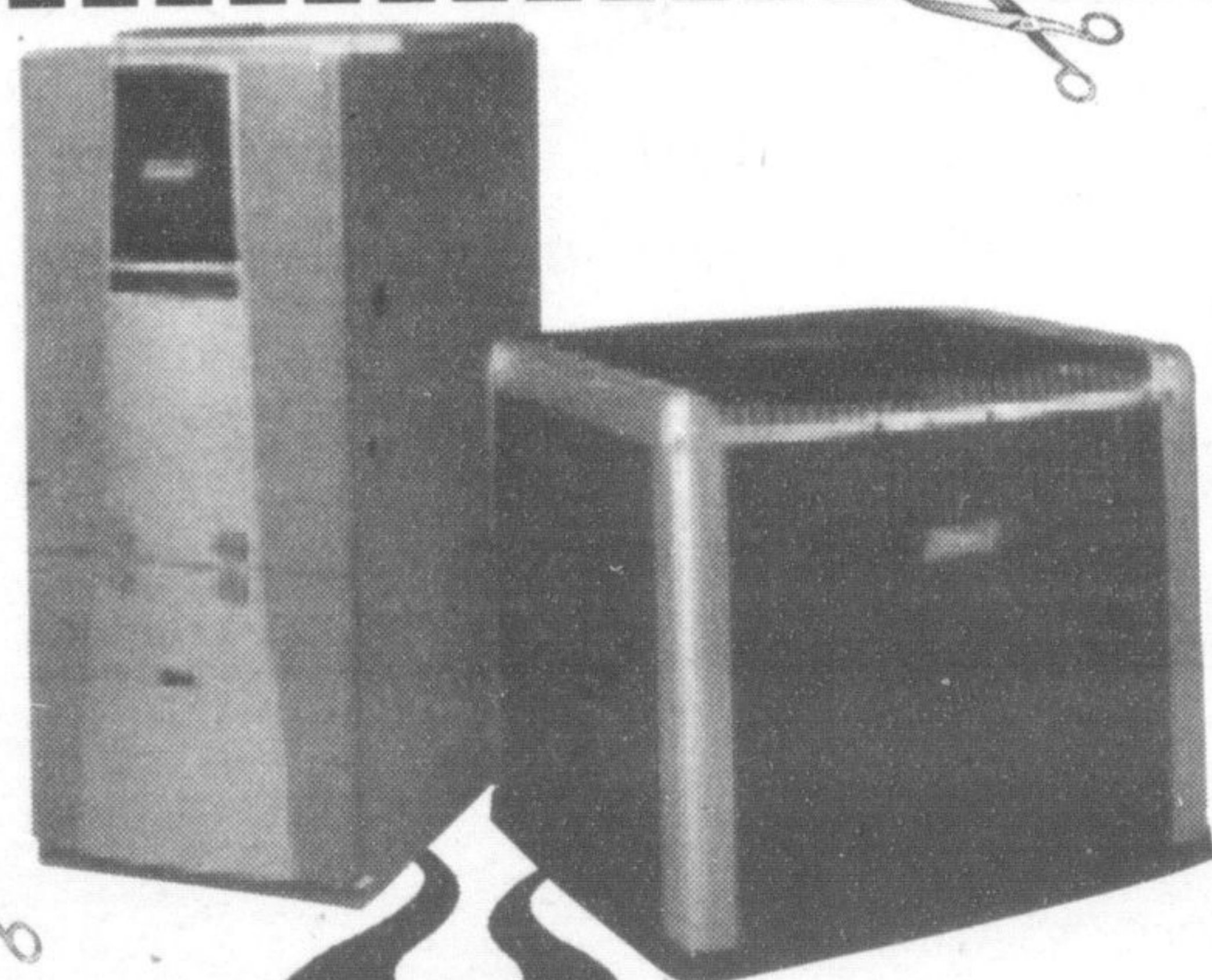
Any garden can be a healing garden or spirit garden because each is woven with person and space," said Burt. "I feel like a custodian helping people bring their dreams into a reality. I am very lucky and I love my job. How many people get to see dreams come true on a daily basis?"

For more information on Visionscapes, visit its website at www.spirithealinggardens.com or contact Virginia Burt at (905) 331-8375.

Historical impressionist to visit Campbellville Sun.

Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. MacDonald, will be making an appearance in Campbellville on July 1. Well, sort of.

Starting at 2 p.m., actor/impressionist David Morris will present his historically accurate one-man show as the beloved prime minister at the Village Green in Campbellville (just north of the CPR tracks, at Guelph Line). This free event, which is open to everyone, is being sponsored by Global Genealogy.



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