

The snow is melting — time to think about gardening

If you've become infested with an early case of spring fever, you're probably eager to take rake, shovel and gardening gloves in hand and head for the nearest flowerbed. This is a common symptom experienced by many homeowners each year, once it becomes apparent winter is truly over.

For many, gardening is an enjoyable pastime which allows them to express their creativity and beautify their properties at the same time.

However, good gardens don't appear overnight; even low-maintenance gardens require effective planning and a reasonable amount of upkeep each year. So, before you head out to the backyard or rockery, be sure you take some time to plan out your garden — whether it's formal or informal, large or small.

Gather Information

It's a good idea to sit down with some gar-

dening catalogues and books at the beginning of each planting season to see if there are any new types of flowers, vegetables, shrubs or trees you'd like to plant this spring.

When selecting varieties, take the location of your garden into consideration and check light and soil requirements of the flowers or trees you're interested in planting.

If your property is extremely shady, you probably won't want to choose annuals that

require a great deal of sun — like geraniums, marigolds or petunias. Many types of flowering plants thrive in the shade — like impatiens and some begonias.

Soil requirements should also be taken into consideration.

Rhododendrons and azaleas, for instance, like acidic soil. If you don't know your soil type, it's a good idea to have it checked out. Yours may be lacking in important nutrients.

Consider Size and Location

If you plan to add some shrubbery and trees to your landscape this year, it's a good idea to consult an expert at your local gardening centre, to see what best suits your needs.

If size is a major concern, you can buy a number of dwarf varieties which are easy to maintain and provide a striking backdrop for your flowers.

You may even want to start a hedge to frame your front walkway, or provide a buffer around your property.

Again, it's important to consider light requirements and rate of growth when choosing shrubs and trees. Take care not to plant large trees too close to your house — they could cause problems by hampering your foundation with their root systems or getting caught in your eavestroughs. Growing trees should be given adequate room to grow.

Family Activities

If you're planning to create brand new flowerbeds this year, it's also important to take your family activities into consideration.

For example, fragile flowers should not be placed right next to Fido's dog run or your children's outdoor play equipment, because there's a good chance they'll get trampled.

Also consider access and the size and shape of your garden, along with any unusual characteristics that you want to highlight (like a rockery) or camouflage (like a neighbour's unsightly garage, or a derelict potting shed).

Keep in mind that there are many relatively easy and effective methods of screening your view and changing the focal point of your yard.

For specific tips on how to create a haven of privacy and peace, consult a landscape or gardening expert.

Sketches & Colour

If you're artistically inclined — and even if you're not — you may want to do a few thumbnail sketches of your plans to see how they stack up on paper. If you're aiming to achieve a special effect with colour, it's a particularly good idea to sit down with some colouring pencils first to see what the outcome will be; that way you'll avoid any unpleasant surprises halfway through the season.

And, if you're aiming to maintain colour from spring right through to autumn, consider planting a number of perennials which bloom in the fall, like chrysanthemums.

Breaking Ground

Once you've formulated your plan, it's time to start preparing the soil for planting. Walk around your property and check the condition of your garden or flowerbeds. Damaged pieces will have to be removed, along with any winter debris.

Turn the soil over so that it's aerated. Large clumps of earth should be broken up and smoothed out. You'll probably also need to add some soil amendments.

Once your soil is adequately prepared, and climate conditions are favorable, it's time to plant. Don't forget that once your plants take hold, it's important to keep them up. Ongoing maintenance is essential.

This article is provided by local Realtors and the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) for the benefit of consumers in the real estate market.



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 <p>NEW LISTING Excellent home for children, finished family room, close to schools, lovely fenced garden. Spacious home, must be seen to be appreciated. Please call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, today for all the details about #24.</p>	 <p>EXCELLENT VALUE—\$229,900 Quiet court location. 3+ bedrooms, 4 washrooms, finished basement, fireplace, air cond. & inground pool. Let's talk — call Dick Belford* for all the details about #26.</p>	 <p>\$179,900 2 storey link with 4 bedrooms situated on Rosehead Drive. 3 washrooms, finished basement, fireplace and more! All this available for April 1. For your exclusive appointment to view please call Dick Belford* about #21.</p>	 <p>BY THE OAKS End unit with garage — immaculate condition, beautifully decorated. Backs onto park, close to schools — priced at \$130,900. Call Barbara Mallalieu* to view #22.</p>
 <p>MOVE-IN CONDITION 3 bedrooms, main floor family room, good size eat-in kitchen, all situated on a 50' x 125' lot. Has lots of storage room. Call Joan Tattre-Hollings* for complete details about #16.</p>	 <p>LOTS OF VALUE HERE! 3 bedroom fully detached home on fenced 64' x 112' lot. Main floor family room, finished basement, door to garage, walkouts from kitchen and family room, all for \$169,900! Please call Barbara Mallalieu* to view #17.</p>	 <p>400 CARLISLE ROAD Special home for discriminating people. This 4 bedroom home has all the features you've been looking for! Unique design and setting, many special extras — come have a look — you'll fall in love... \$329,900. Please call Barbara Mallalieu* to view #19.</p>	 <p>MOTIVATED VENDORS! Three bedroom split level with finished rec. room, eat-in kitchen, pool, air-conditioning, nicely decorated plus more upgrades than can be mentioned here. For complete info. Call Joan Tattre-Hollings* about #20. Priced to sell at \$183,500.</p>
 <p>SCENIC COUNTRY This picturesque property offers a 2 storey home complete with separate workshop + office & 36' x 40' garage, all situated on approx. 1.1 acres with a pond. Located on the outskirts of Kildee and priced to sell, don't miss out! Call Don Pelz* today about #111.</p>	 <p>CURB APPEAL? AH HAI! Spacious 3+ bdrm sideplit with walk-in closet, 2 pc. ensuite & sliding doors to balcony off master bedroom, generous main floor family room with FP & WO to backyard, roof re-shingled in '92. Asking \$233,900. Please call Jennie Fretz* to view #14.</p>	 <p>COUNTRY BEAUTY This bright 3 bedroom brick 2 storey has an excellent open concept in dining area & family room, floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace with heat-a-lator & fan & convenient main floor laundry room. Situated in the country, but close to town, the home is trimmed with red oak and there's lots of windows to allow natural lighting. Call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, to view #13.</p>	 <p>IMMACULATE TOWNHOUSE This 3 bedroom home is in move-in condition. Close to all amenities it boasts numerous upgrades including vinyl flooring & decorating. Broadroom like new & fresh paint throughout. Asking \$134,500, this one's not to be missed! To view #11 today please call Grant Mitchell*.</p>
 <p>STARTER HOME This three bedroom townhome is attractively decorated. Recently painted in neutral colours, recently installed broadroom throughout, finished basement with rec. room. Asking \$121,900. Call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, to view #08.</p>	 <p>ON BROADWAY! This superb maintenance-free home boasts some features not normally found in this area of town. Double car garage, separate entrance to possible in-law suite, two fireplaces and more! Asking \$189,900. Please call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, to view this unique home #06.</p>	 <p>PICTURE-SQUE Picture yourself walking among the trees waving to a gentle breeze and meandering round the pond watching the reflections dance. To view this 3-bedroom home & surrounding property, please ask for Stewart Haddon, Associate Broker, #01.</p>	 <p>COUNTRY Sold brick bungalow, 10 minutes from the 401 on Highway 25. Located on a 125' x 175' lot, close to all amenities of the town of Acton. Priced at \$189,900. Call Jennie Fretz* to view #05.</p>
 <p>RESIDENCE & WORKSHOP ONLY \$164,900 This three bedroom starter home provides a nice lot and a superb workshop. For further details please contact W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, about #03.</p>	 <p>CENTURY HOME - OAKVILLE BORDER Lower Base Line - 1/2 acre, 5,000 sq. ft. home with 7 bedrooms, library, family room, dining room, etc! Asking \$549,000. For your personal inspection contact Ron MacNeil* about #105.</p>	 <p>MAKE A MOVE... ... this spring to this spacious 2 storey, 4 bedroom, well maintained home located on a quiet crescent. Features include main floor laundry & family rooms, ensuite off master, partially finished basement & central air. Flexible closing date. Asking \$239,900. Call Linda Ertzly* today to view #100.</p>	 <p>4.5 ACRES - CARLISLE PLUS a heritage home set on a hilltop with a gorgeous view! 3-bedroom brick home with add-on family room, newer wiring, some original woodwork, 3 outbuildings, 2 box stalls. Call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, about #93.</p>
 <p>CAMPBELLVILLE ESTATE Executive bungalow on 2 acres features 3 fireplaces, Nanny's quarters, pool, tennis court, hot tub & many more amenities too numerous to list. Please call Ron Twiss* for more information or a personal inspection of #21.</p>	 <p>ELLIOTT CRESCENT Three bedroom, raised ranch bungalow offers fireplace with air-tight insert in living room, deck at rear of home, paved drive & single garage. New roof in 1992. Listed at \$174,900. Please contact W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, to view #83.</p>	 <p>GORGEOUS TWO-STOREY 4 bdrm home situated on five rolling, treed acres with a stream & six stall barn with tack room. Many incredible features are combined to create a perfect home! For complete details & your exclusive appointment to view please call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, about #54.</p>	 <p>\$179,900 Three bedroom bungalow with nicely finished basement suitable for an in-law suite. Rec. room with wet bar, woodstove, ceramic tile to ceiling in bath, wine cellar, 6' wood fence and greenhouse. Call Joan Tattre-Hollings* for your appointment to view #115.</p>
<p>STARTER OR RETIREMENT BURLINGTON THREE BEDROOM SEMI 1) Asking \$129,900 and available for immediate occupancy this family home offers a nice back yard and is situated close to all amenities. Contact W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, to view #C-1.</p> <p>ABSOLUTELY EXQUISITE 2) Ground floor luxury living, 2 bedroom condo with Florida wire and enclosed patio lets all the sunshine in! Priced to sell at \$139,900. Appleby Line and Pinedale area. Call Jo-Anne V.* to view #23.</p>	<p>FOR SALE OR LEASE Located in central Milton. Ideal for any professional. 3 floors (each approx. 2,500 sq. ft.) of commercial space and top floor has 5 apartments with individual heating & air conditioning units. For more details call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker about #117.</p> <p>DOWN TOWN EXPOSURE Store (with rented apartment) for your own use or as a good investment. Listed at only \$299,000. For more info: and to view, please ask for Stewart Haddon Associate Broker, #14</p>	<p>TIMESHARE IN MARCH Thornbury Harbour Club near Collingwood or trade for week in other area. Call Barbara Mallalieu* today for details about this neat concept. #18</p> <p>\$4.00/SQ. FT. McGEACHIE DRIVE Industrial space for lease, building size 16,800 square feet, brick-block construction, Zoned M1, best use light industrial. For complete details contact Ross Cescon* about # 104.</p>	<p>Call Don Pelz* for more info. about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 acre picturesque, wooded corner lot, well on property, quiet area, Vendor motivated. #81. 2 acre 'L' shaped lot, frontage on Kildee St., pond on property, building permit available. #108. Farm Land, 89 acres on 6th Line, centrally located - close to Milton, Oakville & Mississauga. Price is flexible. Contact Don Pelz for more details #25

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