



The bookworm

by Shirley Whittington
The greening of Huronia is beginning, as spring's warming sun melts away the

snowbanks. Knowledgeable gardeners know what's ahead in terms of propagation and planting. Neophytes need all the help they can get.

Books abound on the subject, and now, in this hiatus between snow shovel and lawn mower, is the

perfect time to bone up on bone meal, ponder plant propagation and contemplate cuttings.

You could settle down with *Chatelaine's Gardening Book* for starters. It is a massive 369 page tome, replete with dazzling colour photographs, diagrams and

planting charts, and its chief charm is that it was written by a Canadian (Lois Wilson) for Canadians.

Ms. Wilson writes with charm ("vines are gay gymnasts of the garden") and with ingenuity ("Bicycle baskets, handily one-sided, make good planters along a rail").

She covers vegetable gardening, flowers, the building of fences and walkways, tools, pest control and indoor gardening. And, she pays careful note to Canada's many different growing areas, right from the Atlantic to the Yukon. This is a comprehensive addition to the green thumb library.

If you tend to be compulsive, you'll enjoy *Xenia Field's Week by Week Gardening*, which has specific chores laid out for every week of the year. This

week, friends, you should be working with pre-emergence weed killers, cutting back overgrown deciduous hedges and setting out your strawberries.

This points up an obvious shortcoming of American gardening manuals. They do not always take into account the shorter growing season of the northern latitudes. Still, the *Week by Week Gardening* is a beautiful big book with full colour illustrations that will delight you even in the fourth week of February when there's nothing to do but prune your woody trees and plan your vegetable garden.

The Complete Flower and Garden Book by Beth M. York promises to green your thumb and make your home and the space around it more beautiful. Its chief merit — to my un-horticultural eye — is its loose leaf format which

enables one to add one's own notes, or to remove a page for a trip to the nursery or greenhouse.

It covers lawns, flowers, shrubs, trees, houseplants, herbs, fruits and vegetables. Better lay in a supply of gummied reinforcements if you decide on this book.

Basic Gardening Illustrated comes in modest paperback and is chock full of easy to read diagrams and photos. It is published by Sunset, the Magazine of Western Living, but it does pay attention to the varying growing zones across the country.

It's a good practical book, full of sensible suggestions

on how to avoid Monday morning gardener's back.

Herbs have been around for centuries and you can find out how to grow and use them in *A Modern Herbal* edited by Violet Stevenson. It's the only book I ever saw with directions for making candied violets. There is lots of down-to-earth information too, including how to grow herbs in window boxes, and how to confine rampant mint. Recipes for minted melon balls, marigold custard and other savoury delights are included.

If you are strictly a houseplant gardener, *House Plants for the Purple Thumb* will delight you. This

cheerful paperback shows neophytes how to give up Kick-a-Plant Week.

Maggie Bayliss writes with wit and joy. The line drawings are clear and accurate and the text is stimulating. For apartment dwellers, she suggests: "Take the doors off a kitchen cupboard, add two 40 watt fluorescent lights, and you have a charming lighted

garden for fresh salads all winter."

Ms. Bayliss is dedicated to plant parenthood, and she'll tell you absolutely everything you ever wanted to know about houseplants.

There's a wide choice of gardening books and it should be easy to find one or two that will suit your particular situation. Buy now. Play later.

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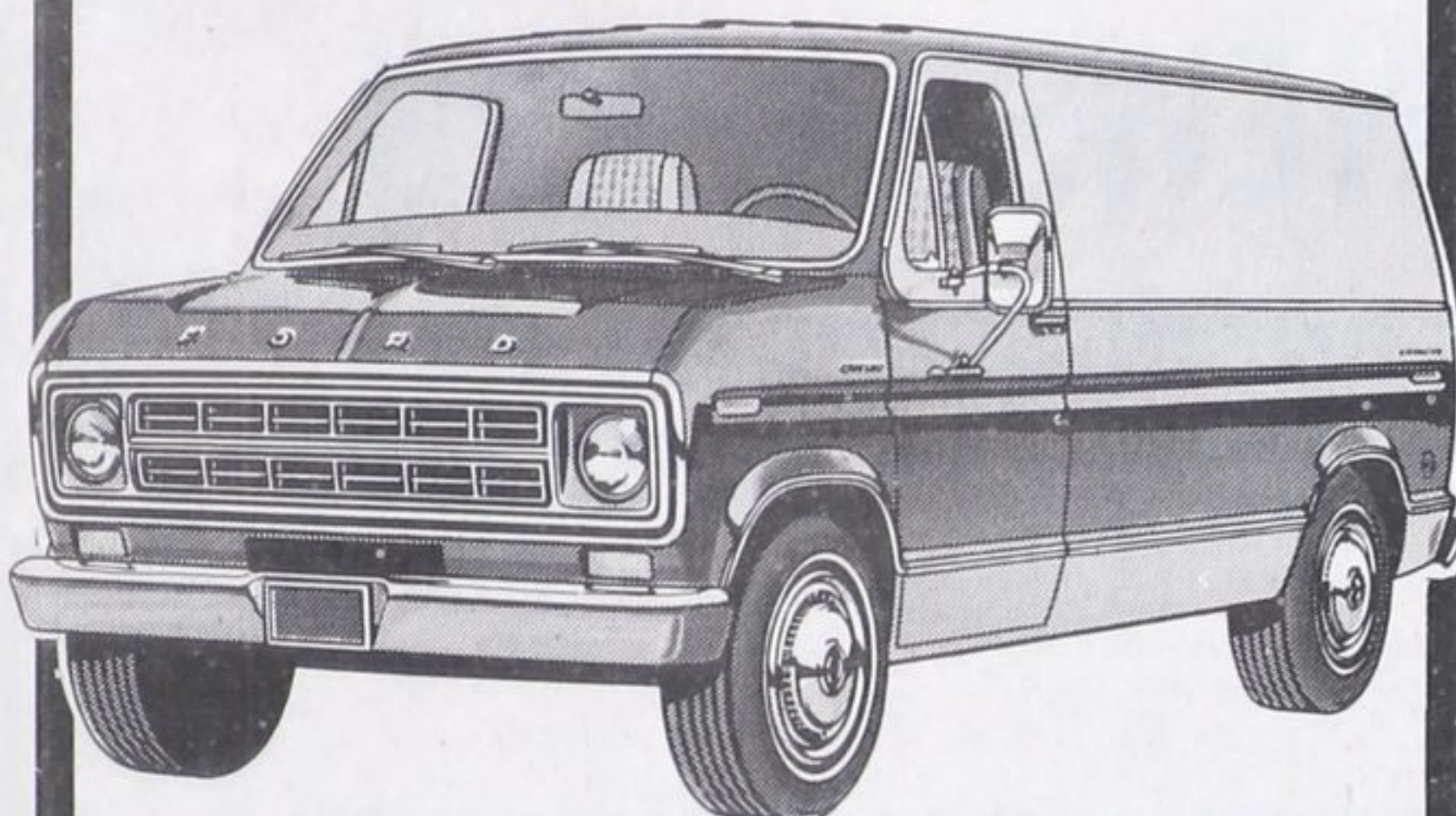
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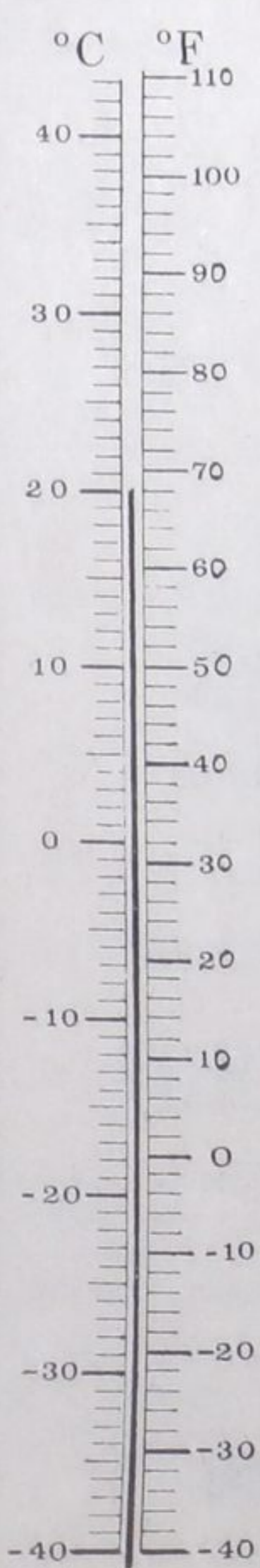
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Starting April 1st, the public weather forecasts will be given in degrees Celsius, with no mention of the Fahrenheit reading. The public must now realize that 20 to 25 degrees C represents summer comfort, 0 degrees C is freezing, and -20 degrees C is cold. Our temperature readings on the left say you should be comfortable, whether in degrees F or in degrees C.

The inventor of the mercury-in-glass thermometer was Gabriel Fahrenheit, a German instrument maker, the year 1714. His scale provided 180 degrees between the freezing and boiling points of water.

Being a European, he had decided that the point at which sea-water froze should be zero, the coldest temperature to be experienced in his environment. This choice resulted in freezing being at 32 degrees F and boiling at 212 degrees F. We have lived with these funny numbers ever since.

In 1742, the Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius proposed that the scale between freezing and boiling be 100 degrees and thus was born the centigrade scale. (centi means divided by 100). There was some confusion in use of the name centigrade, since it was also used in angular measure, and in 1948 the General Conference on weights and measures decided that the temperature scale would be called Celcius. The Canadian practice will be to write the temperature as degrees C without a period following the C and to refer to temperature not as "above" zero, but as "plus" and "minus".

In deciding to go directly into Celsius, the Metric Commission studied the conversion experience of other countries. In some countries where both scales were reported for a period of years, confusion still exists while in others, where Fahrenheit was dropped suddenly, the public adapted within a period of weeks.

At CKMP radio, we hope to make the change swift to benefit our audience and the public in this area. Good Luck, and Happy Celsius!

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'Early Midland' book is again available

The *Story of Early Midland and her Pioneers*, a book which has been out of print for many years, is again available, thanks to a Peterborough publishing house.

Nick Mika of Mika Publishing took a research trip to Midland several years ago, gathering material for a historical book about the area. "I could find only one copy, very tattered and greasy, of *The Story of Early Midland*," he told the Times,

"and I decided a reprint of the book would be an excellent idea."

Copyrights expire after 50 years, but because George R. Osborne published *Early Midland* in 1939, Mika is obliged to pay a 10 per cent royalty on copies sold. He has printed 500 copies, and will run to 1,000 if the demand is great enough.

Mika Publishing specialises in historical books about smaller towns and cities.



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