

Poisonous plants' truth told to 'green thumbs'

by Ken Regan
Town Hall in Penetanguishene was the scene this week of a special presentation, sponsored by the Penetanguishene branch of the Horticultural Society. Jack Lord of the Royal Botanical Gardens provided a slide presentation and lecture about poisonous plants, many of which are found in the home. The evening got underway, with Lord giving a brief explanation of the several chemical compounds plants use to poison and the symptoms they produce. This was followed by the slide show which was accompanied by Lord's commentary on each plant as it was displayed on the screen.

Information
In his commentary, Lord gave information about each plant such as where it is most often found, as well as a description of its poisonous parts and the consequences, (often gruesome, if not fatal), when poisoning should occur. Some of the more common plants mentioned by the speaker were: Philodendron, which can cause painful and serious burning sensations if ingested; English Ivy, which can produce symptoms ranging from nausea and diarrhoea to possible coma; and Oleander, which is an absolute killer, prompting the authorities of the State of Florida where it is

most common to post warnings about it. Another interesting point mentioned by Lord, was there are no government regulations requiring retailers of plants and bulbs to indicate possible irritant or poisonous properties the merchandise may have. That is a situation which undoubtedly contributes to the general public's lack of knowledge about plant poisons. The presentation ended with Lord outlining key steps individuals can take to reduce the risk of plant poisoning. The thrust of the preventative measures

was: to treat plants, both in the wild and in the home with the same respect that would be given common household chemicals.

COMING EVENTS	HELP WANTED	HELP WANTED
Lawn sale Sat., Sept. 20. Rain date Sun., Sept. 21, 10 a.m. Corner Nelson and Burke St., Penetang. 76	SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED Male or female Contact Brian Dubeau 526-5438 73-82	Legal secretary required, experience in real estate essential. Call for appointment, Teskey, Heacock and Ferguson, 526-7886. 76 Wanted - sales person for specialty carpet, draperies and bath boutique shop. Must be versed in colour coordination - good in mathematics - self motivated. Experience preferred but will train the right person. Apply Hutchison's, 512 Dominion Ave., Midland. 74-75-76
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