

Here's how to get cheques

People who receive General Welfare Assistance cheques and Private Home Day Care Provider cheques from the York Region Community Services Department, don't panic.

The following plan has been implemented to maintain service during the current postal dispute.

Statements of Income are to be dropped off at the locations listed below from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cheques can be picked up at the same locations for three days only: June 30, July 2 and July 3, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cheques issued for dates other than June 30 must be picked up in the main office of the Community Services Department, at 134 Main Street in Newmarket.

Markham, Unionville & Milliken drop-off and pick-up at the Markham Neighborhood Support Center on the south side of Hwy 7 just west of Main Street.

Whitchurch-Stouffville drop-off only, at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Municipal offices on 19 Civic Street.

Whitchurch-Stouffville pick up only, in the Silver Jubilee Building at Market and Main Streets (side door to basement).

For more information, call the Community Services Department between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, at 895-5166.



Goodbye Sandy

If you look really hard you'll see St. Joseph's Separate School teacher Sandy Neugebauer in the middle, surrounded by her kindergarten class. Sandy's leaving St. Joseph's after 10 years to start up a kindergarten class at the soon-to-be built St. Justin Martyr Separate School in Unionville.

—Sjoerd Witteveen

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Green 'n Growing

Let's talk cover-ups

By ELAINE GORDON
Do you mind if we talk about a shady subject? You know — coverups.

Often, when one is caught between a rock and a hard place, a coverup may be the only recourse. This method frequently stands up in triumph when others have knuckled under in defeat.

I'm referring, of course, to those helpmates that welcome degrees of shade: perennial groundcovers.

They'll get to the "root of the problem" and link beds to walkways, blanket monotonous or hard-to-get-at places, provide sparkle between stepping stones; add balance to the height around

tree trunks, or bring color to retaining wall crevices.

Let them strut their stuff to enhance driveways, informal borders, relieve an air of malaise on bald spots, or even hug house corners. And, as if that's not quite enough, established groundcovers inhibit most weeds, too. There's no need to "hedge around" and deny yourself a parade of green any longer. Just take a down-to-earth tack and join forces with these wanderers.

Ivy (which can look nice meandering across the back of cottage steps or trained up a lamp post, mailbox or railing), assorted ferns and Wintercreeper are but a few to become acquainted with.

To help you explore the possibilities, here's the lowdown on a selection of low-maintenance low-growers who don't like to revel in full sun.

Plantain Lily (Hosta) are relaxed performers. You'll love 'em because there's minimum house-keeping needed; they look splendid at all stages and are easily divided to exploit elsewhere in partial-to-full shade.

There are many varieties to choose from and all have splendid foliage accented by nodding spikes of summer flowers.

These tried 'n' trues are great for edging walkways, under trees, surrounding a pool, or as specimen clumps in shady nooks at the cottage.

Periwinkle (Vinca minor) is an aggressive evergreen spreader that sings with lavender spring flowers in light to full shade.

Try planting with yellow Daffodil bulbs for a spring treat. Their colors marry well and as a bonus, drying bulb leaves are somewhat camouflaged.

Japanese Spurge (Pachysandra) often succeeds where nothing else will in the battle under canopies of large trees and shrubs. This court of last resort is also useful for furnishing sloping areas of edging driveways and paths.

There was a printing omission in my last column on vacation care of houseplants. Put cacti/succulents out of direct sun and they should be alright if left unattended, for two weeks. Do not place them in plastic bag greenhouses.

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JOYCE SPENSLEY

REAL ESTATE TIPS

THE BEST PROPERTIES MAY NOT BE ADVERTISED

Years ago we knew a young man who had been unemployed for a long time. He used to scan the "Help Wanted" column and decided there was nothing available.

He never realized the best jobs are often not advertised at all, but filled by applicants who hear about them by word of mouth. Many people make the same mistake about real estate. They scan the newspaper, and if there is nothing advertised that interests them, they conclude there is nothing on the market that they would want. It never occurs to them that some properties - like jobs - are often never advertised. Realtors aren't operating a secret selling service for favored clients. It's just that some properties are such good buys, the moment word gets around they are for sale, the Agent quickly gets a firm offer before she has time to compose an ad.

That's one good reason why, if you're thinking of buying, it will pay you to contact a reliable Real Estate Agent and let her know what your requirements are. She will record them and call you the moment a listing that would interest you shows up.

See you next week.

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