

Communities in Bloom contest promotes helping neighbors

Communities in Bloom is a nationwide program which encourages friendly competition between communities of similar size to promote beautification projects and environmental awareness - it's a beauty contest that everyone wins!

The positive effects of streetscaping have long been known in the Town of Markham. Uxbridge has recently entered the Communities in Bloom contest and community groups will be urging residents to clean up and plant so they'll be ready for judging during the summer.

Individuals can contribute too - those who love gardening should inspire and help their neighbours - especially the elderly or the beginning gardeners.

Start a campaign to have the most beautiful street in town. Encourage everyone to plant some flowers in their front garden or put a pot of plants at the front door.

Start a community vegetable garden to support the local Food Bank. People who plant together grow a better community!

The upcoming long weekend is traditionally the time to plant annuals but the holiday is early and spring is late - the soil is still cool and it is definitely too soon to plant tomatoes, peppers or tuberous begonias.

Do plant seeds and summer bulbs - gladiolus, dahlias, lilies, etc.



Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

Enjoy the spring bulbs - take some photographs and make a note to remind you in September where you need to plant more of those harbingers of spring.

When the blooms are finished, remove the flower stalk for several more weeks to manufacture food for next spring.

Too often, during the frenzy of spring plant buying, gardeners forget to purchase plants that will bloom in the fall.

A good perennial for bloom in September-October is *Aconitum carmichaelii arendsii* - a monkshood which grows 3-4 feet high has attractive glossy foliage and bright violet-blue flowers. Each plant will make a clump two feet wide in sun or partial shade.

Like the earlier blooming aconites all parts of the plant are poisonous so it should never be planted where children play or in a vegetable garden.

This is a good time to give youngsters a refresher course in not eating any plant parts without checking first

WRITE TO ME!

A reminder to all especially the new Markham readers, to send me your gardening questions and comments.

The address is:

Let's Get Growing
c/o The Tribune
88 Brock St. West
Uxbridge, ON
L9P 1R4

Attn: Marjorie Mason Hogue

Spring is late - the soil is still cool and it is definitely too soon to plant tomatoes, peppers or begonias.

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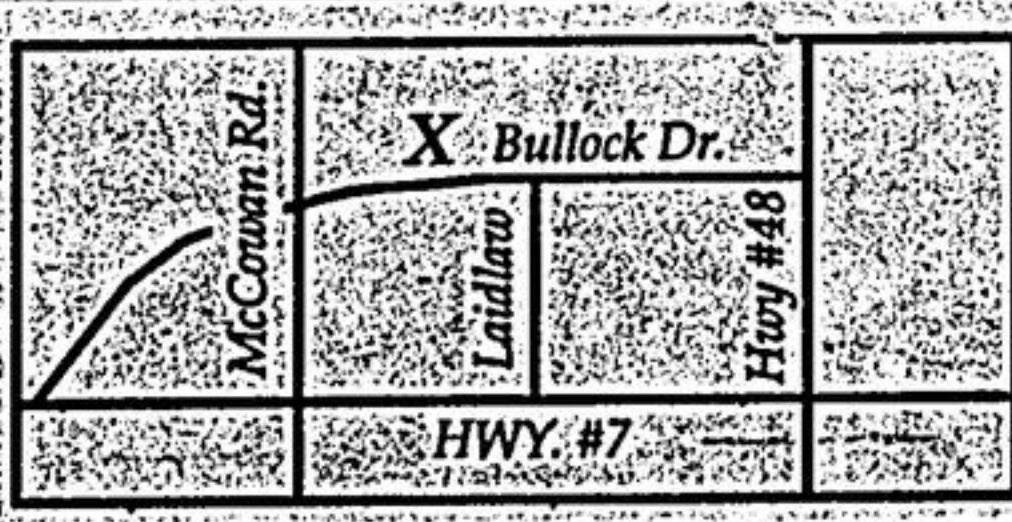
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