

# Total Home

## Unique garden possibilities at Pine Ridge Garden Gallery

The recent trend in local housing developments has been to slightly decrease the lot size and increase the size of the house on this smaller property. With taller houses, closer together many homeowners are faced with smaller lawns and gardens and the increased need for privacy.

One of the major concerns for many of our customers has been the need to block or screen some of their neighbor's second floor windows to get some degree of privacy in the backyard. Evergreens are usually the most sought after because of their year round screening. Narrow evergreens such as emerald cedars and upright junipers along with cedar hedging will provide the needed screening in a few years. Taller more instant summer privacy can occur by planting taller columnar trees such as the columnar maple (#1 used by landscapers), smaller oval shaped trees such as the flowering ornamental pears or ivory silk lilac trees which grow 20-25 feet high are widely used in smaller backyard. If you have 6-8 feet of space in a corner the Serbian spruce (smaller version of the Norway spruce) is a narrow upright spruce. The columnar White Pine is another fine example of a screen for

tight spots, requiring only 4-5 feet of space. Emerald Cedars require only about 3 feet.

With smaller lots and consequently smaller lawns, many homeowners who had larger lots previously, forget to calculate the actual square feet of lawn they do have and realize that they need less lawn fertilizer than before. The theory of more is better does not apply to lawn fertilizer. Many of the bag sizes have been reduced because of the growing trend of smaller lots. With decks and hot tubs and patios not to mention pools many homes have very little room left for a lawn or even garden space.

When garden space is at a premium many homeowners will be quite a bit choosier in the plants they actually settle on purchasing. Many of these gardens are now up close and personal to the entertaining and relaxing areas of the backyard. Quality focal plants such as Japanese Maples, Spiral Evergreens, Tri-colour Beech, Corkscrew Hazels are highly sought after due to their unique interest and smaller size. Many dwarf plants such as dwarf hinoki cypress, dwarf Korean lilac, magic carpet spirea, midnight wine wegeila, royal burgundy barberry, blue

star juniper, globe boxwoods make excellent companion plants to 2-3 focal type plants and 2-3 screening specimens.

By adding screens such as trellis' (free standing) with vines closer to the patio rather than on the fence, you'll be able to obtain more privacy instantly. Unique and movable focal elements such as a clematis vine (or mandevilla vine) planted in a pot with a trellis or obelisk can create a unique look to your backyard patio or front step landings. That hard to grow area under a tree in the corner garden where you've tried every type of plant imaginable but still have had little success can be converted to a bright and colourful focal area with a collage of 3-7 pots, planted with annual flowers or a combination of annuals, perennials and even tropical type plants. At Pine Ridge Garden Gallery we specialize in plants at great prices and have the knowledgeable staff to assist you everyday.

This season we'll be carrying over 125 varieties of hardy garden roses which I'll elaborate on in a future article. Perennial plants that return each year have seen many new varieties each season and we have the selection of ferns, ornamental grasses, groundcovers, hostas, daylilies,

peonies you'll ever need or have room for in your gardens.

With the price of gas continuing to rise, many more local residents will be spending more of their time actually enjoying their #1 investment—"Their Home". Making your backyard a special retreat is not very difficult. Adding a unique arbor or soothing water fountain can create an inviting and relaxing backyard atmosphere. A unique reading bench tucked away under a tree with a hummingbird feeder nearby will give you inspiration to use your gardens more for relaxing than as a simple chore. Your principal residence is the best financial investment at the present time with no capital gains tax charged when you actually do sell your home. With up and down mutual funds and very little interest accumulated in GIC's your wisest investment is in your home where you can actually enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Make time to stop in and say hello. We're excited to help you make your gardens unique and personalized.

*Gardening with Gusto,  
By Rick Pecman, General Manager  
Pine Ridge Garden Gallery*



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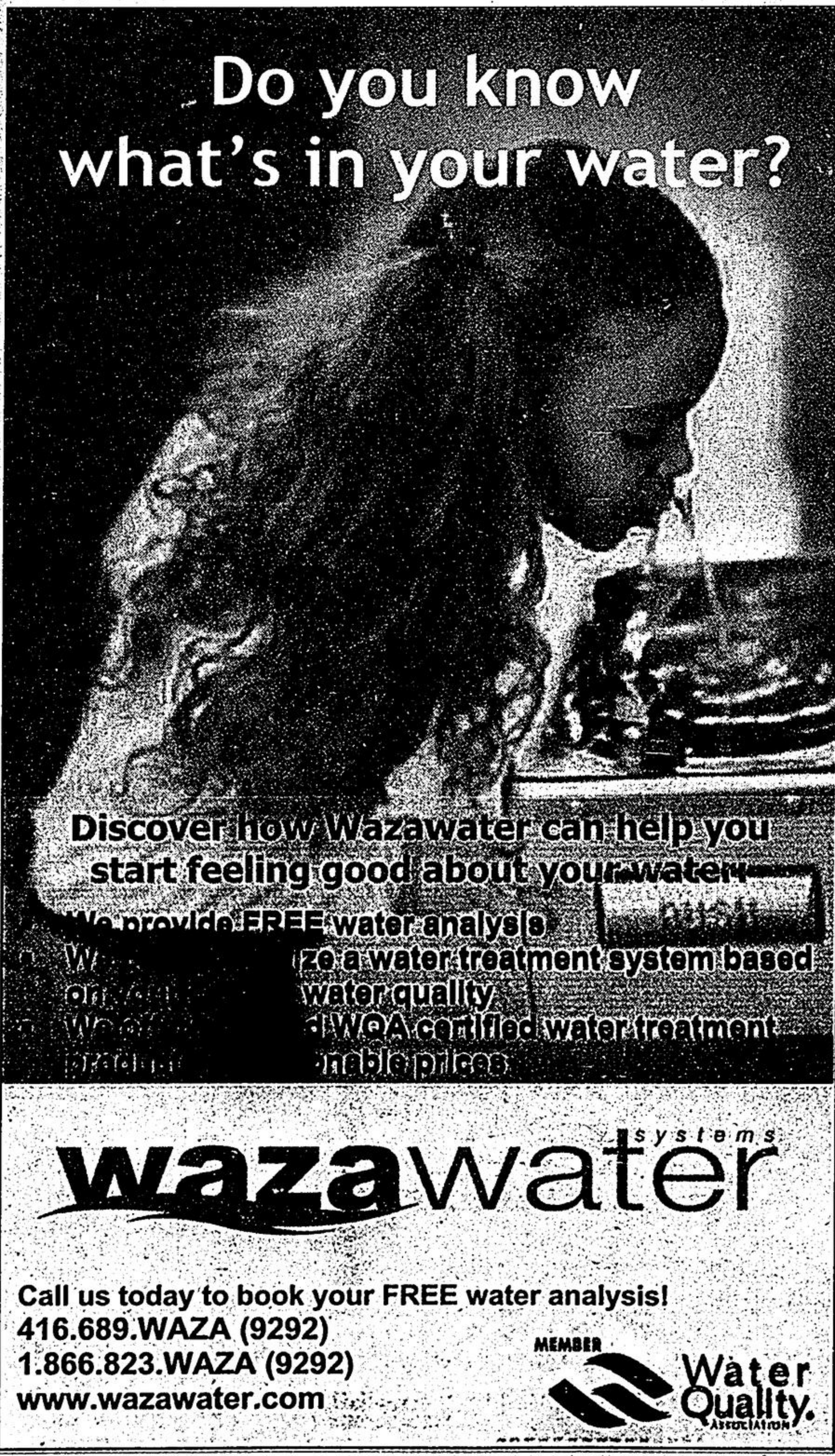
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