

# Parents instilled a passion for the community in Mayor Sue Sherban

By Nancy Hopkins  
Stouffville This Month

Incoming mayor Sue Sherban's home was transformed into campaign headquarters on election night, and was filled with friends, relatives and campaign committee members.

A large screen television was tuned to Rogers' election coverage, while a laptop projected statistics onto the living room wall as they came in from the polls. The television reports lagged behind these tallies and much suspense was created waiting until the numbers lined up.

At one point Rogers declared Steve Pliakes the winner, showing him in a telephone conversation with outgoing mayor Wayne Emmerson. Ms. Sherban's three daughters

and campaign manager, who were stationed at the Town Hall, kept in constant touch, and one daughter, a scrutineer on the last advanced poll, tried to convince her mother that she had won. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Pliakes stopped by with his daughter to offer his congratulations.

Mrs. Sherban's daughters were ecstatic with her accomplishments. At the end of what she said was a tense night, Mrs. Sherban was "pleased with the results even though it was close, as we ran a high road campaign and everything we did, we did as a committee. We strategically put forth a platform and we never changed it to gain any positions. We put out the vision I felt needed to be done and we finished with the vision we started out with."

Mrs. Sherban believes the learning curve involved with a largely new council may mean they are not able to get down to business as quickly as a more experienced council. However she feels "the new members will bring a fresh outlook for the municipality over the next three years."

The new mayor credits her parents' example of long-time volunteer commitment in instilling a passion for community in her. This passion has grown over the years through her involvement with volunteers and committees in the community.

"I have always worked with the volunteers and they are the ones that I have heard (talk about) their feelings of not being listened to and wanting something different. It gave me energy to take on

this leadership role and run for mayor."

The issue of daytime versus evening council meetings will be discussed at the Dec. 16 council meeting and Mrs. Sherban plans to have the first of what will be a quarterly newsletter out no later than the end of June 2004, along with an updated town website. She looks to the residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville to volunteer and support the arts and culture, the business community and other new initiatives that the council will put forth and says there will be many avenues for citizens to become involved.

Mrs. Sherban expressed her thanks to the community, her family and her election committee for their time and dedication over the past six weeks.



## Bring your home to full bloom over holiday season

by Heather Jordan Engli

The holiday season is a time of colourful decorations. What could be more celebratory than house plants in full bloom in the winter?

Perhaps because it is always evolving, the poinsettia maintains its position as the traditional favourite. Plant breeders are relentless in their search for more colour and leaf variations: white, plum, numerous shades of red and pink bracts; curled bracts resembling roses; variegated foliage.

Here are some tips for keeping a poinsettia looking great throughout the entire season and well into the spring:

Ensure the plant is wrapped before leaving the store and avoid exposure to freezing temperatures for more

than a few minutes;

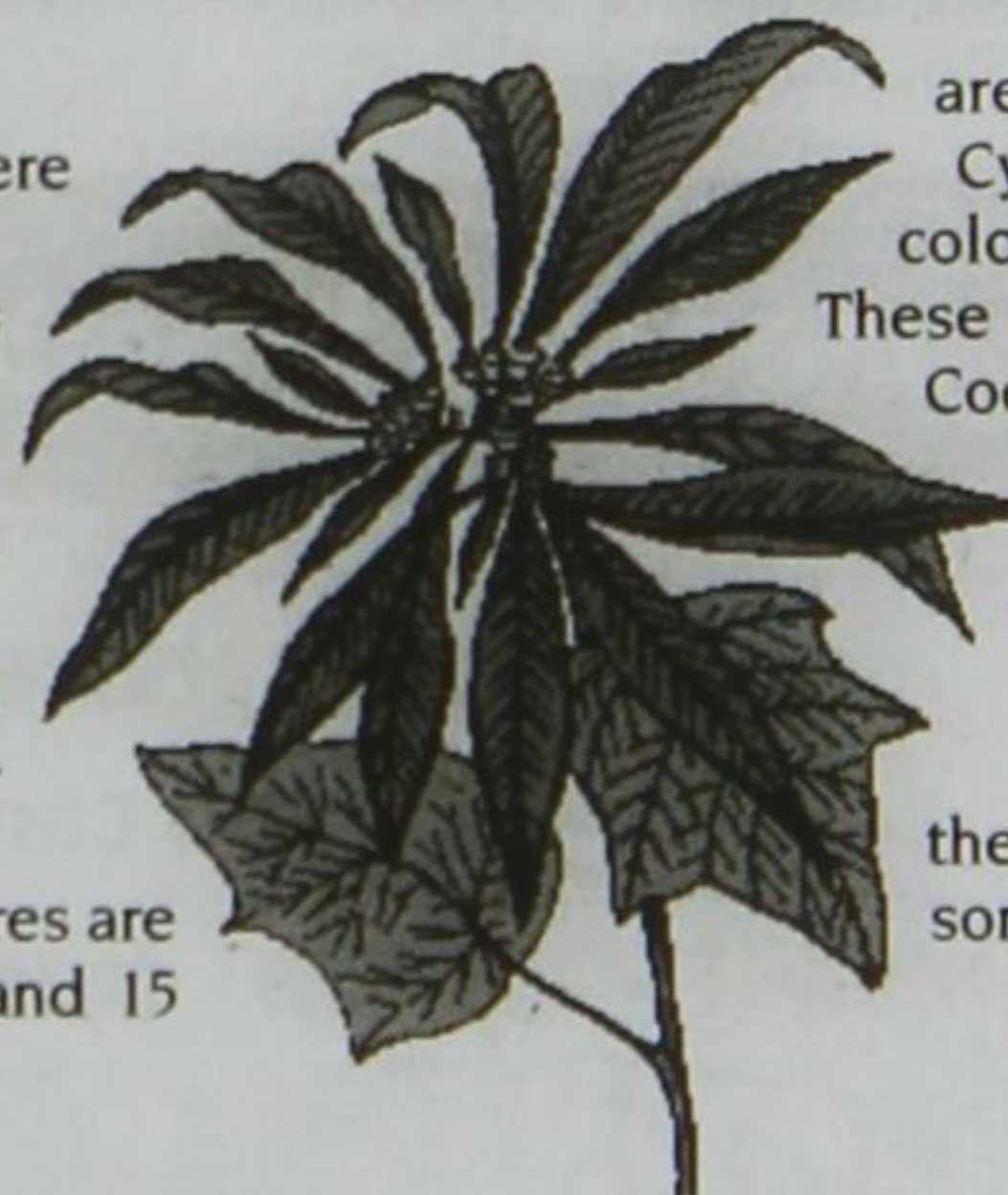
Place the plant in indirect light where it is bright enough to read fine print; Avoid areas with hot or cold drafts or excessive heat;

Place the plant on a saucer, away from high traffic areas, and pierce the foil wrap to allow for drainage;

Water thoroughly when the soil surface feels dry. Avoid over-watering and discard excess water;

Bear in mind that ideal temperatures are 22 degrees celsius in the daytime and 15 celsius at night.

Cyclamen and Christmas cactus



are equally stunning festive plants. Cyclamen plants are available in a variety of colours to compliment your home decor. These plants also prefer bright, indirect light. Cooler locations, especially for cyclamen, increase the duration of flowering and north-facing windows are ideal. As with poinsettias, avoid over-watering and provide good drainage.

Why not brighten up your holiday with the amazing array of colour provided by seasonal plants?

Heather Jordan Engli is a certified horticulturist

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