

**SIMPLY GARDENING**

by Doug Green

Well that was another hot summer without a lot of rain for the gardens. If you listened to David Suzuki on CBC radio with his 5 part series on the environment, it would appear that we are in for more of the same on a very regular basis. This fall and winter, I will be beginning a series of articles about gardening in a more environmentally friendly way and I hope you can use some of the ideas in your own garden.

However, before the fall we have to make sure that we get the best use out of our vegetable and flower gardens. In the vegetable garden, if you harvest your cabbages by cutting them off rather than ripping them out of the ground or twisting them off the stalk, you can get another small crop of cabbage from the same plant. Once cut off, the top of the cabbage stalk will resemble a small circle; cut from side to side in the shape of a cross on this small circle- the cut should be about 1/2" deep. Having cut the cabbage stalk into four pie shaped segments at the end, you will find that a small cabbage will form at each pie shape.

In the flower garden, it will soon be time for the frost to cut down the tender annuals. Once the impatiens are gone, we substitute fall mums in their place. In this way we get colour in our gardens well into November and sometimes into early December. Fall mums can be left in the ground and mulched well to help them survive the winter. Once spring comes again, they can be dug out of the ground, put in a sunny spot and fed well. We move our mums around constantly because they are one of the few flowers that can be dug and moved while in full bloom.

Last year, we even used a couple of mums in our barrels. The frost had done nasty things to the petunias, so we threw them out and replaced the whole barrel with mums. The only trick with doing this is that you have to water the mums very well and constantly so that they continue to bloom. Cutting back on the water once the mum is in bloom will cause the blooms to fade faster.

This is a good time to save seeds of perennial flowers and even some annuals. Try to get the annual seeds before the frosts get them but the perennials will not be hurt by the cold weather. We save our seeds in regular envelopes and keep them dry and cold. Some of my friends keep them in the freezer, some in the refrigerator but dry and cool is the trick. You might try putting a little milk powder in the envelope with the seeds to help absorb the extra moisture and keep the seeds dry.

We started constructing our own rock garden this summer and had a good time moving the rocks into place with the tractor and pry bars. I had read in some book that the bigger the rocks, the better the garden would

look. We got the biggest rocks we could find, the old Ford did not want to move a few very badly but once in place, I found that the old book was right- in rock garden construction, bigger is better. One feature that we are installing is a scree bed. A scree is a type of high alpine growing area that is mostly composed of gravel. Often it will have water running below the gravel. As part of our waterfall system, we intend to have a small scree in which to grow a few really choice high alpine rock garden plants. Seems like a good idea at the time.

This summer has been a good one for our gardens. With the exception of the rain shortage, we have managed to get a lot planted and developed. One thing that I have mentioned before is our decision to mulch the nursery and gardens. This summer has not changed my mind a bit about this- you may have to put up with me describing this mulching operation blow by blow for the next few years. We are going with cedar mulch on the front flower gardens, straw on the nursery and vegetables and probably crushed rock on the rock garden. { I haven't started planting the rock garden yet so that could change. }

One final word on mulch {for this month}. The iris that were mulched last year, bloomed very well this year. For whatever reason, those that were not mulched did not bloom very well. We also lost quite a few of those that were not mulched but lost none of those that were mulched.

Let me leave you with a thought about the environment. John Ruskin was a famous writer in the mid 1800's and he wrote, 'Demand what you deserve, and you shall be supplied with it, for your good. Demand what you do not deserve, and you shall be supplied with something which you have not demanded, and which Nature perceives that you deserve, quite to the contrary of your good.' Contrary to the good we desire, we are getting holes in the ozone, acid rain ruining the sugar bushes, heat and drought reducing the crops. Maybe its time we as gardeners started doing our bit to change things.



Press Release: June 27, 1989  
From: Rideau District High School, Canada - U.S.S.R. School Twinning Committee  
Re: Exchange visits between School 124 Donetsk, Ukraine, U.S.S.R. and Rideau District High School in May 1989 and April 1990

The Soviet delegation which visited Rideau District High School students and families in May has returned to Donetsk to share the excitement of their visit to Canada with their community and school in the Ukraine. Recent correspondence received from members of the delegation indicate that the recent exchange visit was a resounding success.

The Rideau District High School Twinning Committee was encouraged with the generous support of the host families and the following groups who contributed to the successful visit of Donetsk School 124 to Rideau District High School:

- Westport Lions
- Tackaberry Construction
- St. Peter's A.C.W.
- Rideau Welcome Club
- St. Andrew's U.C.W.
- Portland Legion
- Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of War
- Philipsville Women's Institute
- Operation Dismantle
- Sweet's Bus Lines
- St. Lawrence Tours
- St. Lawrence College
- St. Luke's A.C.W.
- Gananoque Boat Lines
- Elgin Lions Club
- Forfar Dairy
- Hotel Kenney
- Stage Coach Inn
- Leeds Transit
- Brockville Rotary Club
- Knox Presbyterian Church Guild
- Simpson Masonic Lodge
- Beverley Seniors
- Seeley's Bay U.C.W.
- St. John's A.C.W.
- Scotland Funeral Home
- R.A. Howard Bus Line
- Black and Decker
- Healey Bus Lines
- Harlem Chantry U.C.W.
- Gallagher House
- Stone's Dairy Farm
- Petals and Presents
- Gordanier Grocery

During the recent visit of Donetsk School 124 to Canada, an invitation was extended to Rideau District High School to send a delegation of approximately 25 students and staff to Donetsk for two weeks during April, 1990. The delegates would be individually billeted in Soviet homes with all expenses except airfare provided by our hosts in Donetsk. This is the first time a Canadian high school has received such an invitation from a visiting Soviet delegation. Rideau District High School students have been informed of this opportunity and have been encouraged to save their summer earnings.

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