



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

November 2004

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

Wednesday, December 1, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre

This is our **Christmas Pot Luck Supper** for members and guests. It was a good time last year, and with even more members we are looking forward to a party! Mark your calendar for December 1st and come and enjoy an evening with the Group at the Community Centre.

Please let us know what you would like to bring. Also please let us know as soon as you can how many will be joining us. Call Gill at 821-6123 or email her at gilltoll@sympatico.ca. Correction to last month's announcement: Plates, glasses and cutlery will be provided.

Wednesday, January 5, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic to be announced.

Wednesday, February 2, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic to be announced.

Wednesday, March 2, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic to be announced.

Friday, March 11 – Saturday March 12. Coach trip to Toronto for the Canada Blooms Flower and Garden Show. See below and attached notice for details.

Wednesday, April 6, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic to be announced.

Wednesday, May 4, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic to be announced.

Saturday, May 28, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Greely Gardeners Annual Plant Sale. Andrew Shields Park, Old Prescott Highway.

Wednesday, June 1, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic to be announced.

Saturday, June 18, 10:00 a.m. GGG Members Garden Tour. Starts from the Greely Community Centre parking lot.

CANADA BLOOMS

Included with this month's newsletter is a notice giving you details of the proposed two-day trip to Toronto in March for the Canada Blooms show. Just a few words of additional explanation... We've reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn at a discount, but you can stay at any hotel you wish. Wherever you stay, your hotel room and all meals are your responsibility. You can bring friends or family who are non-members, but they pay \$10 more. GGG members (and their guests) get priority until January 10. Then members of other garden clubs will be able to buy seats. Your seat is not guaranteed until you have paid. There are no refunds on the fare and show admission because we have to pay for the coach whether you show up or not. If for any reason you can't come (e.g. you have the flu) it's up to you to find someone else to take your place. However, if we have a waiting list we will try to help. And remember, there are only 47 seats on the bus, and it's first come first served, so make your decision early.

REMINDER...

Membership cards for next year are now available. You can pick one up from Shelagh when you renew your membership, which remains at just \$10 for 2005. And don't forget that your membership card is worth money – it will get you a discount on plants at the following garden centres: Ritchie's Feed & Seed, Richmond Nurseries, Rideau Woodland Ramble and Down to Earth Gardens (the last two are both in Burritt's Rapids). You do have to show your membership card to get the discount, so make sure you have it with you next time you go plant shopping.

2005 PROGRAM

You'll have noticed that there are a lot of "to be announced" topics in our program for next year. Gill Toll, our Events Director has already pinned down a number of excellent speakers, but the program isn't quite complete yet. Look for a lot more details in next month's newsletter.

TIP OF THE MONTH

FORCING BULBS IS REALLY VERY EASY. All you need are bulbs, soil, containers and a place to store the planted containers so that they are exposed to constant below freezing temperatures and yet can be retrieved without having to use a pick axe to dig them up!

Let's start with the bulbs. You can force most bulbs – tulips, crocuses, etc. – in about 12 weeks. Daffodils take a bit longer requiring 14 to 16 weeks or so to ensure proper flower development. Any good potting soil or compost will do just fine as these will provide adequate drainage, an essential to indoor and outdoor bulb health. Almost any container will do provided it is large enough, is at least four inches deep and has plenty of drainage holes.

First fill the pot 2/3 full with soil. Then place the bulbs on the surface (blunt end down) and press them gently into the soil. You can put as many as you want into the pot so long as none of them touches another bulb or the sides of the container. Fill the rest of the pot with soil leaving enough room to "hold" water without spilling soil over the sides. Water the pot and let it drain.

Here is the hardest part: Put the pots in a picnic cooler or a sturdy box and fill completely with dry soil, sand or vermiculite. Put the lid on and then place this in an unheated garage, tool shed or cold frame. The idea is to both not let freeze-thaw cycles affect the container once it freezes – and to be able to retrieve the cooler! In 12 weeks (14 for daffodils) bring the container inside, let it thaw, then remove the pots and put them in a cool but lighted location. Stand back and watch them grow and bloom. If you want really spectacular displays, try putting a second layer of bulbs "in between" the first layer and right on top of it. The tips of these later bulbs will stick up above the soil level, but don't worry.

A tip on tulips is to make sure the tips all point in one direction, not up. Arrange yours so the tips all point towards the edges of the pot. If all of this sounds like too much fuss and work, consider two other things. First, you can purchase narcissus bulbs that have already been cold-treated so that they will bloom indoors without having to freeze them off. These can be potted up as above or even started on a bed of pebbles covered with water. Or you can force hyacinths in pots or in special hyacinth water vases. These are usually sold wherever hyacinth bulbs are sold. Hyacinths are really easy and only take about six weeks.

Condensed from an article on the I Can Garden website, www.icangarden.com

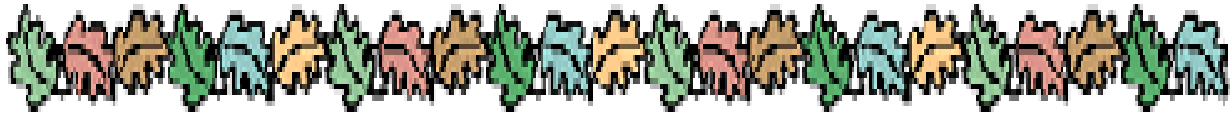
Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee

President ~ Bob Stanley 821-1847

Events Director ~ Gill Toll 821-6123

Secretary/Treasurer ~ Heather Clemenson/Gary Hall 821-7445

Membership ~ Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816



GREELY GARDENERS GROUP BUS TOUR TO CANADA BLOOMS

The Toronto Flower and Garden Show

DEPART Friday March 11, 2005
Leave Greely Community Centre 7:00 a.m.

RETURN Saturday March 12, 2005
Leave hotel in Toronto 6:00 p.m.

Cost for bus fare and entry into Canada Blooms

Includes the official show magazine

Greely Gardeners Group members \$ 65.00. Non-members \$75.00
Only 47 seats – First come, first served.

Reservations (with payment) must be received by February 2, 2005.

Sorry, no refunds

Pay by cash or cheque (payable to Greely Gardeners Group) at GGG meetings
in December, January or February

Questions? Contact: Shelagh Heatlie at 821-0816 or Bob Stanley at 821-1847

You can learn more about Canada Blooms at www.canadablooms.com

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn on King Street
Special room rate \$119 plus 15% taxes (up to 4 adults per room)
(The Holiday Inn is a short distance from Canada Blooms)

To take advantage of this rate you have until

[February 18, 2005 to call and make your own booking.](#)

Call **Melany at 1-800-263-6364** and quote code “GRDNR” to receive this special
room rate reserved for the Greely Gardeners.



The “GGG Bus” is equipped with washroom, p.a. system, CD and video players