



Greely Gardeners Group Newsletter

November-December 2007

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

NOTE: *Our January, February and March meetings will be on Thursday nights to avoid clashing with rehearsals of the Greely Players. We return to Wednesday nights in April.*

Thursday, January 3, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: PRINCIPLES OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN. Guest speaker: Cindy Cluett.

Thursday, February 7, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN YOUR GARDEN. Guest speaker: John Vandenberg of Rideau Pines Farm.

Thursday, March 6, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: PREPARING YOUR BODY FOR SPRING. Guest speaker: Dr Victoria Clarke, Chiropractor.

Wednesday, April 2, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: STARTING A NEW GARDEN IN GREELY. Guest speaker: Darrell Kekanovich from Ritchie's Feed & Seed.

Wednesday, May 7, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: Trees – Identifying Species and Problems. Guest speakers: Dave and Erin Neave.

REMINDER: Look for details of more guest speakers and other events such as the plant sale and the members' gardens tour in your first Newsletter of 2008. And don't forget that it's time to renew your membership – still just \$10 for the year, is there a better bargain to be had anywhere? Get you new membership card from Melissa at the January meeting.



Christmas Cheer!

More than 40 members and guests sat down to an amazing feast at our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. There was food and drink and music aplenty, and a door prize for everyone! Many thanks to Shelley and her team for all their hard work in organizing this event, decorating the room and ensuring that everyone had a great time. And thanks to all the great cooks who prepared all that wonderful food. What a great way to start the Christmas season!

TIP OF THE MONTH...



FOR 2008 CANADA BLOOMS WILL REDEFINE 'FLOWER POWER' with a celebration of gardens, displays and special guests that encompass the idealism and optimism of the '60s, the inspirational power of gardens and flowers, and the eco-savvy future of horticulture in Canada.

From March 12 to 16, Toronto's Metro Convention Centre will be transformed into Canada's largest flower and garden festival, showcasing outstanding floral and landscape products and services.

"After a long Canadian winter, the Canada Blooms Festival is one of the first signs of spring," says Gerry Ginsberg, Canada Blooms General Manager. "Garden-lovers from across Canada and the U.S. Border States come to Toronto to immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and smells of spring and find out more about the latest in horticultural design, products, flowers and plants at Canada Blooms."

For the first time this year, Canada Blooms will feature a different theme every day. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about greening in Canada on 'Living Green Day' or meet some of Canada's leading municipalities on 'Communities in Bloom Day'. In conjunction with each day's theme, Gardening Life Educational Series will host some of Canada's premier educational speakers on such topics as garden travel, current plant design and more.

For many green-thumbs, Canada Blooms represents the opening of gardening season. While the ground may still be covered with snow, there are a number of things garden-lovers can do to prepare for spring.

Charlie Dobbin, Horticultural Director for Canada Blooms offers these tips:

- ❖ It's time to compost the bough-filled winter urns - for spring, fill them with flowering bulbs. Buy pots of blooming tulips, daffodils and crocus from your local garden centre to welcome guests to your front door.
- ❖ Spring is when you want to get creative in your garden - but until the soil loses its sogginess stay away from digging, planting and transplanting.
- ❖ If you have a lawn, then spring is a great time to give it some pre-season care - aerating, top-dressing, over-seeding and just plain raking are all wonderful ways to ensure a vigorous lawn this summer.
- ❖ Don't worry about snow or frost in your spring garden - all your garden plants have the internal 'brains' to wait until conditions are right before they produce colour and fragrance.
- ❖ If you mulched your gardens with a layer of leaves last fall - on a warm sunny spring day you can carefully move the mulch aside to allow the small buds and tips to emerge from their winter blanket.
- ❖ Spring is a great time to start your own seeds, particularly if your desire is for unusual varieties. Try growing heritage tomatoes, evening scented stocks and hot peppers from seed since they can be tough to find in your favourite garden centres.
- ❖ At the beginning of March give all your houseplants a shot of fertilizer. Once the days start getting longer, your houseplants are ready to grow - and they need nutrients to do it properly.

Now in its twelfth year, Canada Blooms Festival was founded by Landscape Ontario and The Garden Club of Toronto to bring together the very best of the garden industry and community. Each year it is supported by a committed group of partners, sponsors and volunteers. In 2008, Festival sponsors include

The Home Depot, Royal Bank of Canada, Miracle-Gro, Sobeys Ontario, Unilock Ltd., Heart & Stroke ...Foundation, Lombard Insurance/Sinclair-Cockburn, Nestle Canada, Vincor, CN Tower, Gardening Life and EZ Rock. Canada Blooms is a not-for-profit organization that gives back to the community throughout the year by funding community garden projects around Ontario. 2008 proceeds will support the new Woodland Walk Entrance Garden presented at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Canada Blooms is also dedicated to providing the community with horticulture expertise, education and resources on an ongoing basis.

Thinking of going to Canada Blooms? We gave out the following information at the November meeting, but in case you missed it, here it is again.

The Friends of the Farm are hosting a fundraising bus tour to Canada Blooms. Mark your calendar for March 13 and 14. Included in the cost of the trip is transportation, one night reservations at the Ramada Plaza, dinner at The Pan restaurant on the Danforth, continental breakfast, passes to Canada Blooms, dinner at the Glen House Resort in Gananoque.

Cost for double occupancy for FCEF members \$250, non members \$280, Single Occupancy for FCEF members \$320, non members \$350. For more information or to register please call 613-230-3276 or email info@friendsofthefarm.ca



Merry Christmas Everyone!
See you in 2008

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee:

President - Gill Toll 821-6123; Vice-President - Anita Snelgrove 821-0447;
Treasurer – Melissa MacDonald 821-9680; Social Coordinator - Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816;
June MacDonell 821-1949; Melody Tomka 821-1985; Past-President/Newsletter Bob Stanley 821-1847