



A garden display taken by Arthur Haskins at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia last year (Haskins Photo)

Garden Treasures

By Arthur Haskins

The world is a constantly changing place, high tech innovations like computers, the internet, video games, cell phones, and high definition television are becoming so common place its scary. High technology has taken over gardening as well.

We no longer hand dig our garden plots, we rototill them; most gardeners use water soluble fertilizers now instead of good old manure; we grow many plants that we can't even pronounce the name of; instead of taking slips or cuttings off our large plants to make more small ones.

We now grow small plants in a process called tissue culture where from a few cells many plants are produced in test tubes; seed is cross pollinated several times over to get specific varieties that are reported to be so much better

then the old-timer, and they charges us six times the money and put fewer seeds in a package.

Remember back when tomatoes out of the garden had a much better flavor than now? Remember when flowers seemed to have much more fragrance?

Some of the old types of flowers still have significance to many of us, the first crocus, those old standard purple lilacs, and the wild apple trees in bloom. These trigger memories from our childhood that we can not forget, nor do we want to.

But not all is lost, you can still find most of these timeless beauties growing in the gardens of Great Village. The club has been on the go for over fifty years now and its members have kept many of the old heirloom flower varieties growing successfully

right up to the present time.

Remember your Grandmothers large Bleeding Heart Plant, gracefully filling a special spot by the back door? How about the fragrant Lemon Daylilies and that monstrous Hosta that gets trampled down every several years when the house was painted and still manages to come back bigger and better then the year before.

The Great Village Garden Club has been sharing these garden treasures with everyone for over thirty-five years through their annual Plant Sale. This years sale to be held on May 16th at 10am in the Great Village School Gym will be no exception, with many wonderful perennials, shrubs, trees, bulbs, and houseplants and yes many of the treasures mentioned above, come and join us and take some garden beauty home.



Can't talk- my mouth is full! This little chipmunk was using his puffy cheeks to save travel time as he gathered up a ready supply of sunflower seeds. (Harrington Photo)

Website helps Canadians facing end-of-life concerns

"My elderly father was terminally ill but he didn't understand what was wrong with him...he would get depressed ... I was searching for answers to try and help him..." - Christine, caregiver

Supporting someone's terminal illness can be one of the most significant experiences of our lives, providing both challenges and some of life's most meaningful moments. During this complex time, many Canadians simply don't know where to turn for help.

"Canadians need to know there's a place where they can turn for support and information when a loved one is seriously ill, no matter where they live," says Shelly Cory, Executive Director of the Canadian Virtual Hospice. "Canadian Virtual Hospice is unique because it provides practical information and support to patients, care-

givers and healthcare professionals twenty-four hours a day."

With funding from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, Health Canada and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the Canadian Virtual Hospice recently launched an updated and expanded version of its website at www.virtualhospice.ca.

One valuable resource on the website is Ask a Professional, which allows

visitors to ask questions online to a team of experts in end of life care and receive a detailed, confidential response. The team includes physicians, nurses, a social worker and a spiritual care adviser.

Physical, emotional, spiritual and financial issues are explored in detail in the Topics and Asked and Answered sections, with subjects ranging from managing symptoms, to providing care, to making difficult decisions, to communicating with family members and dealing with loss.

"I found Canadian Virtual Hospice and was able to ask a professional about how to speak with my dad about his illness," says Christine, the caregiver whose father was terminally ill. "The advice I received was invaluable and helped both my dad and me through his final days."

More information as well as local hospice and palliative care resources in your area can be found at www.virtualhospice.ca.

Caring for someone who is terminally ill? Go To Virtual Hospice

How do I support someone who is terminally ill?

How do I find hospice and palliative care services in my area?

What can I expect when death is near?

Many Canadians don't know where to turn for answers when someone they care about is facing a life-threatening illness - but a website staffed by experts in end of life care is available to help.

With funding from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, Health Canada and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the Canadian Virtual Hospice has launched an expanded website at www.virtualhospice.ca to provide information and support on end-of-life care.

Key resources include:

Ask a Professional: Allows visitors to go online and pose questions to a Health Team that consists of physicians, nurses, a social worker and a spiritual care advisor.

Asked and Answered: Features answers provided by the Health Team to Canadians questions on a variety of topics ranging from dealing with illness and loss to communicating with family, and what to expect at the end-stage of various illnesses. (All identifying information is removed to protect confidentiality.)

Your Stories: Provides an opportunity to celebrate a life, release some deeply felt emotions, and learn from the experiences of others.

Topics: Articles with practical advice on a range of concerns including managing

symptoms such as pain, working through grief and spiritual distress, and what to say to children about end of life.

More information including palliative care resources in your area can be found at www.virtualhospice.ca

My Favourite Pet



Jim Bob Furley, a 3 month old dwarf rabbit is Haley Spencer's favourite pet. Jim Bob will grow to about two pounds. He was born outdoors during a cold snap in late December and loves chewing on firewood. Jim bob and Haley will receive a \$20.00 gift certificate.

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