



NIGHT BEACON NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

“Grow with Tay”

November 2016

Tay Township Horticulture Committee

To foster civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community education and participation in horticulture.

2016 “Lily Award” Winners

Tay Township is proud to present the winners of the 2016 “Lily Award”. In it's 2nd year, the Tay Township Horticulture Committee viewed and judged over 20 properties that were nominated for adding beauty and curb appeal to the Township.



Joan & David Hamilton
10 McMulkin Lane

Giorgio Giacomoni
1900 Gratrix Road

Christine & Gerald Zwicker
53 Meadows Avenue

Ron & Anne Leonard
6068 Vasey Road

Lynn & Bob Morton
18 Sunset Court

Business Award
John & Mary Carpenter
337 Pine Street
Waubashene Heritage

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 3RD 2017

Tay Blooms

Annual Plant Exchange
Free Mulch Day

A great opportunity to share your extra plants with friends of the community. Bring a plant Take a plant

Free garden mulch
You load truck or buckets

JUNE 15TH 2017

2nd Annual Bus Tour

We are planning our garden bus tour for 2017. Caledon Area is our destination for 2017.



How to Make Use of Your Fall Leaves



Fallen leaves are garden gold. Leaves provide added nutrients for your lawn and garden, winter protection for your garden plants and necessary protection and food for the wildlife in your yard such as butterflies, beneficial insects and salamanders.

On the Lawn As the leaves fall mow over them several times to shred them into smaller pieces which will aid in their ability to decompose much quicker. This will add much needed organic matter and nutrients to the soil of your lawn, helping to improve moisture retention and green growth for next season. Continue shredding with the mower as the leaves fall every few days. The key to this process is to regularly run your mower over the leaves. If you have a great abundance of leaves, shred in a similar fashion and gather the excess to use in your garden.

In the Garden Gather your shredded leaves and add a layer of 2” - 4” over the soil in your garden. Do not put the leaf mulch tight to the base of your plants. These will decompose over the winter adding organic matter and nutrients to your soil. There will be an abundance of earthworms in the garden in the spring. A layer of shredded leaves in the garden provide an excellent weed barrier blanket which will prevent many annual weed seeds from germinating in the spring and growing in your garden.

As Winter Protection Leaves provide a great layer of protection for your plants. The freeze/thaw cycle that occurs over the winter with the fluctuation in temperatures is very stressful on your plants as the plant and soil may warm and then freeze which may cause your plant to die. The cold winter wind can cause the drying effects of winter burn on unprotected plants, just as it does on your exposed face in the winter. Sunny winter days can also have a drying, winter burn effect on your exposed plants as the sun reflects off the snow, warming your plants and creating the freeze/thaw element of winter.

Gather your fallen leaves and save until after there has been several hard frosts and the ground has frozen. Use to cover your tender and exposed plants. Mound the leaves to cover 6” - 12” of your plant. Depending on the tenderness or exposure of your plant you can continue to increase your height of protection. It is best to create an enclosed area around your plant of burlap or wire to help contain the leaves and prevent them from being blown away. Waiting until the ground freezes firm helps prevent the potential for damage from mice, moles and other small rodents eating the bark and stems from your plant over the winter. More tender plants that benefit from this extra protection include new fall plantings, Rhododendron, Azalea, Hydrangea, Roses, and other plants which may only be rated hardy for zone 5 or 6.

Township of Tay Adopt-a-Garden Program

The Township of Tay and Tay Horticulture Committee would like to acknowledge and extend a big thank you to those who have adopted a garden and volunteered their time in the maintenance and beautification of these public gardens within The Township of Tay.



MacKenzie Beach Park
Cathy Davis & Janelle Mayer



Victoria Harbour Tay Shore Trail Trailhead Garden @ Veterans Lane/Albert Street and Garden along front of 145 Albert Street Mini Mall Peter & Marylou Wells

Port McNicoll Entrance Sign Garden @ 9th Avenue/Talbot Street
Linda & John Edwards

Victoria Harbour Entrance Sign Garden @ Hwy 12/Park Street
Betty Wakish

Port McNicoll Gazebo Park - Marina Josey

Booster Station Garden @ Talbot/Triple Bay Rd. - Rick Josey

Trail Head Garden in Waubaushene @ Coldwater Rd.
Councillor Cate Root

The adopt-a-garden program is a cooperative venture between the Township of Tay and its citizens. This initiative is one way residents can enhance and preserve the gardens throughout the municipality. Each garden has a plaque acknowledging the adoptee who participates in the program.

For more information contact Alison Thomas @ 705-534-7248 or athomas@tay.ca

2016 Phragmites Cleanup Township of Tay



The Township of Tay would like to thank all the volunteers for their time and hard work in the cleanup of invasive Phragmites along the shores of several public beach areas within the township. There were over 100 volunteer hours put into these projects.



Magnus Beach - Before



Magnus Beach - After



Mackenzie Beach Before



Mackenzie Beach After

Create A Winter Planter

Repurpose your summer planters to winter planters.

After removing the annuals you can add an assortment of coloured branches and evergreen boughs before the soil freezes. Push the branches deep into the soil and they will freeze in. Add some bows and decorations for colour.



Tay Horticulture Committee
Marina Josey, Glenda Bosley, Betty Wakish, Cate Root (Council Representative)

For any questions or to share your gardening tips or photos.

Contact Alison Thomas, Clerk, Township of Tay 705-534-7248 ext. 240 or athomas@tay.ca