



# NIGHT BEACON NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

“Grow with Tay”

May 2016

## Tay Township Horticulture Committee

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

### Tay Blooms Saturday June 4 8:30 am - Noon



Join the Tay Township Horticulture Committee, learn what events we have planned this year and share your gardening experience and questions.

### Free Plant Exchange

What to do with those extra plants in your garden? Share them with friends and neighbours in the community and go home with something new for your garden.

The Tay Township Horticulture Committee's Annual Plant Exchange will be held in conjunction with the Free Mulch Giveaway for 2016.

Please bring plants or seedlings in a container, pot, plastic bag or box, and if possible please label your plants.

### Bring a Plant, Take A Plant

### Free Garden Mulch

Tay Township in conjunction with County of Simcoe offers residents free garden mulch which will add curb appeal, reduce water consumption and aid in weed control.

Participants will be required to bag and load their own mulch. Bring your own shovels and containers.

**Municipal Office Parking Lot**  
450 Park Street  
Victoria Harbour  
705-534-7248 ext 240  
For more details.

## Getting to the Bottom of the Compost Heap

All properties, big or small, generate an accumulation of organic waste. Why not compost and return this material to your property?

Compost is a soil conditioner, rather than a fertilizer, although it does contain nutrients for your plants.

By adding compost to the soil you can help to break down heavy clay soil, or add water and nutrient holding capacity to sandy soils.

Compost can be used in flower and vegetable gardens, around trees and shrubs, for houseplants and planter boxes when mixed with soil, as part of a seed-starting mix, to top-dress lawns, to make compost tea fertilizer.

Compost can be worked into the soil or applied as a top dressing.

Most yard waste and kitchen scraps can be composted.

There are a few things which should never go into the compost pile, including: barbecue charcoal, dairy products, fats, disease infected plants, treated wood sawdust, fish, bones, feces, insect infected plants, wood and branches, coal, oils, weeds and seed heads, meats and peanut butter. A few unusual things that can go into the compost pile are hair, wool and cotton rags, vacuum dust and bags, rope and dryer lint.

Grass clippings should be allowed to dry in the sun before adding to the compost, or mix wet clippings with dry leaves.

Add wood ashes and sawdust in very thin layers.

If possible chop your waste into small pieces before adding to the compost pile, it will break down much quicker. Turn and aerate the pile frequently to speed the process and prevent unpleasant odours.

When adding material to the compost do so in layers, alternating between green material and brown material.

**Green material:** bread, fruit, grass clippings, coffee grounds, vegetables, egg shells, green plant clippings, feathers, hair, flowers, tea.

**Brown material:** dryer lint, wood ashes, dry grass clippings, sawdust, dry leaves, woodchips, straw, shredded paper.

### Trouble Shooting

Bad odour - too many greens, mix in more brown material

Smells like rotten eggs - not getting enough air, turn more frequently

Not composting - too dry, moisten with water

Attracting unwelcome animals - you have exposed food, cover with soil



## Impact of Invasive Phragmites

### Free Management Workshop

Saturday May 14 1:00 -4:00pm

Oakwood Community Centre, Victoria Harbour

For more information visit [www.tay.ca](http://www.tay.ca)



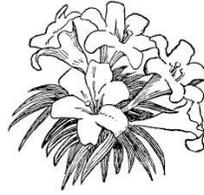
Invasive Phragmites australis subsp. Australis (European Common Reed) is an aggressively spreading invasive grass that is causing damage to Ontario's biodiversity, wetlands and beaches.

- Spreads quickly and out-competes native species for water and nutrients.
- Releases toxins from its roots into the soil to hinder growth of and kill surrounding plants.
- Generally provides poor habitat and food supplies for wildlife.
- Below ground the roots can develop into a dense, thick mat several metres thick, consuming large quantities of water which reduces water levels.
- Increases fire hazards as the large stands are composed of vast amounts of dead stocks.
- Typical growth habit is to develop into dense, mono-culture stands with as many as 200 stems per square metre and reaching heights of up to 5 metres (15 feet).
- The tall dense stands become barriers along shorelines greatly impacting recreational access, aesthetic enjoyment and property values.

## 2nd Annual Tay Township "Lily Award"



The Tay Horticulture Committee would like to recognize residents, businesses, school or church yards or other groups or organizations whose efforts have produced beautiful gardens or landscapes that contribute to a more attractive neighbourhood and community.



Does your property or a neighbours property have some curb appeal?



We encourage the public to nominate private or commercial gardens or landscapes that are visible from the street, anywhere in Tay Township, that you feel has added to the sense of pride that you have for our community.



Judging will take place the week following the August long weekend between August 2 - 6  
Rain or shine

Judges will select a maximum of 5 gardens to receive a "Lily Award"  
Including 1 "Lily Award" for business/commercial/group



### Judging Criteria

- \*Impact/Wow Factor
- \*Overall Appearance
- \*Tidiness
- \*Unique Features
- \*Environmental Awareness



Submit your nominations before July 31, 2016

Nomination forms available at [www.tay.ca](http://www.tay.ca)

Tay Township Municipal Office and Tay Township Libraries  
For more information contact Alison Thomas at Tay Township.

## Tips & Tricks For The Garden



Enrich your soil with generous quantities of compost. Naturally rich soil produces healthier plants with deep, strong roots, which requires less watering and artificial fertilizers.



Adding a layer of mulch of 2" to your garden will protect the soil from the drying heat of the sun and reduce the amount of water needed. Weed growth will also be reduced provided the garden is weeded before adding the mulch.



Water your garden only when the soil is dry to a depth of 2". A deep thorough watering once a week will help your plants stay healthy and develop deep, strong roots; whereas, frequent, shallow watering may cause your plants to become stressed as the roots develop closer to the soil surface where there are less nutrients and more drying effects from the sun.



A general rule of thumb for pruning flowering trees and shrubs.  
If they bloom before June, then prune shortly after flowering.  
If they bloom after June on new growth shoots, then they can be pruned in early spring.

## What's Happening In Tay

### Niagara Parks Bus Trip Thursday June 23rd

Niagara Parks Floral Showcase  
Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservancy  
Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens  
Full Course Edgewater Lunch Included  
\$100.00 per person (All inclusive)  
Depart Oakwood Community Centre  
Victoria Harbour at 7:30 am  
Return arrival 7:00 - 7:30 pm  
Pre-register before June 10, 2016 at  
Tay Township Municipal Office  
Cash/Debit/Cheque  
For further information [www.tay.ca](http://www.tay.ca)  
705-534-7248 ext 240

### Adopt - A - Garden Program

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.  
For more information contact  
Alison Thomas 705-534-7248

## Official Township Flower

### "Night Beacon" Daylily

Easy Care Perennial  
Full Sun/Part Shade  
Height 60 - 70cm Spread 45 - 60 cm  
Average, Sandy or Clay Soil  
Average, Dry or Moist Soil



### Tay Township 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](mailto:athomas@tay.ca)