



# GreenScape.ca Gazette

**“Insiders Tips for Healthy, Happy Outdoor Living...”**

**You Could Win...  
Dinner for 2  
at Baton Rouge!  
See page 4 for details...**

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## Is the “Eye in the Sky” Watching You?

Do you believe truth is sometimes stranger than fiction? Well, if you’ve ever had an eerie feeling that someone, somewhere was looking over your shoulder, you may be right.

This isn’t fiction, and it’s not simply a chapter out of the Orwell classic **1984**... it’s very real indeed. The future we once found to be unimaginable is now upon us. Spy satellites are watching – and before you dismiss this as some kind of science fiction paranoia – you should take note.

If you find yourself doubting or denying, simply log onto the Internet, and visit – [www.earth.google.com](http://www.earth.google.com), or [www.teraserver.microsoft.com](http://www.teraserver.microsoft.com). You’ll be amazed... even intrigued by what’s really out there.

Both websites offer detailed photographs of your town, your neighborhood, even your home and yard. If you were out getting the paper or doing yard work when the satellite passed high overhead, you too may be in the photos.

In addition to finding familiar local landmarks, these websites offer pictures of many famous sites, including places like the Parliament Buildings, Niagara Falls, the CN Tower, and even skiers at Whistler.

These photos come from a variety of satellites. Some come from the U.S. Geological Survey, but others originate from a joint Russian/American venture to market declassified photos from sophisticated Russian ‘mapping’ satellites as well as the geological photos from the satellites of other countries... including Canada.

While you may still find it hard to believe, remember – those satellite cameras are likely clicking away overhead – **right now**... or when you sneak out in your housecoat and slippers to get the mail or empty the trash tomorrow morning... thinking no one will notice.

You might just get your **‘15 minutes of fame’** in a very embarrassing, very public, ‘anyone can watch’ way!

## Now That’s Worth Thinking About...

“How you spend your time is more important than how you spend your money. Money mistakes can be corrected, but time is gone forever.” – *David B. Norris*

“Money won’t buy happiness, but it will pay the salaries of a large research staff to study the problem.” – *Bill Vaughan*

**Announcing Our New  
Referral Incentive Program...**

As a valued client, you understand how your sprinkler system enhances your leisure time and the value of your home.

Like most companies, we spend lots of money each year advertising and promoting... and it works well for us.

**But we’d rather spend those advertising dollars with you!**

So, from now on when you refer someone to us, we’ll give you the credit you deserve.

And when they go ahead with their own, custom GreenScape.ca Sprinkler Systems, we’ll send you \$50 in colorful **GS Sprinkler Bucks for each of them** – for you to use on any future purchase of GreenScape.ca products or services.

**Call us for details – Today...**

**613.723.8528**

## Amazing Popcorn Facts...

- A popcorn kernel can 'jump' up to 1 meter in the air when it pops.
- The world's largest popcorn ball, as reported by Guinness Book of World Records was *over 3½ meters* in diameter, contained nearly *1,000 kilos* of corn, over *18,000 kilos* of sugar, over *1,000 liters* of corn syrup, and *over 1,500 liters* of water.
- If you made a 'trail' of popcorn from Montreal to Victoria you'd need over 350 million popped kernels to do the job.
- Most popcorn comes in 2 basic shapes when it's popped – snowflake and mushroom. Snowflake is used in the movies and stadiums because it looks and pops bigger. Mushroom is used in confections (caramel corn, etc.) because it doesn't crumble.
- Popping popcorn is one of the #1 uses for microwave ovens. The microwave was invented 18 years before anyone thought to use it to pop popcorn.
- 'Pop-ability' is popcorn insiders lingo that refers to the percentage of kernels that pop (or should)
- Most North American popcorn is grown in the Midwestern States, primarily in Indiana, Nebraska, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, and Missouri... and some on the Canadian prairies.
- Because of the advent of bio-fuels, popcorn fields are increasingly being converted to growing corn best-suited for the production of ethanol.
- Many folks believe the boundless acres of corn they see reaching maturity in the Midwest in the late summer could be picked and eaten for dinner... or dried and popped. In fact... those acres are typically 'field corn,' which is used for livestock feed... and differs from both sweet (dinner) corn *and* popcorn... and would not be very appetizing for to eat.

## More Fall Landscape Prep – Mulching Perennials...

Even hardy outdoor plants, especially those in colder spots and all first year plantings require pre-Winter attention. Because if the roots and crowns of the plants dry out, or if they're subject to heaving or alternate freezing and thawing cycles, you risk winter damage, or losing them altogether.

Keep them well-watered until the ground freezes. Cut back all deciduous plants except for mums and members of the scabious family. Most plants (irises and peonies excepted) will benefit from winter mulch. While snow is a natural mulch, with a late or mild winter there may not be enough to insulate the ground, so to be safe it's best to mulch. If you apply the mulch too early it can keep the ground too warm and attract mice –so only apply it *after* the ground has frozen.

Evergreen perennials, and those needing a well-drained soil, are prone to mildew if they get and remain too wet... so airy mulches like pine needles or pine cones make ideal mulch, or failing those, evergreen boughs. Woven bee *skeps* (like an overturned basket available at many garden centers) also work well. But be sure to anchor them somehow so they can't be moved around by foraging animals.

You can mulch most other perennials with a simple, thick layer of leaves. Since leaves aren't all the same, try to use curly ones so air can circulate and water can get through. Sycamore leaves work well, while most maple-types tend to be flat, and so will usually form an undesirable compressed mat, keeping air and water out. Shredded and partially decayed leaves of all kinds work well. A four-to-six inch layer is usually plenty.

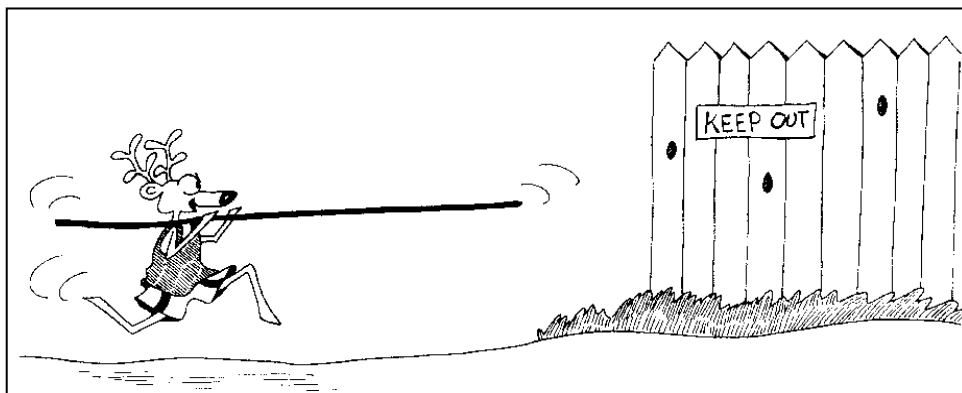
Because loose leaves will tend to blow about, you might want sprinkle some compost or wood chips on them. For plants like foxgloves – which retain their basal leaves over the winter – you should mulch under the foliage.

You may have hardy, container-grown plants you didn't get around to planting. Maybe you grew them from cuttings, and they weren't quite large enough to plant. Chances are good they need a bit of winter chill to break their dormancy.

To do that you have several choices...

- **Bury the pot** – Dig holes in your garden area, set the pots in up to their rims, and then mulch heavily with pine needles or leaves.
- **'Overwinter' them** – Store them in an unheated indoor area – your garage, shed, cold storage room, or even your side porch.
- **For evergreens** – When choosing a spot for them, remember they'll need sunlight.
- **Build a cold frame** – Often easily built using old window frames – cold frames are great... as long as you vent them on mild, sunny days to prevent mildew and other plant diseases high humidity can cause.

A bit of attention before the snow flies can yield a glorious garden next Spring.



## Helpful Household Tips...

**Bananas** –Bananas will ripen quickly in a brown paper bag (with an apple).

**In-Sink Garbage Disposals** – An easy way to keep disposal blades sharp is to toss several ice cubes into it, then run it.

**Easy-Peel Eggs** – Boiling eggs in salted water makes much easier to peel.

**Beautiful Crystal & Glassware** –Easily clean a glass or crystal vase by filling it with water and adding one extra-strength denture cleaner tablet. Let it soak for a few hours, then rinse with water... and voila... you'll have beautiful crystal.

## More Water Facts...

- It costs over **\$3.5 billion each year** to operate North American water systems (and increasing).
- North Americans use over 20 million liters of water daily **just for showers**.
- A faucet that leaks just one drop each second wastes about **10,000 liters** of water in a year.
- Evaporation or run-off caused by overwatering or watering at the wrong time wastes **over half** the water applied to lawns... but your **GreenScape.ca** automatic sprinkler system dramatically reduces such ineffective water use.
- The average dishwasher uses **68 liters** of water for each wash cycle.
- One gram of PCB's (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) can make up to **one billion** liters of water unsuitable for freshwater aquatic life.
- One drop of oil can make up to **25 liters** of water unfit for drinking
- In developing countries, up to **80% of all diseases** are water-related.
- There are as many as **210 million diatoms** (microscopic floating plants) in a cubic meter of sea water.
- Adding moisture sensor technology to your sprinkler system can reduce the water it uses by as much as **50%**.
- The world's oceans contain about **328 million cubic miles** of water.
- **75% of residential water** use goes to baths, showers and flushing toilets.
- Excluding tires, it takes over **159,000 liters** of water to make a new car.
- It takes over **8,000 liters** of water to make the four new tires that go on it.
- A birch tree gives off nearly **280 liters of water** daily in evaporation.

## How to Beat Carpal Tunnel Syndrome...

Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) occurs when there's pressure on the median nerve that travels through the tunnel formed by the carpal bones of your wrist. The tunnel also houses tendons, and when the membrane covering the tendons swells, the compressed median nerve causes pain and other symptoms.

Ergonomic changes in the workplace have reduced the number of carpal tunnel syndrome cases diagnosed each year. Since it's still a painful, frustrating condition – and should you have the misfortune to experience it, here are a few things you might do to treat it...

1. **Minimize activities that make symptoms worse** – Wear a forearm splint at night to keep your wrist from bending. Swollen membranes can shrink, relieving pressure and discomfort for people with mild to moderate CTS.
2. **A doctor can inject a small amount of cortisone into the tunnel** – Usually the condition improves in a few days, but no more than three injections per year should be given.
3. **Surgery can be considered if splints & shots haven't reduced the pain** – Writing in Health News doctors say a surgeon can cut the transverse carpal ligament to relieve pressure on the nerve, and up to 90% of patients report the operation was successful and the pain was relieved or reduced... though it may take several months to regain strength in your hand.

## Staying Safe from Tetanus...

All wounds and abrasions carry a risk for Tetanus (caused by a type of bacteria – *Clostridium tetani*, commonly found in soil). Doctors at UCLA Medical Center recommend the following to keep you protected from the disease...

- Make sure your tetanus shot is up to date.
- If you're not sure whether you've been properly immunized, ask a pharmacist or call your doctor.
- Make a habit of getting a booster shot at least every 10 years.
- If you get a deep or dirty wound or puncture, keep it clean and use an over-the-counter antibacterial or antiseptic treatment. If it's been more than 5 years since your last tetanus shot, see your doctor for a possible booster to ensure you're fully protected.

And if you experience a skin wound or a scratch on your eye, make sure to ask your doctor about whether you should be given a tetanus booster.

## Are You Our Latest Client of the Season?

Each newsletter edition we choose a very special client as our way of honoring good friends and saying 'Thanks' to those of you who support us with your referrals, word-of-mouth, constructive feedback... and of course, repeat business.

**Our Client of the Season is...**

**Mrs. Polly Ann Sobier**

Mrs. Sobier has been a GreenScape.ca sprinkler and landscape lighting client since 1992, and has used our Christmas lighting and decoration services since 2003. She's always a pleasure to deal with and has been a GreenScape.ca 'Champion,' having referred many like-minded people to us.

So we're sending a handful of our Sprinkler Bucks to her as a token of our appreciation. **Thanks again Mrs. Sobier**

You might be our next **Client of the Season!** Watch for your name here in a future newsletter.

## Generation Gap Insights...

During a 'generation gap' quarrel with his parents, young Michael cried, "I want excitement, adventure, money and beautiful women! I'll never find them here at home, so I'm leaving. Don't try to stop me!" With that, Michael headed for the door, his father close behind.

Michael said, "Didn't you hear what I said? I don't want you to try to stop me."

"Who's trying to stop you?" his father said, "If you wait a minute I'll go with you."

## Some Birthday, Huh?

A middle-aged guy took his wife out to dinner for her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. He asked, "So what would you like, Liz? A Jaguar, a fur coat, or a diamond necklace?"

She replied, "I want a divorce."

"My goodness," he said, "I wasn't planning on spending *that much!*"

## 'Bounce' this Around!

- Eliminate dirty laundry odors by putting a Bounce fabric softener sheet at the bottom of laundry bags/hampers.
- Deodorize shoes or sneakers... Put a sheet of Bounce in your shoes or sneakers overnight.
- Golfers... keep bees away – put a Bounce sheet in your back pocket.
- Put a Bounce sheet in your sleeping bag & tent before folding or storing them to keep them fresh-smelling.
- Eliminate odors in wastebaskets by putting a sheet of Bounce at the bottom of your wastebaskets.

**Thank You** for taking the time to read our **GreenScape.ca Gazette** newsletter. We strive to produce a newsletter with great content that's fun, interesting, and valuable to you. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.



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## “Who Else Wants to Win a Dinner for 2 at Baton Rouge Restaurant?”

### Take Our Trivia Challenge and You Could Win Too!

**Guess who won last month's Trivia Question?** We're pleased to announce the winner of last month's quiz was **Ms. Lisa Polit of Centrepointe Childcare Services in Nepean** – the first person to correctly answer our quiz question...

**“Most people know Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon. But who was the LAST one to walk there?”**

a) John Glenn b) Buzz Aldrin c) Gene Cernan d) David Bowie e) Frank Borman  
No need to call NASA, because the answer is “c” Gene Cernan. Congratulations **Lisa**, you've won a **Dinner for 2 at Baton Rouge**. Now... let's move on to this month's trivia question, which is...

**“How many items would you find in TWO (2) Baker's Dozens?”**

- a) 36                      b) 26                      c) 12                      d) 24                      e) 28

**Don't wait! E-mail your answer NOW! – [admin@greenscape.ca](mailto:admin@greenscape.ca)**

## We're Always Looking for a Few Great People...

**If you, or anyone you know, might be looking for something to do with your free time...**

We're always looking for a few mature, energetic people, perhaps with some outdoor/service experience (though it's not a prerequisite), to lend us a hand with our sprinkler, landscape lighting, and water garden service programs.

We offer training, a flexible schedule during our busy Summer/Fall season (6 to 7 hours a day, 3 to 4 days a week)... and of course, the promise of plenty of fresh air, exercise, and the sense of a job well-done

So, if you, or anyone you know, might be interested to know more about what's involved, don't be shy... give us a call. We be glad to give you all the details. Let us hear from you...

**613.723.8528**

## Q & A About Your Sprinkler System...

**Q – Can I unplug my sprinkler system timer for the winter?**

**A –** It depends on the type of battery back-up it uses. Since sprinkler timers use very little electricity when idle, there's very little expense leaving it plugged-in.

If your timer uses a removable 9-volt battery, then as long as you remove it, by all means you can unplug it... it won't affect the timer.

However, if yours has a built-in battery back-up (common in systems installed within the last 5 or 6 years) then **don't** unplug it... because doing so will run the battery down.

Most of these new internal batteries are designed to last for up to 5 years before replacing, but you won't want to use as much as 6 months of their power 'life' by unplugging it each winter, right?

To find out more... give us a call...

**613.723.8528**