



GreenScape.ca Gazette

“Tips for Healthy, Wealthy & Fun Living...”

You can win a dinner for two
at Baton Rouge!
See page 4 for details...

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Inside this Issue...

A Message to All GreenScape.ca
Clients Page 1

7 Ways to Save a Bundle on Your
Monthly Grocery Bill Page 2

Red Light Lit on Your Sprinkler
Timer? Don't Panic! Page 2

Did You Win Our Client of the
Quarter Award? Page 3

Simple Spring Gardening Tips to
Get Your Growing Started Page 3

Beat This Trivia Question and You
Could Win Dinner for 2 Page 4

Irrigation & Landscape Lighting
Help Desk Page 4



A Message to All GreenScape.ca Clients...

Yippee...Spring at last! After a long, trying winter, the snow is melting and spring bulbs are starting to sprout once again.

With that in mind, our scheduling department has been hard at work creating the Spring Opening schedule. With several thousand service clients, completing everyone's annual Opening can be a logistical challenge under the best of circumstances, and when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate it can be really tricky ("Gee whiz...Exactly what day will all this snow be gone?"). But...we pride ourselves in using our past experiences to help us get this done in as fast and efficient manner possible.

Last May it got warm very early and our phones rang off the hook with calls from clients anxiously waiting for us to open their systems (you may have been one of them?). As it got hotter, and with little rain, you were understandably distressed as your lawn turned brown waiting for us to get there – and you let us know. Interestingly, we also got a lot of calls from people who weren't even our clients, asking us to service their sprinklers too.

When we asked why they called us, they said they needed their systems opened, but their sprinkler contractor wasn't answering the phone, and when messages were left, they weren't even returning their calls.

Several who'd called most of the Ottawa-area sprinkler contractors told us **GreenScape.ca** seemed to be the only one actually answering our phones.

So, the question is – why were we the only sprinkler company answering the phone and dealing with upset clients, while the rest seemed to be in hiding?

It boiled down to a relatively simple truth. That we... *everyone* at **GreenScape.ca... we cared!** We cared enough to proactively build a schedule, and then try to get to everyone as quickly as we could, and do the best we could... *even for those who weren't our clients.* We can't imagine ignoring your calls... *ever!*

We care enough that we've always held ourselves accountable when we've been responsible for less than our **GreenScape.ca "Standard"** level of service, and we care enough to strive to do what's best for each and every one of you... *first and foremost.*

We have a committed and professional team, but when the weather plays tricks on us, as it did last Spring, our original opening schedule needed quick modification to get to you as quickly as possible, so that's what we did!

With a fixed number of qualified sprinkler technicians, and only so many hours in the day, we found ourselves in the unenviable position of having to create a contingency schedule to get everyone's system opened as quickly as possible – but it was guaranteed to disappoint many of you. So on behalf of all of us at **GreenScape.ca** – our heartfelt, if not belated apologies.

Here's hoping the weather this spring season is a little more co-operative.

Sincerely,

Bruce Morton, President
www.GreenScape.ca

Wondering How Long to Water Your Lawn?

Here are some Rules of Thumb...

As seasonal weather changes (spring to summer to fall), it's important to monitor your timer settings to ensure your lawn & gardens aren't over or under watered.

In normal summer conditions you should water about an inch a week, but not all at once – your soil can't absorb it that fast, so you'll waste water. On average, set your timer to water every three days, for about 45 min. on lawn areas (large area rotor sprinklers) and 15 minutes for gardens (small area sprayheads).

This gives about 1" (but over 9 days). From this "Rule of Thumb" change your watering frequency based on how rainy, or hot/dry the average weather is to best suit your yard's needs. This easy routine takes minutes a month and will save water & money... your landscape will love you, but the bugs certainly won't!

Natural Solutions to Natural Problems!

Convenient & environmentally friendly ways to solve home & garden problems? Look no further!

- ✓ Place cucumber peels around plants and home to keep ants at bay.
- ✓ White glue works as a liquid bandage to seal pruning cuts on plants – and keeps bugs away too.
- ✓ Mix soy sauce and canola oil in a small basin in your home or gardens to attract earwigs.
- ✓ Cloves are a natural deterrent to winged pests such as moths and flies.
- ✓ Vinegar is a great herbicide... spray it on weeds around your porch, patio, and around your yard.
- ✓ For mosquito control, the age old custom of citronella candles will repel those pesky critters.
- ✓ Fruit flies are wine connoisseurs, so place a small basin of white wine mixed with a bit of dish detergent and leave out for them to sip on... irritating problem solved!
- ✓ Ivory-brand liquid soap is a natural insecticide and will prevent infestations when diluted with water and sprayed on your plants.

Save Up to \$200 a Month on Groceries?

Yes, it's true. You can save \$200 a month just by following a few shopping tricks! Most households spend an average of over \$3,000 for groceries each year, according to a recently released spending index. That's a substantial percentage of most household budgets. So if you're looking to keep more folding money in your wallet, try these seven tips...

1. Shop for two weeks at a time. Plan your meals, make a list, and buy accordingly. You'll also be less likely to impulse shop.
2. Never go food shopping when you're hungry because you'll end up buying food that looks tempting.
3. Stay away from "prepared" foods – they can cost you up to 50% more than foods you prepare yourself.
4. Use coupons. Check your Sunday paper for the best coupons. They can lower your grocery bill by as much as 25%.
5. Buy store brands. This can reduce your grocery bill by an additional 25%, which leads to big savings!
6. Buy extra meat when it's on sale and store it in your freezer.
7. Shop for paper goods and household cleaners at discount stores and dollar stores and you'll save an additional 10-to-15%.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Thanks to *you*, the word *is* spreading. Thanks to all of our clients and friends who have graciously referred **GreenScape.ca** to your friends and neighbors in the last month or two! Rather than pester people with unwanted calls and visits, we've built **GreenScape.ca** largely on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you... we just couldn't do it without you! **Many thanks to...**

Mr. John Carisse ♦ Mr. & Mrs. Gary McMillan
Mr. Ricky Lam ♦ Mr. Donald Cummings
Brian & Catherine Bustard ♦ Ms. Dolores Doucette
Mr. Bill Tate ♦ Mr. & Mrs. E.C. Larmour

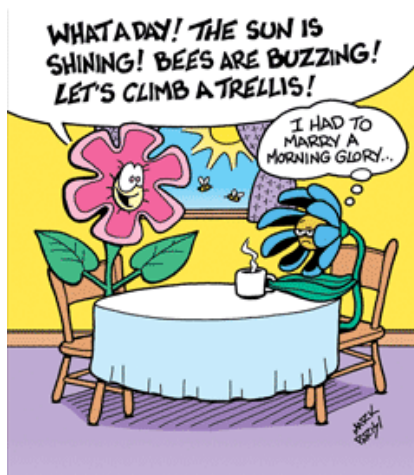
Is the Little Red Light on Your Sprinkler Timer Glowing? If 'Yes!' Don't Panic!

Ever wonder, or worry, why the *red light* comes-on on your ESP-Modular Timer? No need to worry! When no *error message* can be seen on the display screen, your timer's telling you your *rain sensor* has shut off your sprinkler system. When Mother Nature gives us enough rain, your sprinkler system will automatically shut down. When the rain sensor has dried out, the timer will once again resume its regular program and the red light will go off.

This feature is very important in that it ensures your lush lawns and blossoming gardens won't be over-watered... and it allows your sprinkler system to conserve water... *every time!*

Amazing Facts!

- ✓ Most lipstick contains fish scales.
- ✓ The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's Gum!
- ✓ On average you laugh 13 times a day.
- ✓ Baby Robins eat 13 feet of worms each day!
- ✓ You blink 10,000,000 times a year.
- ✓ Fingernails grow nearly four times faster than toenails.
- ✓ Chewing gum when peeling onions will prevent you from crying!
- ✓ Nearly 185,000,000,000 pieces of mail are delivered each year in North America – so that's how so many get lost!!
- ✓ Every human has a distinct tongue print.



Got Grubs?!

Source: *The Environmental Factor*

White grubs are a significant problem in our area throughout the Spring, into the late summer. Here are a few simple ways to know if your lawn has grubs. One of the first apparent signs of grub is the large irregular patches of dead lawn from grubs feeding on grass roots. You may also notice the lawn feels spongy and may have holes from animals digging up the grubs to eat.

To test your lawn for grubs, peel back a square patch and look for them near the roots and in the soil. When more than five grubs are visible, treatment is required. There are a few effective and natural solutions to reduce or eliminate grubs. The first is to use a naturally occurring bacteria available at most garden stores – *nematodes* – which are applied to the lawn. They sicken the grubs, so they don't eat or reproduce. Another solution is to attract birds, who'll feed on grubs year round, controlling the other pests, too.

5 Simple Gardening Tips... To Get Your Spring Growing Season Started!



After a long and “snowier” than normal winter, we're all itching to start using our green thumbs! With the promise of warm weather just around the corner, here are some helpful tips to get your yard and gardens ready for growing, and the magnificent flower blossoming Spring brings...

- 1. Start your winter cleanup** – begin by cleaning up the lawn areas when the grass isn't still sopping wet and your planting beds aren't seas of mud. Rake your lawn to remove dead growth, stray leaves/twigs and clear out winter debris to allow light and air into the soil.
- 2. Re-seed** – apply seed to bare or damaged areas of your lawn. Rake the lawn first, and then mix a few handfuls of soil with good quality seed and spread evenly over the area you're fixing. Rake level, keeping well watered until the seeds begin to sprout and establish themselves.
- 3. Remove plant covers, tree guards & winter protection** – uncover and remove winter protection from your plants, trees and shrubs. This allows the soil to dry out, and lets your shrubs and plants begin to sprout in the fresh air and warm sunshine. Check shrubs and bushes for winter damage from the weight of the incredible snow we had this winter.
- 4. Transplant any plants or shrubs** – if you're planning to transplant any plants or shrubs, do it before they show leaves and begin growing.
- 5. Get on top of weeding** – starting your weeding now means a lot less work later. Weeds start growing vigorously early, so when you spot them in your lawn, get rid of them, since they're much easier to pull out when their roots are shallow and the ground is soft in the spring.

Taking even a few of these steps can make the difference in achieving a gorgeous healthy lawn & gardens early... and keeping them that way...

Are You Our *Client of the Quarter*?

Every newsletter we'll be choosing a very special *Client of the Quarter*. It's our way of acknowledging good friends and saying “thanks” to those who support **GreenScape.ca** with referrals, word-of-mouth, repeat business... and are generally great to do business with.

Our *Client of the Quarter* this Quarter is...

Mr. & Mrs. Gary McMillan of Nepean!

As both sprinkler and landscape lighting clients, the McMillans are GreenScape.ca ‘champions,’ having referred many new clients over the years. They're friendly, understanding and constructive – and our people truly enjoy working on their property.

We're pleased to recognize the McMillans as our Client of the Quarter... and we'll be sending them \$100 in **GreenScape.ca Sprinkler Bucks** they can redeem for any GreenScape.ca product or service. Nematodes

You could be our *next Client of the Quarter*, so watch for your name here in an upcoming issue.

Thanks for Thinking of Us!

Thanks for keeping us in mind with your thoughtful referrals... and for spreading the word! We can help you, your friends, family, associates, or acquaintances explore the benefits having an automatic sprinkler or landscape lighting system can provide... just ask us.

Thought for the Month...

"What life means to us is determined not so much by what life brings us as by the attitude we bring to life; not so much by what happens to us as by our reaction to what happens."

-Lewis Dunning



Thank You for reading our **GreenScape.ca Gazette** newsletter. We hope to produce a newsletter that has great content and is fun and valuable to you. And as always, your feedback is always welcome.

And... if someone you know might be interested in one of our automatic sprinkler system or gorgeous landscape lighting... please let us know... we'd love to hear from you...



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"Who Else Wants to Win...

A Free Dinner for 2 at Baton Rouge?"

Take our Trivia Challenge and you could win!

This is one of our favorite sections. Each newsletter we'll give you a new trivia question... Contact our office with the correct answer to be entered into our draw for a \$75 gift voucher for **Baton Rouge** – famous for their fabulous fall-off-the-bones ribs and melt-in-your-mouth-tender steaks.

Here's this Month's *Mega Trivia Question*...

The Average Adult has Approximately How Many Square Feet of Skin?

- a) 82 sq. feet b) 58 sq. feet c) 18 sq. feet d) 24 sq. feet e) 126 sq. feet

Think you know the correct answer?

E-mail us right now with your answer! Admin@GreenScape.ca

Irrigation & Landscape Lighting Corner...

We're 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 looking for a few mature, energetic people, perhaps with an outdoor service background, (though not a pre-requisite) to help us with our sprinkler and lighting service programs.

We offer training, a flexible schedule during our busy Summer/Fall season for 6 to 7 hours a day, 3 to 4 days a week... and plenty of fresh air and exercise

So, if you, *or anyone you know*, might like to know more about what's involved, give us a call for more information at...

613.723.8528

Keep Your Property Lush & Healthy...

From Melanie at the GreenScape.ca Service Desk...

During the coming Summer growing season when it gets hotter and dryer, or more rainy, there's always a risk of damage to your lawn and garden.

Protecting your landscape could be just a matter of ensuring your controller is properly adjusted.

If you haven't already discovered the benefits, you can save yourself the worry, hassle, and the risk of over, or under-watering – with one of our seasonal service & maintenance plan packages... and leave the worry to us." Call Melanie for details at...

613.723.8528