Spring Farm and Garden

Reverse Barn raising

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Constructed in 1840, the timber frame barn on the Broken Second just west of Iroquois has no nails in the frame at all. Beginning life as a hay barn, it has been home to sheep and pigs over the years.

The former John Carry property has been purchased by H. and Riewe Hansen. After deciding to reclad the outbuildings, they called everyone they knew.

"We needed trailers to cart the old siding away and we have 8 today!" says a smiling owner.

The day is bright and sunny and the friends and neighbours came to the coutnry to accomplish the task of reverse barn raising as it were. Taking the old siding off and making way for the new board and batten cladding that will allow the 150-year old structure to live on.

"The frame is as solid as the day it was built!" The plan is for the barn to become a horse barn, a hay shelter and a tack room.

The owners seem almost amazed at the number who came to lend a hand, like days of yore when everyone pitched in to get the job done. 1999 is really no different. The whole job is done in less than two hours. The barn stands bare, ready for new boards. From the youngest helper, Matlock Guse to an elder statesman of the Broken Second, Denzil Prunner, they came to do their part for a neighbour.

What a great event!!

INSIDE

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Cardinal Farmer's Market features range of produce

by Michael Bailey
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Years ago people would drive into town and spend the day milling around the old farmers' market.

Not just a place to pick up the weekly vegetables, it was a place to meet and greet friends, family and acquaintances and catch up on all the weekly goin's on.

That was then...

This is now...

Friday, May 28th, for the second consecutive year, the tradition has been revived in Cardinal.

Located just east of the mall, you can find perennials, annuals, fresh baked goods and as the summer progresses, every kind of vegetable you could possibly imagine!

And while that old time atmosphere is not exactly the same, you can be sure that if it's a visit you're looking for, it's a visit you shall get.

"There used to be a market years ago," Myrna Prosser nostalgically recalled, "and it was very successful."

Hoping to once again generate interest in a small farmers market, Myrna went to village officials last year and asked if they could set up shop in the mall.

Unfortunately, the municipality did not own the land, but fortunately for Myrna and her group, Charlie Burrell did.

"Mr. Burrell let us use the space and we've been here since," she said.

The market is open every Friday from 8 am to noon.

Venture down roads less travelled

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

"Experience the beauty and tranquillity of nine exceptional country nurseries."

Escape for a day in the country and discover some of the unique rural nurseries in our region. While each of the locations has its own special features, they all offer creative country landscapes that share an atmosphere of warmth, inspiration and informal hospitality.

Browse through greenhouses, view uncommon annuals and perennial and wander among exceptional groupings of shrubs and trees. Sniff your way through the aromic offerings of herbs, gather arm loads of flowers for drying and experience the beauty of nature in fabulous display gardens.

Several locations offer gift shops with treasures tucked into every corner to delight both gardeners and crafters alike. The owners are eager to share the beauty of it all with fellow garden enthusiasts. They welcome

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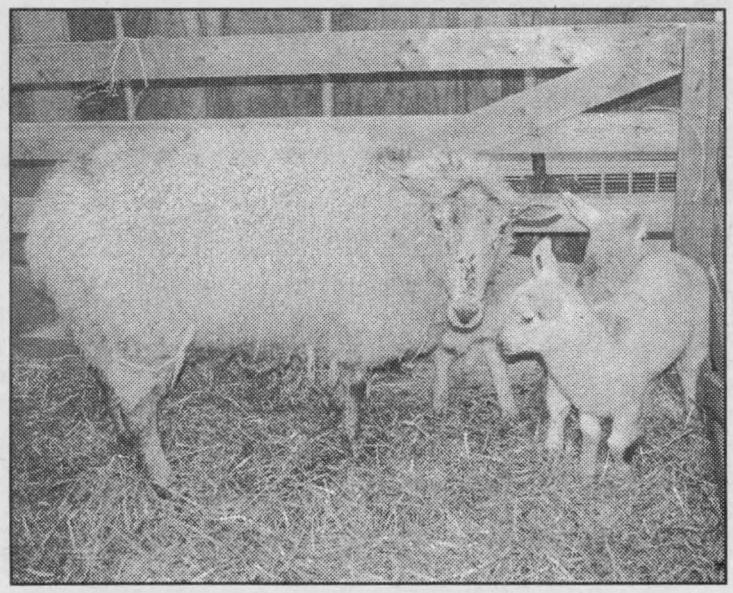

Reeally Cute! Baa Baa Baa

Baby lambs are always a sure sign of spring. These little cuties were part of the annual Farm Fair held to help school students learn more about agriculture in the area.

Chieftain photo by S.L. Johnston.

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SPECIAL PULL OUT SECTION

—Willan Daylily Garden—

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

After losing their son in an accident three years ago, Gail Brooks told her audience, "I needed something to occupy my time and help with the grieving process." Her brother, John Peters suggested that they create a garden business. The purchase of a horse farm by John started things moving. The result of this and his suggestion was the seed of Willan Gardens at 3251 Paden Road, North Gower (phone 613-489-0259). The fact as Gail explains that the land was a glorified swamp since all the beavers who controlled the water had been trapped and the land sits just below the water table did not seem a deterrent, but rather a challenge... After planting 10,000 annuals to sell as cut flowers, harvesting all they could manage they were devastated to be hit by rain, hail and driving winds for some 15 minutes their entire garden was covered in white, "It was as if someone had whipper-snipped the whole garden!"

Reverting to plan B, they switched to Daylilies and Hasta plants. Presently there are 200 varieties of Daylilies and 100 Hosta varieties for sale through mail order and open houses on weekends. July 17/18 weekend is peek bloom time and the Garden is open 10am to 5pm. Their collection is ever expanding with newer varieties. New this year is a large perennial boarder that edges the pond. The display beds include something for everyone from miniature to large scale plants in a wide range of colours and textures.

According to Gail as she speaks to the Iroquois W.I. "Daylilies are low maintenance plants, easy, hardy and durable species that have a place in every garden." She continues telling the ladies that "The new strains are not as invasive as the older types, they bloom longer thus providing colour all season and are priced for every budget."

It was interesting to learn that because they are so varied and so vigourous growers, they have many uses. They do well in mass plantings and often are used in difficult areas like parking lots or exposed beds near streets. A bed of Daylilies under a summer-blooming tree makes an ideal combination along a sunny driveway. Including evergreens in the bed will give the planting some structure during winter months.

Daylilies enjoy growing with other herbaceous perennials. Adding individual specimens or groups of favourite kinds, diverse colours and bloom times, you'll have a hit on your hands.

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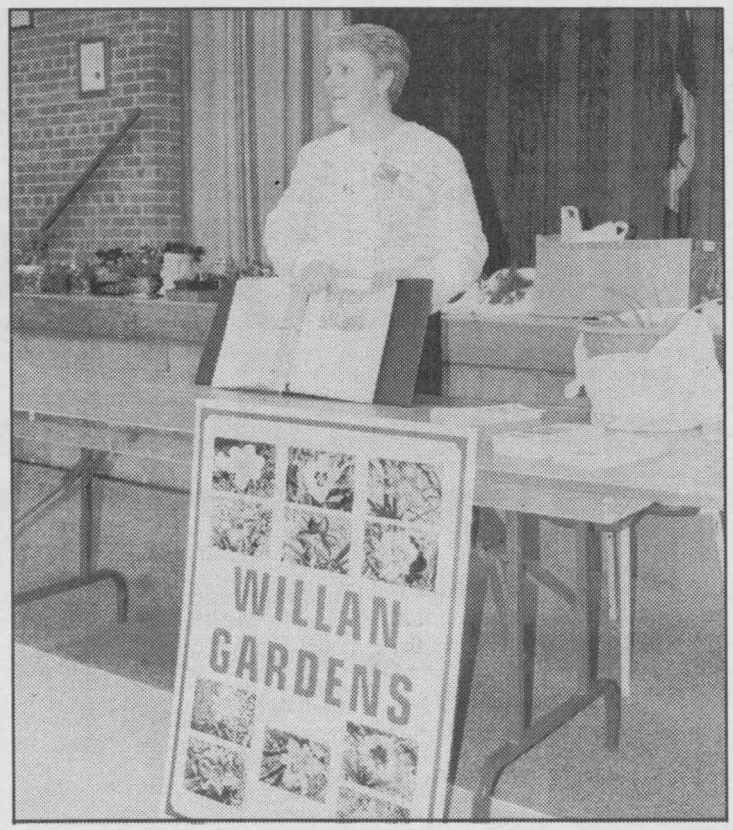

Daylilies and Hosta

Gail Brooks spoke to the Women's Institute about some popular perennials. Daylilies and Hosta are her favourites and after her talk many were convinced to grow these plants at home. *Chieftain photo by S.L. Johnston.*



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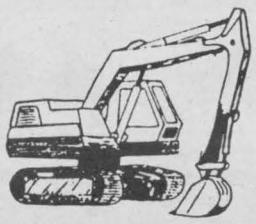

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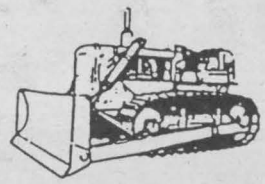

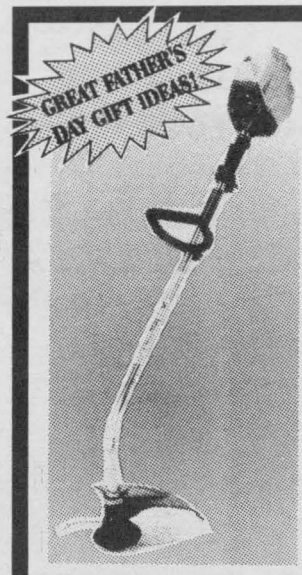

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CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT

Rural Nurseries

visitors to stroll leisurely through their rural properties, down meandering paths, past tranquil ponds and theme gardens.

The gardens offer different delights with each passing month, you will want to visit more than once to see the spectacular seasonal changes. If you are looking for superior plant quality, rare specimens and horticultural expertise, these nurseries have the best to offer.

Plan your own route, there is no specific location where you should start or finish. You are promised a wonderful day in the country...down roads less travelled.

As you continue to read and learn where you can find what plants, even the names will entice you to venture down those less travelled roads in the country near and nearer to home. Tucked away, nestled in our region are some of the best kept greenhouses anywhere. Waiting to welcome you to each location, so you can check out their beauty, these nurseries and garden centres have banded together in a group effort, "The Eastern Ontario Growers Alliance. Boasting close to ten members, these local entrepreneurs got together just after Christmas last year to form the alliance in an effort to help promote one another, cry on each others shoulders during the long, long winter season,and to group advertise. According to local member, Eileen Johnston of the Seasons Shop and Garden Centre, the group sponsored a booth at the Ottawa Flower and Garden Show in an attempt to acquaint the city populace with what they may be missing. "Come out and explore the countryside!!"

Rideau Nursery:

Located at #6986 McCordick Road in North Gower, Rideau Nursery can be reached at 613-489-0396 or toll free at 881-3485. Open Thursday to Monday, 9am til sunset until Thanksgiving Day, this is one to sneak a peek at for sure.

Billed as "The Cut Flower Farm"...you can pick your own flowers from hundreds of exciting varieties or let the professionals at Rideau Nursery create a special arrangement for you. Stroll around the pond or sit and enjoy the delightful fragrances of the garden room. An extensive selection of cutting garden plants as well as custom design are offered. Dried flowers available year round.

Flower Buds Nursery:

Situated on Herberts Corners Road (# 6631) in Greely, they can be reached at 613-821-4469. Open May to December with a Gift Shop open on weekends year round.

Two unique businesses...specializing perennial and landscape design. The nursery, operated by a certified horticulturalist features display perennial beds of the late 1800s style. these gardens compliment the location of the gift shop which is located in an 1890's school house. This shop features a museum of school days past with a large selection of antiques and crafts for sale.

Pansies and Peppers Nursery:

An environmentally-friendly business that uses non-toxic, biological methods of disease and pest control, Pansies and Peppers Nurseries are located just south of Winchester on Nesbitt Road,# 12696, east off County Road 31. You will find a good selection of annual plants and some specially selected perennial herbs. In summer they have cut flowers and in fall, dried flowers, pumpkins and gourds. Dried arrangements are available on request.

Centre Commons Perennial:

Outstanding and rare pepper perennial and fabulous foliage plants of all kinds...many new treasures each year, including shrubs, vines and roses. Marvellous accent plants for those containers and borders are available as well. Trekking to Newington, RR2, Otto Road. Call 613-984-2645 and whether looking for that something special for those containers, you will be inspired as you check out the theme gardens.Centre Commons have been featured on CBC television's "Diggin In". They are a delight for the colourist and collector. A catalogue is available upon request.

Seasons Shop and Garden Centre: Applewood Farm;

Everything you need to get growing can be found at Seasons Shop and Garden Centre, inclu-

Please turn to page 4



Seasons Shop

A unique garden centre, Seasons Shop in Mariatown creates an atmosphere where everyone wants a green thumb. Drop by and browse, this business is an experience you'll not want to miss.

Chieftain photo by S.L. Johnston.

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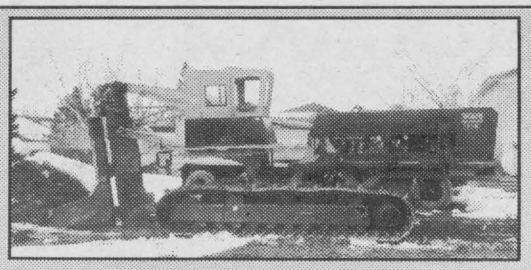

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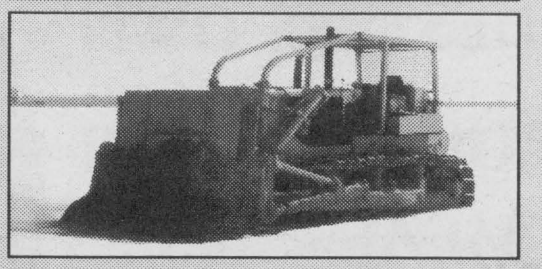

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Rural Nurseries

Continued from page 3

ding advice. Stopping by in Mariatown, just west of Morrisburg on Lakeshore Drive, they can be reached at 613-543-3040 to confirm hours. Seasons stocks hundreds of new and exciting varieties of perennial, annuals and herbs. Nestled among their incredible selection, top quality nursery stock, you will find original concrete statuary and all the necessities to create your own water garden. The friendly welcome that awaits you as John and Eileen open their door wide is well worth the trip. Exploring at your leisure five acres of the most delightful and beautiful display gardens for inspiration or you might choose to visit their quaint gift shop. Packed full of unique and distinctive gardening items and ideas, this is a must on everyone's list...and the advice is forthcoming at every turn, you need but ask!

Meadowwood Nurseries:

Delight in the ultimate growing experience as you stroll through beautiful, perennial display beds enhanced by a series of ponds, bog and Woodland Gardens at Meadowwood Nurseries on Slater Road, #103, RR3, Mountain just on the fringe of Heckston. Open year round from 9 to 8 each day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Meadowwood offers 500 varieties of perennial, annuals, grasses, everlastings, herbs, roses and other ornamentals. Take time to visit their hydroponic vegetable operation, sit pond-side, view the swans and don't miss Annie's Workshop, a virtual showcase of wood and floral gift ideas and items.

Forget-Me-Not Greenhouses and Gardens:

Stepping through the garden gate at Forget-me-Not and you experience the serenity of a charming country garden. As you wander through the extensive greenhouse area, select quality plants from one of the largest collections of potted herbs in the region. You may also choose from a vast number of annuals, perennial, vegetables and shrubs. You have the opportunity to enjoy a guided tour and herbal tea in the gardens on Sundays by appointment....call 613-258-1246. You can take the drive to 1920 Beach Road in Oxford Mills and check this one out for yourself. Open May to August 15, give them a call.

Shelley's Elephant Garden:

Colour, scent and fun...take the plunge into gardening with the selection of perennial, annuals, container gardens and herbs. You can enjoy the traditional as well as the newest varieties for every type of garden. Whether you are a novice nine year old designing your first fantasy garden or an expert adding another unique plant to an established oasis. Drop by, and these folks will share some secrets and pick from the palette. Take the drive to 10157 Clark Road, RR3, Mountain or give them a call at 613-989-5601.

Weatherall Gardens:

Spring is planting time and Weatherall Gardens is a great place to start. The family-owned nursery offers annuals, perennial, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets and planters. Explore the garden area outside where you can find quality plants, gifts and gardening products. Open 7 days a week during May and June, the place is 818 South Gower Drive in Kemptville, the phone number is 613-258-4380.

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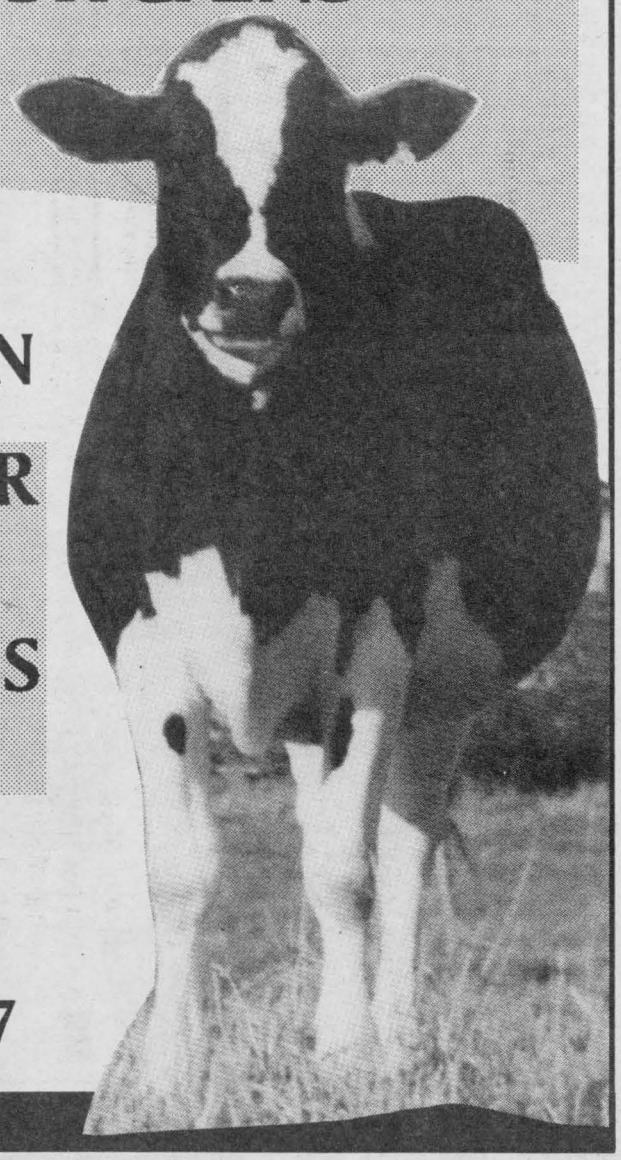

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Environmentally friendly garden suggestions

Gardeners are generally ecologically oriented people who believe in recycling and minimum environmental impact. Here are some suggestions as to how you can improve your garden, recycle common household items and control several pests without using agricultural chemicals.

Milk jugs and large soda bottles constitute bulky waste in landfills. Cut the bottom 1/2 to 1 inch off of them, remove their tops and use them for hot caps in the garden. They'll protect plants from cool night temperatures, cold winds and even cutworms.

Don't throw the bottoms of these milk jugs or soda bottles away. Turn them upside down and place them under growing pumpkins, winter squash, cantaloupe or watermelon. Fewer of these fruits will rot if they're held off of the wet ground.

Do you have trouble with milk jug hot caps blowing away? Make a long "hairpin" from a length of old wire and pin them to the ground. Better yet, use 6-inch pieces of thin wall sewer pipe in place of milk jugs. Sewer pipe is heavy enough not to blow away. Paint it black and it'll warm the air around the plants even more. String the pipe sections on a piece of twine when they're no longer needed and save them for next year.

Everyone knows cucumber, cantaloupe, squash and watermelon transplants grow poorly if their roots are disturbed at transplanting. What's needed is a large, economical container in which to grow these plants. The container must hold germinating media yet allow plant roots to grow through.

Pint berry baskets are perfect. Use a single layer of newspaper to hold growing media in if necessary. Plant the entire container, media and small plant and there will be no transplanting shock. The small plants will grow much more vigorously than if started in the usual tiny pots.

Look around your house and you'll find numerous other items useful in the garden. Using them over again rather than throwing them out is not only ecologically sound, but can help you produce a better garden.

Green Fact

A standard shower head flows at 5-7 gallons per minute. If each member of a family of four takes a five minute shower every day, that amounts to 36,500 to 51,100 gallons per year. This is about one-third of the average home water usage.

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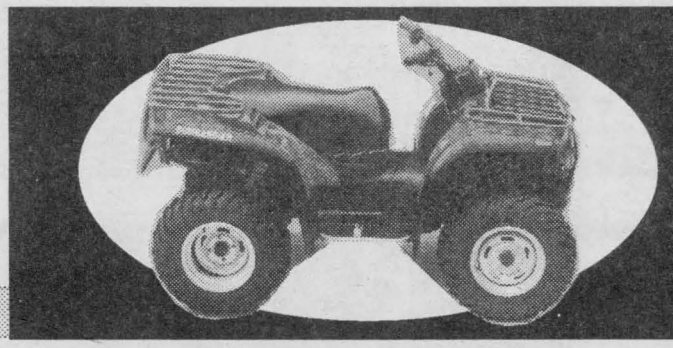
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Farmer's Market

Chieftain photo by M.C. Bailey.

Koren Brown (left) from Broker Farm in Hyndman, along with Marlene Longtin of Mainsville Gardens on Brouseville Road, are but two of the exhibitors at the Cardinal Farmer's Market. The Market is open every Friday from 8 am to noon.

Benefits of home landscaping

by Paul Tuz

If getting your yard in shape for summer scares you with thoughts of hard work or high dollar amounts, there are some options to consider before you let the grass go to seed or pour concrete on the flower garden.

One option is to hire a professional firm or individual to plan and plant your yard. This is usually the most expensive method, but the best if your time is scarce.

Another option is hiring a professional to design the plan, while you and your family execute it.

Or by making use of available information such as bulletins and books, you can make both planning and landscaping your yard a do-it-yourself project.

If you decide to use a professional landscape architect, find out if the work is guaranteed, make sure all agreements are in writing and check the person or company out with your Better Business Bureau.

Taking the do-it-yourself route will allow you to change your mind at the planning stage as often as you like and will save a lot of money.

If you are ambitious and have the money, it is possible to design and plant your whole yard, including trees, shrubs and grass at once. Although some people stretch the project over several seasons and begin by planting their trees since they take longer to grow.

Also, keep in mind the economic, as well as esthetic, benefits to landscaping your yard -- it increases your home's value and, if carefully planned, may help reduce energy bills.

According to experts, summer energy needs may be cut by 50 per cent or more by planting shrubs and deciduous trees on the sunny side of your house, while shrubbery around the foundation will prevent drafts from entering.

After your new yard is in place and taking root, the proper ongoing care will keep it looking its best. The right amount of water, fertilizer and mowing will keep grass healthy, while pruning trees and trimming shrubs will help ensure their health and growth.

Paul Tuz is president of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Toronto.

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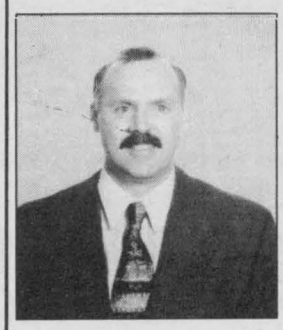

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Willan Gardens

Continued from page 7

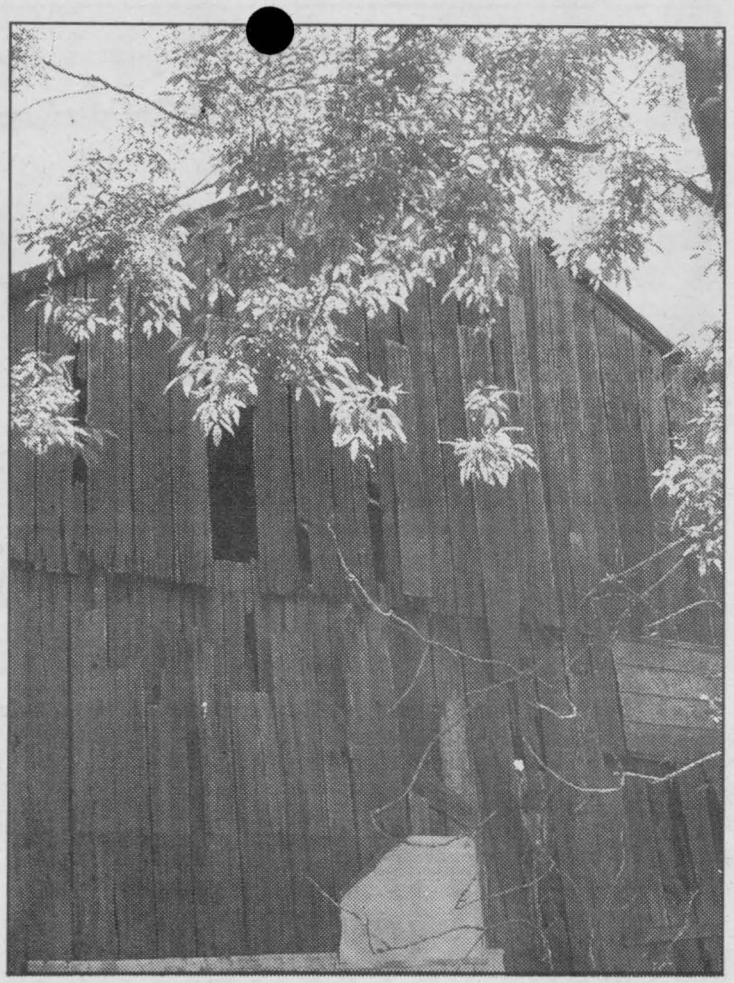
They can be naturalized in an unmowed grassy area or meadow where they will persist for years uncared for.

The foliage makes the Hosta stand out in the garden but their bloom with stalks of white or lavender flowers adds a certain something special to any display. "Hosta is my obsession," says Gail. She tells how 15 years ago she began her collection of these tolerant plants and hasn't looked back since. Members of the Daylily family, Hosta are native to Japan, Korea and China where they grow wild. There are 40 wild species and 400 different kinds of cultivated varieties. They are easy to grow and so suit a large number of gardeners, from novice to expert.

Among the best garden perennials available, Hosta thrive in dense or partial shade, tolerate many kinds of soil, are fast growing, hardy, free-flowering and have that marvellous foliage. They can be left without dividing and are generally free from disease.

Her best advice during the evening is perhaps, "If you wouldn't eat it...don't put it on your garden."

Featured in the summer tour in July, Willan Daylily Garden is one of four on the tour, and is open weekends 10am to 3pm for your enjoyment...no pets please!



New lease on life

This barn began life 150 years ago and is now being reclad with fresh lumber. Pitching in, the community arrived in force to ensure the job got completed. *Chieftain photo by S.L. Johnston.*

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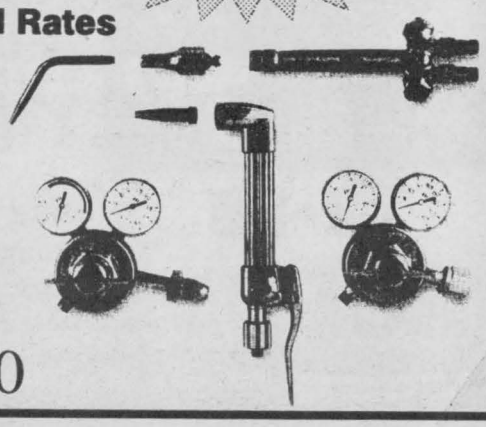

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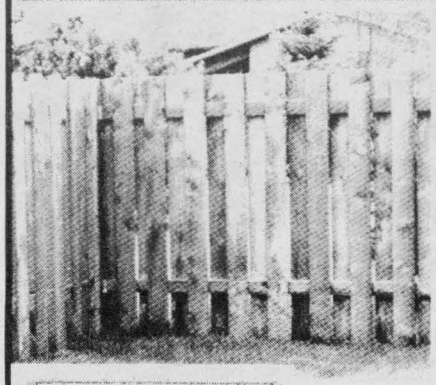

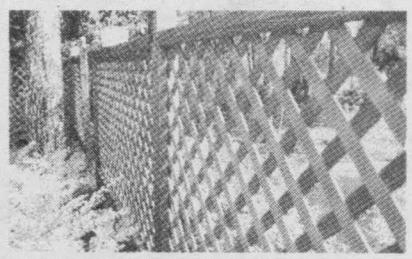

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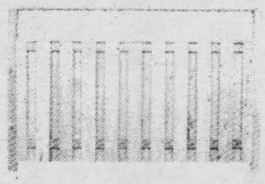

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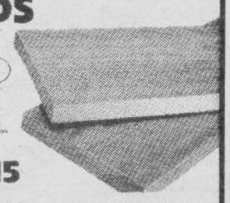

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