



Company and Staff Update

November 2007

Lawn Maintenance:

Dave manages more than 75 properties that are cut in three and a half days each week. This year we took the plunge and bought another Walker ride-on lawn mower. This means that the time spent on the larger properties is managed more effectively by our lawn crew. These machines are worth more than \$20,000 each and Dave does some very serious operator training to ensure your property is cut with the utmost skill before allowing staff to drive them.

We are increasing the number of weekly cuts to 25 in 2008 rather than 24 in previous years. The season is getting longer and this year the grass has continued to grow beyond mid-October which traditionally is the end of grass mowing. The last cut of the year will be scheduled according to growing and weather conditions.

Safe working conditions and employee safety are constantly at the forefront of our business. The biggest "hit" this year for the lawn crew were the new hearing protectors. They are radios as well as ear protectors and can be connected to music on personal iPods. So if you heard singing whilst your lawn was being cut you now know why! We're just singing the praises of safety compliancy!

Your lawn crew:

- **Diarmid** who we were delighted to have work with us again this year. He is now in his third year at Carleton University studying Computer Science. Stop in and say hi to him at Staples in South Keys - his "winter" job. We have our fingers crossed that we see him back again next year - talk about a fast worker!
- **Jeff** joined us this year having worked previously at Peter Knippel Nursery. He has returned to Carleton University for his third year in Journalism. We hope he will be able to return next summer as he is an awesome employee.
- **Jordan** filled in for the last five weeks after Diarmid and Jeff returned to University. He has just moved to Ottawa and we couldn't have hoped for a more willing, capable employee to finish off the season.

Garden Maintenance:

As a company, we are committed to good horticultural practices and environmental stewardship. This year we decided to upgrade our knowledge base and hired two more horticulturists. Latin was the "order of the day" and Colorado Blue Spruce was replaced with *Picea pungens* 'Glauca'. Boy, did I learn a lot and many of our garden clients said the same. I'm proud to say that our staff take a vested interest in your property and have pride in a job well done.

Your horticulturalists:

- **Josée** returned again this year and we're delighted that she will be coming back in 2008. Her horticulture knowledge, floral design skills and constant happy disposition continue to add value to client service and our company.

- **Jess** is heading home to Lively, Ontario for a while to determine her next endeavor. Jess has a passion for the environment and would like to continue her studies in that direction. Her joie de vivre and horticulture knowledge will be sorely missed and there are many gardens that have been impacted this year with her passion for good pruning!
- **Jen** joined us mid-season and we're delighted that she is returning again next year. Her professional approach and background in horticulture along with accomplishments in the tourism industry and a large Ottawa construction company have and will continue to add more depth to our company and your services.

Both Josée and Jen are both bilingual and it is a pleasure to be able to communicate with our French-Canadian clients in their native tongue.

Dave and I

We will be working on the winter snow clearing as well as keeping a watchful eye on some of our client's vacant homes while they are enjoying sunnier climates.

We hope to have a little 'down time' to enjoy our family. Dave's sister and my daughter, Fiona and her husband Cory, are expecting their first child in February. As well, if you're an opera lover you may see me at the local cinema watching live telecasts from the Met in New York - what a wonderful winter treat that is.

Other News

- In June we had the distinct honor to renovate the grounds of Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive. New trees, shrubs, evergreens and annuals were planted and we've already been contracted to design and plant the annuals next year.
- Greenlife is proud to work with the Algonquin Horticulture program and provide students with practical experience in their chosen field. Five Algonquin students joined us in September for their work week experience and we look forward to continuing our valued relations with the college in future years. Under the watchful eye of our staff horticulturists, students worked on two properties, toured K & B Lawn Ornaments, visited the landfill and learnt about Greenlife and our service standards.
- We were delighted to have our company profiled in the September issue of Horticulture Review, our industry monthly magazine. The article is on our website if you'd like to read it.
- In January, Dave, Josée, Jen and I will be attending the Landscape Ontario Congress to learn about new landscaping trends and techniques. We'll be joining more than 12,500 other landscapers to hear about new ideas and see new products that will enhance your outdoor living area and add value to your property. There are four days of education and 8 acres of exhibits to keep us busy!
- Last January, I accepted the nomination and was elected vice president of the Ottawa Chapter of Landscape Ontario. This is a two year commitment followed by another two years as President. This provides an opportunity for me to network with some of the best and most professional providers in our industry and allows me to offer you more ideas and quality referrals for all your outdoor living needs.
- Watch for the latest lecture in the Paradise Found series "The Love of the Labyrinth" on March 27, 2008 at the Centrepointe Theatre. This lecture will explore the differences between the maze and the labyrinth and visit some of the world's oldest turf and hedge mazes. Visit www.paradisefound.ca or Centrepointe Theatre for more details.

Have a safe and warm winter and thank you again. We love what we do and look forward to doing more of it for you.