



Horticultural Herald



URBAN
LANDSCAPE
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SNOW
& ICE
MANAGEMENT



Most of Calgary is asking the question “What happened to spring?” We had a calm end to winter but unfortunately spring has been another story. Even with the mixed weather we have managed to complete most of our spring clean ups and are anxiously looking forward to the rest of summer. Our bed maintenance crews will be in full operations this month. If you are interested in having ULS order and install your annuals plants this season, call today to get your free estimate.

ULS construction crews have started breaking ground. We are currently scheduling into early June so be sure to book your landscaping upgrades early. ULS offers full design packages that can reinvent your entire yard or we can offer a few small upgrades such as a new flower bed or some new sod.

Arboreal care continues throughout the year. The spring is always a great time to consider pruning your trees so they can be enjoyable for the long summer months ahead.

Customer Comment Card Contest

This month’s winners are:

- Wilhelmina V.
- Flexpipe Systems
- Bob & Val D.

Each of this month’s winners received a \$100.00 gift card from either Moxie’s Classic Grill, or The Home Depot. Our next draw will be on May 31. Good Luck!!

Rebooking Comment Card Draw

As a special reward to our rebooking clients all customer comment cards returned with a rebooking contract was entered into a special draw for a 32G iPod Touch. This year’s winner for the rebooking comment card draw is:

- Doug & Lori M.

May’s Schedule

May 1 – 31

Snow & Ice Management Contracts Completed, service upon request only
Spring Clean ups on going, weather pending
Arboreal Care on going
Landscape Construction Projects begin

May 13

Weekly Mowing & Trimming starts, weather pending

May 17

Healthy Lawns Fertilization & Weed Control Programs start, weather pending

May 24

Victoria Day



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Alberta Line & Stencil Marking

ULS has recently acquired Alberta Line & Stencil Marking. This is a local company that was owned and operated by Pete Guterson for the past eight years. Alberta Line & Stencil Marking has been built on a solid reputation for good quality work and competitive pricing. We are proud to have Pete working with us as we integrate these services into ULS. Pete's years of proven success in the business will be extremely useful as he instructs our employees on everything from the quoting process to how to chalk a line.



Through the acquisition of Alberta Line & Stencil we can now offer our clients with service to improve and upgrade their parking lots and roadways through; line painting, stencil marking, layout and design as well as parking lot sweeping and power washing. If you are interested in any of these service call our office today and we set a up a free quotation for you.





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Team Member Profile

Team Member:

Peter Guterson

Position:

Lead Estimator/Supervisor
Alberta Line & Stencil Marking

Pete hails from Calgary; after being raised in South Calgary he now calls the northwest home. When he graduated high school Pete applied to become a firefighter. Unfortunately there was a hiring freeze on when he applied so he opted to go to University receiving his degree in physical education. The day he graduated is the same day he was accepted into the fire department. After 24 years in the fire department Pete has no plans of leaving until his retirement.



It is during his days off that Pete ran Alberta Line & Stencil Marking. For 8 years he completed the work in his spare time only occasionally using a second person. Unfortunately, becoming a victim of his own success, his quality of life had come out of balance while his stress increased daily. Running his own business while working full time became too much as he barely had time to spend with his family. Selling his business has helped relieve him of stress and given him some free time once again.

Pete is married to his one love Colette and together they have two children Nicolaas 14 and Gracie 11. They all love to travel. Costa Rica is one of their favourite spots where they have even considered buying a hotel in the Playa Grande area. They have also been on 15 cruises that have taken them all around the world.

When Pete isn't travelling and enjoying his family time he will more than likely be working out. He is an avid wrestler and hopes to be the oldest man to medal in the upcoming 2011 World Championships. He recently showed his younger colleagues at the fire hall who was boss. Pete was the only one who could clean lift 225 pounds; keep in mind his closet competitor was 20 years younger.



Know Your Plants . . .



Iris
Iris

The Iris was named after the Greek goddess who was the messenger of love who used the rainbow to travel. The name refers to the wide variety of colours irises can be found in among its 260 different species. Native to northern temperate regions of the world, irises are grown extensively as ornamental plants. The most commonly planted species are the German Iris (*iris germanica*) and the Siberian Iris (*iris sibirica*).

These perennial herbs grow from creeping rhizomes or bulbs. The rhizomes of the German Iris and the Sweet Iris (*iris pallida*) were traded as orris root and used in perfume and medicine in ancient times. Today brands such as *Bombay Sapphire* and *Magellan Gin* still use orris root and sometimes the flower itself to add flavour and colour to the alcohol. The rhizomes of some species can be toxic and cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea and/or skin irritation. Very rarely do these symptoms lead to death. The essential oil that comes from iris flowers is also sometimes used in aromatherapy, the scent being compared to violets.



In the language of flowers the iris symbolizes eloquence and communication. However since the flowers are found in such a wide variety of colours, the message you send changes depending on which colour of iris you choose to send. Purple irises are symbolic of wisdom and compliments, blue flowers for faith and hope, yellow for passion and white for purity.

The fleur-de-lis is a stylized iris and has been associated with France when in the 12th century Louis VII adopted it as its symbol. A red fleur-de-lis is also seen in the coat of arm of Florence. Today this symbol can be seen in the Quebec flag, as the logo for the New Orleans Saints and is also the almost universal symbol of scouting.



Iris' like full sun but will tolerate partial shade. It is important to have well draining soil to avoid root rot. A slow release fertilize in only occasionally required with no heavy doses of nitrogen. Apply a thin layer of compost, peat moss or well rotted manure for organic matter around the base of the plants each spring leaving ample room around the rhizome. As the flowers begin to fade cut them back to the base of the plant. In the fall trim dead foliage and prune back healthy leave to about 4-5 inches from the base. Once the soil has frozen, apply mulch to keep the roots from heaving out. If this does happen to not push them back in, simply cover the exposed rhizomes and roots with soil.