

# Hemerocallis Brome Lake Daylily Farm

A local field of Dreams



## THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

A visit to Lac Brome's largest daylily farm is not only breathtaking but a dream shopping location for those who want to bring color, variety and a special added something to their own personal garden by adding a flower (or more) purchased at the one stop location specializing in daylilies only.

With 1850 varieties of daylilies (Hemerocallis) and located in the Mont Echo area of Lac Brome, the stop itself offers a walk through what can be best described as, "a field of dreams." Popping with bursts of eye catching orange, red, yellow, pink, mauve and more, one cannot help but stop in the middle of the blossoms and marvel at the variety and spectacular display of these beauties. The blossoms of a daylily are often edible as well. One would likely be surprised to know how, not only beautiful but, extremely functional, these flowers are.

"I add them to my salad," said one customer. "My friends rave about the fact that my salads look like a work of art and it all comes down to a few daylily petals amidst the greens."

While some hear the word, "daylily" and the common parent plant, orange

ditch lily comes to mind, hybridizers have now assured a variety of color, shapes, sizes and patterns too numerous to mention or imagine. In essence, you must see them to believe them!

Often referred to as Hemerocallis and defined in the dictionary as follows: "East Asian rhizomatous clump-forming perennial herbs having flowers on long leafless stalks," daylilies are not only edible, flowers, but the buds, stocks and roots are also delicious! Some even refer to them as a "food crop." Others credit the flower when planted as erosion barriers, fence line decorations and more.

Sadly, the lifespan of a daylily blossom is only, one day. While they often bloom throughout the summer, for those awaiting the arrival of a special variety, it is a daily venture to the garden in anticipation assuring that one does not miss the awaited bud as it opens in all its glory.

My husband is a daylily enthusiast and has filled our garden with dozens of varieties, the bulk of which were purchased at the daylily farm in Lac Brome.

"It amazes me to see the formation, the color and the intricate differences in each variety," my husband explains. "I don't expect everyone to appreciate this (although many do); I purchase them for the joy I receive as they come to life in my backyard."

He goes on to explain that if you prepare their growing bed properly with the right amount of both sun and shade, there are actually very easy to maintain. They mix well with other flowers providing they are given ample space to grow.

"The more buds on a plant, the longer the flower will last," shares Andre Page, owner of the daylily farm.



JASON BALL

Left to right: Denise and Andre Page (owners) and Leslie Royea, long time employee are all waiting to welcome you to "the Brome Lake Daylily Farm"

A daylilies shape, size and color vary. Trumpet shaped with ruffled edges, round, triangular, double layers, single layers, sometimes giving the illusion of a flower within a flower; the daylily blossom seems to exist for one reason and one reason only; to be as beautiful and pleasing to the eye as possible in its one day existence.

At the Lac Brome Daylily Farm, you are greeted by knowledgeable, friendly and bilingual staff members that are quick to encourage you to take your time in selecting your plants. When you know what you want, they arrive with a shovel and divide you a portion of the plant you have selected. You are given

many years of experience. If you become a regular, it is sure that a friendship will ensue and you are greeted each year like a member of the daylily family.

"We have a tremendous following of people who return each year and this loyalty is much appreciated," said Andre Page. "My wife, Denise and I as well as Leslie Royea who has worked with us maintaining the gardens for over ten years now, are proud to bring these beautiful plants in abundant varieties to the area."

Hémérocalle Brome Lake Lily Farm is located on Mont Echo Road, in Lac Brome. (450) 243-1528 (open until 4:00 pm).