

BACKYARD PONDER

YOUR WATER GARDENING & LANDSCAPE LIGHTING SOURCE

ELIMINATING WINTER GLOOM



We all know what the colder months entail. We leave for work in the morning under the cover of darkness only to return home to the way we left. It can only mean one thing - winter is coming. We at Clearview Water & Garden Scapes Inc. can provide you with solutions to minimize the gloom that comes with colder weather and shorter daylight hours - a custom landscape lighting system to suit your needs.

How about those cold winter months, when your landscape seems to be at its lowest point. Outdoor lights can be put into good use during the bare winter months as well. One good winter use of landscape lighting is to highlight the best parts of your landscape, while keeping the out-of-season areas in total darkness. This simple lighting trick can work wonders in your winter garden. Many parts of the winter property have bare plant areas where the leaves have been dropped for winter, but this is no reason to hide these plants. With some well-placed lights, you can highlight the branching structure of these plants and create a winter architectural sculpture to enjoy during the evening hours. Many plants look striking in this kind of winter lighting, including tall perennial grasses, Japanese maples, and evergreens. By directing the viewer's eye to the points of interest of your winter landscape, and creating new points of interest on your own, you can make your property enjoyable during the colder winter months.

Also consider the fact that landscape lighting not only blends in with your Christmas lighting, it enhances it, and not to mention the cost saving using low-voltage spot lights to up-light trees and pillars opposed to regular 120 volt spot lights. The savings you incur in the month of December alone can sometimes be enough to pay your entire year of electricity costs that your low-voltage system uses.



Packages starting at only \$1,500 - and **YES**, lighting counts under the 2009 home renovation tax credit. Book your installation this fall and we will match that credit. Please ask for more details. Call Clearview today and book your free low-voltage landscape lighting consultation.

*Discover the difference low-voltage lighting can do for you - **and your landscape!***

WATER ENTERTAINMENT INTRODUCING THE QUINTET BY CASE



Playful but also harmonious - this visual orchestra characterizes the new generation of water features. Extremely flexible implementation, the Water Quintet can be optimally integrated in every custom garden concept. Terraces become living spaces where you can sit back and watch the orchestra. Thanks to the "Plug'n'Spray" concept, water effects can be quickly installed, with permanently set programs for variation of speed and fountain height being easily selected via remote control.

Product characteristics:

- * Unique dynamic water effects with 5 illuminated nozzles.
- * High-quality LED technology with brilliant white luminous LED rings
- * Different permanently set programs can be selected via remote control

Look for the Quintet on display at the KW Spring Home Show at the Clearview booth

BOOK YOUR FALL MAINTENANCE TODAY

Winterizing Checklist

- ✓ Place netting over pond
- ✓ Remove annual pond plants
- ✓ Begin applying Microbe-Lift Autumn/Winter Prep
- ✓ Reduce fish feeding and switch to cold weather food
- ✓ Clean waterfall and streambed
- ✓ Remove pump and give it a good cleaning
- ✓ Shutdown filters and UV lights
- ✓ Do a 30-40% water change
- ✓ Install floating heater and/or aerator

Pond Winterizing Service



1st Hour - \$85 + Treatments
Additional Hour(s) - \$65 + Treatments

We provide a full service fall maintenance program customized for your pond. It is very important to remove the debris from your pond before it decays over the winter months. This will ensure your pond and fish will get off to a great start come spring.

THANK-YOU

We would like you to know that we appreciate your business and friendship.

If there is anything we can help you with concerning your pond, water feature, landscape lighting or landscaping needs, please let us know.

Best wishes this fall and winter season from our family to yours.

Sincerely,

The Clearview Crew



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ➔ **Clearview is pleased to announce the hiring of Randy Faist.** Randy has recently retired from Bell Canada having served the tri-city area for more than 35 years. Randy brings a tremendous amount of knowledge to the team and will be leading our landscape lighting division. **WELCOME TO THE CREW RANDY!**
- ➔ **Canada Blooms – March 17-21, 2010** at the Direct Energy Centre
- ➔ **1st day of spring – March 21st, 2010**
- ➔ **Kitchener Waterloo Spring Home and Garden Show – March 26-28, 2010** at the Kitchener Auditorium. **Look for Clearview at booth #B437**



FEATURED PRODUCT

Clearview Pond Cover Netting



- **Provides protection from predators such as herons, cats and raccoons**
- **Prevents leaves falling into the pond and causing water quality problems**
- **Stops fish from jumping out of the pond**
- **Complete with fixing pegs**
- **Heavy-duty plastic**
- **Clear – low visibility**
- **Available in 5 convenient sizes**
- **Available for purchase through CW&GS**



DE-ICER OR AERATOR. WHICH IS BETTER



So you are just starting to get attached to your fish. You have given them names and have even trained them to eat out of your hands. Just when you think everything is going great, you wake up one morning and realize that winter is almost here. Not knowing much about winterizing your pond, you panic and give your fish to your neighbour never to see them again – or even worse, you do nothing only to find them belly up come March.

Fish may be wintered indoors or outdoors, depending on the construction of the pond and the hobbyist. A portion of the pond must be a minimum of 30" deep, preferably 36"-48", to protect fish from long cold spells. But even more dangerous than cold water is the buildup of toxic gases in a pond that is completely iced over for an extended period of time. Therefore, a portion of the pond's surface should be kept open, to allow the pond to "breathe", disposing of toxic gases and adding oxygen. This may be accomplished in one of two ways:

Heater / De-Icier. There are several reasonably priced de-icers on the market today that are safe for use in concrete, liner or even preformed ponds. The classic version is powerful (typically 1250 watts or more) enough to keep a small pond ice-free, or to allow a "breather hole" in a larger pond, and are effective to -15 degrees Celsius. They are preset to operate only when the water temperature approaches freezing to save electricity. Aquarium heaters are unsuitable for outdoor use; should they break due to harsh weather, live electrical wires are left lying in wet snow. In recent years, more energy efficient models of de-icers have appeared on the market. These newly designed heaters use very low amounts of energy (100 – 350 watts) and are thermostatically controlled.

Aerator. A large air stone operated by a standard aquarium air pump can also keep a small opening in the ice, at least during milder weather. Unfortunately, the precise placement of the aerator is hard to arrange and quite critical to its success: if it's placed too near the surface, it will simply freeze in place during colder weather; if it's placed too deep, it could actually chill the pond by bringing slightly warmer up from the bottom of the pond, and replacing it with the coldest water from the surface. The aerator should ideally be placed about halfway up from the deepest part of the pond and monitored frequently. My personal favorite is the Oase AquaOxy 450. To my knowledge, this is the only pond aerator that is able to withstand the elements, therefore not having to be placed inside a sheltered unit. This versatile aerator will not only keep a large surface area open at temperatures of -5 degrees Celsius and above, but is great to use year round. During the hot summer months, when fish need the most oxygen, sometimes a waterfall or stream just isn't enough.

So having learned a bit about both units, you are ready to make a decision. If you want my option for optimal success and minimal fish fatality, then I would go with both. By using both a heater to keep a hole open in the ice, allowing the gas exchange to take place, and the aerator to inject oxygen into the pond, I can tell you with confidence that you will win this wintery battle more times than not. Still not convinced? Then I guess you can always bring your fish indoors – but that's a whole new story. ©