



## Cobourg Ecology Garden 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quiz

### ANSWERS

**Q-1. What year was Cobourg Ecology Garden established and who spearheaded the project?**

**d) Minnie Pennell**, known as 'The Queen of Green'. The Ecology Garden officially opened at a sunrise dedication ceremony on Earth Day in 1996. In Minnie's own words, *"An ecology garden has a great potential to become an invaluable inspiration and teaching tool for all gardeners, novice or experienced, and will bring together in a safe, pleasant outdoor work environment many different age groups."*

We are all proud to play our part in growing Minnie's vision.

**Q-2: One of CEG's newer features is the Pop-Up Forest at the west end. In total, there are over 22 species of trees throughout the Garden. Which of the following are found in CEG?**

**c) Beech, Hawthorne, Black Cherry.** The **North American Beech** is located at the west end where the woodland walk and accessible path meet. Its nuts are a favourite snack for birds and mammals. The magnificent **Hawthorne**, located by the water garden, is another fan favourite blooming from June onwards. The **Black Cherry** lives by the accessible path entrance off the west beach boardwalk. Its fruit is enjoyed by birds and mammals, sustaining them even through the winter months. The Black Cherry was planted during a ceremony in September 2011 to celebrate the legacy of Minnie Pennell.

**Q-3: Besides being lovely to look at, why are trees so important?**

**e) All the above.** Trees are the earth's lungs, providing us with oxygen. One tree can remove up to 1.7 kilos of pollutants each year. Up to 500 different species may inhabit a single mature tree. *"Trees exhale for us so that we can inhale them to stay alive. Can we ever forget that? Let us love trees with every breath we take."* — Munia Khan

**Q-4: CEG has several plants with musical names. Which of these is NOT found in the Garden?**

**d) Trombone Creeper**—it would make a great band name, but there is no such plant. **Coral Bells**, an evergreen perennial with deep purple or burgundy foliage and small, delicate flowers, are found throughout the shade gardens. **Trumpet Vine** is the striking plant adorning the arbour at the Hibernia Street entrance. It is a favourite selfie background for many visitors. Both Coral Bells and Trumpet Vine are known to attract hummingbirds.

The **Oscar Peterson Rose** is named after the famous Canadian composer and jazz pianist. The shrub is located adjacent to the boardwalk off Hibernia. These roses are soft yellow turning to bright white from early summer through fall. **Bluebell Campanula** are the lovely, blue-violet, bell-shaped flowers found throughout the garden in spring and early summer.

**Q-5: CEG primarily plants native species that continue to grow season after season for at least two years. What is this type of plant known as?**

**e) Perennial.** Native perennials are incredibly beneficial. They occur naturally and can survive swings in temperature, rainfall, and humidity. Perennials have deeper root systems that enhance soil health and stability. CEG's perennials are also a haven for pollinators and wildlife, providing food and habitat to support bees, birds, butterflies, and other valuable insects.



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**Q-6: *Leaves of three, let it be.* This familiar saying serves as a warning to stay away from poison ivy. However, CEG has beautiful and safe ‘leaves of three’ – Trilliums. We know them as the emblem and provincial flower of Ontario. What else is true about Trilliums?**

**e) All the above.** Trilliums are characterized by three broad leaves, three small green sepals, three petals, and a three-sectioned seedpod. Even the name, trillium, refers to trilogy, the three. Trilliums are perennial, blooming every Spring for three weeks unless picked. Their beauty is so fragile, picking one can damage its ability to reproduce. Ontario is home to five species: White Trillium, Red Trillium, Painted Trillium, Nodding Trillium, and Drooping Trillium. Sadly, the Drooping Trillium is considered a species at risk.

**Q-7: Cobourg Ecology Garden is home to the Three Sisters. What are the Three Sisters?**

**d) Corn, beans, squash.** Three Sisters, also known as companion planting, is an agricultural practice rooted in indigenous wisdom and culture. For centuries throughout North America, corn, beans, and squash were planted together because they thrive together. Their growing patterns feed and complement each other, plus the trilogy forms a complete nutritional balance of carbs, protein, and minerals. Three Sisters is such an important agricultural staple, this planting method appears on the reverse of the US 2009 Sacagawea dollar.

**Q-8: CEG has three natural, reclaimed wood structures at the southwest area of the garden. One of these is a popular horticultural technique used by permaculture proponents. What is it?**

**b) Hügel** or Hügelkultur (Hoo-gul-culture) means hill culture or mound culture. CEG’s Hügel was created in 2016 as another raised bed, gardening technique. A mound was constructed from tree stumps, decomposing wood, and other compostable plant materials. Hügels help improve soil fertility, soil warming, and water retention. Hügels can supply nutrients to plants for up to 20 years, and provide shelter and housing for small mammals, including chipmunks and voles.

**Q-9: Another of CEG’s unique garden structures looks space age and is used by Lake Ontario sailors as a visual beacon when arriving to Cobourg Harbour. What is its actual function?**

**b) Purple Martin house** or, as we call it, The Condo. Purple martins were prized by early Native American tribes who used hollowed out gourds as housing. Martins enjoy a communal setting and return to the same nest year after year. Beautiful, graceful, and beneficial, Martins consume vast quantities of insects on the wing. Next time you’re waving swarms of midges away from your face, rest assured that Martins are on the way.

**Q-10: CEG is home to many interesting creatures: birds, butterflies, bees, beetles, ants, myriad other insects, and small mammals. These essential pollinators are vital to our ecosystem. Why?**

**e) All the above.** Pollinators and pollinator plants are a precious resource that depend on our collective support and attention. We can all do our part. Plant pollinator flowers and shrubs, particularly native species, in our yards or balconies. Provide water sources and habitats. Reduce, ideally eliminate, the use of harmful pesticides. And mow the lawn less often—not too many complaints on this one. Mowing every two to three weeks is sufficient to keep the yard looking tidy while giving insects a chance to thrive.