

BEST SPECIAL SECTION

THE LOW DOWN Homes & Gardens

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Giving the garden a touch of the unique

By Anastasia Philopoulos

Some people dream in black and white; others see their nighttime adventures in Technicolor. But the ladies over at Avant-Garde Florist in Chelsea prefer to dream in green.

Flower shop owner Emile Potvin has teamed up with Gatineau landscaper Isabelle Roy to create a line of garden sculptures that play with art and nature.

"It's to give the garden a touch of unique," Roy explained. "Because a conventional arrangement is nice, but it's more beautiful when we're able to integrate things that are truly different, that will make people dream or that will evoke emotions when you're in the garden."

Potvin has been building and selling smaller garden sculptures for a while now, but first started with land art, which is created solely out of natural materials. She and teacher/mentor Marc Bergeron have built a number of whimsical creations that reside across Quebec. The pieces can take the form of recognizable objects, or can be abstract with intricate details.

Vegetal or garden sculptures differ from land art in that they incorporate manmade materials such as steel, iron, and cement.

Standing almost 10 feet tall, the three sculptures Potvin and Roy currently have on display are very distinct from each



Emile Potvin (left) of Avant-Garde Florist in Chelsea has teamed up with Gatineau landscaper Isabelle Roy to create a line of garden sculptures that aim to "evoke emotions". The duo crouch beside a work called Drop Boat featuring wood, paint, copper, iris, muscari, natural moss and synthetic grass. The smaller photos show a range of featuring wood, paint, copper, iris, muscari, natural moss and synthetic grass. The smaller photos show a range of featuring wood, paint, copper, iris, muscari, natural moss and synthetic grass.

Each sculpture uses a range of natural materials, from tree branches to vines, spring flowers to green shrubbery - your imagination is the only limit to what the duo can do.

"We're willing to work with people as far as their imaginations go," Potvin said. "Dream it up and we'll make it happen."

The women add that the sculptures aren't just about aesthetics; they can also have a functional value. For clients with condos, the sculpture with floating boxes can serve as a great vertical herb garden, perfect when there's a lack of space.

And for clients in Chelsea, who contend with hungry critters in spring, Potvin says the floating box is another way to keep your delicious looking tulip bulbs out of reach.

"We just create as we go and with clients' needs. [We're] trying to innovate all the time," Potvin said.

"People can rent or buy the structures and prices typically start at around \$200. For more information, visit www.rivistavantgarde.com or Roy's landscaping company at www.jardinir.com.

Richard Laroc photos

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THE LOW DOWN TO HULL & BACK NEWS

I would have preferred a larger front page photo but stories and advertising were perfectly married in this great section. A good read.

THE LAVAL NEWS

Great and unique section. This is a home section with a twist. Excellent for new residents - even includes politicians!

MAKE YOURSELF at home!

We would like to take a moment to extend a warm welcome to all of you who have recently chosen to make Laval their new home.

Every year at this time, we publish the contact info for your city councillors, MPs and MNAs. All taxpayers should know who represents them.

We've also publish for you the most important municipal by-laws. At the same time, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our faithful readers for sticking with us and keeping us on our toes, as well as our local merchants - your advertising supports and enables us to provide the very best the community has to offer in terms of English media. We may not be the biggest, but we've got heart - and we'll go to the mat for Laval and our readers, each and every time. If there's a story you'd like to see us cover, something that bugs you, or a feature you love and would like to see more of - give us a call, drop us a line, or even drop by our offices... our doors are always open. Established in 1993, we are Laval's oldest English newspaper, thanks to you, our readers.

Visit us on the web anytime at www.lavalnews.ca to browse through our latest issue online or even browse our archives.

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All citizens should know that their Federal, Provincial and Municipal representatives are there to hear their concerns and try to solve their problems. They're just a phone call away.

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LAVAL WELCOMES YOU!

Marc Demers
Mayor

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you as a new resident of Laval. Whether you are a new tenant or a new homeowner in Laval, you will enjoy living in a quiet yet active community. Laval's unique combination of residential neighbourhoods, school network, industrial district, businesses, parks and green spaces makes it a really enjoyable place to live.

LAVAL

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Let us remember
those who served in the wars of yesterday and today.

SHAWVILLE CENOTAPH • PHOTO: BONNIE ZIMMERLING

Journal du Pontiac

PONTIAC JOURNAL DU PONTIAC

This is a beautiful Remembrance Day Edition. Great use of colour on both ads and copy. Wonderful that it is bilingual.

Honourable Mentions:
THE EASTERN DOOR
THE EQUITY

Judge: Barb Mazerolle, Account Executive, Island Press Ltd., Montague, PEI • Number of entries in the Best Special Section category: 6