

Seedy seasonal reminders



By Nate Smelle

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR I am always looking for signs of spring. The cold wind and the snow on the ground outside might not be doing a very good job of foreshadowing the wave of growth about to flood North Hastings, but looking around our community Spring's writing is on the wall everywhere. The first seasonal indicator to register for me each year is usually the increase in daylight as the days begin to grow longer once more. As the season forces our eyelids open a little wider we start to notice more and more of nature's hints adding to the evidence stacking up in favour of winter's demise.

In the forest it is easy to see the clues pointing to things getting warmer. Looking down as I walked through the hills behind my home there is moss peaking out at the base of the big maple that wasn't visible there yesterday when I hiked this same trail. Catching sight of another change that took place overnight I see a small spruce sapling now reaching for the sky after freeing itself from the weight of the melting snow. Even the song of the black capped chickadees has changed its tune from the one it has been singing since December.

Now that I have been working at Bancroft This Week a couple of years I am starting to expect and look for the cultural seasonal reminders helping awaken us to spring. One of the most exciting of these type of signs for me is when March appears on the calendar and I remember that Seedy Saturday is right around the corner. Always a smile-filled room full of itchy green thumbs, this

annual gathering has come to signify for me that it is time to start thinking about the soil and the life it gives us.

A fantastic place to reconnect with fellow sustainable food growers, organic gardeners, farmers and friends of the earth, the annual seed exchange is also a great opportunity to add to the diversity of vegetables, fruits and plants in your garden and on your dinner table. Walking around the old community centre in Maynooth checking out the variety of heirloom seeds, plants and products available I imagine what new flavours I might discover come harvest time.

This year's Seedy Saturday event will take place at the Old Community Centre in Maynooth from noon to 3 p.m.