

# Walkerville: A Garden Town Beautiful\*

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## ARTICLE No. XII.

THESE are days in which a new civic consciousness is abroad in the land. We are beginning to resent unkempt boulevards, neglected lawns and gardens, ill-favored alleys, and ugly billboards. In their place we long for grassy swards, avenues of well-

give some idea of the appearance of our streets lined as they are by shade trees as well as of their beauty which is added to by mile after mile of privet hedge.

It might be well here to sound a warning about privet hedge. Fight shy of California Privet. The winter kills it,

of our alleys. This illustration, as well as all the others, was obtained without special preparation having been made. Did you ever see a perfectly clean alley before? People generally figure 'at an alley is a place in which to dump garbage, tin cans and refuse of all descriptions, and where it may be allowed to remain until the alley is impassable and has become a breeding place for flies and possibly disease. Of late years, however, we hear a great deal during the summer about "Swat the Flies." We would not hear so much about flies if we kept more garbage pails having tight covers and kept our alleys clean. This is, perhaps, a rather peculiar topic to be writing about in a garden magazine, but we must all admit that it is the "tout ensemble" which makes a perfect picture; and it is impossible to have a pretty town or city with dirty streets and filthy alleys.

The following is an excerpt from our by-law respecting the removal of garbage and refuse:

"Every person shall dispose of all 'garbage, for the disposal of which he 'is responsible, either by burning the 'same or in the following manner, 'that is to say, the garbage shall first 'be drained of all liquids, then wrap- 'ped securely in paper, and then be 'deposited in a proper, securely cov- 'ered receptacle, and then kept until 'taken away by the town scavenger 'as may be directed by the council, '&c.

"The said receptacle shall be kept 'by every person on his own premises 'as conveniently as may be to his



One of Walkerville's Residential Streets—Notice the Boulevards. No. 1

trimmed trees, homes nestling in the midst of gardens, and for all else that is lovely in horticulture. The members of the Walkerville Horticultural Society have been striving to make their municipal home a public garden. In what is here written, as well as by the accompanying illustrations, I hope to show some measure of the success that has attended our efforts.

Walkerville is situated on the bank of the Detroit River, a majestic stream over a mile in width. It is in the county of Essex. The population is between three and four thousand. All the streets and avenues are paved with reinforced concrete, macadam, asphalt, brick, or some other suitable material. The street sweeper is kept busy. It was not bought to lie and rust in the municipal barr. Therefore, the streets are clean at all times.

The boulevards are graded and the grass is kept green and well mown. I do not mean that a boulevard here and there is kept mown, but stretches a mile in length. Naturally they are very pleasing to the eye. The sidewalks are granolithic throughout the town. A glance at illustrations numbers one and two will

This article takes the place of the usual article on Canadian gardens that has been a feature of the year. Issues of The Canadian Horticulturist. "Tower Gardens of Walkerville," an article by the same writer, will appear in the near future. It will be well illustrated.

and it is decidedly unpleasant to plant a hedge, care for it, and have its appearance everything to be desired, only to be frozen to the ground with the first cold weather. When securing a hedge, therefore, be sure and purchase English Privet (*privet vulgaris*); the severe winters will not injure it

Illustration number three shows one



Well Kept Hedges, Boulevards and Streets do much to Beautify Walkerville's Streets. No 2