



MURRAY'S  
the art of crafting nature

## Dig This!

Experiences of growing and landscaping here in Newfoundland by our seasoned landscape horticulturalists.

### Using Rock in the Landscape

I love to garden, and I love rocks. Put the two together and you can have a naturally pleasing landscape design. When planning our gardens, the principles of landscape design include colour, proportion, texture, repetition, line, balance and harmony. Although these principals include structures and plants, we should not forget that by applying rocks to the design, we can achieve some of these principles and add another level of interest.



We can use rocks in the landscape to achieve several features: from a winding path to a water feature; a place to sit; a wall; a garden border; steps; a fire pit; or just for decoration. Landscaping with rocks and stones can accompany any plant, or tree. They can resolve problem areas such as banks and they can add an element of play. A rock is a natural landscape presence in Newfoundland, and thus can highlight a natural part of our garden's design.

Rocks can be collected in the outdoors or even purchased at a garden/landscape retail store. It all depends on what you are looking for and wanting to

achieve. Do some research into what is locally offered before you complete your garden plans. From granite to sandstone, schist to slate, rocks are a local ingredient in the making of many garden designs.

You can even create a work of art out of rocks. We have a hill in the backyard which overlooks the ocean. I was inspired by the Inuit inukshuks to build one of my own at the top. My husband was bribed into helping me lug over 700 pounds of limestone to the lookout. After we used two bags of cement and two tubes of PL Premium, my art was complete.

As a trip to the Geocenter will prove, rocks have their own stories to tell and they make an impressive and powerful element in your design. Plus, as they do not need to be watered, your work is done for good at installation. That's low maintenance! So, add rocks to your garden. Just do not ask your husband to lug them up a hill. Trust me.

**"There will always be rocks in the road ahead of us. They will be stumbling blocks or steppingstones; it all depends on how you use them." – Fredrich Nietzsche**

*Doreen Layman  
Landscape Manager, Murray's Landscape Services*

