

April showers bring May flowers...

Spring has arrived! As the snow finally leaves, the rain starts and slowly but surely the weather gets warmer, trees, flowers and other plants begin to bloom. And spring in Ottawa means one thing...Tulips! Every year the City of Ottawa receives thousands of tulip bulbs from the Netherlands as a thank you for providing safety to members of its Royal Family (including the Princess Margriet who was born at the Civic Hospital) during the Second World War.



If you don't have access to real tulips this season, or even if you do, follow these steps and help keep Ottawa a little more colourful this spring by "growing" your own made-at-home tulips!



1. Cut up an egg carton into individual tulip bulbs.
2. If you want, you can paint the tulips some spring colours. We suggest trying pink, purple, yellow, or red.
3. Carefully poke two holes in the base of the tulip.
4. Take a green pipe cleaner and feed it up through one of the holes, and down through the other.
5. Twist the pipe cleaner at the base of the tulip bulb to secure it.
6. Take a button (or a colourful foam sticky dot) and glue it to the bottom inside the tulip bulb, covering the bit of pipe cleaner.
7. Cut out a leaf shape from the green construction paper.
8. Poke a hole at the base of the leaf, and slide it up the pipe cleaner to rest under the bulb.

What you'll need...

Scissors
Glue
Green construction paper
Empty egg carton
Button or foam dot
Green pipe cleaner
Spring paint colours

Be sure to find a nice vase to stick your tulip, or tulips, in. Though it's probably best not to fill the vase with water!

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