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## ERIC CONNOLLY ARCHITECT



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Eric Connolly, M.O.A.A., M.R.A.I.C., and Dan Chalykoff, R.A.I.C. Syllabus, are pleased to announce the opening of their architectural studio in Georgetown at 114 Mill St. The firm specializes in institutional and residential building types with interests in heritage conservation and urban design.

■ ▲ ● Architecture ■ Heritage Conservation ■ Urban Design ■ ▲ ●

# 'The Little Stinker' creates a big stink

I'll never forget my first encounter with a striped skunk. PHEW! I was about to put out the trash late one night and as I lifted the garage door a skunk, only a few months old, ran out from behind the garbage bags and darted between my legs. During his escape however, the little stinker lifted his tail and let loose a bad smelling odor.

I quickly ran into the house, stripped off my smelly clothes and jumped into the shower. My eyes began to sting and my stomach became upset from the foul smell. Days later I still stunk of skunk, even after bathing in vinegar and tomato juice. A month later the smell finally went away but the little stinker still remained living in my garage.

I tried every type of trap to capture the skunk but he escaped every time. It soon became obvious we had to learn to live together.

As the skunk grew older I grew wiser. When I went to put out the trash, I knew if he was going to

spray or if he was just bluffing. I waited out his bluff until he waddled away from the garbage bags.

The skunk can either spray in a fine mist or with a direct squirt, hitting objects as far as 16 feet away. But it only sprays if startled and has no way to escape. The sight of a skunk's raised tail is usually enough to chase away any animal. In fact, the skunk's powerful scent gland, about the size of a grape and located in the anus, is so nauseating that the skunk will try desperately not to spray itself.

The gland, which makes the smell, holds about one tablespoon of an oily liquid, enough to produce half a dozen sprays. To get a better aim, some skunks will spray while doing a headstand or bend into a U-shape, with its head and little shooter pointing the same way.

The striped skunk has few predators due to its defensive system, but it does not render it safe from attack. The skunk's main predator is the Great Horned owl. I remember years ago while working at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre where I cared for injured birds of prey, I looked after a Great Horned. It had dined on skunk before its injury and it sure didn't make my job any easier.

## Nature's Way

By  
**KEVIN  
CALLAN**



Skunks are omnivorous, meaning they eat virtually anything that comes their way. A wide variety of berries are included in their diet, as well as fruits, small mammals, birds' eggs and nestlings, young rabbits and frogs. Insects, however, are the most important part of their diet, especially hornets and bumblebees. They will scratch away at a hive and when the insects come out to fight off the intruder, the skunk will roll them between its front paws and stuff them in its mouth.

Skunks usually forage close to their den site and come winter will spend several cold months in a dormant state (they do not hibernate), sometimes joined by several other skunks for company.

The skunk still lives in my garage. She even got married last year and became a mother to a litter of little stinkers. Eventually we became friends. Our relationship is simple — I respect her space in the garage and she doesn't spray me every time we meet on garbage day.

It sure beats bathing in tomato juice!

# Labour Day Weekend TRUCKLOAD SALE Tropical Plants Direct from Florida!

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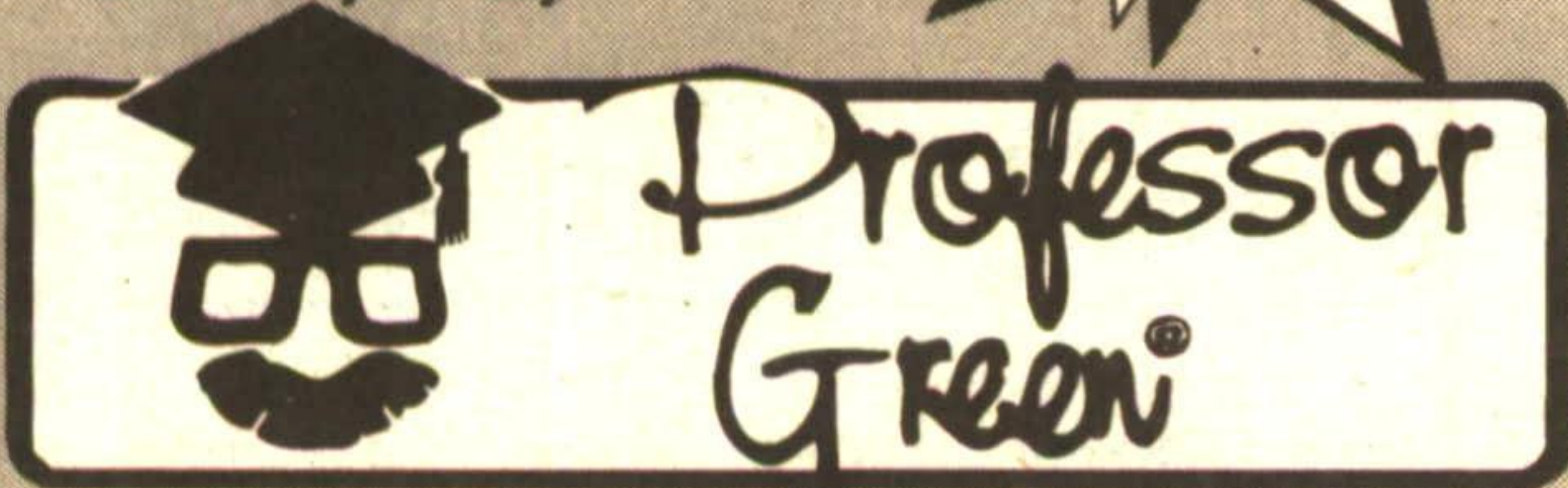
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## Kids, ponies and fun

Riders age 6-18 and their ponies will be at the Ontario Agricultural Museum, Sunday, September 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Held in cooperation with Touch N Go Farm of Campbellville, this event will feature a variety of activities and demonstrations including pleasure, jumping, and gymkhana divisions.

## Fall Picnic

The roaring '20s will be the theme of the annual fall picnic at the Halton County Radial Rail-

## IN BRIEF

way Museum on Sunday, September 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Besides the experience of riding street cars used in the 1920s, old fashioned picnic events will take visitors back in time. Bring your own picnic or use the snack bar facilities and the ice cream bar. The museum is located on Guelph Line, just north of 25 Sideroad. To find out more call 519-886-0258.

# ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

# LAIDLAW

## IN TOWN HIGH SCHOOL BUS SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 1991

	(TIMES A.M.) TRIP #1	TRIP #2	TRIP #3
1. Duncan Dr. & Gower Cres.	7:53		
2. Weber at the Walkway	7:55		
3. Weber & Delrex Blvd. E.	7:57		
4. Delrex Blvd. & Jessop Crt.	8:00	8:15	
5. Delrex Blvd. & Weber W.	8:01	8:17	
6. Parking lot - Baptist Church on Comset Gate	8:06		8:28
7. ARRIVE AT LOADING ZONE	8:10	8:22	8:32

## P.M. SERVICE

Depart Georgetown D.H.S. 3:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. from Maple loading zone.

**EFFECTIVE SEPT. 1/91 FARE WILL BE  
\$1.10 PER TRIP**

EXACT FARE IS REQUIRED

**ALL PASSENGERS MUST BE SEATED, NO STANDEES**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL **877-2251**