

Leave it all behind: Mulching provides lawn a fresh start

How would you like to take care of your lawn, help the environment and save money all at the same time? Well you can — by using a mulching mower to recycle grass clippings and leaves. And you don't have to be a dedicated environmentalist to enjoy the benefits that mulching provides for the environment.

Because there's a lack of landfill space and strong environmental regulations to protect ground water, many communities are charging a fee for disposing of yard waste. By mulching, you save yourself the headache of bagging yard waste and the cash from disposing of it. Plus, grass clippings are actually good for your lawn — they provide a no-cost, natural, nitrogen-rich boost to the grass roots and can save you up to 25 per cent annually on fertilizer needs.

University tests prove that using a mulching mower actually contributes to a healthier, greener lawn. Mulching mowers cut and re-cut clippings and return them to the grass. Because grass clippings are 85 per cent water, they decompose quickly, returning water and 20 per cent of their nitrogen back to the earth.

Many people believe that

returning grass clippings to the lawn causes thatch, but that's simply not true. Thatch is caused by shallow watering, overfertilization and improper mowing — not by mulching.

And when fall rolls around and the leaves start to fall, save yourself a pain in the back by mulching leaves. Rather than bagging leaves, return them to the lawn. By attaching a material collection system to your walk-behind mower, you can mulch and redistribute your leaves — either in a natural area or as mulch around trees and shrubs.

Acton students play in Milton festival

A number of Acton music students competed in the Milton Music Teachers Association's music festival, held last month in Milton.

For her vocal efforts, **Rita Matton** came away with three gold medals, one silver, and a scholarship. **Jennifer West** also won one gold and two silver medals and a scholarship. **Sam Skuce** came away with a gold; **Lee-Anne Goy** and **Stephanie Smith** also competed.

Rheanna Leckie competed in the instrumental category.

The following students, listed alphabetically, performed on the piano: **Sandra Ahn**; **Katy Boychuk**, silver, bronze; **Jennifer Culpeper**, bronze; **Andrea Dingwall**; **Shannon Gray**, bronze; **Maya Kamo**, gold, silver; **Darrelle London**, gold, bronze; **Darryl Matton**; **Meighan McIntyre**, bronze; **Alan Park**, silver; **Amy Park**, gold, silver; **Kristina Pettit**; **Nicki Preletz**; **Marianne Querques**; **Peter Skuce**; **Dawn Stevenson**, silver, bronze; **Laura Stevenson**; **Becky Taylor**; **Marko Tonk-**

ovich, silver, bronze; **Jim Tyrell**; **Meghan Wilson**, bronze; **Tom Wilson**, silver, bronze.

Noteworthy performances by **Andy Park** won him a gold, a silver, a bronze and a scholarship. **Megan Kenzie** also won gold, silver and bronze medallions and a scholarship.

If two is better than one, these duet performances also deserved accolades: **Rosanna and Andrea Acrici**; **Shannon and Bev Gray**; **Darryl Matton and Marko Tonkovich**; **Meighan McIntyre and Becky**

Taylor; **Dawn and Laura Stevenson**; and **Darryl and Rita Matton** won a bronze.

Acton teacher and this year's president of the Milton Teachers Association, **Pat Lee**, remarked that all the students did extremely well to play in front of a crowd.

"The adjudicating process makes all the students better players; they all come away winners," she said.

Students were able to play or sing in two categories: competitive and non-competitive, giving all a chance to do their best.

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