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Weekend Edition & Free Press

Leisure Living Bungalows



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Consider planting to attract birds, butterflies and bees

While you are in your local garden centre this spring, deciding on trees, shrubs and perennials for your yard, consider planting plants to attract birds, butterflies and bees into your backyard.

You will enjoy your home garden as it becomes a habitat garden, alive with the songs of birds, the buzz of bees and the colour of butterflies.

Whether you are planning a new landscape or looking to add a few new plants to your yard, here are a few points to keep in mind to make your landscape more attractive to wildlife. Your habitat garden should provide food, shelter and water. With a bit of planning, the plants you chose provide the food and shelter. A bird bath, small pool or pond is a great source of water.

Select a variety of plants for their different heights, flowers and fruit. If your yard is large enough, plan for a few trees. There are many small trees and shrubs that apply shelter and food.

Herbaceous perennials can attract bees, butterflies and birds. Try to use native plants. Native plants are those which grow naturally in your area and are not introduced from other countries. The plants should be arranged in groups or clumps.

Avoid planting single specimens with lots of empty space between plants. If you look at the edge of forest, you will notice that nature has a layered look. There are trees in the background. In front of them, you will find

small trees and shrubs. Skirting the shrubs are the herbaceous plants, grasses and wild flowers. Use this as your blue print in planning your habitat garden.

In planning your wildlife backyard, do not forget your own needs, areas to sit and watch, entertain and play.

Depending on what you want to attract to your garden will help you in deciding which plants to chose. There are many plants available at your garden centre.

Some plants you may want to consider are: Trees: eastern white cedar, Thuja occidentalis; white spruce, Picea glauca; mountain ash, Sorbus acuparia, Sorbus americana.

Shrubs: red osier dogwood, Cornus sericea; alternate leaf dogwood, Cornus alternifolia; American high bush cranberry, Viburnum trilobum (not European high bush cranberry, Viburnum opulus); nannyberry, Viburnum lentage; service berry, Amerlanchier; chokeberry, Prunus virginiana; butterfly bush, Buddleia davidii.

Herbaceous Plants: New England aster, Aster novae-angilae; bee balm, Monarda didyma; butterfly milkweed, Asclepias tuberosa.

Although attractive to birds, autumn olive, Eleagnus umbellata, and tatarian honeysuckle, Lonicera tartarica, should be avoided. These plants can be a problem in some areas, as birds spread the seeds around.



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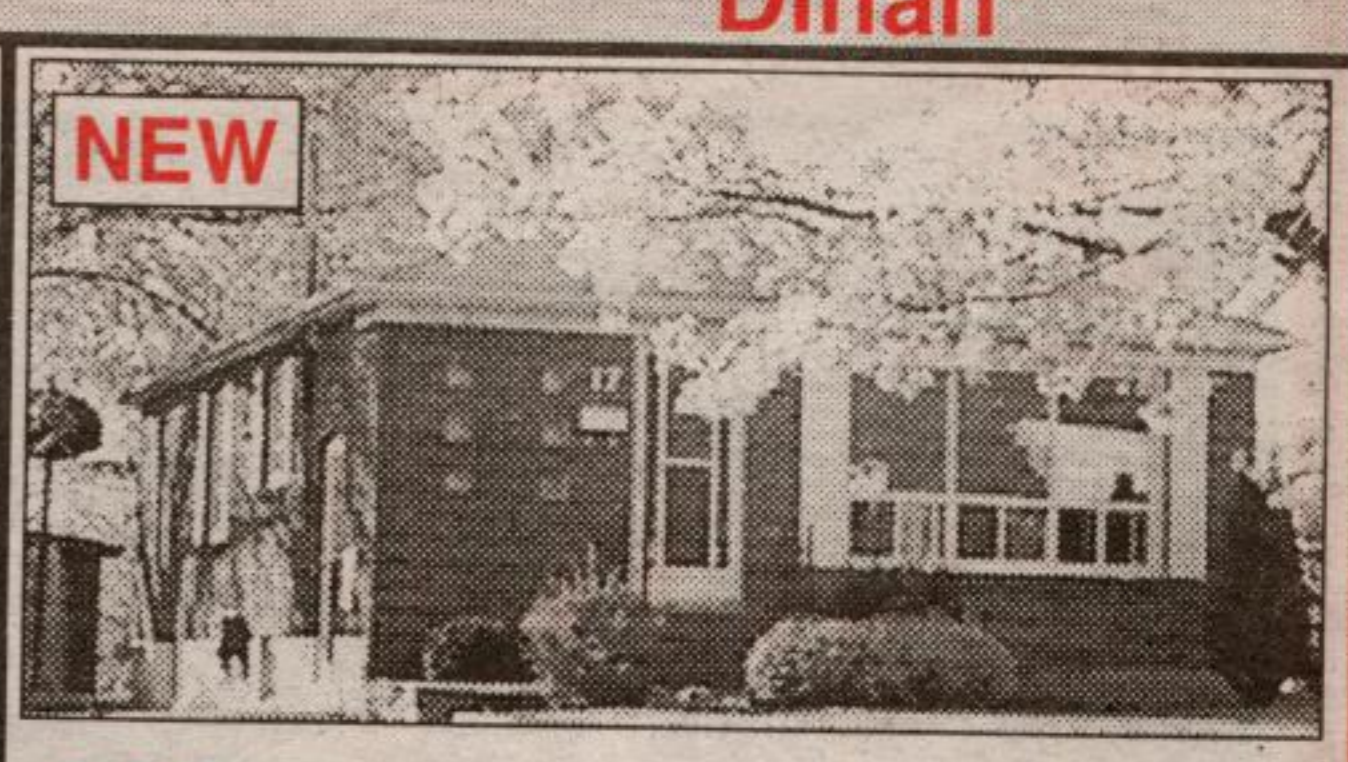
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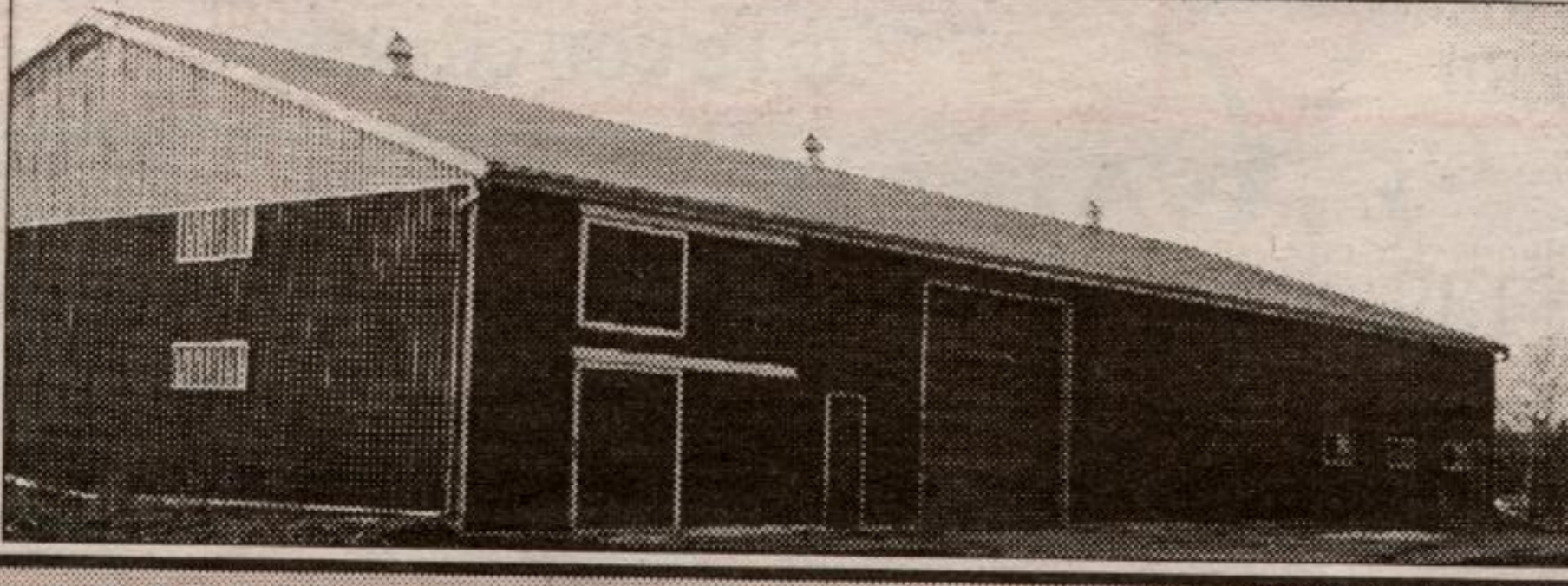
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