

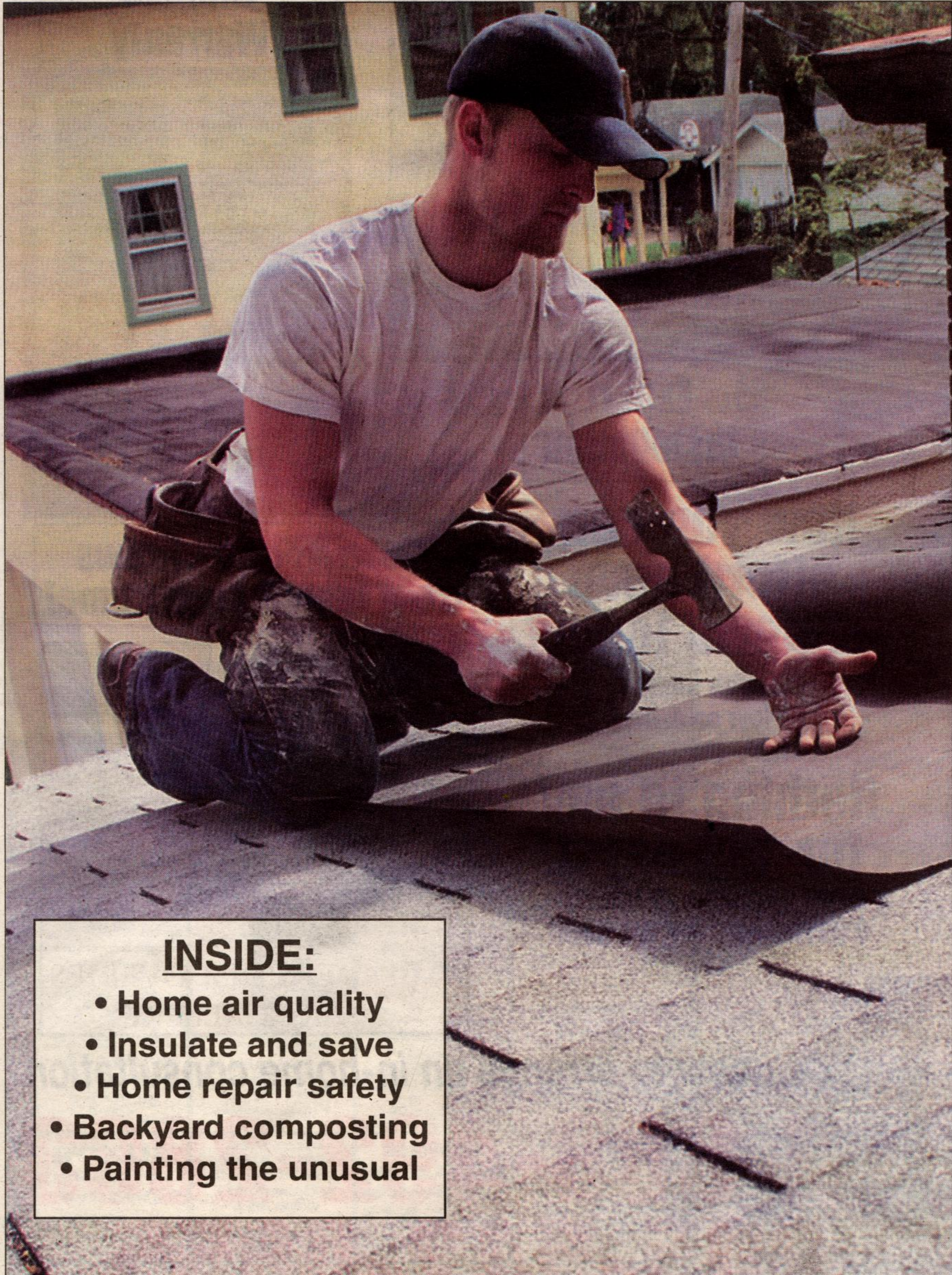
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Boulevard gardening a growing trend

If you walk down several streets in Halton Hills these days, you'll come across new and beautiful gardens, full of colour, texture and fragrance. "Up-front" or boulevard gardening is gaining popularity all across Canada as people realize they can get more space, a sunny location and a chance to share their garden with their neighbours.

The boulevard is that piece of your property between the sidewalk and the road that is owned by the Town, but the homeowner is expected to care for it. People are starting to grow other types of plants besides grass on their boulevards for a number of reasons: They spend less time mowing, they use less water and they save money by avoiding pesticide and fertilizer use.

If you want to try boulevard gardening there are numerous web sites to help you learn about this innovative type of gardening. Guelph even has a club devoted to boulevards. See www.boulevard-club.guelph.org. You can learn how to get started, why garden on the boulevard, what to grow and how to convert your lawn to gardens.

Because you are using Town property, please remember to make sure plants do not block the vision of drivers, cyclist and pedestrians. If you wish to use rocks or statues, your best bet is to use objects level with the ground such as flagstones or bricks. Town maintenance activities may occasionally need to happen.

Other information is available through HOPE's (Healthy Options for People and the Environment) own Web site, www.healthyoptions.ca. HOPE is a Halton Hills citizens grassroots organization promoting healthy gardening practices.

—By Ruth Kuchinad, HOPE

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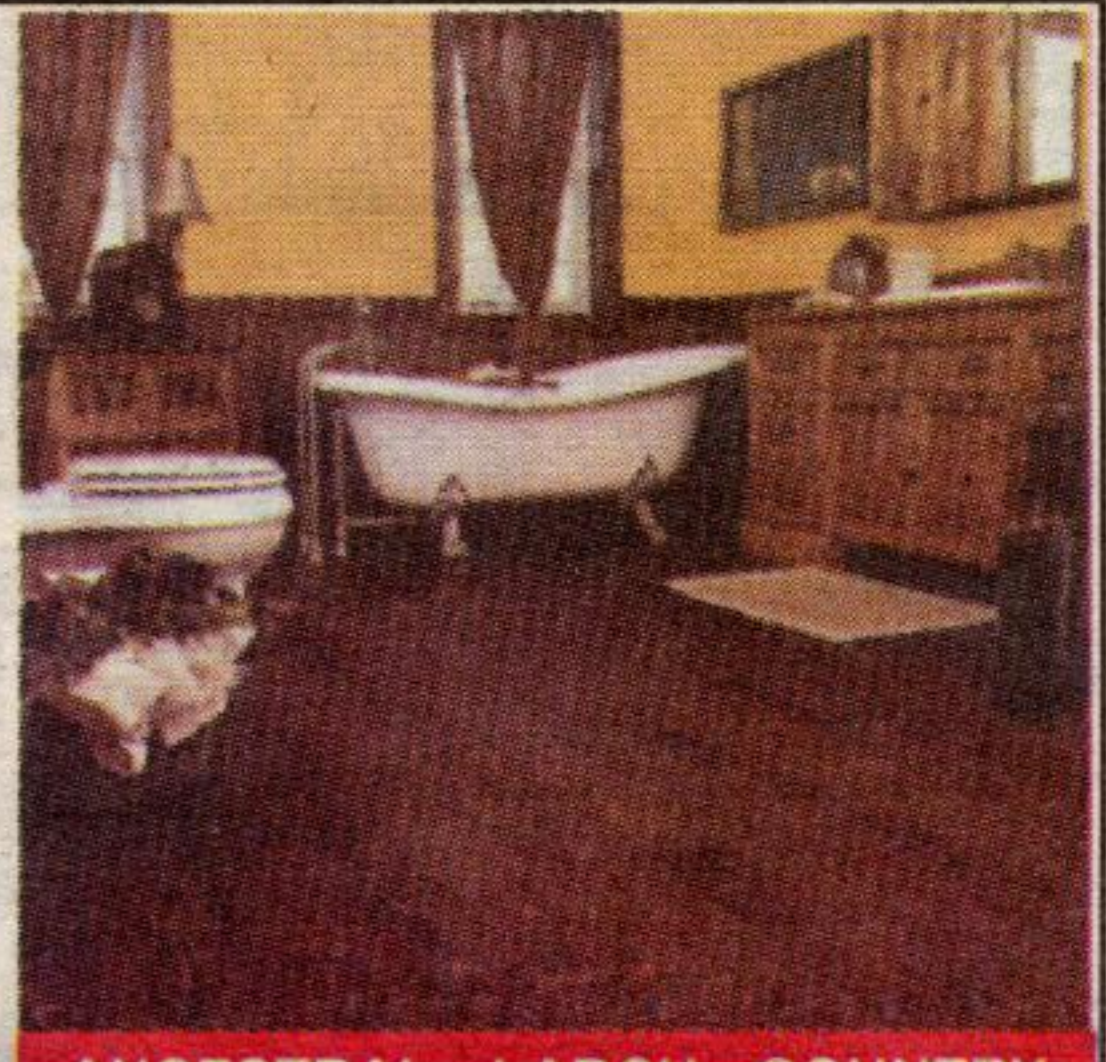
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