

# Earth Day celebrates 20th anniversary

Hang onto your hats, folks. Earth Day is coming!  
 On April 22, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of a day when people around the world show their appreciation and concern for our fragile planet.

It's a day to take stock of the current and potential damage we humans cause and to take action to stop some of the harm we do to the Earth.

We are, after all, only one small piece of the ecological puzzle that makes up the wealth of life here. In past years Earth Day has sometimes gone by quite undetected, but with our increasing concern for environmental preservation, this year promises to herald in a new decade of environmental activism.

We are finally realizing that it is on our own skins we are saving.

Nearly every school I have visited lately seems to be abuzz with special Earth Day projects.

There are poster competitions, anti-litter campaigns, bake sales to raise money for the Amazoni-

an Rainforest, tree planting and other similar events planned.

The Uxbridge Conservations Association is hoping that its members will plant a tree to honor this day.

The spirit of Earth Day is also being encouraged by local business people.

Uxbridge Nurseries is offering a special Earth Day sale of native trees and perennials at its Greenbank Garden Centre.

Heberdown Conservation Area invites all parents, teachers and students to spend Earth Day with them.

There will be kite-making and flying, tree-planting and other events.

So, you ask, how does one get on the bandwagon here?

Well, however you like. The idea is to find a non-polluting, environmentally beneficial activity to enjoy with family and friends.

Environmental activism can be fun! At the same time we can seriously reassess the way we live and make personal changes



eye on environment

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to minimize our impact upon the environment.

For example, the first and most important R of the 3 R's is REDUCE, and the next is REUSE. We accomplish these first, then we RECYCLE!

With all of us around the world doing our share, and taking the time to confront the problems faced by this fragile planet, we can make a difference.

The range of activities is tremendous.

In France, there will be a public collection of aerosol cans; while in Italy a new program will be launched to test air pollution levels in all its major cities.

Students in Poland will be working to clean up the Vistula River and the Baltic Sea.

In Nepal, American and Nepali

students will hold a massive garbage clean-up and build latrines in critical areas. More than 100,000,000 people worldwide will be demonstrating their environmental commitment, and at the same time, sending a strong message to their politicians and the business world that they must also help to find ways to reduce our harmful impact on the environment.

Here are some ideas for celebrating Earth Day with your family and friends:

- \* plant a tree (preferably a native tree which is better adapted to local conditions.)
- \* ride a bike, fly a kite
- \* start a compost pile
- \* clean up the "winter litter" which has been hidden by snow around your home, school or

local park and think of ways to reduce garbage in general.

\* try a new Green product

\* write a letter to your MP stating your views about an environmental issue (such as overpackaging, our forests, acid rain etc.)

\* If you visit a fast-food restaurant, ask for paper wrap only. "Hold the Styrofoam!"

\* Tune up your car and inflate the tires properly; then try and leave it at home while you walk.

\* Hold a bake sale or a car wash (using biodegradable soap) and use the proceeds to protect a wilderness area.

\* Talk about why you are doing these things.

If you are interested in learning about the many Earth Day events being held in and around Toronto, call the Earth Day Hotline at 1-416-293-7283.

If your family, class or group is planning a special project or event for Earth Day on April 22, please call the Uxbridge or Stouffville Tribune and let us know.

## Bureau aids in ethnic relations

STAFF SGT. RODNEY SINE  
 York Regional Police

The richness of Canada's multicultural diversity is greatly reflected in our regional population. Our communities are not only growing in numbers, but with people from very diverse backgrounds and from many countries of the world. As part of our community outreach and our commitment to providing the best possible service to our ever-changing society, this Force's Ethnic Relations Bureau was established in June 1988.

The services and objective of this Bureau include:

- 1) Communication and Liaison with community groups and organizations, to promote understanding and a sense of partnership.
- 2) Resolve incidents of discrimination and racism through investigation and referral.
- 3) Provide cross-cultural and race relations training to police officers.
- 4) Participate in the planning processes of parades, festivities and cultural events celebrated by ethnocultural groups.
- 5) Resource to the force on multicultural and race-related issues.
- 6) Recruiting initiatives.
- 7) Explore and identify strategies that will optimize the delivery of appropriate and adequate service.

Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.

Through our various services and programs, we encourage an attitude which accepts differences and respects the values of others in giving impartial service to all members of the public.

Call our bureau at extension 411 if you have questions or concerns.





Main St. W. Stouffville 640-5080

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