

Students set to sell composting program

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A summer project for two University of Guelph students is not just an ordinary job. Instead, the local students are hoping to launch a community-wide, organic composting program in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Creators and partners in their own company, Super Students Enterprises, the duo are jack-of-all-trades when it comes to outdoor maintenance and general jobs. But their passion, and primary goal is to pass on to local residents the need to recycle organic garbage in the form of composting. "We're using our blue boxes quite nicely, but very few people are composting," says 21-year-old John Bellerby of Ballantrae. Bellerby, a psychology major, is part of a public interest environmental research group at the university and is one of a new genera-

tion of environmentally-aware people. The university students have teamed up for the summer and by working outdoors and selling wooden composters, they are striving to do their part. "We're trying to raise awareness and to get all of Whitchurch-Stouffville composting," said Bellerby. His partner Ken Wilson, 19, of Richmond Hill, studies geography at Guelph, but the two men have one thing in common. Saving the environment. Don't be surprised if two young men arrive at your house, carting a wood-framed structure behind them, eager to inform about a healthy alternative to curbside garbage. John and Ken plan to canvass door-to-door throughout the community during the month of May, to illustrate how the environmentally-safe wood composter works, and

explain the benefits of owning one. The students will be more than happy to answer questions about composting, such as, will it smell, what is the best location for the bin? and how long will it take? By viewing your backyard, the young environmentalists can advise you on the perfect spot to place a compost bin in order to reach its maximum effectiveness. "The Town of Newmarket is selling composters, but theirs are plastic. We use wood, a natural biodegradable product," said Wilson. The Western Red Cedar bins are handsomely built by Wilson's neighbor, and come in two sizes. The smaller model, 11 cubic feet, is perfect for a family without children, while the larger 23 cubic foot composter is ideal for a family with two or three children. "If a family bags grass, has a large property and has daily left-

over organic food, the large one is better," said Wilson. "A lot of people are reluctant to use composters because they think it's just a pile of trash in the backyard and that it smells," added Bellerby. But they said it's not so. The composter boasts a Douglas Fir plywood door for easy soil extraction and its solid peaked roof is light for easy removal and locks into place to shed rainwater. Research shows the organic garbage recycles much faster in a bin than in an open pile, while keeping the heap neat and compact. The bins are selling for \$90 for the small, and \$115 for the large. The structures start to create fertile soil after one season, and there are many benefits to making good use of the handy unit. First, they are environmentally sound; reduce curbside garbage by

as much as 40 per cent, reduce the cost of kitchen and green garbage bags and show your family and neighbors you care about the earth, states an information kit the students will be handing out while visiting local homes in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Organic garbage like fruit and vegetable peelings, fallen leaves, grass clippings, garden plants, coffee grounds, tea bags and egg shells are ideal for the composter. And as long as you don't throw in dairy products, bones or fatty foods, which could attract pests, they virtually take care of themselves as nature works to recycle the organic garbage. For more information about composting or for other odd outdoor jobs, Super Students Enterprises at 640-6367 (John), or 773-4532 (Ken).

A cut telephone cable means Trouble!



Photo/ TRACY KIBBLE
Ballantrae's John Bellerby, right, and partner Ken Wilson of Richmond Hill are hoping to sell the people of Whitchurch-Stouffville on the advantages of home composting. They say composting is great for the environment and an excellent source of garden soil.

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