



eye on environment

shelley galloway

# Garden can aid outdoor friends

One way to add a new dimension of interest and beauty to backyard gardening is to devote some space to plants that attract and benefit local wildlife.

Even a relatively small suburban lot can become a haven for colorful birds, bees and butterflies if conditions are favorable.

Habitat loss is drastically affecting populations of every form of North American wildlife including small mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and even butterflies.

We can help by supplying suitable habitat in our gardens.

The first general change to make is to try and increase the diversity of plants as much as possible. Tall deciduous and evergreen trees provide perching and nest sites.

Shrubs provide shelter and nest sites for birds that require lower protected areas.

Berry bushes provide color and food for birds.

Certain flowering perennials and annuals provide nectar for bees and humming birds.

A water source is always a tremendous asset for local wildlife, even if it is only a simple bird bath. Gardens endowed with natural streams or ponds can harbor many different types of interesting plants and wildlife, especially if care is taken to ensure that at least some of the edges are shallow and safe for birds and small animals to use.

Rocky outcrops, especially near a water source, can help to protect local amphibians and reptiles which, though not as obvious as birds, are still a significant and often surprisingly beautiful part of the intricate web of life.

Many beautiful salamanders and newts have disappeared in areas where surface water has been affected by urban development.

Some amphibians, having lost their natural breeding ponds, can turn up in the oddest places. A homeowner in Markham discovered early one spring as he was about to remove the black plastic cover from his pool that hundreds of tadpoles were swimming about in the water which had collected there.

He ended up calling a friend who is curator of reptiles and amphibians at the Metro Zoo, who came and rescued the tadpoles before their temporary "home" was dismantled.

Brush piles can provide an important shelter for many types of birds and small mammals. Though usually considered unsightly and worthy only of burning, if your property is large enough to permit a brush pile to collect in an out-of-sight area, you will be supplying important refuge, food and nesting material for many critters.

Owners of large properties could also consider leaving dead trees intact for birds such as the pileated woodpeckers, which

depend on them for nesting cavities and their insect diet.

Create more "edges" between different types of habitat, each of which provide different types of food and nesting cover.

An "edge" exists between a hedge and a lawn, or between a deciduous stand of mature trees and a shrubby border, or between a lawn and garden of flower bed.

Try creating different vertical layers of suitable habitat by selecting plants of different heights.

Each layer allows for a greater diversity of wildlife to coexist, and can also result in a pleasing horticultural effect.

## The Regional Municipality of York PUBLIC MEETING

### ON SUNDAY AND HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The Task Force of the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at a meeting on June 21, 1990, will consider the question of Sunday and Holiday Shopping within the Region for the purpose of developing a plan setting out the criteria to be considered by the Council in determining whether a by-law should be passed under the Retail Business Holidays Act.

Citizens of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville wishing to address the Task Force are reminded that their remarks should be limited to five minutes in duration. The Task Force will not consider delegations from organizations or associations at this public meeting and will not hear or receive applications for exemption under the Act.

In addition to or in place of oral remarks, written comments may be submitted to the Retail Business Holidays Task Force, 62 Bayview Avenue, Box 147, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 4W9.

Date: **Thursday, June 21, 1990**

Time: **7:30 p.m.**

Location: **Council Chambers  
19 Civic Avenue  
Stouffville, Ontario**

**Robert M. Vernon  
Regional Clerk**

# WHITCHURCH - STOUFFVILLE

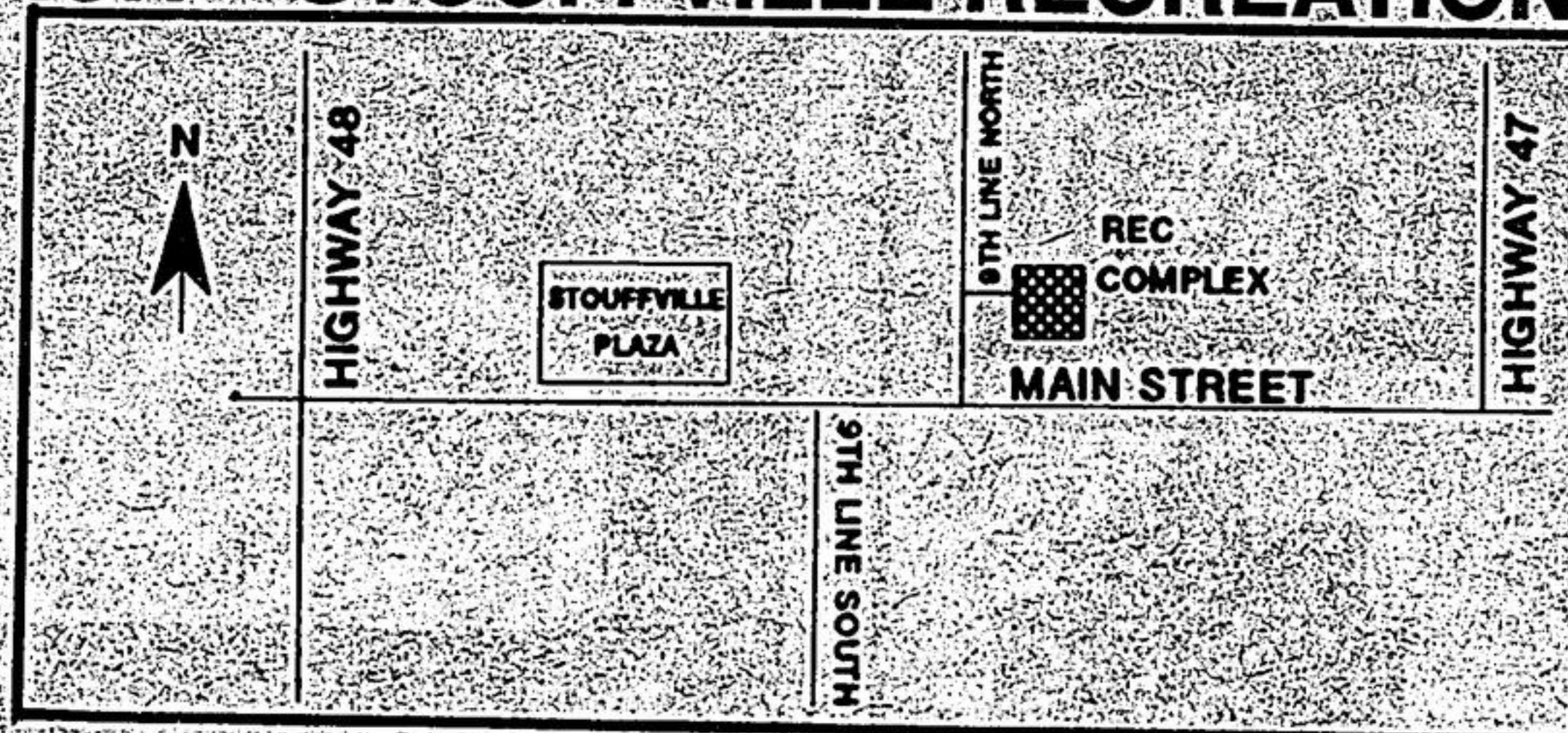
## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

**Saturday, June 23, 1990**

**8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

at the

## WHITCHURCH - STOUFFVILLE RECREATION COMPLEX



### Materials accepted include:

- |                |              |                      |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Antifreeze     | Floor Wax    | Paints               |
| Auto Batteries | Herbicides   | Pesticides           |
| Degreasers     | Metal Polish | Septic Tank Cleaners |
| Disinfectants  | Motor Oil    | Solvents             |
| Drain Cleaners | Nail Polish  | Wood Preservatives   |
| Flea Powder    | Oven Cleaner |                      |

Pathological waste, radioactive waste and PCBs will  
**NOT** be accepted.

Sponsored by

The Whitchurch - Stouffville Recycling Group  
The Town of Whitchurch - Stouffville and  
The Ontario Ministry of the Environment

call 640-1900  
for more info

Whitchurch - Stouffville  
residents only