

Salad revolution with popularity of Mesclun

There has been a salad revolution! While dining out, visiting the supermarket or browsing through seed catalogues you may have met Mesclun - a mix of salad greens. The National Garden Bureau has declared mesclun to be the 1997 Vegetable of the Year.

Mesclun originated in the south of France. The name is derived from the Nicois word "mesclumo" meaning a mixture. The Provencal tradition calls for precise proportions of chervil, arugula, lettuce and endive, grown together and harvested at the immature stage. Mesclun can be seasoned with a light dressing or cooked in a stir fry. Components of the mix may vary according to personal preferences. Seed companies sell either mild or tangy mixes - some even prepare mesclun suitable for cool or hot weather. The usual components are leaf lettuce including the oak leaf and red types, spinach, chard, chicory, endive, radicchio, arugula, cresses, purslane, pak choi, mustards, chervil, dill, parsley etc. The colors range through all shades of green to red and bronze. The textures may be soft and rounded or have sharp serrated edges.

Mesclun mix can be sown directly into the garden in early May while the weather is still cool. Successive plantings every two weeks will ensure a good crop all season. Shake the package to mix seeds before sowing in wide rows or blocks. Simply scatter the seeds and cover with one quarter inch of fine soil or compost. Keep the needed area moist. Since harvest takes place when plants are small there is no need to thin crowded seedlings. As soon as the leaves are about two inches tall (from one to five weeks) begin cutting with scissors just above the growing crowns. When you do this carefully the crop will continue to grow. Never let the plants get more than six inches tall. Since some of the greens grow more quickly than others the exact proportion of your mesclun salad will vary from one picking to the next.

Mesclun makes a fine garden border but it is also perfect for container growing. Lengthen the season by using a coldframe in April and October. You can grow mesclun all winter under fluorescent lights. I predict that many of



Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

you will enjoy making your own mixes. Consider growing edible flowers as delicious garnishes - bachelor buttons, calendulas, chive blossoms, marigolds, nasturtiums and violets. The best seed catalogue for information on how to grow vegetables and flowers from seed is Stokes which is located in St. Catharines. To obtain a catalogue call 1-800-263-7233.

Please send your questions or inquiries to:
Marjorie Mason Hogue, c/o The Tribune
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York-Durham Trunk Sewer System Master Plan

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

York Region has experienced the highest growth in the GTA, at 44 percent, and is expected to reach a population of 934,000 by the year 2011 and 1.1 million by the year 2021. With the adoption of the York Region Official Plan, planned population and industry are expected to generate sewage flow beyond the existing system's original design capacity.

The Regional Municipality of York is now undertaking a Master Plan Study for the York-Durham Trunk Sewer system. The Master Plan Study will identify and review sewage servicing alternatives necessary to meet current and future growth and identify an environmentally responsible, cost-effective approach to servicing future growth in York Region. In addition, impacts of servicing King City and Nobleton and alternatives for servicing the communities of Queensville, Holland Landing and Stouffville, all of which are not currently served by the York-Durham Trunk Sewer, will be thoroughly reviewed.

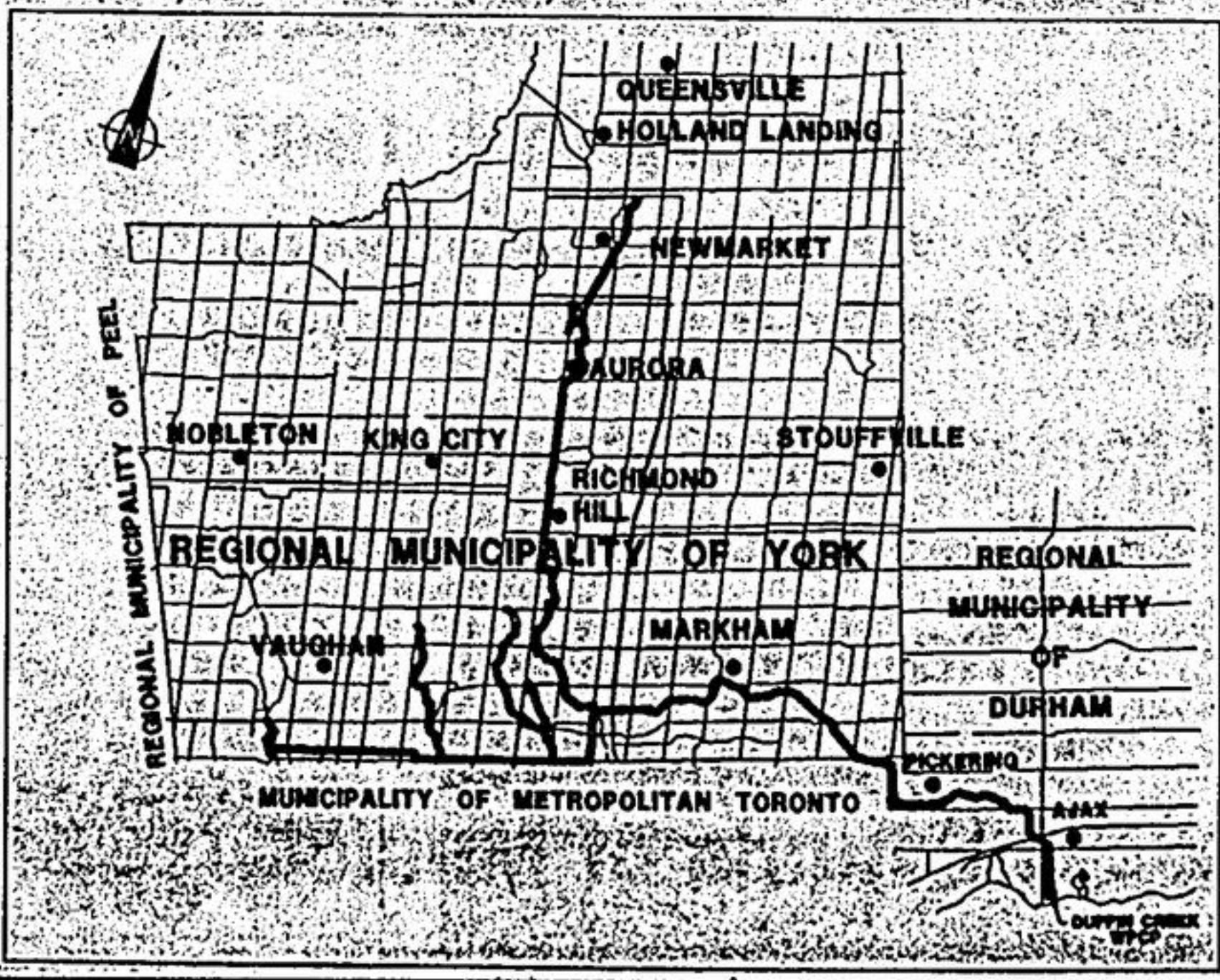
The project is being undertaken in accordance with Master Planning provisions of the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects. Opportunities for public input will be provided throughout the study and will include public information centers and direct mailings to review agencies and members of the public indicating interest. Notification of the public information centers will be placed in local newspapers.

Upon completion of the study, a Master Plan Report will be prepared to document the planning process and preferred solutions including how public input was received and considered. The report will be available at the Regional Municipality of York Offices and Local Municipal offices for public viewing and comment. All reasonable efforts will be made to address environmental concerns expressed by the public over the course of the study.

If you want further information or wish to be placed on the mailing list, please contact the Regional Municipality of York or Proctor & Redfern Limited.

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