

Take time to give thanks for environment we enjoy

Thanksgiving has traditionally been a time to move indoors and gather our friends and family around us.

Turkey dinners, with all the trimmings, are generally the centrepiece of the celebration. And the festivities aren't complete until at least one person moans, "I shouldn't have eaten so much."

At our house, things are a little different.

When my husband and I first got together 15 years ago, we decided that it was important to reserve at least one holiday a year that we could celebrate alone.

And while we still have a traditional turkey dinner, the focus is not on what's on the table, but how it got there.

For us, Thanksgiving dinner is a celebration of our interdependence with nature.

As the turkey cooks, we gather together in my husband's carefully-tended garden and pick the rest of our dinner. And while this is a fairly regular ritual for me, it takes on a whole new meaning when you give thanks for each vegetable that is offered up from the soil beneath our feet.

I understand that I speak from a position of privilege.

It is no accident that it wasn't until I moved into the country that I found my ecological self, and I began to appreciate my impact on the environment as a whole.

While I am not advocating that everyone move out and join me, I believe that until each and every one of us understands this relationship, we can neither acknowledge nor respect the balance of nature.

Our ritual took on a whole new meaning last year when we added a



Your Earth

Suzanne Elston

family picnic to our celebration.

The day was unusually warm, so we decided to pack up the children and head for a walk through the family woodlot.

As we sat down for a picnic lunch in a sunny clearing, our son Peter requested the opportunity to say a grace.

We bowed our heads and he began. But rather than giving a traditional blessing, Peter offered up a special prayer of thanks for the woods that surrounded us and the privilege of sharing them.

I was amazed as our remarkable young son spoke profoundly of our connection between earth and sky and the world between where we live.

As he concluded, my husband and I looked at each other in amazement. Without prompting, our nine-year-old son had just beautifully articulated the essence of why we had chosen to raise our children in the country. We truly felt blessed.

Making the decision to live in the country was easy. Sticking to that decision is often hard, particularly when you have small children.

The convenience of neighbourhood friends, the safety of sidewalks and residential streets are all given when you live in a subdivision. Living in the country just isn't convenient sometimes, and at other times, it's really hard work.

For my husband and I, the sacrifices

that we have made living in the country all seemed worth it when we heard Peter's prayer.

Elizabeth Roberts wrote, "When we say 'Thank you' we are really saying 'We belong together.'" This weekend, celebrate Thanksgiving by trying to understand how dependent we are on the environment.

Take a walk in the country and see the glory of the changing colours. Visit a local farmer's market, and take the time to talk to the people who grow your food. Start a fall compost heap, or plant some spring bulbs. Take your children to the public library, and find out more about this magnificent land we live in; its climate, its challenges, and its beauty.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

RIVER VALLEY RESTAURANT



Bring the family out for SPECIAL THANKSGIVING DINNER!

Your choice of entrees
Live Music from 8:00-12:00 a.m.

Lunches also available
Starting Friday Oct. 10th

October 17, 18, 19



Live Music

Special German Foods & Beers

Call for reservations or just drop in

River Valley Restaurant

39 Toronto St., Uxbridge

905-852-4343

Mediator named to talks between board, teachers

A provincial agency is sending a former labour ministry mediator to assist stalled contract talks between York Region's Catholic school board and its teachers.

Olive Chester was a mediator with the ministry's office of mediation for 18 years, the Education Relations Commission said as it announced the appointment last week.

"She has been involved in assisting negotiations in a large number and wide variety of labour relations contexts," the commission said in a release.

The teachers and the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board are deadlocked over salary increments frozen during Ontario's Social Contract years.

Global choirs raise voices

On Oct. 18, 1997 at 8 p.m., choirs in over 35 countries on all five continents spanning every time zone will join together to sing for Hospice.

Concerts will be held beginning in New Zealand, creating a wave of song encircling the globe until the final concert in Hawaii.

The Voices for Hospice concert in York Region will be held at St. Mary Immaculate Church in Richmond Hill and will be a sing-a-long of Handel's *Messiah*. The seven hospices in York Region are joining together to sponsor this event.

Marta McCarthy, conductor, is Music

Director of the University of Waterloo Choir; University of Guelph Choir and Chamber Singers; and Blessed Trinity Church Choir of Toronto.

Church choirs throughout York Region are encouraged to participate in this special occasion. For every ten tickets purchased, the choir will be presented with a complimentary vocal score of the *Messiah* (Watkins Shaw/Novello edition).

Join the hospices in York Region as they lift Voices for Hospice. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from the hospice office. For information call Hospice Markham-Stouffville at 472-5014.

Come To Church

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line (South of Bloomington Rd.)
SUNDAY, OCT. 12, 1997
Pastor Dr. John Howarth
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Thanksgiving Sunday
Dr. Stephen Roy (OTS) 164th Anniversary
Speaker: Dr. John Moore
Music: Mr. Ralph Sider
Oct. 19/97
Everyone Welcome

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
34 Church St. N.
640-1163
Rev. Robert Nightingale
Sunday, Oct. 12, 1997
10:30 am, Morning worship
World Wide Communion Service
Rev. Robert Nightingale
Sunday School from Baby Fold to the Grade 8 level
Everyone Welcome

WIDEMAN MENNONITE CHURCH
10530 Hwy. 48 - North of Major Mackenzie
Phone: 640-6219
Pastor Lawrence Burkholder 294-0649
SUNDAY, OCT. 12, 1997
10:45 am - Pastor Lawrence Burkholder
7:00 p.m. - Pioneer Village Video
Everyone Welcome

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
The Rev. Robert A. Shields 640-1461
October 12, 1997
Thanksgiving Sunday
8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Church School & Nursery provided
Everyone Welcome!

VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
473-3543
On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.
Pastor Robert Okum
Holding forth the doctrines of grace
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Pastor Robert Okum
7:00 p.m. - Pastor Robert Okum
Everyone is Welcome

STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Fellowship Church
6273 Main Street
Pastor - Rev. Gordon Bickle
Asst. Pastor - Gordon MacCormack
Sunday, Oct. 12, 1997
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Service
Message:
Rev. Ross Howlett
Music: Ruth Fockler
WEDNESDAY
7:30 p.m. Hour of Power
"We're richer when we give and poorer when we keep"
We Care

Parkville Village
12184 Ninth Line South, Stouffville
Sunday, October 12, 1997
7:00pm-
Services held in the Village Auditorium

Welcome to **ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Our Church School Program resumes on **Every Sunday 9:45 a.m.**
Worship Services are held each Sunday at **11:00 a.m.**
Child and Nursery Care is provided
Visitors always welcome.
6432 Main St. 640-3151

Springvale Baptist Church
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
887-5651
Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton
Associate Pastor/Student Ministries: Brian G. Simcoe
Interim Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Heather Thornton
Visitation Pastor: Bill Smith
Sunday, Oct. 12, 1997
8:45 am & Pastor Bill Thornton
11:00 am Series "Getting Back on Track"
10:00 am Family Bible School
6:00 pm No evening service
For Wednesday program information, please call 887-5651