

Being the 'scenter' of attention can be painful

The month of October I have declared to be A Salute to the Unusual and Scary. What can be more unusual and scary than life itself?

Moving from Toronto to Musselman's Lake was a big transition for the Big Guy and me. Used to city streets lit with the ampage of a football field, I was a little leery of the dark roads that looked like they were right out of a Freddy Kruger movie.

Wildlife was more abundant a dozen years ago and our large yard seemed like a magnet for attracting all the wrong types.

Our driveway had an old metal farm gate and one warm fall day I set out to repaint it.

Keeping me company were the three cats and our dog. Terror struck almost immediately when suddenly a loud screech and a cat's cry broke the peaceful silence.

Coming from the cedar hedge, I quickly looked up to see any rural router's worst nightmare.

Lurching towards me with glassy eyes and a confused and bewildered look was a skunk exhibiting the classic signs of rabies.

Dropping my paintbrush, I ran the other way, gathering up pets and running for the house. Panicked, I chased confused cats and yelled for the dog which only made him run the other way.

The tormented skunk was still lurching along in the front yard.

When all pets were finally in the house, I made frantic phone calls to animal control. The skunk was trapped and did have rabies.

Having a small cut on my hand and having handled the cat who had an encounter with the skunk, you can only guess what was next.

Yes, rabies antidote was flown in and I had to get shots. Back then, the dose was according to your weight and was shot into your upper leg. The Big Guy drove me into town and I insisted that he wait in the car, what was the big deal about getting a needle?

Getting the needle wasn't a problem, walking was. My startled husband watched with wide eyes as I staggered back to the car barely feeling my legs.

The nightmare ended months later when our pets were declared rabies free and the needles were over.

Nightmare number two happened not that long ago.

On a quiet autumn evening we sat out on the deck savouring the last of the good weather. Under us there was suddenly a lot of noisy rustling. A skunk had been around days before and had left its aromatic calling card. Knowing this, we started for the back door.

Hearing louder rustling, I glanced



Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

dawn at the wooden deck only to be sprayed in the face. I'll give him credit. He shot up between a small gap and whamo - direct hit!

Our dog was indirectly sprayed and all hell broke out at the LeBlanc household. The dog ran through the house rubbing his face on everything, leaving the house smelling unbearable.

Ketchup, tomato soup and anything and everything was poured over him to no avail. I smelled, the dog smelled and the house took weeks to air.

Truth is stranger than fiction and both those events were a true test of a rural router's love of the country - we're still here!

Log auction set for Oct. 25

Durham Land Stewardship Council and York Land Stewardship Council invite private woodland owners from Durham and York Regions to participate in a community log auction on Saturday, Oct. 25. The auction will take place at 10 a.m., at the Main Tract of Durham Regional Forest in Uxbridge Township.

Woodland owners with potential log products should arrange for a free assessment of the suitability of their products for submission to the auction. Logs slated for auction will be picked up one

week before the auction.

For auction guidelines and reference numbers or to arrange for a product suitability assessment, contact John Osmok at 985-2003, Jerry Smitka at 713-7410 or Greg Bales at 713-7395 as soon as possible. Interested parties can get more information at the offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Aurora District, 50 Bloomington Rd. West, Aurora, L4G 3G8 or the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, 60 Van Edward Dr., Unit 1, Port Perry, L9L 1G3.

GET RID OF YOUR HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE



			
POISON Pesticides, Chemicals Rat poison, Bleach Pharmaceuticals Cleaning fluids	CORROSIVE Batteries Drain cleaners Oven cleaners	FLAMMABLE Paints, Solvent Oils, Gasoline BBQ starter	EXPLOSIVE Aerosols Propane cylinders

AT YORK REGION'S HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAYS

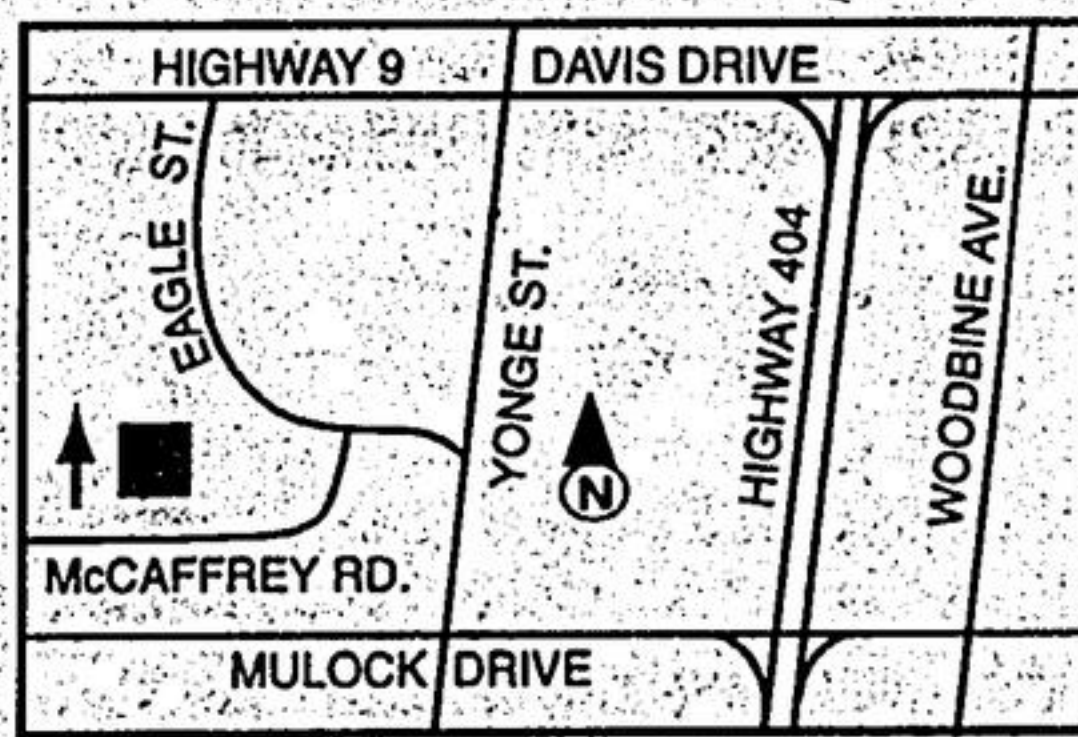
What to do:

- Look under your kitchen and bathroom sinks, in the medicine cabinet, tool shed, garage and basement.
You'll probably find all kinds of cleaners, waxes, detergents, cosmetics, expired prescriptions, solvents, paints, bug killers, oils and grease, etc.
- Make sure all materials are in original containers or contents are very well marked on containers.
Do not mix different products together. Be sure that all containers are capped.
Please remember that your containers must be deposited with waste materials and are not returnable.
- Bring your household hazardous waste to the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex in the Town of Newmarket.

THURS., OCT. 30, 1997
(11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.)

FRI., OCT. 31, 1997
(11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.)

SAT., NOV. 1, 1997
(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)



RAY TWINNEY RECREATION COMPLEX
TOWN OF NEWMARKET

Please note:

- York Region residents only (driver's licence required as proof).
- No commercial, industrial or medical office wastes accepted.
- No explosives (other than the above types), ammunition, PCBs, or radioactive wastes accepted.
- Needles and syringes from household medicinal use will be accepted in rigid containers only. No other pathological wastes will be accepted.
- Tires, motor vehicle batteries and oil filters will also be accepted.

If you require further information, call your Town or Township Office.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ST. JOHN'S SIDEROAD (Y.R. 26)

FROM YONGE STREET (Y.R. 1) TO WOODBINE AVE. (Y.R. 8)

TOWNS OF AURORA AND WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

The Regional Municipality of York is studying transportation problems along St. John's Sideroad from Yonge Street in the Town of Aurora to Woodbine Avenue in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville (see study area map). The study follows the Class Environmental Assessment process for Municipal Road Projects. This means that public input will be sought throughout the study for incorporation into the preferred solution.

The second Public Meeting is to be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday, October 21, 1997
TIME: 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Cafeteria (Main Floor),
York Region Headquarters
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

At the first public meeting held on June 24, 1997, participants identified problems within the study area, suggested possible solutions and highlighted important factors to consider when evaluating solutions. The second public meeting will allow participants to analyse and evaluate the alternative solutions produced at the first public meeting, based on a number of key factors, to determine a preferred solution.

Regional staff will begin the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a brief presentation which will then be followed by a working session that will enable participants to analyse and evaluate possible solutions to the stated problems, based on a number of important factors.

If you have any questions or are unable to attend the Public Meeting and wish to provide comments, please contact:

Mr. Dino Basso
The Regional Municipality of York
Transportation and Works Department
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 6Z1
(905) 895-1200 ext. 5090

