



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Thornhill Secondary School science teacher Terry Tamblyn supervises students as they plant trees in Scarborough. Members of the school's environment club include Michael Lieberman (left), Lisa Lim, Jennifer Kim, Alexis Smith, Kingsley Chak and Eric Dzneladze.

## Earth Day offers opportunity to make a difference in world

### Events in Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville

BY MIKE ADLER  
Staff Writer

Asked why he's planting trees this Earth Day weekend, Thornhill teenager Michael Lieberman quotes the Rev. Jesse Jackson: "Tears will bring you sympathy, sweat will bring you change."

Mr. Lieberman, 15, vice-president of Thornlea Secondary School's environment club, hopes the sweat he produces will encourage others to become involved.

"Someone has to do something," fellow student Kingsley Chak, 16, explained this week.

The club, which started last fall and raised \$300 for the environmental group Save The Oak Ridges Moraine, will be the first of more than 1,000 planters expected at 10,000 Trees for the Rouge Valley, the largest one-day planting in Canada.

The event, come rain or shine, will set 6,000 trees in soil just south of Markham this Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The site is on Little's Road, at Steeles Avenue east of Ninth Line.

"Some of the trees on the previous sites are large enough that you could climb them now," said Willa Harris, a 10,000 Trees organizer.

People making Earth Day resolutions to garden without pesticides or a lot of watering can check out the York Region — Naturally show Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion

branch on Industrial Parkway North in Aurora.

Besides talks from York Region naturalists Natalie Helferty and David Tomlinson, the show features lots of exhibitors who can talk about the merits of gardening with native plants, including Toronto author Lorraine Johnson.

"All the plants I'll be talking about are easy to grow and none of them need pesticides," she said in an interview. Mr. Tomlinson noted natural gardens are not about "letting things go" around your home.

"It's about conscious gardening and design and putting in species that are attractive."

*'It's about conscious gardening and design, and putting in species that are attractive.'*

The Toronto Region Conservation Authority needs planters from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday for the William Granger Greenway, a trail on the Humber River in Vaughan that can be reached through Canada Company Avenue near Islington Avenue.

Organizers typically ask volunteer tree planters to bring along waterproof boots and gloves, plus a bucket and shovel.

Experts from the conservation authority are lined up at 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon for Earth Day workshops with demonstrations that appeal to kids.

Alex Waters shows how to build

a solar-powered car or a wind turbine at the Richmond Hill Indigo store, Hwy. 7 and Yonge Street. Aileen Barclay, Suzanna Bradford and "some live critters" will be on hand at the Woodbridge Chapters outlet, Hwy. 7 and Weston Road, to tell people about wildlife found in their back yards.

The Markham Conservation Committee stages its Earth Day celebration in the centre court of Markville Shopping Centre (McCowan Road and Hwy. 7) from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday. Also on Saturday, Save The Rouge Valley System invites people to plant trees in the Markham's Paramount Park, on Parkway Avenue east of Paramount Road.

You'll be able to see real raptors in action at the Mayor's Earth Day and Bi-centennial Celebration in Whitchurch-Stouffville, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the town's museum grounds and Vandorf Park, which is beside the museum on Woodbine Avenue north of Bloomington Road.

Local falconer Reid Forrester, bringing a bald eagle and hawks to the event, will demonstrate his craft at 1:30 p.m. "A lot of the wildlife we see in our community is dependent on us being responsible," he said.

Participants can build a birdhouse to take home and help plant 600 shrubs and trees along a tributary of the Holland River on the museum grounds. "It's a cold-water creek and we are trying to replant some of the dying trees that surround it," said Stouffville Councillor Mark Carroll.

## Butterflies won't dine in just any yard

Expert on attracting butterflies to speak in Woodbridge Sunday

BY MIKE ADLER  
Staff Writer

Butterflies are finicky eaters, so if you want them around you'd better lay out the right sort of buffet.

The fragile insects only stay in gardens with sun, shelter and clusters of bright, fragrant flowers whose nectar they can easily drink.

They will also demand a spot of standing water or wet sand for moisture, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority says.

Many butterfly species are very specific about what they will eat or where they'll lay their eggs, said Aileen Barclay, the authority's stewardship co-ordinator.

The monarch, whose orange-and-black pattern is well-known, can only eat milkweed, she said this week.

Bee balm (monarda), butterfly bush, pussy willow, black-eyed susans, pearly everlasting and asters are also known to attract butterflies.

So might your backyard compost pile, if you have one, since some varieties are drawn to rotten fruit.

Once attracted, a butterfly will sit on a flower and dip a proboscis, its tongue, into the nectar, Ms Barclay said. "They are excellent pollinators for gardens."

She will speak about butterflies and other back yard wildlife Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Chapters bookstore in Woodbridge, 3900 Hwy. 7.

It's the scales on their wings that give butterflies their patterns and colours.

They lay eggs on host plants and the eggs hatch into caterpillars that shed skins as they grow. Caterpillars enter a chrysalis, a stage of metamorphosis into the adult butterfly. As adults, species live from two weeks to eight months.

The monarch migrates south but a few other species winter here, such as the question mark. It appears brown for camouflage but, when threatened, flashes a rusty orange pattern edged with purple.

"It mimics a leaf and then when a bird comes it opens up and flashes with colour and scares the bird,"



The monarch butterfly is a much-desired guest among gardeners, but its preferred diet is milkweed.

Ms Barclay said.

Many butterfly species are considered to be at risk of disappearing, at least partly due to pesticides or because plants they favour have become less common.

You can buy plants for butterflies and learn about them at garden centres in the region.

Sheridan Nurseries on Hwy. 7 in Unionville displays butterfly garden plants in an enclosure, along with information on butterflies.

"It's nice to sit out on your patio and see the butterflies come along," said Bill Power, retail nursery supervisor of the store. "It adds an ambiance to that area, a peacefulness."

Use old-fashioned flowers in a butterfly garden because many newer varieties are hybrids without nectar or smell, Ole Madsen of Madsen's Greenhouses and Garden Centre in Newmarket, advised.

Some of the plants butterflies like best — thistles, milkweed, goldenrod, dandelion — are ones many people consider nuisance weeds.

Just because you don't see butterflies doesn't mean they're not there; their eggs are usually hidden under leaves, Ms Barclay said. "I've bought plants from nurseries with caterpillars already on them."

Butterflies are easily killed by pesticides, she said. "If you're going to build a butterfly garden you can't use chemicals. It becomes a death-trap rather than a habitat."

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